

## INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Robert Weltsch

## MARTIN BUBER CENTENARY

Martin Buber who would have been a hundred years old on February 8 was at the end of his life almost generally recognized as the Grand Old Man of German Jewry; after the Second World War he was also revered by intellectuals of other countries, primarily in the United States which he visited for the first time in 1951, giving lectures at universities and elsewhere. There and in other western countries he has been regarded as one of the outstanding though unconventional thinkers of the century, difficult to classify as he did not want to be called a philosopher and even less a theologian. This phenomenon was perhaps explainable, as Walter Kaufmann suggests, "after the holocaust a widespread need was felt to love and admire a representative Jew".<sup>1</sup> In recent years his name has been associated almost proverbially with the philosophy of the Dialogue which had become his central axiom. It has often been observed as a curious fact that Buber had reached a higher esteem in the non-Jewish world of the Mind than in Jewry and in Israel where most people paid him lukewarm compliments while orthodox nationalist extremists and other vehemently rejected him.

Yet, at the beginning of the century Buber was hardly known outside the Jewish, more exactly the Zionist, orbit and a small circle of mostly German artists and literati who got together in order to discuss how to make the world more amenable to spiritual values. Most of these young men were poets and men of visionary inclinations, and perhaps Buber can also best be characterised as a man of poetical genius before he became a religious thinker.

When he joined the Zionist Organisation at the age of about 20, he attached himself immediately to the cultural wing which was not satisfied with verbal adherence to a programme but demanded deeper commitment and laid more stress on educational and artistic activity than on political formulae. At the fifth Zionist Congress (1901) Buber was one of the leading figures of the so-called Democratic Fraction, together with Chaim Weizmann, Berthold Feiwel, Leo Mozkin, the painter E. M. Lilien, and others who stood for an immediate raising of the mental and social level of the people. One practical outcome of these efforts was the foundation, in 1902, of a publishing enterprise in Berlin, *Jüdischer Verlag*, where Buber and Feiwel edited an anthology of Jewish literary and artistic works from East and West, called *Jüdischer Almanach*, soon hailed as "the first book of Jewish Renaissance". (This, by the way, was the same word which Leo Baeck

used 50 years later at his last address to the Leo Baeck Institute in London shortly before his death.) With Chaim Weizmann, four years his senior, Buber joined forces in two projects: founding a Jewish University (realised 25 years later in Jerusalem) and planning a monthly *Der Jude*, about which a reasoned prospectus was distributed by the two in 1904 but which was launched in 1916 under quite different circumstances by Buber alone.

After he had resigned the post of editor of the Zionist central organ *Die Welt* and after Herzl's death (1904), Buber devoted himself mainly to the translation, or more correctly: artful rendering of chassidic legends with which he had become familiar during his stay as an adolescent in the house of his grandfather Salomon Buber in Eastern Galicia. These books, *Die Legende des Baalschem* and *Die Geschichten des Rabbi Nachman*, followed later by other titles, caused considerable stir; it was the first time that this material was presented to a western public in a form appropriate to its own literary taste. Unnecessary to say that during the following sixty years Buber published a large number of collections of chassidic stories and anecdotes, later also translated from the German into other languages. This brought him world-wide fame.

## Break-through in Prague

On the initiative of Hugo Bergman (later professor of modern philosophy in Jerusalem and first rector of the Hebrew University) Buber was invited to Prague in 1909 by Leo Herrmann, then the chairman of the students' association Bar Kochba, an ingenious organiser, in order to give a lecture on the meaning of being Jewish. This was a hazardous enterprise as the Jewish bourgeois society, regarding itself as a German stronghold in the predominantly Czech-speaking city, shunned Zionist events. Yet, the venture succeeded. For the first time a large section of the Jewish intellectual community came to listen. The effect, especially on the youth, may be described as overwhelming. The feeling within the Jewish youth could almost be expressed in Goethe's famous words at the Cannonade at Valmy: "from here today starts a new epoch", though not in world history but in the more modest sphere of Zionist thought and life. Two other Buber lectures followed to complete for the time being the cycle of "Three Lectures", the famous *Drei Reden über das Judentum*, published in 1911, later—after the First World War—expanded to seven lectures. The revised post-war edition of the *Reden* (1923) was provided with an important foreword in which Buber explained his new position, amounting to a religious conversion of the still free-thinking Nietzschean of 1909

to the mature man who meanwhile had struggled through to the anthropological and religious persuasion revealed in *Ich und Du* (1923), on which all his thinking and all his writings were based from then onward. Now, he defined Judaism as a phenomenon of religious reality (*ein Phänomen der religiösen Wirklichkeit*), although not in the usual sense of the word *religiös*.

The stormy time of the War, with its profound upheaval in all branches of Jewish thought, had created a vast audience, eagerly responding to a word of guidance, even if the wording seemed sometimes obscure. In the Zionist field, Buber found himself suddenly at the centre of a large and intensely active movement. One turning point had been the *Jugendtag* in Vienna in May 1918, organised by Siegfried Bernfeld, where the big Zionist youth organisations from East and West convened, with Buber as the main speaker; it was the largest rally of this kind in Europe.

The new position at which Zionism had arrived with the Balfour Declaration (1917) coincided with the elemental drive of the youth towards a radical change of life to which many factors contributed: horror of war, disappointment with Europe that had exchanged its role as leader of culture for a mania of self-destruction, disgust with the system of lies and corruption revealed in the time of strife, all this cried for a new beginning. It was in this context that the Jewish youth interpreted Buber's ethos of "realisation" (*Verwirklichung*), in contrast to "orientation", which had been one of the principal ideas of "Daniel" (1913), as catchword of a new life on a new earth. This was also one of the emotional sources of the Chalutz movement which had achieved considerable dimensions in Eastern Europe. It was almost identical with the ideas of A. D. Gordon, the Hebrew Labour philosopher who preached the personal implementation of the Zionist idea in the individual's own life. Buber and Gordon met at the Conference of Hapoel Hatzair and Zeirej Zion in Prague in April 1920, and Buber joined in the new grouping.

The short-lived constellation of those days made Buber one of the main agents at the first post-war Zionist Congress at Karlsbad in 1921 where he and his friends endeavoured to make the relation of Zionism to the Arab population of Palestine one of the cornerstones of Zionist politics. Buber was selected to introduce a Resolution to this effect. Almost the whole Congress was opposed to that intention and preferred to issue the rhetorical proclamations about Jewish rights and unreal maximum programmes. However, as it was impracticable to reject a resolution of goodwill towards the Arabs, the Congress tended to water it down and to belittle it. Many years later, Buber related in an open letter to Magnes (July 1947) how in committee his text was continuously downgraded so that the shell remained but the spirit had gone. Buber himself and the group *Brith Shalom* (Alliance of Peace), founded in the 'twenties, were

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<sup>1</sup> *I and Thou*. Martin Buber. A new Translation, with a Prologue and Notes by Walter Kaufmann. T. & T. Clark, Edinburgh, 1970. Introduction, p. 21—Kaufmann also justly points out that the title of the book is untranslatable as the English word *Thou* is inadequate for this purpose.

## Martin Buber Centenary

Continued from page 1

spurned as defeatists if not as traitors. Yet, as was to be foreseen, the subject did not disappear. It is of uncanny topicality today. When in 1932 Norman Bentwich, after his retirement from government service, was appointed professor of International Relations at the Hebrew University (a chair endowed by Sir Montagu Burton for the furtherance of Peace), his first lecture on "Jerusalem, City of Peace", was sabotaged with uproar and stink-bombs by troublemakers from Jabotinsky's (later Begin's) party, and police had to be called in. By an irony of fate, in our days Mr Begin as Prime Minister of Israel is confronted with the same unavoidable problem which he and most Zionists wanted to ignore for decades.

In opposing the hostile and often contemptuous attitude towards the Arab population Buber, though often attacked and surrounded by raging chauvinism, was not only faithful to his belief that nationalism has to be based on humanism (otherwise it would tend to degenerate into barbarism); the man often regarded as unworldly dreamer also proved himself the better realist. He never lost sight of the fact that for a Jewish commonwealth in Palestine an accommodation to genuine co-existence within the country, where both peoples had unalienable rights and interests, would in the last resort be decisive.

### The Legacy

It is impossible in a short memorial on such an occasion to cover all parts of Buber's ideas and activities with regard to universal and to Jewish subjects. His interpreters and commentators are legion. He himself has taken care to collect all his works and publish them in well-arranged volumes, primarily three volumes (over 1,000 pages each) of *Werke* (philosophical, chasidical, biblical) in lexicon format, with a fourth volume of Jewish pronouncements (*Der Jude und sein Judentum*), to which at the very last hour (9th February, 1965, his 87th birthday and four months before his death) he added a *Nachlese*, a collection of odd smaller pieces and casual utterances including moving poetry of sixty years or such important essays as the foreword to Richard Beer-Hofmann's collected work. A collection of thirty interpretative and partly critical essays, with Buber's own reply was published in the American series *Living Philosophers* in a 700-page volume just before his death.

One last word must be added about Buber's relationship to the Hebrew Bible and his efforts to make it heard. To him, the Bible is not reading matter but the spoken word, a voice that has to be listened to. In an unforgettable way Buber taught the Bible in small circles during the first five years of Nazi rule in Germany until a ban was issued on his speech. Paradoxically, all this time he was engaged in the terrific enterprise of a new translation of the Bible into German according to the principles stated by himself and Franz Rosenzweig, which he had started in 1925 on the initiative of the young publisher Lambert Schneider.

Although the relationship of world Jewry to the German language—until 1918 the *lingua franca* of European Jewry—has become different in the changed political world conditions, and the more so after the Hitler catastrophe, and German Jewry as it still was in 1923 no longer exists, Buber's German Bible will retain its value for coming generations. It is a work of art from the linguistic point of view but also a guide to a more genuine understanding

as a commentary on the original text is often hidden in the translation. During the last years of Buber's life it was his favourite child. He worked on it to the very last moment. A visitor often found him busy re-reading proofs and pondering over small alterations. It is good to know that Lambert Schneider's successor, Lothar Stiehm, is now engaged in the definite edition of the work, using the hundreds of hand-written notes and amendments to be found in Buber's own copies. This is a complicated job for which the publisher deserves all encouragement and gratitude. According to Buber's wish the Bible should not appear as a literary document but as "provocative word", which the reader should feel to be spoken to him so that he has to respond, realising the meaning of Dialogue, of *Ich und Du*.

### Fritz Friedlaender (Melbourne)

#### A PERSONAL REMINISCENCE

"If you see Martin Buber in Jerusalem, please give him my respects", wrote Professor Eduard Spranger, my academic teacher, when he learned that I would soon be visiting Israel.

This message was passed on when my wife and I called on Martin Buber in Jerusalem in November 1961. Though a little awed, we were glad to find ourselves sitting opposite the great man, under whose kindly gaze I described how we had to flee to Shanghai from the Nazis.

I felt the need to discuss a certain subject that was always uppermost in my mind, and said: "After the war I had to make the most difficult decision of my life. My wife wished to live in Australia, whereas I wanted to return to Germany, since I was so bound up with the German language. I followed my wife to Australia, not daring to return to Germany alone".

"I suppose you took that course out of love", replied Buber, glancing at us benevolently.

"I accept that, but I have not been able to strike roots in Australia, and feel myself to be in a kind of no-man's-land".

"Have you any children?"—"No".

"My advice", said Buber, "would be to settle amongst the German-speaking Jews in Israel". Then, to me, "I think you meditate too much".

"Nevertheless", I answered, "Socrates' teaching was 'Know thyself'".

"That means only that each person should recognise the limit of his abilities. Besides, there is something much worse than the loss of one's language and sphere of activity. I felt this when I lost my wife three years ago, although I sense that she is always near me". He looked at a large photograph, and we respectfully followed his gaze.



"Now you shall hear a Hasidic story", and, with a verve belying his 83 years, Buber told us of a Jew of Cracow, who dreamt again and again that he would find a treasure near the Moldau Bridge in Prague. At last he travelled to Prague to seek the treasure, but in spite of his eagerness and perseverance could find nothing. A Czech Jew, seeing him, asked "What are you looking for?" and the Jew of Cracow told him of his dream. The other began to

laugh and said, "How can you rely on dreams? I myself often dream that I should find a treasure in the house of a certain Jew of Cracow, but of course I do nothing about it. For, first of all, there are many Jews in Cracow who bear the same name and it would be impossible for me to look in all their houses". Thereupon the Cracovian Jew returned to his native town, searched his house and found the treasure.

"Start from where you stand: that is the moral of the story", Buber declared. Suddenly he smiled: "I believe I have come to a better understanding with your wife although she has hardly spoken three words. I get along well with young people, but I also understand women: you are a good woman".

His look was full of kindness as we took our leave.

### WITNESS FOR THE HOLOCAUST

In the BBC-2 series "The Light of Experience", Rabbi Hugo Gryn whose broadcasts last year met with an unprecedented response from Christians and Jews alike, talked of the influence his gruesome years at Auschwitz had on his own religious experience. He started by saying that in view of the "obscene attempts" to deny that six million had died, he had developed a witness complex, an urge to testify on behalf of those who could no longer testify for themselves. He and his father were the only members of his family who were not gassed when they arrived at Auschwitz, because, warned by the prisoners' "reception committee", they had both pretended to be experienced carpenters. His mother, younger brother and cousins who had been on the transport from Czechoslovakia with them, were immediately sent to the gas chambers. His father eventually died just before the liberation. Rabbi Gryn said he had never lost a feeling of guilt for his survival. He spoke of his doubts and anxieties about the tenets of his faith until he eventually became convinced that God knew about the sufferings and was himself crying. He then reached "a curious inner peace", because at that moment he had "recreated God" for himself. He became a rabbi in order to share his experience with others. His second special concern was Israel, the only home the Jews ever had which was still so vulnerable.

It is to be regretted that, owing to the late hour of the broadcast, this very moving talk was heard and seen by comparatively few people, but those who did, will not easily forget it.

M.P.

### 100 YEARS BUDAPEST SEMINARY

In the presence of a large local and international assembly from West and East, and with the active participation of the Hungarian State authorities, the Jewish Theological Seminary of Budapest, founded in 1877 by the Emperor Francis Joseph, celebrated its centenary. Among the guests were Nahum Goldman, founder president of the World Jewish Congress, the Chief Rabbi of the Soviet Union Dr. Fischmann, representatives of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and of the Jewish communities in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. Dr. Geza Vermes was the official spokesman for the Oriental Studies Board of Oxford University and conveyed the warmest congratulations of the academic world. During its existence, the seminary has educated a number of Jewish scholars who became famous all over the world. At present, there are about 100,000 Jews living in Hungary, and the seminary which they re-opened after the war, has now 18 students, three of whom come from the Soviet Union. It is now the only international centre of its kind in the East.

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences has just published a biography of the publisher Eugen Prager, a member of a Budapest Jewish family who founded the Federation of Hungarian Jews in Great Britain and died in 1967.

# HOME NEWS

## Anglo-Judaica

### NEW YEAR HONOURS

Members of our community have particular reason to congratulate Mrs Ruth J. Wolf on the award of an MBE. Many refugees from the Continent who arrived in Birmingham during the years 1938 and 1939 and who meanwhile have been able to settle down in their adopted country, benefited from the unlimited help she rendered to them during the first period of their stay. She not only looked after their practical needs in matters of support and accommodation but also took a deep interest in their personal problems. Since then she has continuously co-operated with the organisations built up by the refugees themselves. She regularly attends the Board Meetings of the AJR and acts as its link in the Midlands, especially in questions of admission to the Homes, and she is also a member of the Executive Committee of Self Aid, dealing with the cases arising in the Birmingham district. The award bestowed on her is a well-deserved recognition of her devoted services.

The New Year Honours List also includes a CBE to Ernest Martin Foulkes for charitable services to medical and scientific research, an OBE to Philip Hartley for local government services in Brent and an MBE to Willi Stern, Chairman, Pearl Paints Ltd., Treforest, and to Kenneth Frank Sheridan, vice-president of Bolton Community Relations Council.

Peter Wendel Seligman, lately chairman of AVP Holdings, was awarded a knighthood, and so was the well-known economist Andrew Shonfield.

Vivian David Lipman, director of Ancient Monuments Department, who was made a CVO (Commander of the Royal Victorian Order) is a past president of the Jewish Historical Society and an authority on Anglo-Jewish history.

Dr Paul Weis (Geneva), director of the Legal Division of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, who was appointed a CBE in the Royal Jubilee Honours List last year, was in London recently to receive the accolade from Her Majesty The Queen.

### SERVICES TO HUMANITY BY LORD GOODMAN

At a reception held at the Belsize Square Synagogue, Mr Evelyn de Rothschild presented to Lord Goodman the Lionel Cohen Award for services to humanity, created in 1968 by the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues, to mark the 80th birthday of its president Lord Cohen of Walmer who died in May, 1973. Mr. de Rothschild said that Lord Goodman was a man of many different facets representing the whole spectrum of humanity with an unselfish desire to help in many different fields. In his reply Lord Goodman paid tribute to the memory of Lord Cohen who had embodied the best qualities of an Englishman and a Jew. The only other recipient of the award was the late Professor Rene Cassin in 1970.

### TWO LITERARY PRIZES

The Jewish Chronicle-Harold H. Wingate Literary Awards for 1977 were presented by the "Jewish Chronicle" chairman, Mr. David Kessler, before a large and distinguished gathering of writers, journalists and community leaders at Stationers Hall in the City of London. £1,000 each were awarded to Mr. Chaim Bermant for a work of non-fiction, his autobiography "Coming Home", and to Mr. David Markish for his novel "The Beginning" translated from the Russian by Michael Glenny. Mr. Markish whose father was executed by the Stalinist authorities in 1952, now lives in Israel.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

### THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM

#### TUC Fights National Front

After a party-political broadcast which was entirely devoted to attacks on the National Front, the Labour Party was widely criticised. Nevertheless it has decided to embark on a nation-wide campaign against racialism in which the Trades Union Congress is to join. The Prime Minister told critics of both major parties that he rejected objections to the programme on the grounds that it gave the Front undue publicity, because there must be "total opposition to racialism". The Labour Party's "Labour Weekly" is to issue a four-page pamphlet with the slogan "The National Front is a Nazi Front". Similar leaflets are to be distributed in factories, offices and shops. At a meeting in the House of Commons, Mr. Greville Janner, QC, MP, said that Jews should not delude themselves to believe that the NF was purely anti-immigrant or anti-Black. Today's fascists were as virulently anti-Jewish as had been their Mosleyite and Hitlerite predecessors. Mr. Martin Savitt, of the Board of Deputies, advised young Jews to stay away from NF marches and meetings to avoid violent confrontation.

#### ACTIONS AGAINST ZIONISM

"Recreation Ground", a professional drama group, cancelled a performance of an anti-fascist play at Habonim's London headquarters, because one of its members refused to "perform before a racist audience". Habonim were informed 20 minutes before the planned performance. The Recreation Ground Group said in a statement that in their view Zionism was a product of imperialism which "promotes racism against the Palestinian people and consequently oppresses the Jewish people it purports to serve". Habonim complained to the Arts Council which had given Recreation Ground an £8,250 grant for the period August to January and to Equity the actors' union. The Arts Council declared that the group had already been advised that on artistic grounds they would receive no further subsidy from the Council.

#### BOYCOTT OF AMNESTY RALLIES

The Board of Deputies, the Wizo and a number of other Jewish organisations, boycotted Amnesty International's Human Rights Day rallies in Trafalgar Square devoted to the plight of prisoners of conscience, because Israel was included among the offending countries alleged to hold 24 prisoners of conscience in Israeli detention centres.

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### New Anti-Racist Committee

A year ago the Board of Deputies, in conjunction with immigrant groups like the West Indian Standing Conference, set up the Joint Committee against Racialism and invited representatives of the three major parties, the British Council of Churches and the National Union of Students to join the new body formally inaugurated at a meeting in the House of Commons. Miss Joan Lester, MP, the current chairman of the Labour Party, was elected chairman *pro tem* of the executive committee. The Tory Party will discuss the matter at top level, before coming to a decision.

#### Fight against hijackers

In the House of Lords, Lord Janner called for action against any hijackers and terrorists, many of them trained by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, who might be found in Britain. Lord Goronwy-Roberts, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs, declared: "If we had information that any individual here was engaged in terrorist activity either here or abroad, we would not hesitate to take action."

#### Ku-Klux-Klan in Britain?

In a letter to the Home Secretary, Mr. Merlyn Rees, the Board of Deputies supported a call made by several MPs to ban entry into Britain of Ku-Klux-Klan leader Bill Wilkinson who wants to set up a branch of the Klan in this country.

#### An offensive Poster

The Board of Deputies has been informed by the Treasury that a Premium Bonds poster and advertisement which many Jews and non-Jews found offensively antisemitic, will be withdrawn. Dr. Jacob Gewirtz, director of the Board's defence committee, had said in a complaint that the poster depicted "ethnic-type" bookmakers which could be Jewish, Armenian or Maltese. The general public had regarded them as derogatory Jewish caricatures.

#### Duke opens Home for Aged

The Duke of Edinburgh was present at the opening of the new Spanish and Portuguese Home for the Aged in Wembley, now named Edinburgh House. He had agreed to become a patron 25 years ago when the home was still in Mile End Road. Ninety-five-year-old Mrs. Rachel Rogers presented the Duke with a gold Magen David which she hoped he would give to his new grandson. When he was shown round the house and introduced to all the residents, he said it was a marvellous example of the Jewish tradition of looking after the old and infirm.

#### Moral leadership for Forces

The Rev. Malcolm Weisman, senior Jewish chaplain to HM Forces directed the third annual Forces moral leadership course and re-union at the RAF Chaplain's School in Hampshire. It was attended by Jewish military personnel and their families from all three services and by American and Israeli personnel. Amongst the lecturers were the Chief Rabbi and Mrs. Jakobovits, Rabbi John Rayner, senior minister of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, and Colonel Peter Davis of Ajax. There were also children's services. Full kosher facilities were laid on by the RAF.

#### A Manual for Publicity

The Zionist Federation, the Board of Deputies and the Britain/Israel Public Affairs Committee are jointly publishing fact-sheets covering a wide range of information on Israel, Zionism, the Arab world and related topics to be used by pro-Israel activists who write to the press or take part in radio and TV discussions. Known as "Israkit", the manual will be made available through the sponsoring and other leading communal organisations.

# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## UNITED STATES

### Soviet Jewry Exhibition a Success

When the Soviet Union recently held an impressive exhibition at the Los Angeles Convention Centre, which attracted a great number of visitors, the Jewish Federation Commission for Soviet Jewry held a parallel exhibition on another floor of the building, proclaiming warm support for Russian-American cultural exchanges, but offering to inform the public on one aspect overlooked in the official exhibition. The Russian organisers whose display occupied 100,000 square feet and cost over £1,110,000, pressurised Washington and the municipal authorities to keep the Jews out, but they were unsuccessful. Their exhibition was visited by 310,000 persons, the Jewish one by 67,000 most of whom were not Jews.

### Holocaust Lessons in American Schools

After a vigorous campaign by the B'nai Brith Anti-Defamation League, a number of schools in the U.S. have made the teaching of the history of the Nazi persecution of Jews part of their obligatory syllabus. There has already been controversy about this innovation, initiated by former German citizens. The Philadelphia German-American Committee has publicly stated that it was unfair to concentrate on Nazi atrocities and to ignore other instances of genocide. In New York, the chairman of the German-American Committee said there was no point in bringing up the subject once more after thirty or forty years, because it would stir up ill-feeling against former German nationals in the country.

### Rabbi arrested in Casino

When the New York police raided a casino in Temple Ahavat Shalom, Rabbi Ira Andress was among the 37 arrested. The casino had existed for three weeks, and the wife of a man who had lost a great deal of money, complained to the police. When the police arrived, 300 men and women were found gambling, and about £2,500, three crap tables, 12 blackjack tables and 12 poker tables were confiscated. The minister of the synagogue, Rabbi Dworkin, said the casino had only rented the premises from the synagogue which had nothing to do with the gambling, and was closed on Friday nights because of the Sabbath.

### Gestures of Peace

During the annual congress of the American AFL/CIO Trades Union Federation, the audience applauded when the Egyptian Minister of Labour Ahma shook hands with another guest, the president of the Israeli Histadruth Jeruham Meshel.

Egypt's Ambassador in Washington, Ghorbal, gave a lecture to the Board of the American Synagogue Council in New York. Its president Teplitz welcomed the event as another step in the direction of peace and reconciliation in the Middle East.

### Syrian Girls Go Home

In spite of strenuous efforts by community leaders, at least two of the 13 Jewish girls allowed to leave Syria in August to marry unknown husbands in the United States, have returned. There is bitterness in the community where individuals blame each other for not having kept their promises to look after the girls. Two of them are reported to have found husbands so far.

### CAMPS

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## JEWISH WRITERS IN ARGENTINA

"Sister and Shadow", a novel by the Argentine Jewish writer Bernardo Verbitsky which reflects aspects of a Jewish family's settlement in the country, is the best seller of 1977 and unanimously praised in the Spanish-language press.

The 1977 Human Rights Prize of the Latin American Jewish Congress has been awarded to the Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa, the president of the International Pen Club who was recently invited to England for a lecture tour by Oxford University.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Jewish Cricket Union President

Mr. Selwyn Myers, the first Jewish member of the South African Western Province Cricket Union Executive, has been elected its president. He is also a member of the Jewish Board of Deputies and chairman of the Province's Hebrew Nursery Schools Association.

### Loans needed

The Hebrew Benevolent Association of Witwatersrand has revealed that it has advanced a record number of loans to Jews in financial difficulties. About £283,000 had been paid out in 221 loans. Nearly 100 families had received £1,875 each.

### Centenarian in Old Age Home

London-born Mrs. Sophia Belville-Stern celebrated her 106th birthday at the Highlands House Jewish Aged Home in Cape Town. Exactly a century ago, her father sailed into Cape Town to participate in the Kimberley diamond rush. He was the rabbi and cantor Samuel Lazarus. He and his wife became friends of Cecil Rhodes and of diamond king Barney Barnato. Mrs. Stern whose hearing and seeing are very good, lost her husband 50 years ago. She has three children, six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. The Queen sent her a telegram reading: "Heartiest congratulations once again".

## AUSTRALIA

### Jewish Governor-General Sworn in

Sir Zelman Cowan has been sworn in as Australia's 19th Governor-General and the second Jew to hold the post. He held the Old Testament in his right hand when the oath was administered by the Chief Justice, but he did not have his head covered. His 90-year-old mother watched from a wheelchair. His wife, three sons and daughters were also present. Sir Zelman, 58, is a leading academic lawyer and was formerly Vice-Chancellor of Queensland University.

### Synagogue Centenary and Horticulture

Mr. George Taylor, a Sydney horticulturist with a world-wide reputation, has named a new azalea, developed by him "Centenary Heritage" in honour of the recent centenary of the Sydney Great Synagogue.

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## SWITZERLAND

### No Limitations for War Crimes

The Swiss Parliament has abolished the 25-year limitation on prosecutions for war crimes, genocide and terrorist offences. The debate on the issue started last year after the arrest of the Dutch war criminal Pieter Menten who tried to escape arrest in Holland by fleeing to Switzerland. Because of the 25-year limitation on prosecution, the Swiss were unable to prosecute him and had to expel him to Holland as a "person endangering the security of Switzerland".

### Swiss Shechita Law

An amendment to the Law for the Protection of Animals which outlawed ritual slaughter in 1968, empowers the Swiss Government "to allow Jewish shechita whenever the import of kosher meat is stopped". This means that this should only happen "in time of crisis", and for the time being kosher meat will continue to be imported, mainly from France. Jewish communal leaders complain that this amendment is only a slight improvement, as the law still denies Jews "this basic religious right".

### MEDAL FOR NORWEGIAN HEROES

The Righteous Gentile Medal of the Yad Vashem in Jerusalem was awarded to the Norwegian Resistance Museum in Oslo as a mark of appreciation for the saving of nearly 1,000 Jews from the Nazis by the Norwegian Resistance.

### FAMILY REUNION IN COPENHAGEN

Miss Luba Bokchenko, a Jewish harpist who was allowed to leave her native Kiev four years ago and who is now a member of the Copenhagen Royal Theatre orchestra, has been re-united with her family. Her father, Mr. Novak, was a violinist with the Russian State orchestra for 35 years, his wife is a piano teacher, and his son, daughter and daughter-in-law are also musicians. They were recently given permission to join her.

### JEWISH GRAND MASTER OF FREEMASON LODGE

Earl Cadogan installed Mr. Menase J. Massias in office as the first Jewish Gibraltar District Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Freemasons of England. The appointment is a prerogative of the Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the Order. Mr. Massias has worshipped in the Lauderdale Road and Wembley Sephardi synagogues where he is well known.

### POPE'S JOB FOR ARCHBISHOP CAPUCCI

Archbishop Capucci who came to Rome in November after his release from an Israeli jail, has been assigned a roving commission to the Greek-Catholic Melchite communities in South America by Pope Paul. In 1974, Monsignor Capucci had been jailed for twelve years for smuggling arms and explosives from Lebanon into Israel for the terrorist organisation El Fatah. He was released after a personal appeal by the Pope. The Brazilian Foreign Ministry had asked the Vatican not to send him to Brazil.

### LETTER BOMB TO GREEK JEW

A letter bomb, the size of a packet of 50 cigarettes was sent to Mr. Tovvil of Athens, a leading communal worker who suffered minor facial burns. The purported sender's name was that of a Jewish merchant, a respected member of the community.

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Egon Larsen

## TRAGEDY OF A NEBBICH

Just a few months before the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, I reviewed a novel, *The Fortress*, in these pages. Its author, Peter Munk, was a Hamburg-born writer who had emigrated to Israel; life there had disappointed him and he had settled in London. The novel, with many autobiographical and documentary elements, explained what had made him leave the Jewish homeland. Now Munk has published a new novel, *The Crucified Fool* (Neville Spearman, 198 pp., £3.95), which in many ways is a sequel.

Again he has written it in a passionate, almost expressionist style, jumping backwards and forwards in time, full of philosophical and theological discussions and interspersed with dialogues between a judge and the hero at an imaginary trial. This hero, Gabi Pressler, is the wise fool of literature, a relative of Dostoyevsky's 'Idiot'; but in Munk's story he is the *nebbich* of his family, the unsuccessful and unlucky one of two brothers. The other, Leonard, has emigrated to London and become a prosperous citizen: he had always been the *chapper*; now he has asked the elder Gabi to join him and live with his family. The *nebbich* leaves Israel without many regrets and comes to London, but hoping to go on to New York.

Yet behind this apparently simple story there is a depth of psychological complexity. The younger, successful Leonard has always envied poor Gabi for his dramatic life, his experiences, his understanding of the meaning of existence—a quest which Leonard has pursued in vain. His outwardly happy family is on the point of disintegrating, and Gabi's arrival makes him the catalyst for a dramatic and tragic climax. Gabi, in his turn, has now the chance that the new life in London offers him—a last chance to redeem himself; but he is not the man to accept it.

His character as well as his experiences have made him the hopeless failure he is. He was in Auschwitz, cast for the leading role in a bizarre Easter play the commandant

put on with the prisoners as actors: hence the title of the novel. After liberation, he emigrates to Israel. 'I had to survive Auschwitz', he tells his brother, 'and to survive Israel... It wasn't exactly a bed of roses for me'. What Israel meant for him comes late in the book in an acid, bitterly disappointed paragraph:

'Here they were, the Jews, and Gabi looked at them, watched them. Strangers to him, people like all the others... Why should they be different? They never were different, only their conditions, their circumstances. Now they approximated, emulated. They sang, they caroused, they danced, they were cock-a-hoop, superficial, silly, brutal, boorish, others petit-bourgeois, stifled, narrow-minded, broad-minded. What did it matter to him? He was not of them...'

He lived in Eilat, made friends with an Arab. 'Did it make sense to settle refugees by displacing others, make them refugees?' he asks. 'Was there nothing to stop this eternal trail of blood?' The end—murder—seems inevitable. It is a haunting, thought-provoking book.

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHRISTIAN-JEWISH UNDERSTANDING

In the course of the post-war era considerable progress has been made in the promotion of mutual understanding of Christians and Jews on various levels. "Stepping Stones to Further Jewish-Christian Relations", a collection of Roman Catholic and Protestant documents, compiled by Helga Croner (Publishers: Stimulus Books, London; 1977), indicates that much has already been achieved and that much more will have to be done, in order that Christians may view Judaism and Jews as these see themselves. We, too, have to help in this ongoing concern, if called upon, and to make our contributions by removing preconceived notions on our side. Mrs. Croner's collection can be

very useful, both for Christian and Jewish endeavours in an important and delicate sphere, in which vagueness, inexperience and overemphasis can do a lot of harm.

One of the foremost pioneers for a "new look" on Judaism, has been Dr. James Parkes, the distinguished theologian and historian, who, though now an octogenarian, continues with study and work devotedly and energetically. Jews from Germany have particular cause to acknowledge gratefully the help he rendered refugees in need and the role he played in counteracting antisemitic prejudices in Germany as well as in Britain. "A Bibliography of the Printed Works of James Parkes, with selected quotations", compiled with biographical notes by Sidney Sugarman and Diana Bailey, edited by David E. Pennie (Publishers: University of Southampton; 1977) constitutes a grateful homage by friends and admirers of a remarkably prolific author; 329 items are catalogued in the volume. The bibliography is an impressive testimony for the careful and expert work.

F. L. BRASSLOFF

### JEWISH KULTURBUND REMEMBERED

Recently, the Hamburg periodical "Die Zeit" published an impressive series of articles by Elisabeth Plessen on the Jewish Kulturbund in Germany, founded after the Nazis came to power. The articles are based on personal interviews with survivors who were associated with this unique institution. The Kulturbund was of invaluable importance to the German Jews in the dark years from 1933 onwards but it had to struggle hard for its survival by keeping clear of any plans which might meet with the objections by the supervising Nazi department headed by Hans Hinkel. The article also peruses the book by Herbert Freuden "Juedisches Theater in Nazi-Deutschland" (published in Tuebingen under the auspices of the Leo Baeck Institute), as well as the thesis by Eva Wisten for her East Berlin State examination "Der juedische Kulturbund in der Zeit des deutschen Faschismus und seine Arbeit im Dienst der Literatur und des Theaters". The illustrated "Zeit" supplement, "Zeit Magazin", under the heading "Vorletzter Akt in Berlin" published so far hardly known photos depicting this "geisterhafte Kulturleben" of the Jews of those days; most of the photos had been made available by the photographer Abraham Pisarek, who survived the régime in a forced labour unit. E.G.L.

### OLD JEWISH PERIODICALS WANTED

Dr. Jutta Bohnke-Kollwitz, director of the Cologne Germanica Judaica Library on the History of German Jews, has just returned from her eleventh visit to Israel where she appealed for copies of old Jewish periodicals, especially those published before 1900, which deal with questions of welfare and similar activities and publications by Jewish student organisations, the Jewish Youth Movement and professional organisations.

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## STRIKING NEW ROOTS

Memoirs of Margarete Sallis-Freudenthal

The latest in the series of autobiographical books sponsored by the *Kommission zur Erforschung der Geschichte der Frankfurter Juden* and Frankfurt's *Stadtarchiv* is Margarete Sallis-Freudenthal's "Ich habe mein Land gefunden", a title which could appropriately be translated as "My new-found land".\*

In fact this book describes only the earlier part of the authoress' life: a further volume will deal with her life in Israel. It is planned to publish eventually the whole work in English.

Here we are told the story of Margarete David, born in Speyer in 1893. We follow her family's move to Frankfurt in 1904, her education and marriage and her emigration to Palestine from Hitler's Germany. Characterised by a lively style and ease of expression, the book also includes accounts of Frau Sallis-Freudenthal's meetings with various interesting personalities.

While the story is on one level typical and not at all exceptional, on another it is quite special and atypical. It discloses the development of an intelligent and gifted girl from a well-to-do assimilated Jewish family; she feels more German than Jewish, does not practise any Jewish rites, has little interest in religion of any kind. She passes through

school and university, and marries Geheimrat Professor Dr. Berthold Freudenthal, twenty years her senior, and a well-known professor of criminal law and author of important works on criminological reform. They had two children; the eldest, Klaus, died in infancy. Before his birth, she and her husband discussed the question of baptism for the child. Professor Freudenthal was deeply religious, but practised his inherited Judaism only by going to synagogue at Yom Kippur and paying the Jewish community taxes for himself and his wife (who did not even belong to the congregation). They came to the conclusion that if the baby were a girl, the question was immaterial, but that a boy should be baptised to avoid any disadvantage to him. In the event, Klaus was neither baptised nor circumcised.

Professor Freudenthal was self-conscious, conscientious, in some ways difficult, yet a very kind man. After some ten years of happy marriage, he died quite suddenly.

Frau Sallis-Freudenthal also tells of her second course of study under Professor Karl Mannheim, when she read sociology, and of her close friendship with the Protestant leader in Frankfurt, the influential and enlightened Pastor Förster, with whom she discussed many of her problems. We learn too of the reasons for her decision to emigrate to Palestine. The shock of the Boycott of April 1, 1933, the influence of Robert Weltsch's article, "Wear it with pride, the Yellow Star", Gerson Stern's "Road without end", and finally a discussion with Ernst Simon on the occasion of a meeting in London—all these made up her mind to abandon indifferentism for Zionism.

Her story, then, is at once normal and unusual and it is well worth reading. I myself was especially touched by the references to my own friends and acquaintances, such as Norbert Elias, Stadtrat May, Professor Traugott, Erna Mayer and Dr. Rudolf Mayer. The descriptions of life in Palestine, which she first visited in the spring of 1934, are vivid and a valuable pointer to the changes which

have taken place since that early time. Her optimism, courage and enterprise, and her well-founded judgments are especially noteworthy.

Finally, the book is completed by two very interesting annexes, containing excerpts from the family chronicle of the authoress' mother, and from Berthold Freudenthal's letters and diaries.

### ANOTHER SALE OF THE CENTURY

The most valuable art collection to be auctioned in London next summer will be sold at Sotheby's. Its value is estimated to surpass that of the Mentmore sale which made £6,300,000 in 1977. It comes from the estate of Robert von Hirsch, an Offenbach leather merchant and manufacturer who emigrated to Basle when the Nazis came to power. Goering is supposed to have asked for a Cranach painting from the collection before sanctioning von Hirsch's emigration. He was a collector of masterworks of art from his early youth. Together with his second wife, Marthe Dreyfuss-Koch, he added a collection of twentieth-century paintings when living in Switzerland, whilst the original collection transferred from Germany included a number of paintings by Rembrandt, Rubens, Degas, Matisse and many others. He died in November, aged 94.

### A SPLENDID ACHIEVEMENT

David Brodetsky, a grandson of the late Board of Deputies president Selig Brodetsky, passed the final examination of the Institute of Chartered Accountants as third out of 4,448 candidates from all over the country and was awarded the Quilter and Fletcher Prizes.

\* Margarete Sallis-Freudenthal: *Ich habe mein Land gefunden*. Autobiographischer Rückblick. Verlag Josef Knecht, Liebfrauenberg 37, 6.000 Frankfurt/Main.

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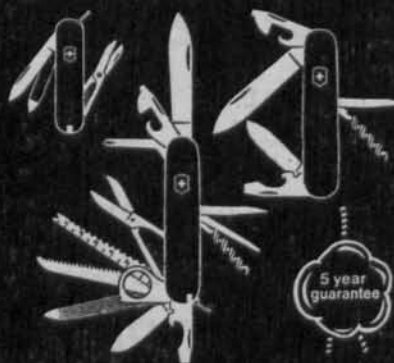
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## PERSONALIA

### DR. ERNST KATZENSTEIN 80

On February 11, Dr. Ernst Katzenstein, Director of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany ("Claims Conference") will celebrate his 80th birthday. For all those who have had the opportunity of watching at close quarters his inexhaustible agility, it is hard to believe that he now joins the ranks of the octogenarians. Only a few months ago, when certain regulations in the field of social insurance legislation were in jeopardy, he again showed his mettle, and if the danger could be averted, it is to a high degree due to his gift as the author of convincing memoranda and the experienced personal negotiator, always alert to propound sound counter-arguments on the spur of the moment. In this way, Dr. Katzenstein has worked for almost three decades as the spokesman of the Jewish victims of Nazism. His manifold duties also include the administration of the so-called "Beratungsausschuss", which was set up to advise the German authorities on claims for pensions submitted by former Jewish communal officials. Though, in the course of the past years, most applications have been settled in one way or another, some of the few remaining cases are, by their very nature, the most complicated ones. Dr. Katzenstein gives guidance to the members of the "Beratungsausschuss" and though he would never support claims which appear unjustified he does not easily give in whenever he is convinced of the claimant's right.

We advisedly quote these few concrete examples because we know that Ernst Katzenstein would not like general laudatory phrases. The two main sources from which he draws his strength are his deeply rooted Jewishness and his outstanding legal abilities. He has spent his formative years in the Zionist fraternity KJV, and he went to Palestine in 1933, after his successful career as a lawyer in Hameln had come to an end. His stay in Germany after the war was originally meant

for a very short period, but the constantly growing work has so far made him indispensable.

Co-operation with Ernst Katzenstein is bound to result in bonds of friendship with him, and this relationship also extends to his wife, Hilde. We wish him undiminished vigour, happiness and health for many years to come.

WERNER ROSENSTOCK

### HON. OFFICE FOR DR. MAC GOLDSMITH

Dr. Mac Goldsmith and Mr. George Donath have been elected trustees of the Leicester University medical school and associated Leicestershire teaching hospitals' joint trust. We congratulate our long standing and helpful friend Dr Goldsmith on this new confirmation of the high reputation he enjoys in his city of residence.

### GOTTFRIED-KELLER-PRIZE FOR CANETTI

Seventy-two-year-old author Elias Canetti who has lived in Britain for many years and is a naturalised British subject, was awarded the Gottfried-Keller-Prize of the Zurich Martin-Bodmer-Foundation for all his writings, but in particular for the recently published first volume of his autobiography "Die gerettete Zunge". Canetti was born in Bulgaria and spent his school years in Zurich which he left in 1921 at the age of 16. He has recently re-acquired a home there.

### MRS. EBAN IN HER HOME TOWN

During the Ismailia negotiations, Mrs. Susie Eban, wife of Israel's former Foreign Minister, Mr. Abba Eban, accompanied Mr. Begin as his personal guest, as she had been born and married in Ismailia. She stayed with Dr Azziza Husseini who had been a fellow-student of hers at the American University in Cairo. Dr. Husseini was Egypt's Ambassador to Washington in 1950, when Mr. Eban was Israel's Ambassador there, but at the time they had to meet in secret.

### "KNIGHTHOOD" FOR EPHRAIM KISCHON

The Israeli writer Ephraim Kischon whose satires on life in Israel are best-sellers in West Germany, was awarded an honorary knighthood by the Aachen Karnevalsverein for his "gallant fight against people without a sense of humour". The award was previously given to Konrad Adenauer, Walter Scheel, the Austrian Chancellor Kreisky, and our own Chancellor Denis Healey. Kischon was born in Budapest in 1924 as Ferencz Hoffmann and emigrated to Israel in 1949. More than ten million copies of his books have been sold in the Federal Republic.

### BEN URI THEATRE GROUP

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Under the slogan "Rights and Campaigns", the fledgling Ben Uri Theatre Group in association with "Inter-Action" will launch a series of five premieres on "Prejudice and its Responses" in the "Almost Free Theatre", 9-19 Rupert Street, London, W.1 (off Shaftesbury Avenue). The performances take place from Monday to Thursday at 1.15 and on Sunday at 2.30 and 4. The first play, which will run until February 19, will be "The Irish Hebrew Lesson" by Wolf Mankowitz. This one-act play deals with a Jewish refugee from Russian pogroms living in Cork, Ireland in 1921. He is confronted with a young IRA gunman . . . a refugee in his own country. Bookings over the phone will be taken at 01-485 6224. Further details may be seen from the advertisement in this issue.

### "TWELVE HOURS FOR ISRAEL" EXHIBITION

The largest single event ever planned by British Jewry will be the "Twelve hours for Israel" on May 7, 1978, for which the "Solidarity Committee" are taking over the whole of the Earls Court complex. Nearly 100,000 people are expected to participate. There will be over 150 stands and exhibitions by organisations and firms doing business with Israel. There will also be seven restaurants and twelve buffets. In the theatre and lecture halls films on Israel and Jewish subjects will be shown non-stop; there will also be lectures, debates, fashion shows, concerts and a gymnastics display. In the afternoon there will be a children's festival and pageant with between 7,000 and 8,000 participants. In the evening there will be a gala performance in the 16,000-seat arena with stage and film stars and other celebrities.

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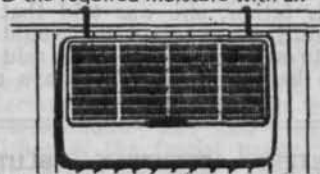
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# THE ISRAELI SCENE

## HONOURS FOR RABBI'S SOLDIER SON

Two former Chief Rabbis, one Orthodox and one Reform, took part in the dedication of a recreation area in the Jewish National Fund Forest in memory of Major Gideon Weiler, killed on the Golan Heights in the Yom Kippur War. His father, Rabbi Moses Cyrus Weiler, the former Chief Minister of the Johannesburg Progressive Congregation, settled in Jerusalem with his family 15 years ago. The Gideon Weiler area adjoins the Adam Weiler children's playground in memory of Gideon's brother, also a major, who was killed in the Suez Canal area in 1970.

## ISRAELI SHIPS FOR SOUTH AFRICA?

According to "The Times", the South African Government is conducting intensive negotiations with Israel to obtain surface vessels for its navy. A number of South African sailors are said to be based in Israel. Mr. Moshe Dayan, the Foreign Minister, has declared that Israel will abide by the Security Council resolution embargoing arms to South Africa, but it is not known whether this refers also to contracts already in existence about which little is known owing to Israeli censorship.

## UN CENSURE ISRAEL OVER AFRICA

The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution condemning Israel for her links with the racist régime of South Africa. The US and most Western countries voted against it, 88 countries were in favour and 19, including Iran and Japan, abstained. Israel's representative, Mr Chaim Herzog, pointed out that Israel's trade with South Africa amounted to two-fifths of one per cent of South Africa's £3,890 million foreign trade, and that many of the African and Arab countries supporting the resolution had a greater share of it.

## WEST GERMAN AID TO CONTINUE

When the Israeli Finance Minister, Mr. Simcha Erlich, visited Bonn recently, he received assurances that West German aid of about £35 million a year will continue at the same level in 1978. So far Israel has received a total of £412 million in capital aid from West Germany. Mr. Erlich said that the Likud, Israel's ruling party, wanted close links with the German Christian Democratic Union, and invited its chairman, Mr. Helmut Kohl, to visit Israel.

## PEACE TWINS

Twins born to an Arab family in the village of Yafia near Nazareth on Christmas eve, were named Begin and Jehan after the Israeli Prime Minister and the wife of President Sadat.

## NEW RULES FOR RED CROSS

Israel has eased restrictions on members of the International Red Cross which made it difficult for them to see Arabs from the occupied territories detained for security reasons. In future, they will be able to see them two weeks after their arrest with no Israelis present. They can also effect medical examinations without supervision. So far, the Red Cross were only informed of an arrest after 18 days, and visits were not allowed until twelve days later.

## CURB ON MISSIONARIES

A Bill to prevent Christian missionaries in Israel from attracting converts by offering them material inducements, was given its first reading in the Knesset. It is a Private Members' Bill, sponsored by Rabbi Abramowitz of Agudat Israel who claims that thousands of missionaries were active in Israel who had ample financial resources. The Bill provides for a penalty of five years' jail for offering and of three years' jail for receiving such inducements.

## LIBERAL RABBIS IN ISRAEL

In 1978, a number of Israel-born Liberal rabbis will be ordained and will set up new liberal congregations in the country. They will also be responsible for the first reform kibbutz, Kibbutz Jahel in the Negev. They are being trained at the Jerusalem faculty of the Hebrew Union College of Cincinnati, the oldest Jewish university in the world. At the moment there are eight liberal congregations in the country, but they have no full-time rabbis.

## RISE IN COST OF LIVING

Israel's cost-of-living index went up by nearly 12 per cent in November, 1977, the steepest monthly rise in the country's history. Tax inspectors are seeking payment from 50,000 people who have not yet filed their tax returns for 1976, and others who owe taxes for previous years.

## FLY-CATCHERS EXPORTED

An Israeli firm has developed a new approach to insect control in the home, in offices and in factories. It uses ultra-violet light which attracts insects to a grid where they are electrocuted. No gases or chemicals are used, and the device which was exhibited at the London Caravan & Camping Holiday Show, can be used both indoors and outdoors.

## WHO IS A JEW?

Mrs. Eileen Dorfinger, a 34-year-old American social worker has applied to the supreme court in Jerusalem to recognise her right to Jewish citizenship under the law of return. She was born to Jewish parents in Connecticut, but her former husband was not Jewish. Last year she emigrated to Israel with her two children, but was asked to leave an immigrant absorption centre, because she told other inmates that she believed in Jesus as the Messiah of the Jews. When she returned from a visit to America where she left the children with their father, she was told that because of her religious views, she would not be allowed to settle in Israel. She said she had not been baptised and had always remained a Jewess.

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## HALL OF NAMES AT YAD VASHEM

A Hall of Names has been dedicated at Yad Vashem, the Martyrs and Heroes' Memorial near Jerusalem. It is to perpetuate the memory of all Jews murdered by the Nazis. The archives already contain nearly three million names, and the centre appeals to all Jews to notify it of the names of the remaining three million victims. Forms for registration may be obtained at the Board of Deputies, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London, WC1. The AJR is represented on the British "Friends of Yad Vashem" Commission, and strongly endorses the appeal for registration.

## KNESSET MEMBERS ADOPT RUSSIAN JEWS

At least half the 120 Knesset members have promised to adopt individually a "prisoner of Zion", barred from emigrating from the Soviet Union to Israel, by communicating with them and their families and publicising their plight all over the world. Mr Begin, the Prime Minister, has adopted Leib Knokh who is serving a long prison sentence for having tried to hijack a plane in order to leave the country.

## 35 YEARS OF OSEM FOOD

Osem, the largest manufacturers of flour products in Israel, are celebrating their 35th anniversary. The company which markets 500 different brands of goods, plans to produce about £14½ million worth of food in 1978. Some £1,176,000 will be exported to 25 countries, including Britain, the United States, and Canada. The firm was started by seven families who now own four large factories in Israel. Its overseas outlets include Marks and Spencer and Carters in this country.

## MEMORIAL GROVE FOR WERTHEIM

In the Martyrs' Forest Yar Hakdushim near Jerusalem, a special grove with a memorial column was inaugurated to commemorate the ancient Jewish community of Wertheim on the Main. Former Wertheim citizens and the present Mayor of the town joined in prayer. The money for the trees was provided by donations from former Wertheim citizens in Israel to thank the Mayor, Mr. Scheuermann for all he has done for them. The grove has already more than 1,300 trees.

## NEW ISRAELI SUBMARINE

The Israeli Navy's latest British-built submarine, the "Rahav", was given a splendid welcome when she sailed into Haifa for the first time. She has a crew of 22 and the most sophisticated electronic and other weaponry and is said to be the most advanced conventional-type submarine available. She is one of three submarines ordered from Vickers in 1970. Her sister boat, the "Gal" has been in Israel for some time, and the third is now undergoing sea trials.

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# NEWS FROM GERMANY

## MORE CONTEMPORARY HISTORY LESSONS

The Minister for Cultural Affairs in North Rhine-Westphalia has issued a directive to the teaching profession according to which more stress is to be laid on the history of the Nazi régime and the Second World War in history lessons. He also ordered the omission of the old German Eastern frontiers from school maps as direct proof of the will to international reconciliation.

### HISTORIANS' SYMPOSIUM IN TRIER

A symposium of scholars recently held in Trier dealt with the political and social status of the Jews in the late middle ages and at the beginning of modern times. Two of the nine papers were read by Jewish scholars, Dr. Arye Haimon of the Hebrew University, and Dr. Daniel J. Cohen, Director of the Central Archives of the History of the Jewish People (Jerusalem). The occasion was also marked by an exhibition under the heading "Jerusalem—City of Mankind" in the foyer of the Trier Municipal Theatre.—E.G.L.

### TWO PRIZES

This year's Thomas Dehler Prize, named after the late F.D.P. politician and carrying an award of DM 20,000 was bestowed on the author Peter Weiss, whose widely known works include "The Assassination of Jean Paul Marat". The son of a businessman of Jewish origin, Weiss was born in Nowawes near Berlin in 1916 and emigrated to Sweden in 1934. He now lives as a Swedish citizen in Stockholm.

The Dannie Heinemann Prize for 1977, carrying DM 30,000, was awarded to Albert Eschenmoser, Professor of Chemistry at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule in Zurich. The Trust was originally created in 1927 under the name of Minna-James-Heinemann-Stiftung. It was confiscated by the Nazis but re-created after the war under its present name, Dannie Heinemann (1872-1962) was a son of James Heinemann. He was an American industrialist but studied in Hanover, the home town of his family.—E.G.L.

### HEINRICH BOELL, 60

The author Heinrich Boell, who recently celebrated his 60th birthday, has always shown an active interest in the history and present position of the Jews in Germany. He was one of the founders of the Institute "Germania Judaica—Koelner Bibliothek zur Geschichte des deutschen Judentums". He also wrote the preface to Artur Joseph's reminiscences "In meines Vaters Haus" stating that books of this kind testified to a part of German life which has ceased to exist and which will never return, a Germany which had died in Auschwitz or which today lives on in countries of emigration.—E.G.L.

### AJR IN "DEUTSCHLANDFUNK"

An hour-long feature by Herbert Freeden "Wie ich Briten wurde — Als Emigrant in England" was broadcast on December 20 by the "Deutschlandfunk". Mr. Freeden, who prior to his re-emigration to Israel was co-editor of *AJR Information* and who is known to our readers from his many contributions to this journal, described the problems of refugees in England during the years 1938 to 1946 and the various stages from their original isolation to their gradual absorption—Bloomsbury House and Kitchener Camp, the furnished rooms and the domestic permits, Internment and Pioneer Corps, and finally naturalisation. The *AJR* has been placed in the proper context of the story. The broadcast was produced by Mr. Heinz Klunker, director of the Feature Department of "Deutschlandfunk".

### POSTHUMOUS AWARD

The 1977 Leo Baeck Prize of the Central Council of Jews in Germany has been posthumously awarded to the lawyer and former Minister of Justice for Northrhine-Westphalia, Professor Dr. Josef Neuberger. A Josef-Neuberger scholarship has been set up to be awarded annually at the Tel Aviv University. Professor Neuberger's home town Düsseldorf will name a street after him.

## RESURGENCE OF NAZISM?

The Minister of the Interior for Rhineland-Westphalia has just published a report on extremists of the Left and the Right in the Land. Among 320,000 public employees he found 103 men and women who belonged to extremist organisations. Most of them had worked for such organisations before their present employment, but this had not been known when they were accepted. The Minister, Dr. Burkhard Hirsch, added a rider that neo-Nazi activities seemed to be on the increase and should not be disregarded.

In the Federal Parliament the Bremen representative, Ernst Walthemath, demanded official action against the manufacturers and sellers of Hitler dolls, toy planes with swastikas and other propagandist toys.

Mr. H. G. Kowalski, an official of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, reported to the Council of Christians and Jews that the membership of extremist Right-wing parties had declined from 36,000 in 1967 to 18,000 in 1976, but that there were now more Right-wing splinter groups than ever before. There were 135,000 Right-wing papers sold every week, 75 per cent of which were copies of the infamous "Deutsche Nationalzeitung", referred to as the greatest cause of pollution in the Federal Republic. Some 15 neo-Nazi groups with 600 members were heavily armed, but it was very difficult to suppress them. 319 cases of neo-Nazi activities had been before the courts: 61 per cent were concerned with swastika daubings on public buildings, others with the desecration of cemeteries, showings of Nazi flags, etc. Only 5 per cent of all cases involved violence. Mr. Kowalski's statement that Right radical tendencies were on the decline were met with incredulity by many members of his audience, as was his statement that the activities of the unions of former S.S. officers could be disregarded as they had no young followers. He admitted, however, that many of the other Right-wing groups were, like similar Left-wing organisations, receiving military training in Palestinian camps and were united in their hostility to Israel.

The Hanover Jewish Congregation has issued a writ against unknown persons who put up Nazi information booths in the centre of the city every Saturday from which they distribute antisemitic pamphlets. Jewish students and school-children were attacked and provoked in discotheques. In one case a man in black uniform with a death-head on his lapel, attacked a Jewish student and in the ensuing fight was joined by other men in similar garb. The Jewish Students' Union has protested against the inactivity of the authorities. At the moment, the police are making inquiries against seven neo-Nazis who have declared their readiness to join the N.S.D.A.P. Foreign Organisation led by the American Gary Lauck.

In Frankfurt, postman Otto Fettig took records from the outdoor display of a shop and smashed them because they contained Hitler speeches and sentimental war reminiscences. The Courts decided that the records were documents of contemporary history and should not be taken out of circulation. The owner of the shop, however, has stated that he will no longer stock them.

Two men of 21 and 25 years of age were arrested after having been identified as the persons who gave the Hitler salute when the German national anthem was played after the football match between Germany and Italy during the 1976 Olympic Games. They admitted having done so, but said they had been drunk and it had been meant as a joke. Under Federal German law, they may be sent to prison for three years.

In Heidelberg, the police wanted to confiscate Nazi medals and decorations in an antique shop, but was informed by the owner that he had bought them from the local Court of Justice which had confiscated them elsewhere, but through inadvertence — according to a

judge — then sold them together with other confiscated goods. A disciplinary inquiry will follow.

The notorious lawyer Manfred Roeder who has been banned from appearing in German courts, was fined DM 6,000 (£1,500) for calling the resistance fighter, Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer who was executed by the Nazis, a traitor to his country because he had tried to open peace negotiations with the Allied nations. Bonhoeffer's sister had appealed against the sentence which she considered too low, but the appeal court has now confirmed it. Subsequently Roeder repeated his accusations before the so-called Regensburg Reichstag, a Rightist assembly, and the Nuremberg public prosecutor has started new proceedings against him.

In Bremen, eleven young men between 16 and 23 years were arrested because they had staged a demonstration in simulated S.S. uniform, singing national-socialist songs and distributing pamphlets glorifying the Nazi régime.

### TWO YEARS' MAIDANEK TRIAL

The Public Prosecutor in Düsseldorf expects the Maidanek trial, the last of the great concentration camp cases, to last for another two years. During its first two years, some 150 witnesses, most of them Poles, have been heard, but another 100 are still to appear in court to testify to the guilt or innocence of the 14 accused. The Defence has done its utmost to hinder the proceedings by various tactics, including objections to some 40 witnesses. The public prosecutor, Mr Ambach, said the trial was now a race against death. One of the accused women had died, all other defendants were over 60 years of age. Several jurors had also died and if another two were to leave the jury, the trial would not be able to continue. So far several million marks have been spent by the Federal Republic on official Defence counsels, the journeys of the Court to Poland and the financing of the witnesses' appearance.

Mrs. Hermine Ryan Braunsteiner, one of the defendants who was extradited to the Federal Republic by the United States last year and who had been released on bail of \$17,000 last April, was arrested again because she had been found to intimidate witnesses. She had accused a Polish woman witness of being a liar and asked her under threats to tell the truth.

### NO AUSCHWITZ CONGRESS

The city council of Frankfurt has banned the so-called "Auschwitz Congress", planned by the *Kampfbund Deutscher Soldaten* and its chairman, the well-known antisemite, Erwin Schönborn. The Lord Mayor of Frankfurt, Wallmann, stated that he would not tolerate the victims of concentration camps to be ridiculed at such an event.

### PROCEEDINGS AGAINST RIGHT-WING JUDGE DEMANDED

In the Bavarian Parliament, Deputy Klaus Warnecke demanded immediate action against High Court Judge K. G. Stempel, who had openly declared his allegiance to the fascist "Aktion Widerstand" and had congratulated the publisher of the fascist paper "Mut" on the anniversary of the paper's foundation.

### GEORG HERMANN RENAISSANCE

The Berlin Freie Volksbühne has asked the author Reinhard Baumgart to write a play based on Georg Hermann's novels "Jettchen Gebert" and "Henriette Jacobi", once best-sellers in Germany, but now largely forgotten. The resulting play "Jettchen Gebert's Story" will be performed in the near future.

# BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

## WRITER LEAVES EAST GERMANY

Polish-born Jurek Becker from Lodz who survived the Lodz ghetto and the Ravensbrück and Sachsenhausen concentration camps, has been given permission to leave East Berlin for the West. At the age of 40, he is one of East Germany's best-known writers. His most moving book, later used for a harrowing film shown last year at the London National Film Theatre, is "Jacob the Liar", the story of the man who kept up hope in camps by spreading hopeful news allegedly picked up with a secret radio. Two years ago, he was awarded the National Book prize of the G.D.R. When Becker came to Berlin after his liberation in 1945, he was seven years old and unable to speak, and German therefore became his mother-tongue. He eventually studied philosophy, joined the East German Communist Party, and lived in luxury with a country house, a car and permission to travel abroad as an ambassador of Communist thought. However, he ended up disappointed and accepted an invitation to go to the Ohio Oberlin College as writer-in-residence for six months after which he will settle in the Federal Republic. His quarrel with the authorities culminated in his signing a resolution against the expulsion of the poet Wolf Biermann for "counter-revolutionary activities".

## Jewish Community Library

A new library of some 1,000 books was officially opened in the headquarters of the East Berlin Jewish community, Oranienburger Strasse. It will be administered by Mrs. Renate Kirchner, a professional librarian, who also did the preparatory work. She is the wife of the Community's chairman, Dr. Peter Kirchner, who at the opening ceremony expressed the hope that the library would be a positive influence in the cultural life of the German Democratic Republic. The function was also attended by representatives of the West Berlin Jewish community and of East Berlin public institutions.

## FAMILY EVENTS

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

### Birthdays

The AJR CLUB extends heartiest congratulations on the occasion of her 80th birthday to **Mrs. Rose Lippert** and to **Mr. A. Tobert** on his 75th birthday.

**Mozes.**—Mrs. Nora Mozes (née Falkenstein) of 152 Warmond Str. Amsterdam, Holland, will celebrate her 100th birthday on February 13. Best wishes to her from family and friends in England.

### Thanks for Birthday Congratulations

**Herbert M. Hirsch** thanks sincerely for messages of congratulations from Executive and members of the Theodor Herzl Society and many friends all over the world. Apologies are offered when individual replies will take some time.

### Deaths

**Cahn.**—Mrs. Irene Cahn passed away on December 29, 1977. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her husband, family, relatives and friends.

**Cassel.**—Frederick Leon Cassel of 41 Belvedere Court, Lyttelton Road, London N2, died on January 16, aged 89; dear father of Anne Calender, grandfather and great-grandfather.

## ALEXANDER GALICH

According to the French police, the recent death of the Russian-Jewish poet and songwriter was due to electrocution by his radio set. In the Soviet Union, he was known as the Solzhenitsyn of Russia song, but Jewish themes played an important part in his creative work. Born Alexander Ginsburg in 1919, he was trained as an actor of the Stanislavsky school and became a successful dramatist whose plays were performed in many Soviet theatres. He also wrote a number of film scripts. During Stalin's persecution of Jews, none of his works were published or performed. During that time, he wrote a number of moving poems on Jewish themes, one of them, on trains leaving for Auschwitz, is a rare instance of the Holocaust theme in Soviet poetry. In another, his most famous poem "Jews", he expresses his fears for the future of Jews in Russia. In 1971, he became a corresponding member of the Soviet Human Rights' Committee and was expelled from the Union of Film Workers and the Writers Union. He was charged with advocating Zionism, encouraging emigration to Israel and allowing his songs to be published in the West. After a world-wide campaign on his behalf, he was allowed to emigrate in 1974.

## MPs SNUBBED IN BELGRADE

Two British MPs, Mr. Greville Janner and Mr. Tim Sainsbury of the All-Party Parliamentary Committee for Soviet Jewry, went to Belgrade with a silver-bound Bible, signed by more than 300 MPs including the Speaker of the House of Commons and the Archbishop of Canterbury which they wanted to give to the head of the Soviet delegation for transmission to Mr. Anatoly Shcharansky, a 29-year-old Moscow mathematician. Mr. Shcharansky was arrested in March, 1977 accused of having been a spy for American CIA. He is to be put on trial for treason in the near future. The Russian delegate, Mr. Vorontsev,

## JEWES IN CHILDREN'S WELFARE WORK

The share of Jews in pre-Nazi Berlin's work for the protection of children in need is reflected in the recently published Festschrift to mark the centenary of the "Berliner Krippenverein" (edited by Dr. Manfred Stuerzbecher). It carries a tribute to the work of Dr. Isidor Albu (1837-1903), a practitioner in the North of Berlin, who was the main initiator of the foundation of the Krippenverein. Among the first members, the author states, names like Selig Auerbach, Sello Behrens, Feilchenfeld, Hamburger and S. Hirsch are particularly conspicuous. For many years, Dr. Gustav Kalischer was vice-chairman of the Krippenverein. Stuerzbecher states that the decrease of donations from 1933 onwards was mainly due to the enforced resignation of the "non-Aryan" members.—E.G.L.

## KLEIST'S TOMB

### Jewish Author of Epitaph

To mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Heinrich von Kleist, an exhibition was held in the Charlottenburg Castle. The instructive catalogue, written by the organiser of the exhibition, Dr. Eberhard Siebert, deals with the so far unclarified question, why the epitaph on the poet's tombstone was removed by the Nazis. It read: "Er lebte, sang und litt in truer Zeit; er suchte hier den Tod und fand Unsterblichkeit". Dr. Siebert assumes that this beautifully worded text was removed after it was discovered that its author, Max Ring, was of Jewish origin. Ring was born near Ratibor in 1817 and practised as a doctor first in Gleiwitz and then in Breslau. In 1850, he moved to Berlin, where he married the daughter of the well-known Jewish publisher, Carl Heymann. He was always interested in literature and, in 1857, gave up his medical practice to concentrate himself on his literary work, which includes historical novels and short stories.—E.G.L.

**Fisher.**—Mrs. Lili Fisher (née Haberland), of 14 Ellerdale Road, London NW3, passed away peacefully on December 26, 1977, after a long illness. Sadly missed by all her relatives and friends.

**Glaserfeld.**—Ilse Glaserfeld (née Blumenthal), widow of Dr. Bruno Glaserfeld passed away peacefully in hospital on December 27, in her 85th year. Deeply mourned by her sons, daughters-in-law and her great friend since early youth, Hanna.

**Gottlieb.**—Mrs. Sabina Gottlieb, of 4 Glencairn Drive, Glasgow, passed away peacefully on January 8, being over 100 years of age. She was most tenderly cared for by her daughter, Mrs. Yetty Ripper, who devoted the last ten years entirely to nursing her mother. All her friends will remember the old lady with great affection.

**Jacobi.**—Ken Jacobi of 76 Hillsborough Court, Mortimer Crescent, London, NW6, passed away on January 12 and is sadly missed by his wife and friends.

**Klein.**—Miss Antoinette (Tony) Klein passed away peacefully on December 21 at Leo Baeck House, London, N2. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her many friends.

**Kuhn.**—Mr. George Kuhn, passed away peacefully on January 3. Deeply mourned by his loving wife Bea, sons Michael and Richard, daughter-in-law Mary, family and his many friends.

**Schiff.**—Lotte Schiff passed away suddenly on December 18, 1977, sadly missed by her friends.

**Schweitzer.**—Mrs. Therese Schweitzer passed away on January 14 in her 87th year. Deeply mourned by her son Paul, daughter-in-law Gwen, son Rolph and family and many friends.

## CLASSIFIED

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

### Miscellaneous

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### INFORMATION REQUIRED

#### AJR Enquiries

**Simonson.**—Mrs. Herta Simonson, last known address 15 Lytton Close, London, N2.

# OBITUARY

## Dr. JACOB BRAUDE

Dr. Jacob Braude who died in Hendon, aged 75, came to this country as a refugee. He was born in Fuerth and obtained his doctorate degree in law at Leipzig University. On coming to Britain in 1938 he transferred the firm of hogbristle merchants, founded by his grandfather, to this country and built up a highly successful export business. Inter alia, he did brisk business with China which he visited repeatedly. He also continued his involvement in communal work and was a co-founder of the Hendon Adath Yisrael Congregation which became one of the leading Orthodox communities in London. For over 30 years he was its president, and was elected life president on retirement. He represented it on the Board of Deputies for 31 years and was an executive vice-president of the Mizrahi Federation. He served on the executive of the Board of Deputies and on its education, foreign affairs, and Eretz Israel committees, was chairman of its statistical and demographical research committee and vice-chairman of its law, parliamentary and general purposes committee. He was also chairman of the world presidium of the Friends of Midrashia, the boys' boarding schools at Pardes Hana and Kfar Saba. The Midrashia struck a special medallion to honour him for over 30 years' endeavour for Israel's largest yeshiva. He also held leading positions with the World Jewish Congress and the World Zionist Organisation and was a member of the AJR almost since its inception.

## JOSEF SHATIL (ERNST STILLMANN)

Josef Shatil (formerly Ernst Stillmann) a founder member of Kibbutz Hazorea, recently died at the age of 68. His death means a sad loss not only for his friends and fellow workers in Israel but also for many members of his generation in other countries, who spent their formative years with him in the German-Jewish youth movement. He originated from the "Deutsch-Juedische Jugend-Gemeinschaft" (DJJG) in Berlin. Together with other DJJG members he later joined the "Werkleute", an off-shoot of the "Kameraden". From small be-

ginnings, the "Werkleute" built up the Kibbutz Hazorea, now one of the most flourishing kibbutzim. Always interested in economics, Josef Shatil made the study of the economic structure of the kibbutz his special subject of research and published various monographs on it. For a number of years, he was also in charge of the weekly economic section of the Mapam daily, "Al Hamishmar". His achievements were all the more remarkable as he had not the benefit of a University education. A few days before his untimely death, his book on the history of Hazorea during its first ten years was published. It is hoped that the Hebrew original will be followed by a translation into German. The work is, at the same time, an important contribution to the history of the former German Jews in Israel.

Josef Shatil excelled by an undogmatic approach to the political and economic problems of the country. Yet one of his most endearing qualities was his unreserved loyalty to his friends, who feel united in their sense of loss with his wife, Ruth, and the other members of his family.

WERNER ROSENSTOCK

## LOUIS UNTERMAYER

Louis Untermeyer, the American poet, anthologist and man of letters died at Newton, Connecticut, aged 92. Born in New York, he left school at an early age to devote himself for 20 years to his family's jewellery business. At the same time he published several volumes of poetry and parody. In 1923, he devoted himself full-time to writing which included a biography of Heine. As an anthologist, he had a great influence on the literary taste of two generations of American readers. On his 90th birthday, he received a telegram, signed by 20 of America's most eminent writers saying that he had done more for poetry than any of his contemporaries. He once said to Mussolini: "I am not a politician, I am not always a poet, but I am undeniably a Jew". He was professor of poetry at a large number of American Universities.

## LORD PLURENDEN

Lord Plurenden, formerly Sir Rudy Sternberg, died suddenly on January 5, while on holiday in Tenerife. He was born in Breslau in 1917 and came to this country as a refugee in 1935. He made his first fortune in the plastics industry and in the 'fifties started to develop trade with Russia and other Eastern block countries. A generous Labour Party supporter and confidant of Sir Harold Wilson, he was knighted in 1970 for services to export. In 1975, he was elevated to the peerage and took his title from the manor in Kent where he farmed 2,000 acres. Lord Plurenden also regularly lent his support to the AJR.

## PROFESSOR ARTHUR ERDELY

Dr. Arthur Erdely, Professor of Mathematics at Edinburgh University, has died, aged 69. Born in Budapest, he studied electrical engineering at Brno University in Czechoslovakia and became actively associated with the Zionist movement. In 1939 he emigrated to Edinburgh where he lectured for some time, before being called to the California Institute in Pasadena, one of the great centres of science, but returned to Edinburgh in 1964. He was associated with a number of Jewish and Zionist organisations, and together with his wife, offered frequent hospitality to Israeli and other Jewish students. In 1956-57 he was visiting professor at the Hebrew University and closely connected with Patwa, the Professional and Technical Workers' Aliya. He was also a fellow of the Royal Society.

## JOSEPH LIPERT

London-born Mr. Joseph Lipert who has died in Hove aged 80, was the owner of a flourishing furniture business, but is best remembered for his outstanding service to Britain in the military sphere. In the 1930s, he began recruiting for the Essex Cadet Regiment and became its honorary colonel. During the war, he turned over one of his factories to aircraft production and was awarded the Cadet Service Medal and the OBE (military division). In the 'thirties, he also ran an agricultural training school and farm at Apsley House, East Grinstead, where many young Jewish refugees from Germany and Poland were trained for agricultural settlement in Israel. The farm had been given to him for this purpose by a non-Jewish friend.

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## THEATRE AND CULTURE

**Hamburg.** A recently published, richly illustrated book, "Opernjahre", records 300 years of opera history in the Alster city. The author is Rolf Liebermann who, as Intendant from 1959 to 1972, was instrumental in building up Hamburg's opera life after the Second World War.

**Berlin.** Several plays performed in this country deplore the passing of the "Old Times" and the changing attitudes of society. The same sentiments are reflected in a play shown in Berlin's Schlossparktheater, "Frau von Kauenhofen", a story of elderly people bemoaning the loss of yesterday's values. Press reviews were full of praise for Grete Mosheim who played the leading female part.

**Vienna Carneval.** The annual Opera Ball (this year on February 2) has remained the traditional highlight of the Viennese "Fasching". The ceremonial entrance of the dancers into the enormous stage-cum-auditorium of the opera house is still arranged by Professor Willy Fraenzel, who has performed this task for many years and whose name has been connected with dancing for well over half a century.

**London.** The National Film Theatre presented a cycle of Fritz Lang films ranging from the silent "Nibelungen" (made in 1923) via the German "M" (1931) and "Testament des Dr. Mabuse" (1933) to American pictures starring George Raft, Walter Pidgeon and Henry Fonda.

**Tit-Bits.** Bertolt Brecht would have been 80 this month. To mark the occasion, "Deutsche Schallplatte" (East Berlin) issued a Brecht record remembering the author's singing, reciting and conversing. Rolf Carston, formerly actor and producer at London's "Blue Danube" Club and now a business manager in Toronto,

paid a short visit to his London friends. Michael Rittermann, the versatile actor, who has been a member of the Basle Schauspielhaus for nearly ten years, has accepted an engagement at the Schauspielhaus in Zurich.

**Birthday.** Lina Carstens, German stage and (more recently) film actress, is 85 years old. One of her celebrated partners was Albert Bassermann. She considers Mutter Wolffen in Hauptmann's "Biberpelz" as her greatest success in the theatre and, on the screen, her appearance in the film "Lina Braake" which was also shown by the BBC in 1976.

**Obituary.** Lotte Schöne, the widely known soprano in the 'twenties and 'thirties, has died in Paris at the age of 86. Ernst Waldbrunn, actor at Vienna's Josefstadt Theatre and for a long period partner of the late Karl Farkas of "Simpl" fame, died after a long illness, aged 70. The Vienna "Burg" mourns the death of one of the city's outstanding theatre personalities, Alma Seidler, who had been a Burgtheater member for nearly 60 years. She was 78 and active up to the last day of her life. Endowed with an almost unique and singularly touching speaking voice, she was seen in classical and modern parts. She achieved a record number of performances when, in 1932 and 1933, she portrayed the young Queen Victoria in Sil Vara's "Mädchenjahre einer Königin".

S.B.

### Letters to the Editor

#### THE LATE ALEX MOCH

Sir,—Mr Alex Moch, whose death you reported in your December 1977 issue, was a widely recognised agricultural expert. In 1933, when retraining for emigration became imperative, he reorganised the Landwerk

Neuendorf for this very purpose, and many successful Neuendorfer all over the world and especially in Israel are grateful for the education they obtained under his guidance.

When in November 1938 practically all trainees were taken to the Oranienburg Concentration Camp, Alex Moch went to London for help and returned with 150 British immigration permits. Armed with these permits, he went to the Commandant of Sachsenhausen and obtained the release of all his boys.

He himself was also admitted to this country and established the Farm Institute, Tythrop House, which became the first home for some 200 refugee trainees. The Centre was liquidated at the beginning of the war, and from 1939 onwards, Alex Moch was a successful farmer in Kenya. He later settled in Israel and worked in an advisory capacity in many agricultural fields, especially on the development of sheep farming.

A continuous stream of old Neuendorfer from all over the world went to visit Alex and Erna in their home in Tivon.

FRED M. FIELD

15 Crundale Avenue,  
London, NW9 3PJ

#### THE LATE ARTHUR LILIENTHAL

Sir,—In your December, 1977 issue, you mentioned under "Loyalty to the Jewish Cause" a memory on Leo and Arthur Lilienthal.

It might interest some of your readers from Berlin that Arthur Lilienthal was a pupil of one of the most notorious Berlin "Gymnasiums" (The Mommsen Gymnasium). I was in the same class form with him from beginning to the end (Abiturium), and he was exceptional in so far as throughout these years he was uninterruptedly the head pupil. I still remember Arthur vividly, and I feel deeply over his "Deportation to the East".

Perhaps you have a few of his fellow-pupils among your readers.

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