

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Egon Larsen

GERMAN LITERATURE-IN-EXILE

The Last Chapter?

Few topics in literary history have been discussed, studied, written about all over the world as much as that of German *Exilliteratur*, ever since the burning of the books and the mass exodus of writers from Nazi Germany.

But the very diversity of attitudes to the subject makes it difficult to define the term *Exilliteratur*. Does it mean anything produced by former German writers outside their homeland? Or only works on the subject of exile, the situation of the refugees? How about the period of exile: does it end in 1945? What about the works written and/or published after this, the writers who remained in their countries of exile and began to produce works in new languages? The writers who returned to Germany or Austria and continued their careers there? One may come to the conclusion that the term *Exilliteratur* is so ambiguous, so ill-defined, so open to misinterpretation that precise studies are impossible; and that what is left is the hard, tragic core of individual fates: of those who did not survive the exile, who were crushed by the calamities, who took their own lives in despair.

A studious attempt to combine the bibliographical with the social viewpoint has been made in *Die deutsche Exilliteratur 1933-1945*, an anthology of 600 pages (Reclam, Stuttgart) with contributions by 40 specialists in that field, most of them university professors, mainly in the USA (preponderantly at the Indiana University, Bloomington), and nearly all in their early middle age so that they had not even been born when Hitler came to power. One part of the book deals with the situation of the exiled writers in their principal countries of refuge, and here we find a few contributors with first-hand knowledge on the subject: Kurt R. Grossmann on Czechoslovakia, Alfred Kantorowicz on Spain, Gabriele Tergit on England.

Among the academic accounts of conditions in other countries, Tergit's contribution stands out as a human document, for she gives us the thumbnail stories of her fellow writers, where they came from, how they got to Britain, what they did here; their failures and struggles, their contacts among the English, their efforts to mobilise public opinion against Hitler and to explain why they were here at all. She analyses the changes of the official climate and quotes the puzzled remark of an internment camp commander in 1940: "I should never have believed that there are so many Nazis among the Jews!" And she mentions Richard Friedenthal's splendid book on life in an internment camp, *Die Welt in der Nusschale*. Tergit ends her contribution, quite rightly, with a few success stories—of writers-in-exile who made good in Britain, now their permanent homeland. Today, she herself is one of them.

In the United States (writes Professor Man-

fred Durzak, Bloomington, who is also the editor of the anthology) the success stories are also rare, but some of them are quite astounding: Vicki Baum, Lion Feuchtwanger, Franz Werfel extended their former mainly German-language readership into a worldwide one from their American exile; Anna Segher's *Das siebte Kreuz* achieved a sale of 600,000 copies in the U.S. alone.

The second part of the volume consists of individual studies of exiled authors. Bertolt Brecht's attitude is perhaps the most interesting. "The best school of dialectics is emigration," he said in his *Flüchtlingsgespräche*. Yet he did not like the term "emigrant": we did not choose a new homeland for settling there, he argued in some of his poems and prose writings after 1933; we were banned and expelled. "Aber keiner von uns wird hierbleiben," he prophesied. He was wrong. Paradoxically, some of his greatest works—such as *Mutter Courage and Galilei*—were written in exile. But can one call them exile literature? "Intellectually and artistically," writes another Bloomington professor, Ulrich Weisstein, in his essay on Brecht, "he found his true home only in exile."

Or could we range Thomas Mann's last work, *Felix Krull*—now acknowledged as the greatest comic novel in the German language—among literature-in-exile because its major part was written in California? To say nothing of Nelly Sachs, whose case is a very different one. "Persecution and emigration," writes Professor Albrecht Holschuh (Bloomington), "did not separate Nelly Sachs from Germany's intellectual life: she had never taken part in it, either actively or passively. . . . Even the Ministry of Propaganda seems to have regarded her as so harmless that a few of her poems could appear until 1938. No doubt, she was persecuted as a Jewess, not as a writer."

The most relevant essay of the anthology may be the last one, on Zuckmayer's *Devil's General*. Volker Wehdeking, professor at the University of Kansas, calls it an "exile drama," yet starts his contribution with the sentence, "At first sight it does not look as though the most important work from Zuckmayer's years of exile has very much to do with the consequences of exile," but the entire rest of the essay tries to prove that it has. True, Zuckmayer's years in America reflected the situation of so many refugees: after failing to find literary work in Hollywood he was throughout the war years a farmer in Vermont, while Ernst Toller, faced with the same failure, killed himself. But just as Zuckmayer wrote his *Hauptmann von Köpenick* in Germany, long after the militarist Wilhelmian establishment he derided in that play had gone, he could have written his *Devil's General* after his return from exile when Hitler had disap-

peared from the German scene: where and in what personal situation he worked was irrelevant. Even as a farmer he was still a writer.

Another recent book on the subject is *Politik und Literatur im Exil* (Christian Verlag, Hamburg) by Alfred Kantorowicz who emigrated to France, fought against Franco in Spain, fled to America and returned, as a Communist of long standing, to East Germany. But the GDR turned out to be the worst "exile" for him, and after a decade of frustration he left it to settle in the Federal Republic. He died in Hamburg two months ago.

Kantorowicz starts his work—compiled for the *Forschungsstelle für die Geschichte des Nationalsozialismus* in Hamburg—with a statement which promises interesting elaboration: "Apart from opposition to Hitler there is no common denominator for the German-language writers-in-exile." In a well-researched chapter he deals with refugee groups such as exiled Reich Chancellors, prominent Catholics, aristocrats, Communists and Social-Democrats, and women Socialists who became victims of Stalin's terror. However, the remaining 200 pages of the book are a grave disappointment; they deal only with the little-known *Schutzverband* of German writers-in-exile, with abortive congresses in Moscow and Paris, and with the foundation of a short-lived, Communist-inspired German "Freedom Library" in Paris in 1934, at which Kantorowicz himself played a leading part. It was opened on May 10, the anniversary of the burning of the books; it was shut exactly six years later to the day when Hitler's tanks were rolling into France. In a way, and in a much more important capacity, Dr. Alfred Wiener's library which he rescued to London in 1939 was the real answer to the Nazis' barbarous destruction of the books. Kantorowicz does not even mention it in his own book.

But he touches upon a development which, he says, complicates the evaluation of exile literature: the manifold, involved, unexplored changes of the refugee writers' *Weltanschauung*. Many, he says, experienced their exile as a phase of their intellectual lives. They changed countries of residence, often their opinions, nationalities, creeds, and sometimes the languages in which they wrote. Agnostics became Orthodox Jews, Communists turned into Catholics, bourgeois liberals into Marxists, social critics withdrew into ivory towers, pacifists became militant anti-Nazis. It is certainly a subject worthy of study.

Tucholsky is again the object of the exile-literature cult in a publication that does not enhance his memory: *Die Q-Tagebücher 1934-35*, edited by his widow Mary Gerold and Gustav Huonker (Rowohlt). "Q" stands for "ich quatsche." It is the sad spectacle of an exiled writer in his mid-forties who refuses to contribute to the anti-Nazi journals which need his work but, right to the day of his suicide, cannot stop himself pouring out his thoughts, guilt feelings, bitter witticisms and nonsense jokes in private letters to a woman friend. Yet he himself wrote repeatedly that these scribbles should not be published! This is indeed scraping the barrel of German literature-in-exile.

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

FOLLOW-UP ON "HOLOCAUST"

A spokesman for West Germany TV said during a conference of the Evangelical Academy at Tutzing, the importance of the showing of the "Holocaust" film in Germany was to be seen in the discussion that followed. People over 50, usually only too ready to comment on TV events, had been far less conspicuous in it than viewers between 14 and 49. He announced that West German TV was preparing two new serials on the Nazi past: one connected with the building of the Reichsautobahn, and another in nine parts following the experiences of a young Jewish girl who escapes from the Warsaw ghetto. The latter is based on the real life story of Janina David who was deported from Kalisch near Lodz with her parents and who was saved by a German family, whereas her parents were killed. She was hidden in two convents until the Russians freed her. Janina David is now a social worker in Britain, and her story has been written by Polish-born Leo Lehman in London. West German TV is also preparing a film "Holocaust as Document", combining excerpts from "Holocaust" with original documentary films of the Nazi period. This film will be distributed by the Land Centre for political education which has also sent out 400,000 copies of its study material. The Centre has also distributed more than 1,100 documentaries to schools and adult classes who asked for them.

In West Berlin, six adolescents, one of them a girl, clad in black leather, intruded in a "Holocaust" discussion between children and parents of a Berlin school and shouted National Socialist slogans, expressing their approval of genocide. When one couple of parents reported on the killing of their parents in a concentration camp, one of the intruders said this had been quite justified, as Communists and Jews were enemies of the nation who had to be ruthlessly opposed and would be sent to concentration camps, if they, the young people, were to come to power.

"HOLOCAUST" IN AUSTRIA

It is estimated that on the average two million people saw the four parts of the "Holocaust" film, when it was screened in Austria at the beginning of March. According to an opinion poll, 87 per cent of the viewers considered the series as "very good" and "satisfactory". Many viewers asked for a repetition of the screening, especially as the timing clashed with a very popular entertainment broadcast on another channel. Federal Chancellor Dr. Kreisky declared that he would not watch the film, because "anybody who, like myself, has lost so many members of his family at that time does not need this film". He added: "If I say more, whatever I say will be misunderstood."

EINSTEIN REMEMBERED

Many hundred scientists from West Germany and from abroad attended the opening of an exhibition, sponsored by the Berlin Max Planck Society, to honour the great physicists born in 1878/79, i.e., Einstein, Lise Meitner, Otto Hahn and Max von Laue. The Federal President Walter Scheel inaugurated the exhibition with a speech in which he pointed to the failure of German scholars and students during the NS period. Why, he said, did they not join together to oppose the regime and use Germany's scientific standing abroad as a political weapon? Otto Hahn, who helped his Jewish colleague Lisa Meitner to escape, had been one of the few notable exceptions. The way Einstein had been treated by the Nazis, should have opened the eyes of all German intellectuals. However, they preferred to retreat to their ivory towers, not realising that their much-vaunted "Freedom of Science" was dependent on the freedom of all.

An Albert Einstein 60-Pfennig stamp will be issued in August, but it will only show an abstract design.

In Eastern Germany some 12 books on Einstein and a commemorative stamp are being issued, including personal reminiscences by Einstein's housekeeper and postman.

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

In answer to the letter of the "Council of Jews from Germany", quoted in our previous issue, the office of the Federal Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, stated that the Chancellor welcomed the initiative taken by the factions of the Bonn Parliament in this matter. He also referred to his address on the 40th anniversary of the November pogroms in which he had stressed that the advice of the Jewish victims would have particular weight. He himself, the letter states, has signed the motion of the SPD faction, calling for the abolition of the statute of limitations in cases of murder.

MAIDANEK TRIAL FIZZLES OUT?

In the Maidanek trial which has now lasted for over 3½ years and which is the last of the big trials against concentration camp murderers, the public prosecutor has proposed the acquittal of a former SS doctor and three women guards, because in his view there was no reliable evidence of their guilt or of any particular murder committed by them. The Polish press published strong protests against this proposal by women who had been called as witnesses. The Düsseldorf jury acquitted a witness, 67-year-old Fabian Berger, of perjury on the ground that his claim that his memory was faulty, could not be disproved. In 1963, he made a statement to the police and recalled in detail atrocities committed at the camp where he had been a guard. Recently, called as a witness, he stated that he had not known anything of the murders until after the war, when he read about them in newspapers.

THE MEN OF YESTERDAY

In Marl, a 49-year-old business man was fined £150 for having sold 40 stainless steel Hitler busts at £10 each last year. He had another 50 busts in stock.

The Bavarian Finance Ministry stated that it had not banned the sale of cutlery and other silverware with swastika emblems which once belonged to Goering by a local tax office, because this had been an isolated case. In the Bavarian Parliament, the Social Democrat Rolf Langenberger protested against what he called scandalous behaviour and demanded an investigation by the public prosecutor. He said it had been the height of impudence to announce that the proceeds would be used for restitution payments.

In Cologne, 39-year-old engineer Wolf-Dieter Eckardt was given a nine-month prison sentence for distributing antisemitic and neo-Nazi pamphlets. On two previous occasions Eckardt had been sent to prison for two years and eight months respectively, but in both cases he had received suspended sentences by a Hamburg Court.

TENANTS BOYCOTT NAZI LANDLORD

The Berlin Tenants Association in a large block belonging to the former concentration camp doctor Aribert Heim, decided to pay future rents into a blocked account with the Courts. They have also applied to the authorities to start proceedings against Dr. Heim for the part he played in NS atrocities. 17 years ago a warrant for arrest was issued against Dr. Heim in Baden-Baden, as he was involved in administering lethal injections to inmates of Mauthausen camp, but he managed to escape and has since been a fugitive. However, the tenants saw from the press reports recently that for the last 20 years, Heim has received the rent income from the building.

Subsequently, the Public Prosecutor's Office in Baden-Baden issued a warrant for the arrest of Dr. Heim, 64, and promised an award of some £3,500 to anyone providing news of his whereabouts.

GUEST LECTURER ON TOLERANCE

Professor Dr. Hermann Levin Goldschmidt, Zürich, was asked to deliver two important lectures during the recent Brotherhood Week in W. Germany. He addressed the Aachen Episcopal Academy on "Von der Toleranz zur Dialogik" and a Düsseldorf audience on "Judas—Scapagoat of Christianity."

RENT/RATE REBATES AND GERMAN PENSIONS

We understand that in the calculation of the income of an applicant for rent allowance or rate rebate, several Greater London Boroughs and possibly some provincial ones disregard, among other pensions paid for certain disablements, the German and Austrian pensions paid to Nazi victims. The Borough of Camden, which so far only disregarded the first £4 p.w. of these pensions, has now agreed to disregard 25 per cent of the pensions or £4 p.w. whichever is the larger, from April 1979 onwards.

All applicants for rent allowance or rate rebate are therefore advised to indicate, in declaring these pensions, that they receive these pensions as victims of Nazi persecution.

This is a concession for which the AJR have been pressing for some time. The Boroughs have a discretion in this matter, and we cannot give further information on the position in individual Boroughs.

UK TAX TREATMENT OF CERTAIN GERMAN PENSIONS

The Inland Revenue has agreed that West German Social Insurance Benefits awarded under Sections 18 and 19 of the German "Gesetz zur Regelung der Wiedergutmachung nationalsozialistischen Unrechts in der Sozialversicherung" (abgekürzt "WGSVG") of December 22, 1970, are exempt from UK income tax. The exemption is to take effect for all past years in which tax was paid in respect of those pensions. Accordingly, where a pension award states that it is made under Section 18 or 19 of the WGSVG, tax exemption and repayment for past years can be claimed.

The pensions paid under these provisions are largely similar to those paid under Section 99 (or the former Sections 100/101) of the German Angestelltenversicherungsgesetz (AVG) and under Section 1320 (or the former Section 1321/22) of the Reichsversicherungsordnung (RVO). We referred to these in articles in our issues of October 1977 and September 1978. The pensions affected are, broadly speaking, those granted to refugees from Nazi persecution in the German Reich or Danzig (whether or not former German nationals), whose contributions were paid outside the territory of the present German Federal Republic and Berlin. Pensions derived from contributions paid by "expellees" (Vertriebene) in territories annexed by the German Reich in 1938 and 1939, e.g., Bohemia, Moravia, certain Polish territories—if the recipient belonged to the German-speaking minority in those countries—are in the exempt category.

PENSIONS TO MARRIED WOMEN

Tax Liability

It appears that German or Austrian pensions received by married women are not always correctly assessed by tax offices. The pensions are earned income from which (after deduction of the 50 per cent allowable to Nazi victims) the Married Woman's Earnings Allowance, at present £985, is deductible. Moreover, the first £750 of the taxable pensions is chargeable at 25 per cent. The husband remains entitled to the Married Man's allowance of £1,535, and to the lower charge of tax at 25 per cent on the first £750 of his taxable income.

Where these reliefs are not given, a short letter to the Inspector of Taxes will usually put the matter right. Correction can also be claimed for similar errors made in past years. (The lower rate of 25 per cent did not operate prior to 1978/79).

In the recent provisional budget, the above figures were increased. The wife's earnings allowance will be £1,075, and the husband's personal allowance £1,675 in the tax year 1979/80 if the provisional allowances are not amended.

HIGH PRICES FOR NAZI STAMPS

At a Robson Lowe auction in London, anti-semitic and anti-British stamp forgeries produced by the Nazis during the war, fetched high prices. £115 was paid for a 1935 Silver Jubilee ½d stamp, overprinted "This is a Jewish War", a 1937 Coronation issue with Shields of David superimposed above portraits of King George VI and Stalin, and a set with the Magen David on the king's crown.

HOME NEWS ANGLO-JUDAICA

JEWISH CHIEF COMMONER

For only the second time since the post was created in the fifteenth century, a Jew, Mr. G. M. Sticher of St. John's Wood, has been elected Chief Commoner of the City of London Corporation. The Chief Commoner is chairman of the City's Lands Committee and accompanies the Lord Mayor in his official duties all over the world. In September, Mr. Sticher will play host to the Governor of Cairo who will make an official visit to London.

REFUGEE LORD MAYOR

Mrs. Valerie Guttman who was born in a small village in Czechoslovakia and escaped to this country in 1939, has become Lord Mayor of Norwich. Her installation will be followed by a civic service at the Cathedral. She is a specialist in housing and a member of the Norfolk Area Health Authority, and she sits on 38 committees and sub-committees. In 1939, when the Nazis marched into Prague, she joined some German Jewish students who were escaping to England and first worked on a farm in Scotland, later in a shoe factory, a day nursery, as a psychiatric social worker, and as a lady almoner in Scotland. She met her husband in St. Albans and went to Norwich with him, when he was appointed chief librarian of the new University of East Anglia. Conservative Councillor Mrs. Rita Levy was elected the first woman Mayor of Barnet.

HEBREW-SPEAKING LADY MAYORESS

Mrs. Barbara Bricknell, who is not Jewish, is the daughter of the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Ruth Dean, and acts as her Lady Mayoress. At a reception after a civic service in the Childwall Synagogue, the Lord Mayor said her daughter had been educated at the old Hope Place Hebrew School, now replaced by the Childwall King David School, and had come top in Hebrew.

JEWISH JUDGE RESENTED

When the case opened against 24-year-old Ian Hastie of Loughton, Essex, who is accused of stealing from shops to contribute to the National Front of which he is the local treasurer, his counsel, Mr. Michael Challinor, asked Judge Cyril Salmon, QC, not to preside because of his religion and the accused's politics, as the accused would not be satisfied that justice was being done. Judge Salmon refused to give up the case and said it had never been argued that a Jewish judge could not fairly try such a case. Jurors could not be challenged either on grounds such as race, religion, or occupation. He might have had more sympathy if there had been an objection to him personally.

CAMDEN'S MEDICAL OFFICER FROM GERMANY

Dr. Wilfred Harding who has just retired as Camden and Islington Medical Officer, came to Britain from Berlin in 1933. He studied for three months at the Woodbrooke Quaker College in Birmingham and decided not to return. His father Ludwig Hoffmann, had been chief town architect in Berlin, and as Dr. Harding says, has probably designed more hospitals and social services buildings, many of them still in use, than anyone else. Dr. Harding had spent six months in Nazi military service. He studied medicine at University College Hospital, London, and was interned at the outbreak of war, and again later during the general internment wave. His brother was Chief of Staff of the Luftwaffe nightfighters, but was shot down and killed by the RAF. Dr. Harding eventually joined the British Army and landed in Normandy with the Royal Army Medical Corps, he was wounded, and ended the war as medical officer in charge of the Ruhr district. In 1957, he became Camden's Divisional Medical Officer.

LORD JANNER JUBILEE CELEBRATED

Lord Elwyn Jones, the Lord Chancellor, and Mr. Peter Archer, the Solicitor-General, were among the distinguished guests at a reception in the House of Lords to honour Lord Janner on his completion of 60 years of active practice as a solicitor. Lord Janner will be 87 in June, but he still goes to his office every day and is an active member of the House of Lords.

BLUE RIBBON FOR ISRAELI INVENTION

At the Ideal Home Exhibition, an award-winning Israeli security lock attracted considerable interest from European and from many Arab buyers. The four-directional lock, manufactured near Tel Aviv, earned an Ideal Home blue ribbon award for Ramicube Ltd., its UK distributor. The firm's managing director, Mr. Alan Ince, said that the sales heralded another export success for Israel. He was negotiating with insurance companies to secure lower premiums for people installing the lock, which had another showing at the International Fire, Security, and Safety Exhibition and Conference at Olympia.

ISRAELI DISPLAY

At the International Food Exhibition at Olympia, 34 companies were represented on the 13-stand Israeli section of the "trade only" fair. Citrus fruit, fruit juices, olives and nuts were on display with many firms exhibiting for the first time in the UK.

OPEN UNIVERSITY TO AID PLO

Jewish leaders have protested against a statement by the Open University that it would be prepared to assist a feasibility study for the establishment of an educational system for the PLO in Amman.

£72,000 FOR JEWISH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hubert were host and hostess at a dinner of the Yesodey Hatorah Grammar School at the Mount Royal Hotel when over £72,000 was raised. The guest of honour, Mr. Stanley Kalms, chairman of the executive of the Jewish Educational Development Trust, said it was the right wing of the Jewish community that had pioneered Jewish day school education in Britain. The Trust had assisted in the building of the sixth form of the London JFS Comprehensive school and assisted many other Jewish schools in London and the provinces. Currently, one of its major commitments was a £2 million project for a nursery and primary school for the Kenton, Kingsbury, and Wembley area which would take over 600 pupils.

JEWISH STUDENT FOR CAIRO

Irving Wallach, secretary general of the World Union of Jewish Students, flew to Cairo to attend the World Youth Congress on Food and Development, opened by President Sadat. It is believed to be the first time that an international Jewish organisation has received an invitation from an organisation close to the Egyptian Government.

THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE

In a half-hour talk "Wrestling with God" in BBC TV's "Light of Experience" series, Professor Ulrich Simon, Dean of King's College, London, recounted his religious conversion in the course of his refugee life. He came to this country from Berlin in 1933 and claimed to have asked God to help him when his luggage was searched at Emmerich on the German-Dutch frontier and the Nazi officers were about to find some £1,000 hidden in his case. At the last moment, they abandoned their search. Coming from a non-religious Berlin Jewish family, most of whom perished in the Holocaust, he subsequently, after another experience in a London Hospital, became a convert to Christianity.

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No Racialism in the Bible

Rabbi Hugo Gryn delivered the Cardinal Bea Memorial Lecture at the Sisters of Zion, London, on "Race and Religion—the Jewish View". He paid tribute to the late Cardinal Bea for his work on inter-faith relations and Christian-Jewish dialogue and said Judaism rested on the spiritual to the exclusion of any idea of racial exclusivity. There was no word for race in Hebrew. Mr. David Lane, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality said that gradually the Blacks would integrate as successfully into British society as the Jews had done. Father Michael Hollings, Vicar of Notting Hill, presided.

Flatlets for the Aged

Weston Housing Association has acquired a site in Sunningfields Road, Hendon, for the construction of a block of 31 sheltered housing flatlets for 38 people, and a resident supervisor. The cost will exceed £600,000. The rent will be registered by the rent officer. The Association forms part of a group known as London Jewish Housing Committee which includes the B'nai B'rith Housing Society, headed by Mr. Fred Worms. It has a waiting list of nearly 400 people and is already accommodating nearly 500.

Bank Leumi's second Branch

After its success in Golders Green, Bank Leumi (UK) has opened a second branch in Gants Hill, Ilford, Essex, which has one of the largest Jewish communities in Europe, and the largest concentration of Jews in this country. A study just published on the Jewish population of Redbridge (which takes in Ilford, Gants Hill, Wanstead, Woodford, Clayhill and Barkingside) reveals that it numbers about 19,000 Jews of whom 15,000 positively identify with their religion.

Appointment of CBF Director

Mrs. Eva Mitchell has been appointed director/company secretary of CBF World Jewish Relief on the retirement, after 40 years of service, of Miss Joan Stiebel, MBE. Mrs. Mitchell was the first woman chairman of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain and is a member of the Board of Deputies. She will take up her new job in July.

Miss Stiebel told the *Jewish Chronicle* recently that the Home Office had been exceptionally helpful in extending the stay in Britain of recently arrived Iranian Jews. It had asked WJR to coordinate applications from such people. About 200 Iranian Jews arrived before emigration restrictions were introduced, and about half of them applied to the organisation for help. Many of them are students.

Children want to meet Jews

When the children of Fairfield school in Gloucestershire decided to perform "Fiddler on the Roof", they asked the Board of Deputies to bring them in touch with Jewish people as they had never met any. Subsequently, the Central Jewish Lecture and Information Committee invited 40 members of the cast and four teachers to come to London and tour Golders Green and Stamford Hill. They visited two synagogues, counted mezuzas, toured communal organisations and enjoyed a kosher "ethnic" lunch.

Students' Sit-In

Nearly 100 Jewish students took part in a sit-in at Hillel House, Euston, to demonstrate their support for student accommodation in London.

The Chief Rabbi on German Jewry

Chief Rabbi Dr. Jakobovits, who was born in Koenigsberg and spent the major part of his youth in Berlin, gave a talk at a meeting at the Hampstead Synagogue about aspects of pre-war German Jewry. When Rabbi Norman Solomon quoted his late father-in-law as having said he could not understand why Moses had not come from Frankfurt, the Chief Rabbi retorted that Moses actually did come from there, but was too modest to admit it.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

New York Mayor in Difficulties

Hias, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, is planning to assist some 27,500 immigrants, mostly from the Soviet Union, to arrive in the States this year. This is double last year's figure. As most of them want to settle in New York, there is a fear of saturation. Mr. Edward I. Koch, the Jewish Mayor of New York, is strongly criticised by the black population who allege that he surrounds himself with aides who are mostly products of the Jewish middle class like himself and excludes minority groups from decision making. He was particularly attacked for appointing Mrs. Blanche Bernstein, an academic critic of poverty programmes, as the city's welfare commissioner. She has reduced the number of recipients of municipal aid, and blacks involved in poverty programmes have for months campaigned for her resignation.

Antisemitic Murder

A 19-year-old Yeshiva student in New York, returning from a hockey game at Madison Square Gardens with several boys, was involved in a fight with two young men, who insulted the group with remarks about their skullcaps and other antisemitic utterances, and was killed after being beaten with a baseball bat and a hammer.

Nazi Books on the US Market

A major book company, owned by Germans and Italians, Bantam Books Inc., has launched its biggest multi-book promotion ever. It plans to publish one book on the last war per month with a target of 60 books. They include a book "I flew for the Führer", and another "Horrido" which according to the blurb reveals the "incredible nerves and rare skill of the Nazi sky warriors."

Intensified Hunt for War Criminals

Following criticisms in Congress, the Justice Department has announced that the 13-member Anti-Nazi Unit, headed by Mr. Martin Mendelssohn, is being increased to 38 people and an extra \$2 million is being requested for it from next year's budget. Miss Elizabeth Holtzman had accused the Government of giving a low priority to "seeking out men charged with horrendous crimes against humanity."

Cemeteries desecrated

More than 800 tombstones were overturned in the Mount Hebron cemetery in Flushing, and 650 at the Mount Richmond cemetery and the United Hebrew Cemetery on Staten Island. Others were defaced or damaged. Special police guards have been assigned to the cemeteries.

Refugee Politician visits his Past

Mr. Blumenthal, Secretary of State of the US Treasury, used his recent visit to China to revisit the former Shanghai ghetto where he spent the war years with his parents after a last minute escape from Germany. He showed the reporters who followed him on his five-mile walk, the two tiny rooms at 59 Tshusan street where they had lived.

Protest against Roads in Israel

Some 5,000 Satmar Chasidim protested at a Madison Garden Rally against road building schemes in Israel which in their opinion desecrate the Sabbath and the graves of scholars. They objected to the building of a sports centre in Jerusalem and a highway leading to it which runs through the religious community of Sanhedria Hamirkevet.

Against Women Rabbis

Rabbi Usher Kirshblum has founded a Committee for the Preservation of Tradition within the Rabbinical Assembly with a following of 150 rabbis to contest the recent decision to support the ordination of women.

CAMPS

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EL SALVADOR

Hon. Israel Consul Killed

Ernesto Liebes, the Honorary Israeli Consul in San Salvador, who was kidnapped and killed by the Left-wing underground group FARN, was born in Hamburg in 1907 and left Germany, when the Nazis came to power. He became El Salvador's biggest coffee importer. Mr. Liebes had been Honorary Israeli Consul since 1949 and, according to a source close to FARN, was murdered because he represented Israel which "supplied arms to Nicaragua and Guatemala." Israel has an Embassy in San Salvador and a resident Ambassador, Avraham Saarlouis.

AUSTRIA

Mass Grave Discovered

A mass grave of 8,000 to 9,000 Jews killed by the Nazis has been discovered in a forest near Lambach in Upper Austria. The grave is near a war-time forced labour camp and includes documents that the victims were Hungarians marched to the area by the Germans in 1944. Those not killed at the camp were later deported to the concentration camps of Mauthausen and Guenskirchen and killed there. The Vienna Jewish community has decided to re-inter the remains from the mass grave in a special grave at the Mauthausen grounds of pilgrimage.

PLO THREATS IN SWEDEN

Bjorn Borg, the Swedish Wimbledon tennis champion, has been given a police guard after two death threats from a terrorist organisation, calling itself the "Red Star". The first came after the publication of a photograph of Mr. Borg by the Dead Sea in a borrowed Israeli army uniform with a sub-machine gun over his shoulder. He had taken part in a tennis tournament in Israel.

Ted Gardestad, a popular Swedish pop singer, rejected the advice of the PLO office in Stockholm not to take part in the Eurovision song contest.

GREEK HOMAGE TO WAR HERO

A monument is to be built to Colonel Mordecai Frizis, a Greek Jewish war hero, on the spot where he was killed fighting the Italian fascist forces in the Battle of Kalpaki on the Greek-Albanian border in October 1940. Col. Frizis was the first Greek officer to die in battle against the Italian Fascists. He was a distinguished member of the Khalkis Jewish community on the island of Euboea north of Athens.

CLUB 1943

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

- 7 May. Bank Holiday.
- 14 May. Elhanan Jitzhaki (Agricultural Adviser of Israel): "Agriculture in Israel" (with slides).
- 21 May. J. W. F. Stoppelmann: "Mexico" (with colour slides).
- 28 May. Spring Bank Holiday.
- 4 June. Ezra Juermann: "Dat fiel ma uff" (Anekdoten, Zitate und Erzählungen).
- 11 June. Peter Seglow (Lecturer at Brunel University): "What the General Election is all about".
- 18 June. Shalom Solly: "The social structure of Israel today".
- 25 June. Grete Sachs: "The Montefiores".
- 2 July. Gerhard Holm: "Ivar Kreuger. The Swedish Match King".

On Wednesday, 20th June, the Club will visit the Ascott Collection and House and Garden of the late Anthony de Rothschild in Buckinghamshire. Details and enrolments on Club evenings.

FRANCE

Vichy Man charged

69-year-old Jean Leguay, a retired business man who was secretary-general of the French police in occupied France, has been indicted for crimes against humanity by a French judge. He is accused of helping to organise the round-up of Jews in Paris on July 17, 1942. His indictment follows a complaint by Mr. Serge Klarsfeld, a Paris lawyer whose father was killed at Auschwitz and who works for the prosecution of Nazi criminals still at large in France. The other charges against Leguay concern the organisation of transports of arrested Jews from unoccupied France and his request to the Gestapo to arrest Jews from the Baltic States, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, who had fled to France before 1940. After the war, Leguay was sent to New York on a special mission by the Ministry of Industrial Production and became the American manager of the Nina Ricci perfume firm. He also worked in London for Richard Hudnut and Warner-Lambert International. After being charged, Leguay stated: "From 1940 to 1944 I had no other concern but that of protecting and defending the French people against the occupier with the limited means at my disposal."

Arabs Buy Ritz Hotel

Arab oil tycoons have taken over the Ritz hotel. Other Paris hotels now in Arab hands are the Meurice, the Grand Hotel and the Hotel Prince De Galle. The historic Cafe de la Paix also belongs to Arabs.

NEO-NAZIS IN SPAIN

The new leader of CEDACE, the most active of a number of neo-Nazi organisations in Spain, is 21-year-old Pedro Varelo who has just published his radically antisemitic programme. Members of the organisation appear in brown shirts with swastika armbands and swear to maintain the purity of the Aryan race. They have collected 15,000 signatures for a petition for the release of Rudolf Hess. The organisation maintains links with other neo-Nazi organisations in Latin America and in the United States.

ITALY

Controversial Archbishop Capucci

56-year-old Archbishop Capucci will have a private audience with Pope John Paul II to clarify his open support of the Palestinian cause. At the moment, he is staying at Damascus at the invitation of Yasir Arafat to attend a meeting of the Palestinian National Council. Israel has protested to the Vatican that, by doing so, the Archbishop has violated a condition of his release from an Israel jail in 1977, stipulating that he should not be allowed to return to the Middle East. As Archbishop of the West Bank and of East Jerusalem, he was caught smuggling explosives from Lebanon into Israel and sentenced to 12 years' jail in 1974, but released on a promise from the late Pope Paul VI that he would not be allowed to do anything to harm Israel.

Pope receives Jewish Leaders

Pope John Paul II had his first official encounter with representatives of world Jewry when he received in private audience 25 leaders of Jewish organisations, including the World Jewish Congress, the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, and the Board of Deputies of British Jews, represented by Mr. Greville Janner, QC, MP. He told them that he would try to be of assistance to all who suffer or are oppressed, as he had done as Archbishop of Cracow—and to do everything in his power "for the peace of that land which is holy to you as it is to us." He ended with a "Shalom" greeting as "a sign of understanding and fraternal love already achieved."

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R. O. Leavor

"THE EMPEROR OF ATLANTIS"

Performance of Theresienstadt Opera

The April issue of "AJR Information" reported on the BBC-2 performance of the opera "Der Kaiser von Atlantis", written and composed by two inmates of Theresienstadt, the Schoenberg pupil Viktor Ullmann and his librettist Peter Kien. Both were later sent to Auschwitz, where they perished. The first thought which came to mind when viewing the performance was surprise at the fact that, even accepting that Theresienstadt was certainly the "mildest" of the camps and indeed a showcase for foreign visitors, the opera was written at all. The basic theme of the work is, in a word, death. This is not surprising under the circumstances. Yet it is treated allegorically. In the first scene, death breaks his sword and declares that there will be no more deaths. The message is plain enough: among camp people the "life-wish" must be uppermost in their minds.

However, already in the second scene, there are unforeseen developments. The very old, who are tired of living, and the very sick, who long for relief in death, cannot die. At first, the emperor, who gives orders by remote control, is non-plussed by the new turn of events and later, in the fourth scene, he is literally at his wit's end. Yet in between, in the third scene, there is a relief, which the producer made the most of. It shows a meeting between a young man and a young girl from opposite enemy sides, who "make love, not war". Visually, as they sing their inevitable love-duet, they are placed in a symbolic Garden of Eden instead of the desolate no-man's land of war. At the end of the opera, death appears to the emperor and offers to resume his normal functions provided the emperor is the first to succumb, to which he agrees. A female drummer comments throughout the work and acts as a Greek chorus.

The allegory of the plot must have been deliberate in order to obtain a chance of performance under the noses of the Nazis. (In fact, as already

reported last month, it was banned all the same.) Before the war, when every synagogue service was monitored by Nazi agents lest anything might be said against the Germans from the pulpit, the rabbis always chose allegories from history without carrying the argument forward to the then prevailing conditions. Yet the congregation always understood the deeper meaning, and the agents were satisfied that no offence had been committed. Similarly, the story of the "Emperor of Atlantis" would not have caused offence to the camp commandant.

Schoenberg Pupil

As far as the score of the Schoenberg pupil Ullmann is concerned, we were told in the introduction of the broadcast there were shades of Mahler, Weill and even (why even?) Wagner. These reminders were easily spotted: Mahler in the first scene in the song of the Pierrot, rendered in impeccable German by Richard Lewis; Weill in the drummer's song aimed at the lovers whose duet might have done justice to Puccini; and Wagner in the emperor's declamation to his subjects. But these derivations are excusable, especially when we also hear a German folk-song and the German national anthem, both suitably disguised. At the end, the four remaining members of the cast sing a Lutheran hymn in good four-part harmony.

It is reasonable to assume that the orchestral score was tailored to what instrumentalists were available in the camp. The scoring was light and abounded in contrapuntal ideas both within the orchestra and with the voices. As in Beethoven's "Fidelio", there was some spoken dialogue to highlight the drama.

The production, which had to be evolved from nothing because no stage directions had been left, was most movingly done. One remembers the tormented people, wishing to die but unable to do

so, filmed in slight slow motion; death appearing to the emperor through a mirror and both disappearing into it later. Jean Cocteau used this trick in his film "Orpheus", where the entrance to the underworld is through a mirror. The colours and their contrast were superb, the green of the Garden of Eden being stunning, especially after the grey-brown of the battle field.

In the introduction, reference was made to the showing of "Holocaust", and certainly one complemented the other. The producer thought it right that present-day Germany should be involved in the making of the film, and this is one more example of how Germany is trying, and successfully at that, to make amends for its obscene misdeeds of the Nazi era.

In modern terminology, this opera is a "one-off" event. It is open to conjecture, whether Ullmann would have made the headlines had he lived. One thinks of Anton Webern cut down by a stray American bullet in 1945, though he had, by the time he died, left a formidable testament of a small but concentrated musical output. In the end, we have to judge this 60-minute opera for both its intrinsic merit and for the circumstances of its birth. I hope it will earn for itself a niche in the history of music, for this is what it deserves.

BRITISH POLICY ON THE HOLOCAUST

At the end of a lecture by Mr. Bernard Wasserstein, MA, DPhil, lecturer in Modern History at Sheffield University, under the auspices of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, Mr. Stuart Young, Chairman of the Institute's Policy Planning Group, said that his pride in being British had been greatly reduced by listening to Dr. Wasserstein's erudite and detailed report. Dr. Wasserstein has written a book "Britain and the Jews of Europe 1939-45" which was sponsored by the Institute and supported by thousands of documents of the time, recently released by the Public Records Office under the 30 years' rule. It will be published by Oxford University Press.

Dr. Wasserstein said that until the outbreak of war, Germany did not oppose large-scale Jewish emigration and in many cases made it easy. Even after the outbreak of war, a limited amount of emigration went on unhindered. However, the British Government gave assistance to would-be emigrants a very low priority, and Foreign Office minutes quote Anthony Eden, the Foreign Minister, as saying that he preferred Arabs to Jews. However, both Eden and Churchill were in favour of bombing Auschwitz, but this was prevented by lack of zeal on the part of the Foreign Office and Sir Archibald Sinclair's Air Ministry.

We are eagerly waiting for the publication of Dr. Wasserstein's book which will then be reviewed in full. Three years' research have certainly led to a new aspect of a situation which, alas, is all too familiar to us, and the author, too young to have witnessed events at the time, has dealt with it with deep understanding and empathy. He concludes that Germany turned to murder only because emigration had become impossible. At one time, the British Ambassador had actually thanked the German Government for making emigration more difficult.

M.P.



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"EFFINGERS" ODER GLANZ UND ELEND DER DEUTSCHEN JUDEN

Zu den Büchern, deren Stunde bei ihrem ersten Erscheinen noch nicht gekommen war, gehört der erstmalig 1951 veröffentlichte grosse und grossartige deutsch-jüdische Familienroman "Effingers" von Gabriele Tergit, den nach dem verdienten Erfolg ihres wiederentdeckten frühen Romans "Käsebier erobert den Kurfürstendamm" der Wolfgang-Krüger-Verlag, Frankfurt a.M., kürzlich neu herausgebracht hat. Die Autorin begann dieses weit ausholende Epos, das auch die typischen zu dieser Kunstgattung gehörenden Leitwörter auszeichnen, 1931 zu schreiben. Sie hat viele Jahre daran gearbeitet, wie schon die Handlung beweist, die mit einigen Rückblicken in noch ältere Zeit in den späten Siebzigerjahren des 19. Jahrhunderts beginnt und bis zu Ereignissen im Jahre 1942 führt. Ein Epilog, der dem bewegenden eigentlichen Ende des Romans als endgültigen Schluss gleichsam noch eine Koda hinzufügt, geleitet den Leser sogar bis 1946 hin. So wurde dieses Werk, was man bei seiner überlegenen Gestaltung ihm zunächst kaum ansieht, unter anderem zu einem Zeugnis der erzwungenen Wanderschaft. In Berlin angefangen, wurde der Roman im März 1933 bei der Flucht nach Prag mitgenommen und begleitete Gabriele Tergit weiter nach Palästina und schliesslich nach England, wo das Werk ausgeführt wurde, dem ein unermüdlicher Fleiss ebenso anzumerken ist wie eine bewunderungswürdige kaum je nachlassende Inspiration.

Es lässt sich keineswegs einfach erklären,

was alles dies Buch oder gar was es am meisten auszeichnet. Dieser Familienroman erweist sich als historischer Roman, bekanntlich eine der am schwierigsten zu meisternden und nur sehr selten gelingenden Unterarten des künstlerischen Romans der leicht gleichermassen daran scheitert, dass er mit ungeeigneten Mitteln und verfälschend die geschilderten Ereignisse vergegenwärtigen will, wobei ihr geschichtlicher Untergrund nicht nur unaufgedeckt bleibt, sondern überhaupt verfehlt wird. Zugleich wird das Transzendierende, das zum literarischen Kunstwerk gehört, vernachlässigt, während ein oberflächlicher besserwisserischer, ja allwissender Naturalismus ein solches Erzeugnis bestenfalls in die Trivilliteratur verweist und jedenfalls das Dichterische nicht vollbringt. Dichterisch und ebenso historisch scheitert ein solches Werk durch seinen objektiven Mangel an Wahrheitsgehalt, dazu oft noch an der fehlenden subjektiven Wahrhaftigkeit. Die verlangte Wahrheit und Wahrhaftigkeit erfüllt diesen Roman, in dem auch der Irrtum vermieden wird, als könnte man schon mit dem blossen Anbringen historischer Brocken und Einzelheiten die Schwierigkeiten einer geschichtlichen Dichtung überwinden. Für den Autor kommt es hier vor allem darauf an, sich mit Kenntnis, Vernunft, Takt, Gefühl und furchtloser Ehrlichkeit so mit dem für die Erzählung gewählten Stoff vertraut zu machen, dass eine Identifikation mit ihm gelingt, die der Dichter im Akt der Niederschrift so objektiviert, dass er die richtige Distanz zum Gegenstand stellt. So gelingt die darstellerische wie auch die inhaltliche Objektivität; der Kunstcharakter der Abstraktion vom bloss Individuellen ins Allgemeingültige und Ueberpersönliche ist gewonnen.

Ein historischer Roman, der solche Forderungen erfüllt, kann sich auf Ereignisse aus der eigenen Lebenszeit beschränken oder

einen Abschnitt entweder nicht oder nur teilweise erlebter Vergangenheit behandeln. Die "Effingers" genügen derartigen Forderungen. Sie berichten von Geschehnissen, die Mitglieder aus vier Generationen eines Familienkreises betreffen, wobei die Autorin, soweit es sich bei den auftretenden Personen um Mitglieder der eigenen Familie handelt, der dritten Generation angehört. Damit ist angedeutet, dass zwar gewiss viele Vorfälle und Umstände im Roman unmittelbar aus dem Familienumkreis und eigenen Erfahrungen geholt sind. Dennoch ist dieser Roman nicht allein als Familienchronik und bestimmt nicht als autobiographische Darstellung zu würdigen. Zwar mag das Werk aus solchen Quellen reichlich geschöpft haben und ihnen viel von seiner überzeugenden Anschaulichkeit verdanken, aber sein Bau umspannt einen beträchtlich weiteren Umfang. Die "Effingers" sind nichts weniger als der grosse Roman vom Glanz und Elend der deutschen Juden in der nachemanzipatorischen Zeit im wilhelmschen Kaiserreich, des schon verspürbaren, trotzdem aber meist nicht gespürten Herannahens der Katastrophe und ihres tragischen Untergangs.

Der Roman ist frei von jeglicher vereinfachenden Schwarzweissmalerei der auftretenden jüdischen und nichtjüdischen—meist deutschen—Charaktere. Sie wandeln sich so und bleiben sich so gleich, wie es dem tatsächlichen Leben, den entscheidenden Zeitereignissen und den mannigfachen Einwirkungen wie auch den verschiedenen Lebensaltern entspricht, mit denen der Leser bei einer Reihe von handelnden Personen konfrontiert wird. Oft lernen wir sie kennen, wie sie sich durch viele Jahrzehnte verhalten und gewandelt haben. Sie erscheinen vor uns mit

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"EFFINGERS" continued

allen ihren Vorzügen und Schwächen, in aller Widersprüchlichkeit, wie sie ihrer natürlichen Anlage, ihren freien oder weniger freien Willensentscheidungen, ihrem kaum oder nicht mehr bestimmbar Schicksal entsprechen. In der Spiegelung der handelnden Personen, die der Leser wahrnimmt, als würden sie in Fleisch und Blut vor ihm auftreten, lernen wir in packender und überzeugender Verdichtung die gesamte Geschichte der deutschen Juden dieser Epoche kennen. Sie enthüllt sich in zahlreichen typischen Einzelheiten, und zwar in einer Konzentration, die einmal das allgemein Menschliche, doch vor allem die bestimmenden formenden Kräfte der Entwicklung der jüdischen Minderheit, aber auch in grossen Zügen die allgemeine Geschichte Deutschlands während der Ära Bismarck bis Bethmann Hollweg, der Weimarer Republik und noch des nationalsozialistischen Staates zeigt. Dabei enthält sich Frau Tergit der Verwendung von Elementen dieser Geschichte als bloss mechanisch wirkender Anlässe, an die der Fortgang des Geschehens nur sozusagen aufgehängt wird, sei es nun als kolorierte Illustrationen oder als dekorative Veranschaulichung leitender Tendenzen. Nein, eher verhält es sich umgekehrt. Was immer in diesem Roman vorgeht, bezieht sich auf lebendige Menschen, wirkt auf sie ein oder geht von ihnen aus, ist aber stets in den allgemeinen geschichtlichen Ablauf eingeordnet, der durch die hier geübte Methode als wirklich geschehen erscheint.

Ein mutiges Buch

So wird für den Leser mehr eingebracht, als es sich—gar für den historischen Laien—aus vielen geschichtlichen Darstellungen zusammen gewinnen lässt. Der Leser erfährt, wie es tatsächlich zugeht, weil er es zu fühlen bekommt. Das mag, zumindest für manche, nicht immer eine bequeme Lektüre sein. Der Leser wird, doch ohne direkt angesprochen zu werden, zur Verantwortung gezogen, er ist beteiligt und fühlt sich nicht so ohne weiteres wieder freigegeben. Aber es ist zu hoffen, dass sich der Mut der Autorin durch die kraftvolle Führung der Handlung auch auf den Leser überträgt. Dazu helfen sicher viele Qualitäten der "Effingers". Da ist zunächst die Spannung und das zwar nicht übertriebene, doch durchweg in frischem Gang gehaltene Tempo der vielfältig verwobenen, stets packenden und immer wieder mit neuen

unerwarteten Wendungen fortgeführten Erzählung. Da ist die Kunst der Gabriele Tergit, was immer sie berichtet, auch unterhaltend vorzutragen. Dabei kommt der Humor keineswegs zu kurz. Da ist aber auch—und vor allem—die mitreissende Anziehung, die aus der Variationsbreite menschlicher Anschauungen und Meinungen schon im Zusammenhang mit einem einzigen Gegenstand hervorgeht, sei es das Verhältnis der Geschlechter zueinander, die Einstellung zu Familie und Beruf, zu sozialen Fragen, politischer Gesinnung, Religion, philosophischer Anschauung, doch auch anderes wie—um nun das Jüdische herauszugreifen—die Einstellung zur eigenen Problematik, das Festhalten an jüdischen Traditionen, die Assimilation, der Zionismus, die Stellung zum Judenhass und die Reaktion auf ihn, die Einordnung in die deutsche Gesellschaft, deutscher Patriotismus, die Bemühung um den "Weg als Deutscher und Jude" (um hier auf den Titel einer bekannten Schrift Jakob Wassermanns aus dem Jahre 1921 anzuspielen), Erwartungen, Hoffnungen, Befürchtungen. Das alles spielt sich in buntem Vielerlei ab, wie es sich unter den wechselnden Verhältnissen einer aus aller natürlichen Sicherheit jäh gerissenen Welt von selbst ergibt.

Jetzt haben wir an Merkmalen und Eigenschaften dieses Buches ein reichhaltiges Register beisammen, das genügen sollte, ein berechtigtes Interesse zu begründen. Sicher liesse es sich noch unterstützen, wenn versucht würde, einen Umriss der Handlung zu bieten. Das ist allerdings eine Aufgabe, der auch eine ausführliche Rezension kaum entsprechen kann, weswegen wir es vorgezogen haben, die wesentlichen Elemente des Romans aufzuzeigen, durch die sich der Reichtum seiner Handlung und Komposition ahnen lässt. So gehört dieses Werk in den bleibenden Bestand der deutschen Literatur und ist zugleich ein Vermächtnis des Anteils der Juden an dieser Literatur, noch besonders dadurch ausgezeichnet, dass es sich, beispielhaft an den Erfahrungen des Familienkreises Effinger gezeigt, mit dem Schicksal und der Geschichte der deutschen Juden im Zeitalter ihrer letzten vier Generationen vor dem Untergang befasst. Die Anteilnahme der Autorin

an den Menschen, die sie uns nahebringt, ist ergreifend. Erwärmende Menschlichkeit ist das lange anhaltende Gefühl, das einen nach der Lektüre erfüllt. Die Schlussworte eines Briefes, den der über 81 Jahre alte Paul Effinger 1942 vor seiner Deportation in den Tod seinen im rettenden Ausland weilenden Nachkommen widmet, beenden (bis auf den nachfolgenden kurzen Epilog) dieses Buch und sollen auch hier stehen: "Der Vater im Himmel möge das Band unserer Gemeinschaft zusammenhalten. Er verleihe uns seinen Segen auf all unsern Wegen, denn wir bedürfen seiner. Er behüte auch Euch. Er lasse Euch Sein Antlitz leuchten und gebe Euch Frieden. Amen".

ANNE FRANK EXHIBITION IN LONDON

From the end of March to the beginning of April an Anne Frank Exhibition was held in the crypt of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square. It was arranged by the Joint Committee Against Racism, which embraces all parliamentary parties as well as religious and ethnic minority groups, and of which the AJR is a corporate member. Most of the exhibits had been brought over from the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. Photos ranged from the carefree little girl, who played like other children, to the hiding place and ultimately to the concentration camps of Auschwitz and Belsen. There were also photo-stats from the original diary in Dutch, with English translations; the handwriting and the power of expression reflect the astounding maturity of the girl. She perished in Belsen, in 1945, and the London exhibition was to mark the 50th anniversary of her birth. The promoting Committee, whose task it is to fight racism in our days, took a step in the right direction by bringing home to residents of this country the fate of an individual victim of racialism. Experience has shown that this is always more convincing than the enumeration of abstract figures. There were also photos depicting National Front activities thus stressing the topicality of racial persecution. A wall reserved for visitors' comments bore a very great number of expressions of grief, anger and shock. The fact that the exhibition was attended by a high proportion of young people is particularly gratifying.

AGAIN: "BOERNEPLATZ" IN FRANKFURT

When the Nazis came to power, they changed the name of Boerneplatz into "Dominikanerplatz". Recently, the original name of the place was reinstated.

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(Side Entrance)

I
Report on AJR Activities
Treasurer's Report
Discussion
Election of Executive and Board

The list of candidates submitted by the Executive will be published in the next issue.
Members who wish to propose candidates for the Board should write to the General Secretary by early May; the nomination of younger members would be particularly welcome.

II
Rev. Dr. ISAAC LEVY, O.B.E.
will speak on
MY FRIENDS FROM THE CONTINENT
Non-members are not entitled to vote
but are welcome as guests at the meeting



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JEWRY IN THE EAST

HOPE FOR REFUSENIK

Mr. Shumilin, Soviet Deputy Minister of the Interior, granted an interview to Mrs. Alla Smeliansky, wife of a 46-year-old Moscow refusenik who had threatened to commit suicide on 29th March, the ninth anniversary of his application for an exit permit for Israel. The Deputy Minister told his wife that he knew of her husband's despair and would personally take up her case. She should return in three months' time. She was part of a delegation of Moscow Jewish women, who also produced their cases and were told to return in a year. Mr. Smeliansky, a metallurgical engineer, now works as a night watchman. In Britain, his case has been taken up by Mr. Edward Heath, by the Bishop of Oxford, and by Lords Bullock and Blake, two Oxford historians, as well as by the Catholic chaplain to the University.

JEWRY IN SUPREME SOVIET

In the Lower Chamber of the Supreme Soviet, the Chamber of Nationalities, Mrs. Gellner, a welder at a transformer plant in the so-called Jewish autonomous region of Birobidjan, was elected together with Mr. Volodarsky, the head of the central statistical institute. Two other Jews were re-elected. In the Upper Chamber, Mr. Dynshitz, a Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, and Academician Khariton were also re-elected.

RABBI ORDAINED IN BUDAPEST

At the Conservative Rabbinical Seminary at Budapest, a young rabbi, Talmas Loewy, was ordained in the presence of representatives of the Joint and of the US Ambassador to Hungary, who also accompanied the congregation on a visit to the Rakoskeraztur cemetery to pay homage to the Jewish martyrs of Budapest at the memorial to them. There are now some 100,000 Jews in Hungary.

THE EXODUS FROM RUSSIA

According to the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration, 29,000 Jews left Russia in 1978, compared with 17,000 in 1977. The figures for December 1978 (4,200) and for the first two months of this year (7,500) are also unusually high. In Odessa, long queues are to be seen outside the emigration office because of a widely believed rumour that the flow of emigrants will be stopped after the Moscow Olympics next year. Before the revolution, one third of Odessa's population was Jewish, and some Jews were among the leading revolutionaries. There are still over 100,000 Jews, about one third of the population. Many of them are peasants, tailors, or intellectuals.

The leadership of the Jewish Agency is getting increasingly worried over the growing number of Soviet emigrants who settle in the West rather than in Israel. At one time this year, 76 per cent of those arriving in Vienna said they wanted to settle elsewhere. Zionists are also worried about a programme by American Jewish organisations to take Jewish children from Iran to study at American rather than Israeli yeshivot.

APPEAL TO END ANTI-SEMITISM

An international watchdog committee was set up in Paris at a meeting of leading Jewish representatives and representatives of human rights from West Europe, the United States and Israel. The 37 participants included three Nobel Prize winners and eminent scientists and scholars. The committee will examine evidence of anti-Semitism which is contrary to Soviet law and then call a large international conference to present its findings. An urgent telegram was sent to the presidium of the Supreme Court, calling for an end to antisemitic propaganda in the media and to discrimination in education and employment. Dr. Roth, director of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, and Lord Longford are among the British members of the committee.

VISITING RABBIS THREATENED

On a visit to Moscow Rabbi Alony of Sydney and Rabbi Sultanik of Melbourne were twice threatened with prosecution on trumped-up charges by the Soviet authorities. After a visit to a well-known refusenik, KGB men entered their hotel and told them they had just visited a criminal and an enemy of the State who dealt on the black market. Rabbi Sultanik then asked them whether this was the way in which visitors to the Moscow Olympic Games were to be treated. After that there was a complete change of attitude. As the rabbi reported on returning home, "they said they would drop their charges if we dropped ours, and we were free to visit Jews."

RELAXATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

For the first time for many years, a list of the services on the Jewish Holy-days up to the autumn was published in the Jewish press. New prayer-rooms were opened in two Slovak towns. The kosher restaurant in Prague's Jewish town hall was re-opened after 15 years.

THE POLISH-JEWISH HERITAGE

Delegates from fourteen countries, including Poland, Britain, and the US, attended the fourth congress of the World Federation of Polish Jews in Tel Aviv, where Yiddish was the official language. Dr. Yosef Burg, Minister of the Interior, gave the welcoming address in Yiddish. He regretted that little was left of the wonderful heritage of Polish Jews but "an encyclopedia of memorials". Three million of the three-and-a-half million of pre-war Polish Jews had been killed by the Nazis. The three representatives of the present-day Jewish community in Poland, numbering between 10,000 and 15,000, informed the conference that the Polish government was prepared to open its archives for the study of the history of Polish Jews and was going to set up a committee concerned with Jewish memorials and documentation.

PILGRIMAGE TO FRENCH CAMPS

The local Mannheim group of the Society for Christian-Jewish Co-operation arranged a journey to the sites of the former concentration camps in Southern France. The group, which comprised 27 participants, visited the camp cemeteries, in which the deceased Jews who were deported from Baden and the Palatinate at the beginning of the Second World War, are buried. The group reported that the cemetery in Gurs was in a satisfactory condition. This did, however, not apply to Noé; whilst there the Memorial was still in good condition, some of the preserved tombstones were broken. In Rivesaltes, the inscriptions of most tombstones were hardly legible.

FORMER BERLINERS' VISITS

Since 1968, when the Senate of West Berlin invited former Berlin Jews to pay a visit to their home town as guests of the Senate, nearly 8,400 people have accepted the invitation. Last year there were 926 visitors, including two groups of 300 each from South America and Israel. For the current year nearly £400,000 for such visits has been made available by the Senate.

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IN MEMORIAM

DR. ERNST COHN

Dear Dr. Rosenstock,

You asked me to write a personal note about Dr. Ernst Cohn, whose death occurred on March 29. But as almost everybody who knew him, acquaintances, patients and friends, 200 people and more, attended his cremation, where they heard Rabbi Kokotek give the most moving obituary in so simple, true and loving words, there is not much more for me to add.

Ernst Cohn was born in Pomerania and came to Berlin as a teenager, his father having started his retirement at the early age of 40. When he became a student of medicine, he joined the KC fraternity and chose my husband as his "Leibbursch". We were a close knit "Bierfamilie", to which my brother also belonged. In Kaete Gassenheimer from Eschwege he found his ideal partner for life, who with her love, understanding and patience helped to make him a strong personality.

Ernst came to England in 1939 with the intention to emigrate to America. His wife had to stay behind, as her permit did not arrive in time before the war started. He volunteered to be a Doctor in an emergency hospital in East Ham, where his extraordinary knowledge and skill were soon discovered. After the war, he started his own practice, which grew into several thousands of patients. He treated everyone alike, whatever class they came from. By winning their confidence he burdened himself with all their worries, even outside his profession. He would have no time for patients with smallest complaints, and Harley Street manners did not agree with his character. Yet no other doctor could have cared more for his patients, when they were really ill. He often diagnosed illnesses, when eminent specialists could not cope. His modesty, reliability and friendship endeared him to many well known people, among them Cardinal Heenan, Mr. Dickson-Wright, Marlene Dietrich, the Rolling Stones, and also the High Commissioner for Refugees with whose help he was able to get his wife out of Germany in 1943.

Ernst and Kaete were blessed to celebrate their golden wedding recently. He died much too early, shortly before his 77th birthday, and he will be deeply mourned by many people. And so ends our friendship of nearly 55 years.

My utmost sympathy goes to Kaete, his beloved wife.

Yours,
ALICE CHAPP.

HERBERT M. WOLFE

Herbert M. Wolfe, President of the Darlington Jewish Community, passed away at the age of 65. Mr. Wolfe was born in Berlin, where he was also active in the German-Jewish youth movement, and came to this country in 1936. He worked hard and soon gained promotion in a commercial business. In 1940 he was interned, but released on joining the British Army with which he served until 1946. In 1947 he set up, jointly with his brother Werner Wolf, a chemical manufacturing company in Darlington, with only the brothers' war gratuity and some help from his employer and a few friends. Owing to the sheer hard work and dedication of the brothers, the company became most successful and gave employment to many.

Herbert Wolfe played an active part in the Liberal Party and was, for some years, a member of its National Executive. His particular interest centred on questions of electoral reform where he was the Party's leading expert. Above all, he was a passionate fighter for justice. He enlisted the help of Harold Evans (now Editor of the *Sunday Times*) and Ludovic Kennedy in fighting to rehabilitate Timothy John Evans who had been hanged for a murder committed by the mass murderer Christie, and he fully succeeded.

In 1975 he arranged, almost single-handedly, the Railway Exhibition in Darlington, commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the opening of the first passenger railway in Britain, from Stockton to Darlington. He later made the Exhibition into a permanent museum.

Herbert Wolfe was an outstanding connoisseur of the arts. He built up a beautiful collection of old porcelain. His advice was constantly sought by

museum authorities and others. He took an active interest in Jewish life and was elected President of the B'nai B'rith Lodge in Darlington in 1975. He was a stalwart member of the local Jewish community. His interest in his fellow-refugees was strong, and he was a long-standing member of our Association.

Herbert Wolfe was a most charitable person and set up charitable trusts for the benefit of many good causes. He was deeply devoted to his wife, children and grandchildren. Their sense of loss is shared by many Jews and Gentiles who mourn the death of a beloved friend. A man of true noblesse and remarkable personality and achievements has passed away.

F.E.F.

SIR HENRY KOEPLER

66-year-old Sir Henry (Heinz) Koepler, who has died at Waco, Texas, where he was a guest professor, was a Warden of Wilton Park, the political study centre first set up for German prisoners of war in 1946, and served there until 1977. He was knighted when he retired.

YVONNE MITCHELL

Yvonne Mitchell, the actress and writer, who died at the age of 53, was a daughter of the late Bertie Joseph, an executive of J. Lyons, and niece of Sir Samuel Joseph, the father of Sir Keith Joseph. In 1967 she wrote what she described as "a mythologised history" of the family. She adopted the name Mitchell, her late mother's family name, when she went on the stage. She showed a dedicated interest in Jewish causes, among them Soviet Jewry and functions to keep the memory of the holocaust alive.

JOSHUA PRAGER

Joshua Prager who died recently, was another refugee from Nazi Germany who combined German-Jewish tradition with a vast knowledge of the humanities and the sciences which he had taught for a decade at the Jewish Secondary School at Fuerth, Bavaria, and continued to teach in this country, until his retirement in 1963. In Fuerth one of his pupils was Henry Kissinger.

MRS CHARLOTTE BLOCH

Mrs Charlotte Bloch who has died, aged 92, after a fall in her home, was the widow of refugee painter Martin Bloch who came to this country in 1934. In Germany, he had been one of the better-known expressionist artists, in this country, he was known as an English landscape painter who found wide acclaim. He died in 1954. Mrs. Bloch, formerly married to a theatre director, was a journalist in Berlin. In this country she was an active member of the Women's section of the Liberal Party.

RABBI MOSHE SCHWAB

Rabbi Moshe Schwab, vice-principal and moral tutor (mashgiach) of the Gateshead Yeshiva who has died, aged 61, came from a Frankfurt orthodox family. After studying at various famous Lithuanian Thora schools, he came to this country in 1939 as a refugee and greatly contributed to the establishment of the Gateshead Yeshiva as a world-wide centre of Jewish learning. He taught thousands of students not only from this country, but also from America, Israel and most European countries. He was an outstanding and very popular teacher. He also taught at the Gateshead Seminary for Women Teachers.

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AIREY NEAVE

The cowardly murder of Mr. Airey Neave, Conservative MP and spokesman on Ulster, has shocked not only his many friends in all walks of life and all political parties, but has also deprived the House of Commons of the man who had perhaps the best appreciation of Nazism and its aftermath. He had first-hand experience of Nazi brutality at Colditz prisoner-of-war camp, from where he escaped twice—succeeding on the second attempt. After his adventurous return to Britain, he was put in charge of the organisation of escape from camps all over Europe, and his experience was invaluable to the BBC, when they made a TV serial about such escapes. With his legal training, he was employed after the war as Commissioner for Criminal Organisations of the Nuremberg Tribunal and served the indictments to all major defendants. Last summer, he published a book summarising the impressions he had received of Goering and others. He never asked for revenge, but he knew that the Nazi menace had to be contained. He was a strong supporter of the campaign for the abolition of the West German Statute of Limitation for war crimes. He was a founder member of the Conservative Friends of Israel and took a great interest in the fate of Nazi victims. Some years ago, he addressed a Warsaw Ghetto Uprising commemoration meeting in London, urging Western Governments to exert pressure on the USSR to safeguard the rights of minorities.

SIR EVELYN FANSHAWE

Maj.-Gen. Sir Evelyn Fanshawe who has died, aged 83, is well remembered by all those who worked in the Jewish Relief Unit after the last war. From 1945-1948 he was the director of UNRRA, the UN organisation for relief and rehabilitation, in the British Zone of Germany and afterwards he was director of IRO, the International Refugee Organisation which took over its tasks. He was responsible for all relief organisations in the area, and was of particular assistance to the JRU during the days when the Exodus ship was forcibly returned to Germany and the community of survivors were in uproar. At the time, the late Professor Norman Bentwich was sent to the British Zone to cooperate with Sir Evelyn Fanshawe in containing a very difficult situation.

LEGACY

Mr. Rudolf Apt, who died in April 1978, left a legacy of £500 to the AJR Charitable Trust. He was a board member of the AJR from its inception.

JEWISH PAST IN UPPER SILESIA

Research Organisation Founded

Recently, an Association for Research on the History of the Jews in Upper Silesia ("Verein zur Erforschung der Geschichte der Juden Oberschlesiens e.V.") was founded. Its objects are to do research on the subject and to present the findings in a scholarly way. The Board of the Association consists of Professor Ludwig Petry (Mainz), Dr. Ernst Pringsheim (Marburg) and Dr. Ernst Lustig, Rossittenweg 10, D-3340 Wolfenbuettel, as Chairman. Interested readers are requested to contact Dr. Lustig.

Maintenance of Gleiwitz Cemetery

Dr. Lustig has also visited the Old Jewish Cemetery in Gleiwitz/Gliwice, which was in use from 1815 to 1935. With its approximate 1,500 graves, it is under "Denkmalschutz", i.e., it must be neither changed nor demolished. However, as the cemetery has not been attended to for several decades and was also repeatedly damaged, it is in a deplorable condition. To avoid any further decay, measures for putting it in order are very urgent. Whilst the care for the individual graves is up to the families concerned, arrangements have been made for the general restoration of the site, and the work will start shortly. Dr. Lustig took about 150 colour photos of the cemetery and has also got hold of a "Grabstellenverzeichnis", compiled in 1936. Any readers who want to make a contribution towards the costs for putting the cemetery in order or who wish to obtain further information are asked to get in touch with Dr. Lustig (address above).

THE ISRAELI SCENE

FIRST SIGNS OF PEACE

The day after the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty was signed, members of Gadna, the youth battalions of the Israeli Defence Force, placed a red or pink carnation on each of the nearly 14,000 graves of those who died in the defence of Israel since the establishment of the state in May 1948. There were no prayers. The grave of one soldier, killed in 1973, bore a hand-written notice saying: "Please do not place a peace flower on this grave. Yossi would have been against it. Yossi's mother."

A new telephone exchange at the Hadassah Medical Centre in Jerusalem was inaugurated with a call to Mrs. Sadat by Mrs. Tannenbaum, president of the Hadassah women's organisation, to invite her to visit the new centre at the earliest possible opportunity. The call had to be booked 72 hours in advance through the Zurich international exchange.

Dr. C. G. Kuper, president of the Israeli Physical Society, asked for the help of the London *Observer* Sunday paper to locate two Egyptian physicists to attend the Israeli Society's annual conference at the Ben Gurion University in Beersheba.

The Ashkenazi and the Sephardi Chief Rabbis of Israel have refused a request by some Knesset members to amend the Hagada to include the new peaceful relations with Egypt.

Mr. Philip Klutznick, president of the World Jewish Congress, has proposed a commission for the development of the Negev and Sinai with members from Israel, Egypt, and the United States. The commission should have a fund of about £500,000, half of which would come from the US, and one quarter each from Israel and Egypt.

SWEDISH SPY ARRESTED

An officer of the Swedish secret service who was arrested by the Israeli secret service during a visit to Tel Aviv, has admitted spying for the Soviet Union. In ten years, he received over £11,000 for his work as a double agent.

SLUM DWELLERS HAIL PRESIDENT

When President Navon and his wife visited the deprived Hatikvah quarter of Tel Aviv, one of Israel's worst slum areas, they were given a tumultuous welcome. He had insisted on a three-day visit to show his concern with the lives of the underprivileged. In the public mind, Hatikvah is identified with a high crime and delinquency rate. Most of its inhabitants arrived from oriental countries in the early 1950s.

FAMILY EVENTS

Birthdays

Mrs. Margarete Jacoby will celebrate her 97th birthday on May 22. The AJR CLUB congratulates its Chairman with love and admiration and expresses the wish that she will be at its helm as indefatigable as she has always been and continue in the best of health for untold years to come. The AJR CLUB further extends very good wishes to Mrs. Marianne Shiner for her birthday on May 6, remembering gratefully the devoted help she has given to the Club over many years.

Deaths

BLACK.—Julian Black (formerly Julius Schwarz-Munich) of 96 Fernleigh Road, Glasgow, G43 2UA, passed away peacefully in hospital on April 5. Beloved husband of Gertrude (née Lewinsohn), devoted father of Hannah Gummers and Marion Krasner and grandfather of Eric, David, Yvonne and Philip, mourned by his two sons-in-law, sister, brothers-in-law and many friends.

BRAUN.—Mr. Otto Braun (formerly Czechoslovakia) of 325 Nell Gwynn House, Sloane Avenue, London, SW3, passed away on February 26. Deeply mourned by his wife Regina, family and friends.

LUCAS.—Ronald J., husband of Lore, father of Edwin, died on March 30. 32 Southlea Avenue, Thornliebank, Glasgow G46 7BS.

SCHLOSS.—Rosa-Erna Schloss of 6 North Hill, London, N6 (formerly Berlin) passed away on March 18. Deeply mourned by her brother Henoch, his wife and family in Israel, her cousins Leonore Schloss, London, Charles and Yvonne Schloss, Paris, and all her friends.

SIEGEL.—Dr. Michael Siegel, formerly of Munich, passed away on March 15 in his 97th year in Lima, Peru, mourned by his son H. Peter Sinclair, his daughter M. B. Green and their families in London.

ZOELLNER.—Mrs. Eva Zoellner, née Isaac, widow of the late W. E. Zoellner, passed away peacefully on March 10, in her 87th year at Freeland Nursing Home, Oxford. Dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

BEGIN'S POPULARITY

A public opinion poll conducted by the *Jerusalem Post* just before the signing of the peace treaty, revealed that Begin's Likud Party would win only 35 of the 120 Knesset seats and his coalition partners a maximum of 20, if an election were to be held. The Labour opposition would win 46 seats. Another poll showed that 63 per cent of those questioned thought that Begin was doing a good job, compared with 68 per cent in November. The Likud's support in 1977 came mainly from Oriental Jews and recent immigrants who now suffer most from the government's anti-inflationary policies.

GERMANS SPONSOR CANCER RESEARCH

Federal Minister for Education Jürgen Schmude went to Israel to present to the Rehovot Weizmann Institute the deed of foundation for a chair on cancer research in memory of the late Bertram Blank, social-democratic member of the Federal Parliament. Blank who knew that he was dying from cancer, stipulated in his will that private donations after his death should be made available for cancer research in Israel. The Federal Government contributed nearly £40,000 to augment the private donations of £7,500, and expressed the hope that young German researchers would also be asked to occupy the chair which is to be held for one year each by specialists from all over the world.

NON-JEWISH JEWS

The Israeli Supreme Court has decided that anyone, who believes that Jesus was the Messiah, must be considered a Christian and cannot qualify as a Jew with a right to settle in Israel under the Law of Return. The case before the court concerned 30-year-old Miss Eileen Dorflinger, an American who settled in Israel in 1977 and claimed Israeli citizenship under the law. Her parents are both Jewish, but she joined the "Jews for Jesus" movement in the US and was baptised, and she stated in court that she regarded Jesus as the Messiah. Her counsel said her religious beliefs were nobody's business—all that mattered was that her mother was Jewish.

DAYAN MET SHAH IN SECRET

According to the *Maariv* newspaper, Foreign Minister Dayan flew to Teheran secretly last year to inform the Shah of the peace talks between Israel and Egypt. This is admitted by the Israeli Government, but they deny that on that occasion he refused an appeal for help from the Shah.

BASKETBALL MATCH INCIDENT

At a basketball match between a Maccabi team from Israel and an Italian team, a group of at least 50 youths staged fascist incidents, giving the Nazi salute and shouting: "Hitler taught us that it is no crime to kill Jews." They carried placards with antisemitic slogans. Five young men and children, including the secretary of the Varese branch of the neo-Fascist movement were arrested and charged with advocating genocide. The Italian Government has apologised to Israel for the incident. An Israeli journalist who was present, said that he had spoken to some of the demonstrators who belonged to the Communist youth movement. Some said they had been offered 100,000 lire (about £60) by Arab elements to stage the incidents, an offer they felt they could not refuse.

JAPANESE ZIONISTS

The Japanese Makuya sect whose members are Christian Zionists, paid a visit to Israel and staged a singing parade through the streets of Jerusalem.

OLD TOMBSTONES FROM NORWAY

Tombstones with inscriptions in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek which are more than 2,000 years old, have been returned to Israel by Norway. At the beginning of the century, the Oslo museum bought them from Baron Ustinov who had them in his collection of antiquities. They had been taken from an old Jaffa cemetery. In 1885 Baron Ustinov, a Christian philanthropist, maintained a hospital for the sick of all creeds in his Jaffa villa in which Russian-Jewish patients were treated without having to pay.

SCHOLAR KILLED IN CAR ACCIDENT

Professor Jochanan Bloch who taught Jewish philosophy at the Beersheba Ben Gurion university, was killed in a car accident during a trip to Thailand. He was born in Berlin in 1919 and came to Israel with his parents. He first studied to be a lawyer, but after the war, he went to the Free University of Berlin and the Theological College at Berlin to study philosophy and theology. He wrote a thesis on Martin Buber. He taught at the Ben Gurion University when it was first set up, and on various visits to Berlin as a guest lecturer he founded the German-Israeli Study Group and the Circle of Friends of the Ben Gurion University.

TURKEY SHUNNED SONG CONTEST

At the last moment, Turkey withdrew from the Eurovision song contest, stating that this was done in the light of Israel's policy with regard to the status of Jerusalem after representations made by Libya, Iran and Iraq.

CLASSIFIED

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MEMORIAL STONE CONSECRATION

LIEN.—The memorial stone in loving memory of Edith Jenny Lien will be consecrated at 1.30 p.m. on Sunday, May 20, at the Liberal Jewish Cemetery, Pound Lane, Willesden, NW2.

Miscellaneous

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

Change of Address

ADLER.—Dr. E. L. Adler of 807 Finchley Road, London, NW11, has retired and, from April 1, 1979, he and his wife are living at 298 Icknield Way, Luton, Beds. Phone: Luton 592 502.

Personal

CONTINENTAL LADY, widow in her 60s, with own house in Stamford Hill area, independent means, seeks companionship of gentleman similar age, living in same area; must be educated, have own car and independent means. Box 771.

WIDOW WITH TEENAGE SON, continental background, would like to meet tall professional gentleman, aged 57-61, preferably widower or divorcee, for friendship or marriage if suitable. Box 722.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Personal Enquiries

GERSHONOWITZ.—Any information about this family known to have emigrated from Lodz, Poland, to the Manchester area circa 1900. At least four brothers arrived and one sister was left behind. David and Cadahya went to the US while two brothers, tailors by trade, worked in the textile industries. Any replies to Michael Naiman, 5605 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, Calif. 92115, USA.

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Letters to the Editor

SEBASTIAN HAFFNER'S BOOK

Sir,—One can, as is well known, take a word, a sentence, a paragraph, a whole chapter out of its context. One can even take a book out of the context of its historical companions and out of history itself. In the letter published in your March issue, Mr. Hellendall's righteous abhorrence of war has caused him to fall into this insidious trap. He has made it worse by applying to a scientific analysis the term "scandalous", hardly an intellectual assessment.

I met Haffner, editor of DIE ZEITUNG, on a number of occasions during the war, in Fleet Street. While vigorously supporting the war against Hitler, he did not advocate war per se nor place it on a pedestal. His spotlight on war reveals a high degree of scholarly examination. Dare we ignore history, past and present, even if the truth hurts?

The chapters on "Fehler, Verbrechen, Verrat" must be read as a whole when evaluating Haffner's book, which brought him the Heine Prize.

WALTER BLUHM

3 Brangwyn Crescent,
Westdene,
Brighton.

EXHIBITION OF RITUAL ART

Sir,—The establishment in North West London of a permanent Jewish exhibition of ritual art is long overdue. It is envisaged to establish such an exhibition either at the Cricklewood or the Willesden and Brondesbury Synagogue. I should be grateful if any readers who have objects of Jewish interest, e.g., scrolls, megillot, textiles, etc., kindly contacted me.

(Rabbi Dr.) H. RABINOWICZ

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HISTORY OF BERGHEIM

Sir,—I am at present engaged in a documentation of the history until 1945 of my place of birth, Bergheim on the Erft, and its neighbouring communities. I would appreciate it if any survivors hailing from that district who might be able to provide me with information kindly got in touch with me.

GERDT FRIED

42940 Kfar Jedidiya, Israel.

A MUSICAL EVENT

Mrs. Ilse Joseph, the violinist who has played all over the world in concerts to promote reconciliation between nations in memory of her children who were deported and killed by the Nazis, has donated her valuable Dalla Costa violin, made in 1759, to the Royal Academy of Music. On March 21, the anniversary of her arrival in this country as a refugee from Holland in 1940, a distinguished audience, headed by the Academy's Principal, Sir Anthony Lewis, gathered at the Academy to receive the gift, which will be known as the Ilse Joseph Dalla Costa violin. There will be a competition for students of the Academy, and the winner will be allowed to use the violin for two to three years. The first prizewinning will be in July. At the handing-over ceremony, one young student played Max Bruch's "Kol Nidrei" on the violin, a tune which Mrs. Joseph said was the symbol of her life and her mission. Sir Anthony Lewis thanked her for her generous gift and expressed his admiration for her work in the service of Peace, in particular in Ireland and post-war Germany. In a moving address, Mrs. Joseph said that her gift was made as a token of her gratitude to this country which had offered her shelter, scope to work and wide recognition as a humanitarian and as a musician, and that she hoped it would bring joy, happiness and peace to those who played it and those who listened to it.

AJR CLUB 23rd Bring & Buy Sale

It was slippery and cold on February 18, so only about 100 customers attended. But many who could not come sent us generous donations. We are most grateful to them and to those who provided us with goods and gifts. The food stall with Mrs. Sohn and Mrs. Walter was on top of the scale making £105, mostly due to the delicious cakes home made by our members. The profit we made was the highest ever: £1,300, due to the outstanding organisers, Mrs. Gelhar and Mrs. Wilson. We not only have to thank them, but also our devoted and untiring helpers. £150 was sent to the Ahava Children's Home in Israel. M.J.

FRED UHLMAN EXHIBITION

An exhibition of paintings, drawings, and graphics created between 1960 and 1974 by the artist and writer Fred Uhlman at the Hampstead Bookshop Gallery once more revealed the artist's wonderful eye for the land and seascapes of England and Wales and his delight in unusual and startling colour effects.

MRS. MARGARET JACOBY'S BIRTHDAY

In years, she may be the oldest of our honorary officers, yet in her strength and working capacity, Margaret Jacoby is younger than many of her juniors. This month, on May 22, she will, believe it or not, celebrate her 97th birthday. It has always been one of her habits to keep a strict diary of the AJR Club members' birthdays and to send them her congratulations. This time, she is at the receiving end. Another year has passed, in which she continued to enjoy the pleasures life has to offer and, at the same time, held the reins of the AJR Club. Her office as the Club's chairman is no sinecure. It entails the care for many people who are in need of personal help of one kind or another. Her birthday serves us as a welcome opportunity to express to her anew our admiration, gratitude and love. Many happy returns, youthful "Tante Gretchen".

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

Florence. The annual "Maggio Musicale" has two very contrasting operas in its 1979 programme: Wagner's "Rheingold" (to be conducted by Zubin Mehta) and Alban Berg's "Wozzek".

London. The National Film Theatre's latest showing under the heading "German Cinema of the Third Reich" confronted the audience with several works by *Veit Harlan*, the highly controversial director of "Jud Süß". Some of the other films of that period were directed by Pabst, Liebeneiner and Luis Trenker.

Viennese Tit-Bits. During the "Vienna Festival Weeks" (May-June) the "Volkstheater" will present a revival of the drama "Kaiser Franz Josef von Oesterreich" by *Richard Duschinsky* who, during the war, was writer, actor and producer with the German section of BBC London.—The Royal Shakespeare Theatre will show its "Coriolanus" production at the "Burg" during this month—A memorial plaque for *Fritz Lang*, the film director has been erected outside the house where he lived prior to his emigration.

Johann Strauss Fans will be gratified to learn that three more Strauss concerts will be given at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on May 26, 27 and 28; those on the 26 and 28 will be conducted by Max Rothstein from the violin in the traditional style.

Birthdays. Dortmund-born stage and film comedian *Rudolf Platte*, whose tally of film parts stands at over 300 (he has been nicknamed "Langspiel-Platte"), celebrated his 75th birthday in Berlin.—*Michael Raucheisen*, doyen of German piano accompanists, 90 years old, now lives in Switzerland. He accompanied some of the greatest celebrities, Lotte Lehmann, Fritz Kreisler, and, above all, his wife, the late *Maria Ivogün*.

Obituary. It is belatedly learnt that one of the most elegant German film actors, *Albrecht Schönhals*, died at the age of 90 in Baden-Baden. *Hugo Kolberg*, formerly leader of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, has died in New York, aged 80. He had to leave Berlin during the Nazi days on account of his "non-Aryan" wife.

S.B.

THREE EXHIBITIONS

Georg Ehrlich was born in Vienna in 1897 and worked in Munich and Berlin until he moved to England before the war. He died in Lucerne in 1966 and was buried in a grave of honour in Vienna in a plot donated by the city. The exhibition of his work at JPL Fine Arts, 24 Davies Street, W1 was pure delight. With effective simplicity Ehrlich portrays animals and children in bronze, these being his favourite subjects. Also shown were his drawings which equally demonstrate his simplicity and are interesting to compare with the sculptures they have fed.

At the Whitechapel Art Gallery there was a recent exhibition of new abstract works by *Gerhard Richter*. This was the first exhibition in London of this well-known German artist, born in Dresden in 1932 and now living in Dusseldorf where he is professor at the Academy of Arts. The exhibition comprised large oil paintings on canvas. They are difficult to describe since the forms and colours merge and dissolve without any apparent rhythm or logic. Yet the effect, whatever they are intended to portray—if anything at all—is strangely satisfactory.

There has also been an important exhibition of *Max Ernst's* illustrated books and graphic work at the Goethe Institute, Kensington, organised by the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen. Ernst was born in Brühl near Cologne in 1891 and moved to Paris at the age of thirty. There he was associated with all the trends in modern art, but left for the USA in 1941 to escape the Nazis. Ten years later he returned and adopted French citizenship. He died in 1976 shortly after the publication of the Third Volume of the *oeuvre* catalogue of his work. The exhibition once again illustrated the importance and originality of Ernst's creations. His fundamental concept—to find a path "Beyond Painting"—is clearly portrayed in his works which were admirably supported by a lavishly illustrated catalogue.

ALICE SCHWAB

RECALLING THE TWENTIES

In a one-woman show at the Ambassadors Theatre, Agnes Bernelle, born Agnes Bernauer, daughter of a well-known writer of comedies in pre-Nazi Berlin, brought the atmosphere of that period to the stage with a programme of songs of her youth, including many by Brecht/Weill.

At the Decor Gallery in London's Brompton Road, stage designs by refugee artists Josef Hermann and Ernst Stern who once worked for the Reinhardt stage, were shown and sold.

CORRECTIONS

The Anthony Elliot Community Centre in Kiryat Gan, whose dedication ceremony was mentioned in our previous issue (p. 11), was built and is owned by the Child Resettlement Fund of Great Britain and Ireland, not by Youth Aliyah.

The last paragraph on the front page of the April issue should have started with the words: "In the occupied Zone".

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