

## INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Margot Pottlitzer

## ANTISEMITISM IN BRITAIN

## The Changing Faces of Hatred

To those of us who grew up in Germany, even long before the Nazis came to power, anti-semitism was a fact of life. This does not mean that it affected all of us all the time, but at some time in everybody's life it cropped up in one form or another, at school and university, in the choice of a career, in business and professional life and in one's social relations. Furthermore, Nazi influence made itself felt a long time before 1933, and over the years the often maligned *Centralverein* had to deal with an increasing number of antisemitic smears in public life and with personal attacks.

There are many of us who felt, when we came to this country as refugees, that on the whole there was very little antisemitism here. Even Mosley's Union of Fascists tried to deny its intrinsic antisemitism, and in any case, it seemed in decline in the late 1930s. Many of us, it is true, encountered some occasional hostility, but it was directed against Germans rather than against Jews and was largely ascribed to the political ignorance of the great majority of British citizens. Indeed, when in the early war years there was a public outcry against refugees which culminated in the internment policy, the campaign was directed at foreigners rather than at Jews, and it just happened that most of these foreigners were Jews. Most refugees felt that neither the authorities nor the limited circle of British people with whom they came in contact, even knew what antisemitism really meant. "It could not happen here" was a cherished conviction. Even now, there are many who are still convinced that antisemitism proper, as against xenophobia and social snobbery, hardly exists in Britain.

They will be sadly disillusioned after reading two important scholarly works which have recently been published: "Colin Holmes, Anti-Semitism in British Society 1876-1939" (Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd., London 1979, 328 pp., £13.50), and Gisela C. Lebzelter, "Political Antisemitism in England 1918-1939" (published by Macmillans in association with St. Antony's College, Oxford, 1978, 222 pp., £10). These books are aptly named: in this country, antisemitism has always been a social and a political phenomenon. Dr. Holmes's book is the first study in depth of antisemitism as an ideology. Dr. Lebzelter, who is non-Jewish and studied at the Free University of Berlin and at University College, London, concentrates on the political aspects of its manifestations. Her book describes a shorter and more recent period, whereas Dr. Holmes's research goes back to the first overt signs of a concerted attack. The parallels with our own experience are frightening.

Many years ago, Austrian Count Coudenhove-Kalergi—the Father of the Pan-Europe idea—wrote a study of antisemitism in which he said that everywhere its roots were religious, and that

all subsequent outbreaks had evolved from religious prejudice. In mediaeval England, there was certainly very strong religious anti-Jewish feeling, culminating in the killing of many Jews on the strength of ritual murder accusations in Lincoln and York. Sadly, Britain was fertile ground for ritual murder stories, and as late as 1898, a posthumous book by the highly regarded Victorian ethnologist and scientist Sir Richard Burton, claimed ritual murders in Damascus and Rhodes and found credulous readers.

By then, however, antisemitism had appeared in a new guise. There were mounting and well-supported attacks on the refugees from Russia and Poland who had settled in the East End of London and in towns like Leeds and Manchester. As so often before and after, there was a fusion of the omnipresent British xenophobia and of anti-semitism. A short while ago, the writer Chaim Bermant, himself an immigrant from Poland, said in a TV interview that Britons were averse to all newcomers. Foreigners always settled at their point of arrival, mostly in the East End of London and were invariably reviled. The Huguenots, the first to do so, had the right religion, but the wrong language, their successors, the Irish spoke English, but had the wrong religion, the Jews had neither, and to crown it all, the latest arrivals, the Pakistanis, had not even the right colour. He was only too right. The Jewish settlers at the turn of the century were accused of the same faults as the present-day Pakistanis, as the Turkish guestworkers in Germany, and alas, even the African Jews in Israel: they were said to take work and housing away from the indigenous population, they were carriers of disease, unclean, despoilers of native women and ignorant of the simplest rules of hygiene.

## Problems of Emancipation

The new immigrants, however, were not the only targets of antisemitic attacks. Emancipation had come later in Britain than on the continent of Europe. In a country without a written constitution there were no laws defining the rights and duties of residents, but there were many inherent restrictions. The Jewish community, officially re-admitted after years of expulsion in 1664, had grown to about 8,000 by 1753, was largely urban, close to markets and, where possible to royal castles. To all newcomers, naturalisation was only granted by Parliament, but it was restricted to those professing the Christian faith. An attempt to remedy this by introducing the so-called Jew Bill in 1753 failed, and only in 1825, after a parliamentary debate with fiercely antisemitic undertones was this qualification removed. However, as Dr. Holmes stresses, "official restrictions did not totally hinder the community, since although Jews lived under legal disabilities, they nevertheless enjoyed many of the realities of

security and respect." In 1858 Jews became eligible for the House of Commons, and in 1885 the first Jew was admitted to the House of Lords. Liberal opinion hoped that through the process of emancipation Jews would move closer to British society. As against this, in the course of prolonged discussions, the opponents of emancipation charged the Jews with foreignness and divided loyalties, with possessing a low moral character and concentrating on financial gain. These were the roots of many later expressions of antisemitic hostility.

There were many instances of it in the following years. When continental Jews looked with admiration and a degree of envy at a country where a Jew, albeit baptised in early youth, was Prime Minister and a close friend of the Queen, Disraeli was constantly attacked as a Jew. He was accused to wage war in the Middle East and in South Africa in order to further the wealth of his fellow Jews in those countries. Lord Derby, his close friend, said of him that his mental activities were those of a foreigner and the "Church Times" referred to him as the "Jew Premier." Politicians both on the Left and on the Right indulged in antisemitic remarks. The early Fabians disagreed on the Jewish question, but were careful not to formulate a corporate opinion. The International Labour Party under its revered leader Keir Hardie announced that immigrant Jews had a special propensity for getting on in a capitalist society.

Both books under review lead to the conclusion that, unlike in Germany and France, antisemitism was not a shared subliminal emotion of the people on the whole, but that throughout the years, and as the Jewish population grew, it erupted—often violently—in specific circumstances and among specific groups, and it all too often became respectable. In Germany, books like Houston Stewart Chamberlain's "The Foundations of the 19th Century" or Arthur Dinter's "Die Sünde wider das Blut" were hardly taken seriously by educated people, even if they were not free from some prejudice. Over here, the wildly antisemitic outpourings of serious writers like G. K. Chesterton and Hilaire Belloc were widely read and discussed, and Fieldmarshal Montgomery once said one of the greatest influences on his life was Guy Thorne's now mercifully forgotten best-seller, "When it was dark" with a Jewish demonology compared to which Dinter reads like a harmless fairy-tale. On another level, when in 1911 Lewis Namier, the brilliant historian, applied for a fellowship at All Souls in Oxford, he was refused. Professor A. P. Pollard who attended the election meeting, reported "the best man by far in sheer intellect was a Balliol man of Polish-Jewish origin and I did my best for him, but the Warden and majority of the Fellows shied at his race, and eventually we elected the two next best."

The First World War brought new tribulations. At a time, when anything with German connotations was immediately suspect, the playwright Sir Arthur Pinero suggested in a letter to "The Times" that naturalised Britons of German origin

Continued at column 1 page 2

## ANTISEMITISM IN BRITAIN

*Continued from page 1*

should openly declare their hostility to Germany. Immediately afterwards, "The Times" published a spate of letters mainly from Jews which have become known as "Loyalty Letters". Sir Ernest Cassel, grandfather of Lord Mountbatten's wife, was among those who protested their loyalty. However, once more the campaign was not only directed against the Jews, and again antisemitism and xenophobia had fused.

The war threw up another problem with serious consequences. Many of the refugees from the East had never become naturalised, very often through sheer ignorance, but also because most of them were not interested in politics and did not volunteer for military service. After an appeal to them to enlist voluntarily had failed, the Home Secretary, Herbert Samuel, announced that Russians of military age would be required to enlist in the British army unless they preferred to return for military service in Russia. An agreement to that effect was signed with Russia, but the Russian Front collapsed before it was acted upon. There was, however, an ugly incident in Leeds where the refugees lived in a comparatively small quarter of the town. Enraged by the sight of many young Jews not in uniform, several thousand people attacked the Jewish quarters, smashed every shopwindow in sight and ill-treated many Jews. The police was unable to prevent these incidents, but arrested a number of culprits and brought them to court. In his letter to the Home Office, the Chief Constable pointed out that of about 1,400 "alien Jews" of military age, only 26 had joined the Forces, and a large number of Jews were alleged to have gone to Ireland to avoid conscription.

### Between the Wars

The events which followed the War, so clearly described in their motivations and their extent by Dr. Lebzelter, in particular, have been written about before, though not with such clarity and erudition. There were, however, two instances of antisemitism which reached a wide public, and, which is more alarming, a public that should at least have had its reservations. The first concerned involvement of the Jews in Bolshevism. The accusation was not only eagerly taken up by the anti-Jewish organisations which had sprung up with alarming speed and of which at least Sir Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists claimed at one time to have a membership of half a million, but also by the Tory papers.

The second was the publication of the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" by Eyre and Spottiswoode, publishers of the highest reputation. They were favourably reviewed by the High Tory "Morning Post" as a "very remarkable book, not to be dismissed as mere antisemitic propaganda", and "The Spectator" called for a royal commission to enquire "whether or not a revolutionary conspiracy involving Jews could be detected in society." Blackwood's magazine called the book "a devastating insight into the Bolshevik-Jewish way to power and its implications for the world." Even after "The Times", following painstaking and exciting detective work by one of its reporters, exposed the book as a crude forgery by the Tsar's secret police, its impact hardly lessened.

Both Dr. Holmes's and Dr. Lebzelter's books end in 1939. Refugees from Nazi Germany are hardly mentioned. Alas, as we all know, antisemitism did not end in 1939. Recently, the "Daily Telegraph" was taken to task for saying that people who attacked the monetarism of Mrs. Thatcher's Government, would say that she was following "the doctrinaire advice of a foreign Jew." The editor retorted that he only reported

*Continued next column*

## JEWISH VOTE CONTROVERSY

Opposing views on the effect of Jewish voting patterns in British elections have been given expression in two recently released reports on the subject. A research report published by the Institute of Jewish Affairs and prepared for it by Dr. Barry Kosmin, director of the research unit of the Board of Deputies, rejects the idea of a "Jewish vote" in the United Kingdom and claims that, even in isolation, the Jewish electorate is barely capable of affecting the result in a handful of constituencies. In only one, Hendon North, where there are 15,000 Jewish voters in an electorate of 55,000, might it be possible to talk of an MP being a "prisoner of Jewish voters," a claim attributed to the proponent of the opposite viewpoint, Dr. Geoffrey Alderman, a lecturer in British Government at the Royal Holloway College, London University. In a recent paper, Dr. Alderman expounds his theory that there has been a steady move to the right in Jewish voting patterns in Britain, which even extends to there being at least six members of identifiable Jewish origin in the National Front, a figure that is strongly doubted by the director of the Board of Deputies' defence and group relations committee, Dr. Jacob Gewirtz. Constituencies where Jewish voters hold the balance in Dr. Alderman's view include Hampstead, Ilford North, Hove, Middleton and Prestwich, and Barnet, Finchley, the seat of Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister. In 1975 she became the first leader of a main political party to contest a constituency where the Jewish vote, then approximately 8,700 or 16 per cent of the electorate was crucial, Dr. Alderman claims. In May, 1979, Mrs. Thatcher's majority was 7,878. That this could be overturned by the Jewish electors in the constituency is discounted by Dr. Kosmin as a "flight of fancy." His report denies that an articulated and orchestrated Jewish vote exists in Britain.

## ANTI-SEMITISM ON THE CAMPUSES

Jewish students at the universities "are up against some of the vilest anti-semitism I have ever encountered and have had to forge some unholy alliances to defeat anti-Israel motions," Mr. Martin Savitt, vice-president of the Board of Deputies and for many years Chairman of its Defence Committee, told a recent seminar organised by the Union of Jewish Students to demonstrate the problems young Jews face on British campuses at the present time. The audience was provided with a special display of the pro-Arab propaganda in circulation. It ranged from sophisticated posters and leaflets to such leaflets as "Do not buy from racists—boycott Israeli goods." UJS Chairman Danny Josephs stated that Jewish students were not only under attack from anti-Zionists. The death of Benjamin Lesser, who took his own life after being under pressure from Christian missionaries, highlighted another danger that they faced.

"the sort of thing one heard in private conversation", and that he was simply quoting "something in the air." In a Radio 4 survey of anti-semitism around the world, the conclusion was reached that British Jews were now "relatively secure, prosperous and predominantly middle-class. They have managed to integrate into British life while keeping intact their own religious and cultural traditions." Dr. Lebzelter seems to agree when she concludes:

"In England, the antisemitic campaign was a passing phenomenon that changed neither the attitude of English society towards Jews nor the self-assessment of Anglo-Jewry. The reactions against it were pragmatic and *ad hoc* measures which illuminate the patterns of response both from the host society and from the minority under attack, but they did not affect the course of history."

## THE PARIS SYNAGOGUE ATTACK

The bomb attack on the Paris Synagogue culminates the terror acts against Jews in France and, alas, also in other parts of the world. Perhaps one of the most alarming aspects is the high membership of police officers in the French extreme right-wing and antisemitic organisations. It is one of the bitter ironies of history that the country which almost two centuries ago stood in the forefront of the fight for human rights is at the same time stained by widespread antisemitism, symbolised, among other happenings, by the Dreyfus affair and the ready collaboration of wide circles in the implementation of the anti-Jewish measures under the German occupation. As the first victims of Nazi persecution, we have added reason to express our feelings of horror to our Jewish brethren in France and to participate in all efforts aiming at overcoming the evils of hatred and terrorism.

## 100 YEARS WEISSENSEE CEMETERY

Jewish and non-Jewish representatives from East and West Berlin, including the East German State Secretary of Church Affairs attended a ceremony to mark the centenary of the opening of the Weissensee cemetery, one of the largest Jewish cemeteries in Europe with 115,000 burial plots. The East German Institute for the Protection and Maintenance of Historic Sites has published a booklet on Jewish cemeteries in Berlin to mark the occasion. The East Berlin municipality allocated about £37,000 a year for the care and maintenance of the cemetery.

Designed by Architect List, Weissensee was the third Jewish cemetery in Berlin. The first one, opened in 1672 in Grosse Hamburger Strasse, was the first cultural institution of the small Jewish community established a year earlier. Before that time, Jews were not admitted to the whole of the *Mark Brandenburg*. The first synagogue in Heidereutergasse was not opened until 1712. That first cemetery which saw more than 7,000 burials between 1751 and 1827, Moses Mendelssohn among them, was closed in 1827 and, on orders of the Gestapo, destroyed in 1943. To-day it is a park, surrounded by a wall which contains some old tombstones. A simple memorial stone on the lawn remembers Mendelssohn.

The second cemetery on the Schönhauser Allee was opened in 1827. When it was closed, there were 23,000 graves and 750 family vaults, one of which was that of the old Berlin Liebermann family. The painter Max Liebermann who died in 1935 and his widow who committed suicide in 1943, were buried there.

For many Jews from Berlin, now dispersed all over the world, the Weissensee cemetery has great importance: to some it is the last link with the past, the only tangible memorial for family members and friends, and when they visit Berlin, most of them also pay a visit to Weissensee. For this reason it is difficult to explain why no Jewish attempt has been made to describe the history and the importance of the cemetery, not only because of the many eminent persons buried there, but also because cemeteries are documentary evidence of historical development and an important source for historical research. A survey of the graves might throw new light on a period which saw a vast influx of Jews from the former Prussian Eastern provinces and from Eastern Europe as a whole. Some 50 years ago, the historian Jacob Jacobson (1888-1968), director of the *Gesamtarchiv der deutschen Juden*, made an attempt to supplement W. Wohlbered's survey of the graves of eminent personalities in Greater Berlin with data about Weissensee. A historian of his stature is missing to-day, but perhaps the centenary will serve as a challenge to a researcher who might collect, reconstruct and describe the relevant data. It is an immensely difficult task, in present-day circumstances, but even starting from small beginnings, it might lead to invaluable new material for the historian of the period.

E. G. LOWENTHAL (Berlin).

## HOME NEWS

### ATTACKS ON SYNAGOGUES

Attacks on synagogues and Jewish cemeteries in the London area are on the increase. The most serious this year was a fire at Edgware Synagogue, which severely damaged the main doors before it was put out by the caretaker. Other incidents include daubing at the Palmers Green Synagogue and at Hendon Synagogue, where the foundation stone was painted with swastikas and anti-semitic slogans. At Edgware the arsonists had attempted to set fire to the synagogue's oil storage tanks and a classroom. A drainpipe was daubed with the slogan "88 skins", considered to be a possible reference to Column 88, the neo-Nazi Hitler-worshipping organisation. Cemetery desecrations have occurred at Streatham, East Ham and Edmonton. Dr. Jacob Gewirtz, director of the Board of Deputies Defence and Group Relations Committee, has expressed concern that the increase in such incidents corresponds with the so-called "skinhead revival" and the efforts made to cultivate them by right-wing movements.

### FATEFUL VISIT TO THE PAST

Werner Mayer, deputy headmaster of the King David High School in Manchester, recently went to Germany as the guest of an old German woman who had risked her life to help his parents during the war. On his return home, he was involved in a motor accident on the autobahn and detained in hospital for several days.

### PRAGUE EXHIBITION FOR BRITAIN

To coincide with the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Prague State Jewish Museum an exhibition of some of its Jewish art treasures was opened at Manchester's Whitworth Gallery, on 7 October. Professor Reginald Dodwell, director of the gallery has devoted eight years to arranging the bringing of the exhibits to Britain, which he hopes will result in non-Jews learning more about synagogue art, about which they know very little. Among the 300 exhibits will be 60 drawings and paintings by adults and children from Theresienstadt concentration camp. An illustrated history of the collection tells visitors how the collection was established by the Nazis as a permanent record of "an extinct race".

### BOHEMIAN SCROLL FOR LIVERPOOL

A memorial scroll from Bohemia was recently ceremoniously installed in the Ark of the Liverpool Progressive Synagogue by Mr. Frederick Masserick, president of the congregation who was born in Ceske Budejovice from which the scroll originated. The relic is on permanent loan from the Memorial Scrolls Committee of the Westminster Synagogue, London, in memory of Mr. Masserick's Bohemian relatives, all of whom died in the Holocaust.

### LADY CHAIN TO HEAD NEW TRUST

Lady Ann Chain has been appointed Chairman of a new British Ort Trust which has been set up to undertake specialist educational projects in this country. While part of its activities will be concerned with Jewish education, it will also provide expert help to non-denominational schools.

### AID TO THE DISADVANTAGED

Our contributor, Dr. Julius Carlebach, head of Jewish and Israeli Studies at Sussex University, is directing and supervising a project to help Israel with the care and education of socially disadvantaged adolescents by training Youth Aliyah personnel for advanced academic qualifications.

### OBSCENE HOLIDAY IDEA

According to German press reports, 41-year-old Bob Acraman, a former Army lance-corporal, has hit on the idea of opening a holiday camp in Hampshire which is supposed to be a replica of a Nazi concentration camp. The guards wear German uniforms, and the camp is surrounded by barbed wire with watchtowers. The price of a three-day stay is £30. According to Acraman, his offer has met with a lively response.

### CHURCHILL'S POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

#### Martin Gilbert's Lectures

As already announced in our previous issue (p. 10), this year's biennial series of "Thank-You Britain" Fund lectures will be given by Martin Gilbert, of Merton College (Oxford). His subject will be "Did Churchill have a political philosophy?". As the official biographer of Churchill, the speaker is particularly qualified to deal with this interesting and historically important problem.

The lectures will be held at 5 p.m., on Monday, 24 November, Tuesday, 25 November, and Thursday, 27 November, at the British Academy, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1. It will be helpful if acceptances (with an indication of how many will attend) could be notified to the Secretary of the Academy.

### ARTHUR KOESTLER, 75

The writer Arthur Koestler celebrated his 75th birthday on his Suffolk farm. He was born in Budapest, but educated in Vienna. As a foreign correspondent for a number of important newspapers, he covered the Graf Zeppelin Arctic Expedition in 1931 and the Spanish civil war. He had joined the Communist Party in 1931 and subsequently spent a year in Russia. In Spain he was imprisoned by Franco and condemned to death, but he escaped to France and served in the French Foreign Legion 1939-40 and in the British Pioneer Corps from 1941-42. He left the Communist Party in protest against Stalin's murder of dissidents. In "Darkness at Noon" and "The Yogi and the Commissar", both published in English after he finally settled in this country, he strongly attacked Stalin and the Soviet Regime. In later years, he became interested in science and psychology and published a number of very successful books on both subjects. In 1968, he convened a symposium in Alpbach, Austria, attended by eminent scientists dissatisfied with modern tendencies in biology.

Koestler has always retained a special relationship with Israel. Between the wars, he lived there for several years, farming, doing odd jobs and eventually reporting on developments for newspapers. He has published two books as a result: "Thieves in the Night", dedicated to Jabotinsky and telling the fights and tribulations of the early Kibbutzim in fictionalised form in 1946 and "Promise and Fulfilment—Palestine 1917 and 1949" giving his views on the Establishment of the State of Israel in 1949. In the epilogue to this book, he describes himself as a man "who has been a supporter of the Zionist Movement for a quarter-century, while his cultural allegiance belonged to Western Europe".

### IT'S A GIFT"

Mr. Fred Worms, a Board member of the AJR, sponsored a new guide: "Gifts to Charities. How to maximise benefits at minimum cost." A practical publication, written by experts, it is amusingly illustrated by Jeremy Gerlis, and is issued by the B'nai Brith Foundation, B'nai Brith Housing Trust and the Hillel Foundation.

Your House for—

**FLOOR COVERINGS  
CURTAINS, CARPETS,  
SPECIALITY**

**ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL  
DOWN QUILTS, DUVETS,  
DUVET COVERS & SHEETS**

ALSO RE-MAKES AND RE-COVERS  
ESTIMATES FREE

**DAWSON-LANE LIMITED**  
(established 1946)

17 BRIDGE ROAD, WEMBLEY PARK  
Telephone: 904 6871  
personal attention of Mr. W. Shackman

## AJR ROUNDABOUT

### COVENANTS AND BEQUESTS NEW TAX RELIEFS

Some welcome reliefs in the law relating to covenants and bequests in favour of charities were made by the Finance Act, 1980.

#### Deeds of Covenant

These need now only be for a period of four years (seven years previously). Payments under Covenant made after 5 April, 1981, up to £3,000 a year can be deducted in computing the taxable income of a taxpayer who is liable to tax at higher rates and/or additional rate (Investment Income Surcharge). This implies, for instance, that a covenant for £70 nett made by a taxpayer who is liable to a total rate of tax of 60 per cent costs him only £40, as his tax liability is reduced by a further £30 of higher or additional rate tax.

Payments under Covenant can now also be made by family companies (close companies) and are deductible up to £3,000 from the company's income in respect of each individual shareholder without being apportioned to him as income, as was the case in the past.

We do hope that more of our friends will make use of these facilities by making covenants in favour of the AJR Charitable Trust. Their subscriptions, except for a nominal amount to be retained as membership fee by the AJR proper, can also be paid in this way.

#### Charitable Bequests

The legacies left to charities in a person's will are now completely exempt from Capital Transfer Tax up to £200,000. Legacies have in the past constituted a very substantial proportion of the income of our Charitable Trust and we shall in future be even more dependent on this source of income for our charitable activities. It is essential that the legacy is left to the *AJR Charitable Trust*, which is the charitable instrument of the Association and registered as such, and *not* to the Association of Jewish Refugees itself.

#### IRMA SREBNIK

Mrs. Irma Srebnik, who died suddenly on September 24, was a most devoted communal worker who rendered her voluntary services unstintingly to several Jewish organisations. The AJR in particular benefited from her activities as a member of the panel of voluntary drivers for the Meals on Wheels service. For many years she conscientiously lent her cooperation, never shirking her often strenuous duties in all kinds of conditions. She also established strong personal contacts with those she visited, and she will be greatly missed by many and gratefully remembered by all who knew her.

### OUR "ENQUIRIES" COLUMN

#### Widespread Reaction

Each issue of this journal carries enquiries by persons of various walks of life, who are anxious to trace the whereabouts of relatives and friends of theirs. Hardly a month passes in which we do not receive grateful acknowledgements of the successful results of such enquiries. Sometimes readers in this country can supply the required information. In other cases readers abroad happen to see the paper and provide the answers. There are also quite a few cases in which residents in Germany want to get in touch with their emigrated former schoolmates, often in connection with the arrangement of school reunions. As far as readers have reason to assume that the record of the enquirer is not stained by the Nazi years, they are happy to resume the contacts. All this re-affirms that also in this particular field the facilities given by "AJR Information" serve a most useful purpose.

#### LEGACY FOR AJR

Frieda Gordon of London, N.W.6, left £1,000 to the AJR Charitable Trust, and the residue of her estate after several bequests to other organisations and personal friends, to the Belsize Square Liberal Synagogue.

# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## UNITED STATES

### Army Excludes Neo Nazi

A US Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld an Army decision to exclude a student holding Nazi views from the Reserve Officer Training Corps. The Chicago Court ruled that the applicant's right to free speech had not been violated and that while citizens are entitled to espouse any cause they wish the sentiments he held were "incompatible" with "an important public office."

### Seen but not Heard

A statement that "God Almighty does not hear the prayer of a Jew," made by Dr. Bailey Smith, president of Southern Baptist Convention, has been disavowed by his fellow Church leader Dr. James Dunn, director of the Christian Life Commission of Texas Baptists, who described it as the "sort of ultimate anti-semitic remark." Dr. Smith tried to defend his position by a further statement, saying: "I am pro-Jew. I believe that they are God's special people, but without Jesus Christ they are lost. No prayer gets through that is not prayed through Jesus Christ."

### Special Privileges' Charge Disproved

Mr. Tom Bradley, the black mayor of Los Angeles, acted swiftly to disprove allegations that Soviet Jewish immigrants had been receiving favoured treatment over black applicants in the purchase of driver-owned taxis from the city's Transportation Board and that the local Jewish community had been giving them large loans to outbid blacks seeking membership of the independent taxi association.

### Shanghai Refugees Meet

35 years after the end of the war, just under 1,000 former refugees who spent the war years in Shanghai, held a re-union meeting in San Francisco, to review "survival and progress", as the invitation said. One of their number, Henri I. Lewin, who after the war emigrated to the United States where he started as a waiter in a restaurant, organised the meeting. He is now managing director of the Hilton Hotel Organisation and accommodated them in Oakland on the other side of San Francisco Bay. Most of them now live in America, but some came from Israel, Austria, Switzerland, Canada and Hawaii. The largest group from overseas, however, came all the way from Australia. Guest of Honour was Michael Blumenthal who came to the States with 60 dollars in his pocket and rose to become the first Treasury Secretary of the Carter Government. His name appears on dollar notes. In his address at the official dinner, he said that all those who had survived, should demonstrate their gratitude to their new countries, and those in America should assist the new refugees who were constantly arriving, remembering that they had once shared their fate.

## CBS Discovers the Vanessa Handicap

CBS, the American television company, are having trouble in selling advertising space for the screening of "Playing for Time", in which they cast Vanessa Redgrave in the part of Auschwitz-survivor Fania Fenelon, whose personal story provided the basis for the screen-play, written by Arthur Miller. CBS went ahead with the casting of Miss Redgrave in the part despite the objections of the book's author and many Jewish groups in the USA. Fania Fenelon plans to sue CBS over its TV version of her story.

Demonstrators burnt an effigy of Vanessa Redgrave outside the CBS Hollywood studios on the eve of the first proposed screening of the film, after giving the actress a mock trial. The 150 demonstrators included members of the Jewish Defence League and a group called "Children of the Holocaust."

## CANADA

### Anti-Nazi Hero Dies

A Canadian non-Jew arrested in 1938 by the Nazis for helping Jews to leave Austria has died in Toronto at the age of 79. He was Mr. R. C. A. (Charles) Grant, who travelled in Europe in the 1930s, buying and selling precious stones, and was arrested in Vienna in the spring of 1938 because he was a "Judenfreund." After his release he managed to provide false passports for some 650 Jews before again falling into the hands of the Gestapo. When war broke out in 1939 he was interned as an enemy alien and spent the next years in various concentration camps. After the war he devoted his life to fighting racial discrimination in his native Canada, where he also worked to find homes and foster parents for European orphans.

### Baron Hirsch's Achievements

In Saskatchewan, Canada, a commemorative ceremony was held to honour the memory of 19th century German-Jewish philanthropist Baron Maurice de Hirsch who in 1892 established a settlement called "Hirsch" in the district which existed for 50 years. More than 100 descendants and friends of Jewish pioneers who farmed there attended, some of them coming from as far away as Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Vancouver. Saskatchewan's Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Norman Vickar, a member of a pioneer Jewish farm family in Western Canada, unveiled a plaque noting the history of the settlement. At the same time, the Canadian Jewish Congress took over the cemetery, established in the early days of the settlement on the land of a settler called Blank, and set up a perpetual-care fund financed by ICA and the descendants of the pioneers. At present, there are still three Jews farming in the area, but in its heyday, Hirsch had a population of 200, three synagogues, a school, a hotel and three shops.

## ARGENTINE

### Persecution Figures Disputed

An Argentinian immigrant to Israel, Mr. Nahum Solan, a member of the Mapam secretariat, has accused the Argentine military regime of responsibility for the brutal murder of 2,500 Jews, many of them members of the Zionist movement. Internal evidence gathered by Jewish, international and diplomatic sources suggest that the 2,500 figure is exaggerated, but that about 500 young Jews are known to have "disappeared" in Argentina.

### Reform Synagogue's New Minister

Temple Emanu-El, Buenos Aires, the only Reform Synagogue in Argentina has a new Minister. He is 38-year-old Rabbi Reuben Nisenbom, a graduate of the Conservative Rabbinical Seminary in the city, and now a member of its teaching staff. Some 400 people attended his induction ceremony, including Dr. Roberto Bravo, an Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Religions.

### Morse Fellowship Award

Jacobo Timerman, the Jewish-born newspaper editor who fled from political persecution in Argentina to Israel, has been granted the Arthur D. Morse Fellowship Award in Communications and Society, presented by the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies for courage in journalism.

### CUBAN JEWRY DOWN TO 900

Of the 100,000 Cubans fleeing to South Florida in the recent mass exodus from that country, it is estimated that between 60 and 100 were Jews. Prior to Fidel Castro's seizure of power in 1959, Cuba had some 10,000 Jews, but a large proportion of these left the country, belonging as they did to the middle classes, which were mainly eliminated by his régime. Now about 900 Jews are left on the island, but most Jewish organisational buildings are gone. The new arrivals in the United States are gradually dispersing throughout the country; some twenty families have been integrated in the Miami area.

### DUTCH QUEEN MEETS JEWISH SCHOLARS

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands was hostess to some 350 participants in a three-day symposium on the history of Dutch Jewry held in Amsterdam, when they were her guests at the royal palace in the city. The symposium sponsored by the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences, was held under a cultural agreement between Israel and Holland.

### RABBI FOR NORWAY

The appointment of Rabbi Michael Melchior to Oslo has ended a long period of years during which Norway was without a Jewish minister. He was inducted into office by his own father, the Chief Rabbi of Denmark, Rabbi Bent Melchior.

**THE PERFECT GIFT**  
for men from 8 to 80  
There are models for ladies too



**VICTORINOX**  
The Original Swiss Army Knife

5 year guarantee

**BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE**  
invite you and your friends to come to

**BAZAAR '80**

**SATURDAY, November 22 from 5 pm**  
**SUNDAY, November 23 from 11 am to 6 pm**  
at 51 Belsize Square, NW3 (near Swiss Cottage)

**Stalls, Restaurant, Children's Bazaar**

ENTRANCE 25p

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.



**Fights Rust**

Newly developed. Zinc compounds are some of the finest rust inhibitors. The synthetic resin base forms a tough skin, which seals the surface from moisture. From all good hardware and accessory stores. Free literature from David's ISOPON, FREEPOST Northway House, London N20 9BR.

**David's ISOPON**

Robert Weltsch

# THE MOZART MYSTERY

## Letter to a London Friend

Dear Dora,

Thank you for your letter which was very interesting for many reasons. I was impressed by your description of the unceasing stream of Israeli tourists whom you are so kindly helping to enjoy their stay in London. One point struck me for special reasons. You say that most tourists wanted to see Peter Shaffer's play "Amadeus", that the performances are sold out for a long time and you had to queue for hours to obtain tickets. I do not know the play, but you say it describes the murder of Mozart by "his rival", the composer and conductor Antonio Salieri who poisoned him.

Now I was just reading Wolfgang Hildesheimer's marvellous book on Mozart\* easily the most sensible treatment of the subject. Hildesheimer applies to this work modern methods of psychoanalytical experience while aware of the fact that the mystery of one of the greatest geniuses of human history defies all rationalist explanations; one has to confine oneself to avoiding superficial phrases and to stating the true facts, including the contrasts between Mozart's personal character, his sometimes strange social conduct and the boundless manifestations of his creative genius.

Whatever attribute you would use it could only trivialise the real phenomenon. One cannot say in words what can be expressed only in sound.

I wonder whether in your Palestine days you have met young Hildesheimer, gifted son of a truly "aristocratic" German-Jewish family, with roots in Hamburg and Mannheim. Educated in the Odenwaldschule and later in England, he learned joinery and furniture carpentry in Palestine, later scenic design in Salzburg and London until 1939, returned to Palestine, served in the

Public Information Office of the Mandatory government, and after the war was interpreter at the Nuremberg trial of the top Nazis. During all these varied activities, he never neglected his artistic interests which were his true concern; he became a painter and in post-war Europe a very successful writer of books and radio plays and winner of many literary awards.

Wolfgang's parents were a couple of rare personal charm. His father Dr. Arnold Hildesheimer was an important industrialist in Palestine, familiar to housewives as producer of Blue Band margarine; he was also a scientist who wrote a brilliant history of modern physics.

### Hildesheimer's Interpretation

Wolfgang's book is the heavily expanded fourth revision of a lecture originally given on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the composer's birth in 1956 and now grown to a book of more than 400 pages. It is the militant contradiction of all the familiar Mozart biographies which aim at reducing the man Mozart to the level of the average reader. Only a person who has undergone psychoanalysis, the author suggests, will be able to exclude all positive or negative "affects" and never to mistake the potential reaction of his own psyche as a yardstick. As to the music, Hildesheimer shows an astonishing knowledge of all details of Mozart's compositions.

It is this Jewish author's declared intention to revolutionise by his lonely and isolated voice the predominant tendency of the various biographers to please their readers and to bring a formidable and uncanny subject nearer to their capacity. Only in this way one can explain that, e.g., even a

man like Bruno Walter, himself one of the great interpreters of Mozart's music, describes Mozart "as a gay, simple-minded young man". That corresponds to the wishful thinking of the public, but it is far from the truth. The relationship of Vienna and Salzburg to Mozart is also systematically distorted. Both cities treated him badly and almost let him starve, and he hated both places which afterwards claimed him as their product and darling, basking in his glory.

To Wolfgang Hildesheimer's passionate campaign for a re-interpretation of Mozart we owe an enthralling and fascinating book which touches upon the most mysterious sides of great artistic creation and the paradox of its relations to the character and actual life of the artist. In the present context I cannot go into the rich and many-sided details, but I want to add some remarks about the author's version of the poison story which according to your letter is taken for granted in the new play. Hildesheimer regards the rumour of Mozart's poisoning by Salieri as a legend invented to dramatise the end of a genius' life. On the other hand, Mozart himself is reported to have told his wife Constanze that somebody had given him a slowly working strong poison ("aqua toffana")—as Constanze said to Mary Novello in 1829.

Expounding the medical aspects of Mozart's death, Hildesheimer believes that the mercurial poisoning about which seems to exist agreement, may have been the result of the usual treatment of lues. This disease Mozart may have contracted in the last phase of his life, because in his permanent depression he seems to have lost all moral consistency and became what Hildesheimer calls a "Dionysic" character seeking amusement. In this way he may have caught lues as many other prominent people did. This is a hypothesis, of course, not more convincing than the murder story.

To whitewash Salieri from the suspicion of murder although he is reported to have confessed it on his death-bed in 1825, Hildesheimer says that Salieri was a conciliatory man, teacher of inter alia Beethoven, Schubert and Liszt. One may doubt whether this argument is convincing. It ignores the possibility of demonic forces in the soul of an outwardly respectable man, as we know from Dostoyevsky and from our own recent experience. We shall never be able to decide what is the truth. This gives the dramatist the freedom to build a play on one of the hypotheses, or even on free invention, as other dramatists like Shakespeare and Schiller did with historical figures.

Anyhow, Hildesheimer's book is an achievement of momentous interest. Mozart died on 5 December 1791. On the same day, the *Zeittafel* tells us, Giacomo Meyerbeer was born.

You can see how many memories were evoked by your charming letter. Thank you.

Yours

Robert Weltsch.

Jerusalem, August 1980.

\*Wolfgang Hildesheimer: *Mozart*. Suhrkamp Taschenbuch 598. Suhrkamp Verlag Frankfurt 1980. 418 s., mit Zeittafel und Verzeichnis der erwähnten Werke, DM 10. (Readers who have seen "Amadeus" at the National Theatre, will of course realise that the play does not confirm Mozart's murder by Salieri—Ed.).

# RENAULT

## There's a lot happening at Old Oak.

Last year, more people than ever before bought a new Renault from Old Oak Motor Company.

This might be because we are a family firm that still believes the customer should come first.

Or maybe it was because Renault produce Europe's most up-to-date and economy-conscious range of cars, from the thrifty 5, to the super-luxury 30TX.

It could even have been because our unique "Service Preference" scheme guarantees our customers cheaper and faster servicing and after-sales care.

But whatever the reason, shouldn't you come along yourself and see what happens at Enfield's Renault Centre.



Come and see for yourself. Old Oak — Service for cars — and people.



**OLD OAK** MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED  
79 WINDMILL HILL ENFIELD EN2 7AG 01-363-2261

## Annely Juda Fine Art

11 Tottenham Mews, London W1P 9PJ

01-637 5517/8

CONTEMPORARY PAINTING  
AND SCULPTURE

Mon-Fri: 10 am-6 pm Sat: 10 am-1 pm

F. L. Brassloff

## JEWES IN HABSBERG EMPIRE

The Habsburg Empire which appeared from outside as a uniform entity, was actually a complex combination of various units and nationalities, which had been assembled in the course of centuries: Austria proper, which consisted of "kingdoms and lander" represented in the "Reichstag", and the kingdom of Hungary, which stressed its independence from "Vienna". After the collapse of the monarchy in 1918, the newly formed states also inherited its problems and failed to solve them satisfactorily.

Slovakia which had belonged to Hungary became part of Czechoslovakia, very much against the will of Slovaks, most of whom strove for autonomy in the new state. Within Slovakian Jewry a considerable sector had still emotional bonds with the Hungarian past, another group had links with German-Austrian culture, and a third one considered itself primarily as forming a distinct Jewish nationality. Orthodox tradition played a large part in all camps, but the secularist-minded Zionist movement had a considerable fellowship, too. In contrast to the majority of the Slovaks, the Jews accepted loyally the existence of democratic Czechoslovakia.

Religious and political anti-semitism had been a constant feature of Slovak thought and practice; Jews were hated and distrusted as an alien element, their predominance in the economy was strongly resented. When Slovakia was accorded autonomy and subsequently separate statehood by Germany in 1939, its new rulers, who were willingly subservient to the Nazis and largely sympathetic to their ideology, started immediately with the discrimination, and spoliation of the Jews, with the proclaimed aim of eliminating them from the body politic. In close cooperation with their German masters, they introduced forced labour and concentration camps, followed by deportations for mass liquidation.

"Die Juden im Slowakischen Staat 1939-1945" by Ladislav Lipscher (a publication of the research institution "Collegium Carolinum"; Verlag R. Oldenbourg, Munich, 1980, DM 49)—is a meticulous and fair account of a chapter of the holocaust period. It shows how bigoted Catholic churchmen, like-minded politicians and outspoken National Socialists implemented anti-semitic policies ruthlessly and how opportunism and corruption played a part in their behaviour, but there were even within their ranks notable exceptions. Slovakian Jewry, by and large, evinced considerable resilience and a large measure of solidarity, though some individuals helped the oppressors. Jews played an active part in the liberation movements; their role has so far not been acknowledged sufficiently. It is one of the merits of the book that its author gives due credit to Jews and Gentiles who showed great courage in very difficult times.

In Galicia which became part of Austria in the last third of the 18th century, the Jews had their well-established communal organizations and separate status. Emperor Joseph II inaugurated a

policy of "tolerance", which aimed at integrating also the Polish Jews into the general population; the measures, animated by imperial self-interest and ideas of enlightenment, met with strong resistance by those Jews who wanted to uphold their religious-national identity unimpaired, and by non-Jews who for reasons of their own and out of prejudice, had no sympathy for the reforms imposed from above.

A brief study by Wolfgang Häusler "Das galizische Judentum in der Habsburgmonarchie, im Licht der zeitgenössischen Publizistik und Reiseliteratur von 1772-1848" (in the series "Oesterreich Archiv" of the "Institut für Oesterreichkunde"; Verlag R. Oldenbourg, Munich, 1979, DM 14.80) is interesting also for the non-specialist reader. It contributes to a better understanding of Polish Jewry, which Western and Westernised Jews tended to patronize and even to despise. Already before the National Socialist period, convinced anti-semites hardly distinguished between the "assimilated" German and Austrian Jews and their Polish and Slovak relatives. Such serious research as that undertaken by the authors of the two books here reviewed, should help to dispel still persisting ignorance and preconceived notions.

### IRAN BANS GROUP EMIGRATION

"Group emigration" by Jews to Israel has been banned by the Iranian government. The news was given in a Tehran radio announcement which threatened severe punishment for any Jew found to be planning to emigrate. Foreign airlines were also warned not to carry passengers whose eventual destination was Israel.

### CHRISTIANS FOR ISRAEL

An evangelical organisation, the Almond Branch Association, plans to establish a "Christian Embassy" in Jerusalem in order "to express publicly the desire of millions, whom we believe we are representing at this crucial time in Israel's history, that Jerusalem shall remain the united capital of Israel and that she shall live in her land that God has promised to her as an everlasting possession in an eternal covenant with him."

**THE ANNUAL CONCERT**  
in aid of  
**SELF AID OF REFUGEES**  
(in conjunction with AJR)  
will take place at the  
**Queen Elizabeth Hall on**  
**Monday, 10 November, 1980**  
at 7.45 p.m.

with  
**SYLVIA SASS, soprano**  
accompanied by  
**CRAIG SHEPPARD**  
and the

**BOCHMANN STRING QUARTET**  
with  
**JOSE FEGHALI**

Works by  
**Haydn, Dvorak, Chopin and**  
**Kódały**

Tickets: price £3, £4, £5, £6, £7 available from Self Aid of Refugees, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London NW3 6LA. Tel.: 01-328 3255/6 and from 10 October from the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1 8XX. Tel.: 01-928 3191

### MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

by

**ILAN & HIS ACCORDION**

for birthdays, anniversaries etc.

Israeli, Continental &amp; popular music

with accordion and piano

**Phone: 01-806 3892**

F. Thorn

### WISDOM WITHOUT TEARS

There are very few poets who were tempted to elucidate the written image by adding a graphic one—Wilhelm Busch proceeded in the reverse order and Cocteau did not proceed at all, but provided afterthoughts—and Kurt Frankenschwerth in his new book\* does it probably because the draughtsman in him fights the (stronger) writer and has to win sometimes. In spite of this inequality his "Gedichtsammlung mit Zeichnungen", (30 years after "Seid Ihr Wach") shows one other aspect of the age-old question, whether to express thought or feeling in more than one art form strengthens or weakens either: in Frankenschwerth's work the witty drawings serve as a protective shield, protecting both author and reader against pain. The three headings too show the former's concern with softening—not diluting—the very deep sorrow we old ones cannot escape when comparing the world we hoped for and sometimes expected with the world we live in, 50 years later. "Satire" and "Epigramme", the first parts of the book, represent the wisdom to be extracted from events and experiences one can guess, but their serenity is tinged with sadness and the affinity to Morgenstern is more than an appealing skill which both writers used to our delight; it is rather the same and only escape route from evil.

The third part, "Lyrische Gedichte", in itself in four parts according to subjects—albeit in a personal, semi-coded order—is probably a confirmation of the fact, that the introductory ones and their serenity were after all the result of conscious effort. These lyrical poems are deep and honest, and where the author indulges in a little sentimentality it is still the legitimate daughter of genuine sentiment and subject to strict poetic discipline. This reviewer's loyalties are divided: There is much worldly fun to be found in satirical poems as "Ein Ausweg" and "Der Händedruck" and we feel grateful for the solace provided, for our benefit as well as the poet's, but the consistency and permanent validity of his "reine Lyrik" transform a series of themes into one single and very moving statement of humanitarian understanding.

Today it is not obvious that a poet should master the poet's craft, so we should probably mention that Frankenschwerth handles rhyme and rhythm with masterly restraint and skill and that the musical content of his verses equals the intellectual message. It is no coincidence that one of the most appealing poems is "Grosses Konzert"....

It does not do the wise serenity of the book justice when we conclude with one of the few deeply pessimistic lines—it just so happens that to quote them is to quote something which is hidden between those of witty optimism:

Jetzt, mit gebeugtem Rücken,  
auf unsichtbaren Krücken,  
geh ich des nachts umher.  
Ich zähl der Stunden Schlag,  
ich warte auf den Tag  
und will den Tag nicht mehr.

\*Kurt Frankenschwerth: *Satire, Epigramme, Lyrik*, J. G. Bläschke Verlag, Darmstadt, 89 pp., DM 9.80.

**BECHSTEIN STEINWAY BLUTHNER**

Finest selection reconditioned PIANOS

Always interested in purchasing  
well-preserved instruments**JACQUES SAMUEL PIANOS LTD.****142 Edgware Road, W.2 Tel: 723 8881/9**

# NEWS FROM GERMANY

## BERLIN'S CAPACITY EXHAUSTED

Heinz Galinski, chairman of the W. Berlin Jewish community, told representatives of the 2,300 recent Jewish immigrants to the city that the community had made strenuous efforts to assist most of the newcomers in legalising their stay and in finding accommodation and work. The success of these efforts was to a large extent due to the good relations between the community and the civic authorities. He strongly criticised the small minority among the new arrivals whose illegal activities had recently led to unpleasant publicity and added that it should be realised that the city of Berlin had now exhausted its capacity for receiving and accommodating new immigrants.

## Jews in East Germany

According to a recent report, based on an interview with Helmut Aris, president of the Jewish communities in the German Democratic Republic, there are now only about 650 men and women of the Jewish faith living in the GDR. In 1971, there were still over 1,100. 300 of the 650 live in East Berlin, nearly 80 in Dresden, and others in towns and cities like Halle, Karl-Marx-Stadt (Chemnitz), Leipzig, Magdeburg, Schwerin and Erfurt. Eight communities receive subsidies for the upkeep of 130 cemeteries. For the last 15 years there has not been a permanent rabbi, but a guest rabbi from Hungary officiates on special occasions.

Israelis attending the Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting in East Berlin joined the community for the Yom Kippur synagogue services.

The East German Government and the Palestine Liberation Organisation have concluded a cultural and scientific co-operation agreement.

## INCITEMENT TO RACE HATRED

A West Berlin Court gave a six months' suspended prison sentence to 45-year-old lawyer Josef Moritz who, when in summer 1976 a Jewish guest at a Berlin restaurant protested against his giving the Hitler salute, had said the only thing he reproached Hitler with was that he had not annihilated all Jews.

A court in Stade, Lower Saxony, sentenced a 51-year-old neo-Nazi activist, Edgar Geiss, to 15 months' imprisonment for incitement to hatred against the Jews. During the Cologne trial of Kurt Lischka, the SS officer who was Nazi security chief in Paris during the occupation, he had distributed pamphlets claiming that the gas-chambers were a Jewish lie. Last February Lischka received a 10 years' sentence for complicity in the deportation of more than 70,000 Jews from France.

## GERMAN BISHOPS PRAY IN AUSCHWITZ

In the Auschwitz death cell of Father Maximilian Kolbe who was recently beatified, German and Polish bishops prayed together for the elimination of hatred and the spiritual renovation of Europe. They said that in Auschwitz they were reminded of the pitiless and ruthless power of injustice exercised by the Germans. Father Kolbe had swapped places with a family man condemned to be starved to death in the cell.

## ROEDELHEIM MEMORIAL DESECRATED

The commemorative stone which was put up on the site of the old Frankfurt-Roedelheim synagogue in November last year, was daubed with swastikas, SS runes and antisemitic inscriptions on the eve of Yom Kippur. One drawing showed a gallows on which hung a Star of David. Spokesmen for the Churches and the Municipality expressed their horror and promised to do everything to find the culprits.

## OBJECTS FOR GERMAN ART SHOW

Starting in the autumn of 1981, an exhibition dealing with East European Judaism—its history, social structure, religion and influence on the West—will open in Frankfurt/Main and travel through various cities in West Germany. Any readers who can offer objects are asked to write to: Deutscher Koordinierungsrat der Gesellschaften für Christlich-Jüdische Zusammenarbeit, Braubachstr.13, 6000 Frankfurt/Main, West Germany.

## THE BERLIN DOCUMENT CENTER

For several months the Bonn Foreign Office has conducted protracted negotiations with the US authorities about the "Document Center" in Berlin which has hitherto been administered by the Americans. It contains a great number of documents from the Nazi period, including the membership index of the NSDAP with information about more than 10 million party members, lists of the SA and SS membership and of about 2.5 million ethnic Germans who came to Germany during the war. The Center still receives between 3,000 and 4,000 enquiries a month from government offices and researchers in the Federal Republic, the USA, the East German authorities, Poland and Czechoslovakia and employs 33 full-time researchers.

## FIRST MENDELSSOHN AWARD

The Moses Mendelssohn Prize for Tolerance, created last year by the Mendelssohn-Gesellschaft on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the philosopher's birth was adjudicated for the first time. The recipient was Amtsgerichtsdirektorin Dr. Barbara Just-Dahlmann (Mannheim). In her address at the presentation ceremony, held on 7 September in the State Library Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Dr. Just-Dahlmann exemplified the need for tolerance by referring to the Israeli-Arab problem. The Arab States, she said, should make clear, whether they genuinely desire peace if Israel withdraws her troops from occupied territories. In her laudatio Dr. Cécile Lowenthal-Hensel, chairman of the Mendelssohn-Gesellschaft as well as of the Prize Jury, paid tribute to Dr. Just-Dahlmann's numerous activities, which included the membership of the "Jews and Christians" sub-committee of the German Evangelical Kirchentag and the fight for a liberalisation of the German Criminal Law.

E.G.L.

## REFUGEE AMBASSADOR FROM CANADA

58-year-old Klaus Goldschlag who was born in Berlin and went to Toronto as a refugee in 1937, is Canada's new ambassador to the Federal Republic. His father died when he was a small boy, and his mother who had to earn a living, sent him to the *Auerbachsche Waisenhaus* in 1933. In 1936 the Canadian Alan Coatsworth went to Berlin in order to adopt a Jewish boy and chose young Klaus. During the war, he served in the Canadian Forces and, after 1945, spent a year with them in Oldenburg. After leaving the Army, he joined the diplomatic service and was sent to Turkey and Italy as ambassador and to the Venice economic summit meeting as Trudeau's personal representative.

## ISRAEL'S NEW BONN AMBASSADOR

Yitzhask Ben-Ari, the newly appointed Israeli ambassador to the Federal Republic, was born in Austria 56 years ago. He is a former ambassador to Denmark and has recently worked in the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

E.G.L.

## BOAT PEOPLE MURDERED

Members of a right-wing organisation threw a Molotov cocktail bomb into a hostel for foreign refugees in Hamburg and killed two young Vietnamese who had been among the boat people rescued by the German "Cap Anamur" last year. A few days earlier, two Ethiopian women were seriously injured in a similar attack on a hostel in Lörrach near the Swiss border.

## "YOUTH UNDER HITLER"

A joint enterprise by various German TV companies is preparing a four-part serial "Youth under Hitler" relying on autobiographical notes and diaries of the period. German and American school children between 10 and 16 years, play the main parts.

## THE 1972 MUNICH MURDERS

In Israel, thousands of people congregated in cemeteries and sports centres to commemorate the 11 sportsmen killed by Palestinian terrorists during the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich. At the same time, the Beirut paper "Magazine" revealed new information about the perpetrators: Lebanese-born Fuad Chemali was the master strategist of the terrorist organisation "Black September". It was he who planned the Munich massacre; he died of cancer before the Games. On his deathbed, he made his wife Elissar promise to carry out his plans. She therefore went to Munich and took part in the taking of hostages, but left before the fatal outcome.

## EVERYDAY LIFE UNDER THE NAZIS

This year's History Prize of the Federal President for students will be awarded to the writer of the best essay on "Everyday Life under National Socialism". Competitors are asked to investigate in their own families how the regime affected the individual in his or her day-to-day activities.

## KASSEL CITIZENS VISIT ISRAEL

Members of the Kassel municipality, led by Lord Mayor Eichler, visited Israel and met the Association of Israelis from Kassel. They stated they had come to further the many contacts between Israelis from Kassel and individuals and official institutions of the capital of Northern Hesse.

## HONOUR FOR HERMANN KESTEN

The author Hermann Kesten, 80, was made a Freeman of Nuremberg, his city of birth.

## FAMOUS AUTOGRAPHS

During the last two years, the autograph department of the State Library of Prussian cultural documents in Berlin acquired the literary estate of the writer Clara Viebig (married to publisher Fritz Cohn who died in Berlin in 1936), the physicist Max Born and the files of the Ullstein publishing house with letters from many famous authors, particularly of the Twenties. They include letters from Herwarth Walden (real name Georg Levin) and a copy of Kleist's "Kleine Schriften" with 34 lithographs by Max Liebermann, published in 1917.

The firm of J. A. Stargardt, antiquarian booksellers and famous for their auction sales of autographs, celebrated its 150th anniversary at Marburg, Lahn, its present domicile. The firm was set up by bookseller Joseph Stargardt in Berlin, in partnership with Paul Julius Reuter (1816-1899), better known as the founder of the famous news agency.

E.G.L.

## HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF KREMS

The Vienna Institute for Contemporary History has published the thesis of Hannelore Hruschka on "the history of the Jews of Krems from the beginnings until 1938." There have been Jews in the small town of Krems in Lower Austria for at least 900 years.

**Everyone  
needs water!**

Overcome the problem of dry air in stuffy homes and offices!  
For your health's sake and that of your pets, piano, furniture, antiques, paintings  
ADD the required moisture with an



**EGRO HUMIDIFIER**  
(made in Switzerland)

Simple to use. Models available for all types of heating. Phone or write for free explanatory leaflet to

**THE HUMIDIFIER CO.**  
25 Bridge Road, Wembley Park,  
Middlesex, HA9 9AB

Telephone: 01-904 7603 (est.1958)

Fritz Friedlander (Melbourne)

**LEO BAECK — A NEW BIOGRAPHY**

Before Auguste Rodin began his statue of Balzac, he made a profound study of the subject's life, his writings, the places he had lived, whatever had been reported of him: only after this thorough preparation did he create a statue which Sir Kenneth Clark has called perhaps the greatest sculpture since the days of Michelangelo.

A serious biographer can scarcely do less than follow Rodin's example and, happily, Leonard Baker, the author of a new life of Leo Baeck, has fulfilled this requirement. He spent five years on his book, visiting no less than ten countries and interviewing about one hundred people who had had personal contact with Baeck. Memorabilia and documents were studied, as were Leo Baeck's own writings, supplemented by research on his period. The fruit of Mr. Baker's efforts is contained in a book of 396 pages, richly illustrated and annotated: "Days of Sorrow and Pain—Leo Baeck and the Berlin Jews" (Macmillan, New York; Collier Macmillan, London: 1978. £11.25).\*

The title is taken from Leo Baeck's Yom Kippur prayer of 1935: but the subtitle is perhaps rather too narrow, for while the Berlin Jewish community was by far the largest in Germany, and while Rabbi Baeck lived and worked there from 1912 to January 1943, he belonged not only to Berlin but to the whole of Germany. For example, as President of the Reichsvertretung der Juden in Deutschland, he visited most of the Jewish communities to show his attachment to them. Nevertheless, the wealth and variety of Mr. Baker's material mean that his account is full of life and colour, and the later chapters in particular display a dramatic sweep. A few slips may be mentioned: Ludendorff had no "von"; Georg Grosz was not Jewish; Else Meidner is mis-spelled "Mediner"; the November Putsch took place in 1923, not 1926.

Leonard Baker, a political journalist, had already published six works on modern history,

chiefly on American subjects. Why did he abandon this field for five years in order to work on a comprehensive biography of a leading figure in German Jewry? An answer may be found in his dedication to the memory of his grandfather, Rabbi Abraham Baker, and we may perhaps conclude that this work is the fruit of a spiritual affection and a testimony to the author's strong Jewish consciousness.

A quotation from Goethe's preface to "Dichtung und Wahrheit" is apposite here: "Denn dieses scheint die Hauptaufgabe der Biographie zu sein, den Menschen in seinen Zeitverhältnissen darzustellen und zeigen, inwiefern ihm das Ganze widerstrebt, inwiefern es ihn begünstigt . . .". Leonard Baker's portrait of Leo Baeck fulfils this task, for he also sets before us the major aspects of the era in which he lived.

The unfolding story of Baeck's life falls into four parts: the promising years of 1873 to 1918; the gathering clouds between 1918 and 1932; the evil forces confronting him from 1933 to 1945; and the gentle sunshine of his evening years until his death in 1956.

Leo Baeck's youth was spent in a time which offered perhaps the best opportunities for German Jewry. Born in Lissa in the former Prussian province of Posen on May 23 1873, he enjoyed a thorough Jewish education, for his father Samuel was the rabbi of the small community there. Leo, too, wished to become a rabbi; he studied in Breslau and later in Berlin, where he was deeply influenced by the philosopher Wilhelm Dilthey and by the writings of Hermann Cohen (who is said to have looked on the young man as his successor in spiritual leadership). His graduation thesis was on Spinoza's early influence in Germany and he first officiated as a rabbi in

1897 at Oppeln. It was there that he found happiness in his marriage to Natalie Hamburger; there too he wrote his magnum opus "The Essence of Judaism", the standard work on progressive Judaism. Moving to Düsseldorf in 1907, Leo Baeck perfected his technique as a rabbi and religious teacher. When he was called to Berlin in 1912, he worked there not only as a rabbi but also as a lecturer at the Lehranstalt für die Wissenschaft des Judentums and became a leading figure in German Jewry.

During the First World War he served as an army chaplain. I myself have heard from a cousin of mine, who was wounded in the war, that Dr. Baeck's spiritual assistance to him in the military hospital strengthened his will to live, when he would otherwise scarcely have survived.

It may be noted as evidence of Leo Baeck's reputation in Germany that the philosopher Count Hermann Keyserling invited him to lecture at his School of Wisdom in Darmstadt.

Under Nazi rule, the hour of trial began, when Leo Baeck took up the presidency of the Reichsvertretung der Juden in Deutschland. With his fellow workers, he built up the "Aufbau im Untergang" (in Ernst Simon's apt phrase), while doing what he could for those who wished to emigrate. Though five times arrested, he remained the soul of Jewish resistance whilst courageously maintaining contact with the German resistance movement. An example of his fearlessness, which I should like to add to Mr. Baker's account, was his reaction to Julius Streicher's notorious "Ritualmord" edition of the *Stürmer*; nothing daunted, Baeck addressed a strongly-worded letter of protest to Hitler. He never wavered in his belief that so morally debased a regime was doomed. In those "days of sorrow and pain", he was further troubled by petty internal strife within the Jewish community and unspeakably grieved by the loss of his beloved wife in 1937.

*Contd. on page 9*

## France & Germany's Finest Wines

SHIPPED BY

### HOUSE OF HALLGARTEN

I am able to offer you a superb selection of French (incl. Kosher Alsace) and German wines, shipped by the famous importers, House of Hallgarten, and to advise you personally and help you with your wine purchases. The selection ranges from your everyday wines to the finest for your special Simcha.

Delivery to all U.K. addresses

Please write or phone:

**JUSTIN GOLDMEIER**

Wine Merchant

22 Pennine Drive, London, N.W.2

Tel: 01-455 8672

with the compliments of

# Pafra

synthetic adhesives  
adhesive applicators

Pafra Limited  
Bentalls . Basildon  
Essex . SS14 3BU

## LEON JESSEL LIMITED

Manufacturers of  
Fancy Leather Goods,  
Gift Goods

which are advertised throughout the  
world as

"EMBLEMS OF GOOD CRAFTSMANSHIP BY  
THE JESSEL ORGANISATION"

We also manufacture Industrial  
Equipment in Leather and Canvas

P.O. Box 12, Corporation Street  
Walsall, WS1 4HP  
West Midlands

Telephone: 0922-24649 or 0922-22058

Telex: Chacom G Walsall 338212 LEJES



**LEO BAECK (continued)**

Beyond this, the November 1938 pogroms profoundly shocked him, yet he quickly regained his self-possession.

Leo Baeck not only taught the moral principles of Judaism, but was strong enough to put them into practice. When anxious friends urged him to emigrate while there was still time, he declared that as long as there was one other Jew on German soil, his place was by that man's side.

Eventually the Gestapo sent him to KZ Theresienstadt where, in an attempt at humiliation, he was forced to collect garbage. Nevertheless, he retained his dignity and self-respect amidst hunger, filth and disease, although four of his sisters died in the camp. Half-starved (he lost some fifty pounds in weight) he consoled his fellow-sufferers and lent them spiritual strength, giving clandestine lectures on Plato, Kant and Maimonides. Even in this time of catastrophe, he mustered up sufficient concentration to write the profound "Dieses Volk", in which he demonstrated that the character of the Jewish people manifested itself in their history.

After the war, he settled in London and acquired British citizenship. In the United States, he was honoured by an invitation to say the opening prayer in the House of Representatives on February 12 1947 and in the following year lectured in the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. In 1947, he revisited Jewish Palestine, which he had first seen with his wife in 1935. He became head of the Council of Jews from Germany and of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. At his death in London on November 1 1956, he was mourned not only in Jewish circles but throughout the civilised world.

Leonard Baker's biography obtained him the Pulitzer Prize, the first time a book on a non-American subject had been so honoured. His work differs from Rabbi Albert H. Friedlander's earlier biography: while Baker stresses the background of political events and the pressure of circumstances, Friedlander presents a fine analysis of Leo Baeck's system of religious thought. Both books renew the image of a man whose greatness is best summed up in Jacob Burckhardt's "Weltgeschichtliche Betrachtungen": "Das Allerseltenste aber ist bei weltgeschichtlichen Individuen die Seelengröße. Sie liegt im Verzichtenkönnen auf Vorteile zugunsten des Sittlichen, in der freiwilligen Beschränkung nicht bloss aus Klugheit, sondern aus innerer Güte . . .".

\*Stockley Close, Stockley Road, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 9BE

**AIR-GROWN AGRICULTURE**

The Israeli Government is to allocate substantial sums for research into a revolutionary system of growing plants without either soil or irrigation. Known as aeroculture, the system provides plants with the nutrients they need by subjecting their roots to a fine spray composed of a mixture of oxygen, moisture and nutrients. The process has already been used to grow citrus fruits, avocados, carnations, chrysanthemums, cucumbers and a wide variety of pot plants.

**BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE**

51 Belsize Square, London, N.W.3

Our new communal hall is available for cultural and social functions. For details apply to: Secretary, Synagogue Office

Tel.: 01-794 3949

William Guttman

**MAGDA "FRIEDLAENDER" GOEBBELS**

It was their respective spouses' reflected infamy that lent some significance to the lives of Nazi big-wigs; broadly speaking this is true also of Frau Magda Goebbels, as one may conclude from Herr Meissner's biography of the wife of the late and unlamented Joseph Goebbels.\* She came from a middle-class family and received a good middle-class education. Her mother, divorced from Magda's father, remarried, the second husband being a Herr Friedlaender, a Jew, whose name the stepdaughter assumed for a while and with whom she had an excellent relationship based on mutual affection. That temporary stepfather became of course an awful embarrassment and the source of much snide comment when the young lady embraced Nazism and Goebbels. So the ominous name and any trace of that dark spot in her past had to be eradicated and she herself, judging by the record, did nothing to keep the memory of that connection alive. There is no hint in her life story that she ever interceded in favour of any victims of Nazi persecution as some people in a similar position later, at least, claimed to have done. On the contrary we are told that she wholeheartedly accepted the official antisemitism.

Her outstanding assets were her striking good looks and still young, she married Herr Quandt, a millionaire industrialist. The marriage, because apparently it did not offer her sufficient scope and excitement, ended in divorce and a very favourable financial settlement which enabled her to employ her time and talents to her heart's desire. This happened to be enthusiastically joining and working for the Nazi party and the up and coming Dr. Goebbels. She fell for his charm and genius and with Hitler's blessing married him, to become a sort of first lady of the Third Reich when Hitler came to power.

She played her part as the Minister's wife well, everything was very elegant, stylish and "cultured"; the story of the wife of Joseph Goebbels,

\*Magda Goebbels—A biography by Hans-Otto Meissner. Sidwick & Jackson. £8.95.

the unprincipled womaniser is different. The sordid tale of his proclivities and various escapades is of course quite familiar, and however penetrating Herr Meissner's account of those marital crises and their ramifications and solutions, it does not amount to more than a cheap novelette that has not stood the test of time. But one notices that about the same time all that was going on—1938-1939—such terrible things as the November 1938 pogroms happened with which Dr. Goebbels was very much concerned—and there is not a word of it.

Then the war came and the life of the Goebels moved inexorably to its conclusion in the Berlin Bunker where their children were put to death and the parents committed suicide. Herr Meissner describes these days with a wealth of detail and colour; but although this is indeed the stuff of tragedy, here it strikes one rather as mere melodrama.

There is of course in this book a great deal about its real protagonist, Joseph Goebbels himself, his personality, his character and his work, and although the subject has been more thoroughly treated elsewhere, this book brings home one point to the reader very well. Goebbels no doubt possessed a brilliant brain and powerful intellect. He was highly educated (a Jewish professor, Friedrich Gundolf, had been his master), knowledgeable and capable of making his own value judgments; had admired and it seems emulated and imitated Heinrich Heine, not to speak of other Jewish writers. Yet for the sake of his ambitions he betrayed everything that should have been sacred to him, and so, just because he was in many ways superior to his fellow Nazi leaders, he stands out as the most nauseating and despicable among them.

**ISRAEL'S POPULATION**

Israel's population is expected to top the four million mark during the current Jewish year. Figures issued at Rosh Hashanah by the Central Bureau of Statistics gave the number of Israelis as 3,885,000, including 631,000 non-Jews. Although 28,000 new settlers arrived in the last 12 months, some 12,000 emigrated. The natural population increase among Jews dropped from 2.3 per cent last year, to 1.9 this year; the figure for non-Jews dropped from 3.6 to 3.4 per cent.

**WORLD INFLATION RECORD**

Israel's annual rate of inflation has risen to 134 per cent, the highest in the world. Its effect has been offset by the index-linking of wages and salaries to the cost of living at quarterly intervals. The government has authorised an average increase of around 20 per cent.

**POLISH VISIT POSTPONED**

Because of the recent unrest in Poland, the Warsaw Yiddish Theatre company has postponed its planned visit to Israel until next year. During a visit to Jerusalem, the theatre's director also stated that the 36-member company would not be giving any performances in Jerusalem or in places outside Israel's pre-1967 borders out of "political considerations." A planned visit of the Polish Minister for Religious Affairs, due to have been held in October, to coincide with a memorial meeting for Dr. Janusz Korczak, the martyr of Treblinka concentration camp, has also been postponed.

**CAMPS****INTERNMENT—P.O.W.—  
FORCED LABOUR—KZ**

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

14 Roselyn Hill, London, N.W.3  
C. PETER I I

**Dorlon  
Chocolates**

make  
very special gifts

**Caxton Chocolate Co.  
Ltd.**

**London N22 6UN**

# OBITUARIES

## WERNER CAHNMAN

Dr. Werner Cahnman, who died in New York at the age of 77, will be remembered by many Jews from Germany, especially from Bavaria, as former "Syndikus" of the Bavarian district of the Central-Verein. A courageous spokesman and active fighter against Nazism, he had to serve a term of imprisonment as early as 1933. Yet though the Nazis had closed the Bavarian branch of the CV as soon as they came to power, he continued his work for his fellow Jews after his release. After being put into Dachau concentration camp during the November pogroms he had to leave Germany. He first stayed in England and re-emigrated to the US. There he held several academic positions and, at the time of his death, was Professor Emeritus of Rutgers University; he was also a lecturer at the New School for Social Research, New York, and, after the war, at the University of Munich. He retained his links with the German past as a co-founder of the Rashi Association, which aims at preserving the Jewish memorabilia in Germany, and he was also chairman of the American Committee for Dachau.

Werner Cahnman was not only a competent communal worker but also a versatile and constructive scholar. A member of an old established Southern German family, research on the sociological structure of that section of German Jewry was particularly near to his heart. His analysis of the history and composition of Munich Jewry 1918-1943 is one of the manifold examples. At the Conference of the Leo Baeck Institute, held at Arden House near New York in 1973, he dealt with Village and Small Town Jews, a subject on which hardly any systematical research had been done before. Equally new ground was covered in his essay "The Three Regions of German Jewry" (in the South West, the North East and in the Austrian-Bohemian region). All his works on Jewish subjects were prompted by his deeply rooted Jewish commitment. Yet he also dealt with sociological subjects outside the Jewish sphere. The wide range of this

work is indicated by his recently published paper on "Asian Indians in New York". Only one year before his death, when his illness was already diagnosed, he undertook a journey to Germany and gave the opening lecture at the Kiel meeting of the Ferdinand Toennies Gesellschaft on "Toennies Theorie des sozialen Wandels". In his last New Year circular letter to his relatives and friends he stated with feelings of satisfaction that he had been able to complete all his outstanding scholarly projects. This is certainly the best epitaph he could have wished for. W.R.

## DR. KURT MENDELSSOHN

Dr. Kurt Mendelssohn, FRS, who made important contributions to the development of low-temperature research in Great Britain, has died at the age of 74. Born in Berlin, where he took his doctorate in 1930, he worked in the research group of his cousin, Professor Franz (later Sir Francis) Simon. In 1931 he moved to the Technische Hochschule, Breslau, but after the Nazi takeover he accepted an invitation from Professor F. A. Lindemann (the subsequent Lord Cherwell) to the Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford, in March 1933. Until his retirement in 1973 he directed a thriving independent research group and did much to establish the reputation of the Clarendon as an important centre of low-temperature and solid-state physics research. At his death he was Emeritus Reader in Physics at Oxford and Emeritus Fellow of Wolfson College. He is survived by his widow, four daughters and a son.

## DORA PHILIPPSON

Studienrätin a. D. Dora Philippson died in Bonn in her 84th year. Together with her father, the eminent geographer Alfred Philippson (1864-1953) she survived the Theresienstadt camp and returned to Bonn, where, for many years, she took an active part in the work for post war Jewry. She was a granddaughter of Rabbi Ludwig Philippson (Magdeburg), the founder and first editor of the "Allgemeine Zeitung des Judentums". E.G.L.

## DR. RICHARD AUERBACH

Dr. Richard Auerbach, who died in New York at the age of 88, took a leading part in the work of Jewish organisations both before and after his emigration. For many years, he was President of the American Jewish KC Fraternity. Before he left Germany, he was a lawyer in Berlin. After a short stay in England, he and his family went to the United States, where he first worked as a certified accountant and later became an expert and successful adviser to restitution and compensation claimants.

## DR. MARGARET BLUMENTHAL

Dr. Margaret Blumenthal who died recently, was the longest-serving tutor at Queen's College, London. She taught German, comparative literature and dressmaking and conducted the daily Jewish assembly. For many years she lectured at Morley College to students taking the London University extra-mural course and was visiting tutor in Jewish Studies at the Roedean School in Sussex. She came from Germany as a refugee with a degree from Cologne University and was most active in helping young refugees, especially the concentration camp children who came after the War.

## IRENE EGER

One of the last surviving Jewish social workers, who, after their dismissal from German welfare service, devoted their knowledge and experience to Jewish relief work, Irene Eger, died in Zurich at the age of 86. From 1934-1936 she was head of the Provincial Jewish Welfare Office for East Prussia. Later, she joined the staff of the "Reichsvertretung" in Berlin, where she held a responsible position in the Vocational Retraining Department. After her emigration she was until 1968 one of the expert social workers of the "Verband Schweizerischer, Jüdischer Flüchtlingshilfen" in Zurich. In this capacity she was for helper to innumerable Jewish refugees. E.G.L.

## RUDI FABIAN

Mr. Rudi Fabian who came to this country as a refugee and who has died recently, devoted most of his time to working for the Liberal Party. He was treasurer of its Publication Department from 1962-1973 and was responsible for its period of expansion during his time in office. He was also an officer of the Ilford Liberal Association.

## FAMILY EVENTS

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

### Birthdays

Adler:— Mrs. Hermine Adler of 60 Tanfield Avenue, N.W.2 will celebrate her 101st birthday on November 26.

Pagel:— Mr. F. Pagel of 51 Hillfield Court, Belsize Avenue, N.W.3 will celebrate his 85th birthday on November 30.

### Deaths

Mayer:— Hans Mayer of Muswell Hill, N.10 (formerly Stuttgart), beloved husband of Luise (deceased), loved and loving father and grandfather, died peacefully on 26 August, aged 83.

Scheuer:— Jenny Scheuer passed away on 18th October. Sadly missed by her beloved sister Herta Hoffmann (Israel), relatives and many friends.

Voss:— Carl Voss died after a short illness on September 17. Profoundly mourned by his wife Gerda, his sister, his brother, his many relatives and friends.

## CLASSIFIED

The charge in these columns is 50p for five words plus 25p for advertisements under a Box No.

### Situations Required

WE WOULD WELCOME hearing from more ladies who would be willing to shop and cook for an elderly person in their neighbourhood on a temporary or permanent basis. Current rate of pay £1.80 per hour. Please ring Mrs. Matus 01-624 4449, AJR Employment, for Appointment.

LADY SEEKS part time work. Most types considered. Box 841.

### Miscellaneous

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

JEWISH COUPLE would value opportunity to purchase Persian carpet to help furnish their home. Tel.: 458 3010.

SCANDINAVIA — Northern Capitals, Dalarna, Fjords, Fairy Tale Tour, Finland, Lapland, Midnight Sun. Luxury exclusive escorted tours. Please contact Gerald Holm, 56 Greencroft Gardens, N.W.6. (624 7632).

### Personal

BACHELOR, 37 years, Swiss citizen, wishes to found family. Which young, sport-loving lady would like to live in Switzerland and climb the mountains with me. Box 837.

### Personal

ATTRACTIVE WIDOW, independent, without family, early sixties, would like to meet gentleman as companion, preferably with car. N.W.11 district. When replying, please give phone number. Box 838.

WIDOW would like to meet refined lady with continental background with view to friendship, Kensington, Bayswater areas. Box 839.

LADY (70s) likes to meet people for bridge near Wembley Park. Box 842.

WIDOW, 68, young in outlook and appearance, Continental origin, independent, own flat, would like to meet a nice gentleman for companionship and friendship. Box 843.

DOCTOR'S WIDOW, 65, no ties, seeks suitable friendship. Box 844.

TWO RETIRED LADIES with Continental background, living in London S.E., would like to meet others for pleasant company on Sundays and holidays. Box 845.

### INFORMATION REQUIRED

#### General Enquiries

Eichwald:— Would readers who can give information about Theo Eichwald, last known address Kantstrasse, Breslau, please reply to Box 840.

Kosterlitz:— Sarah Kosterlitz (present name unknown), born 1918/19 in Gleiwitz, where her parents had a haberdashery business. She is supposed to have left Gleiwitz in 1941/42 and later gone to England or the USA. Replies to Mr. Helmut Steinbach, Helgastr. 9, D-4018 Langenfeld (Rhld) W. Germany.

## PHYSIOTHERAPY

by  
fully qualified physiotherapist  
in patient's own home

Phone: 624-4424 before 8.30 a.m.  
or after 7 p.m.

## REMINDERS COST MONEY

Please pay your subscription  
promptly  
and

HELP us to SAVE

# SHAKESPEARE'S MERCHANT OF VENICE

## Reversal of Historical Background

The August issue of "AJR Information" (p. 12) reported that the play "The Jew of Malta" at the Old Vic has been replaced by "The Merchant of Venice" as the "Jew of Malta" was too anti-semitic.

I don't think that the "Merchant of Venice" is very philosemitic. Still, I was wondering how many people know the real background of Shakespeare's play. The story of the "Merchant of Venice" has indeed its foundation in history. But the facts were just "the other way round"!

It was in 1587. Paolo Maria Sacchi was a ship-owner in Rome. Most of his ships brought to Italy spices from India and the East. A certain Sansone Ceneda, a Jew, was a "sleeping partner" of his. One day Sacchi received news that Francis Drake had captured and looted San Domingo where Sacchi had extensive and important interests. He told Ceneda. But Ceneda did not believe it in spite of Sacchi's assurances. In the end they agreed before a notary that Sacchi would have to pay Ceneda the sum of 1,000 gold ducats if his story was false but that Sacchi could cut with his own hands a Pound of Flesh of Ceneda's body from any part of his choice in case the story should be true.

As we know Sacchi had been informed correctly; Francis Drake had indeed sacked San Domingo. Ceneda offered Sacchi 1,000 gold ducats. But Sacchi insisted upon his Pound of Flesh from the Jew. The case went to the judicial authorities, the Governor of Rome and finally to Pope Sixtus V who had always been quite friendly towards the Jews. The Pope decreed that Sacchi could have his pound of flesh from the Jew. But only *exactly* one pound. If he would cut one ounce more or less he would have to be executed for murder. But also Ceneda, the Jew, deserved the death penalty, as the condi-

tional permission to have a pound of flesh cut from himself amounted to attempted suicide. In the end the Pope let both off against payment of very large sums for and to a "good cause".

Why Shakespeare "turned round" these facts I would not conjecture.

R. KNOLLER (Brissago, Switzerland).

### ANNA SEGHERS, 80

The novelist Anna Seghers (born Netty Reiling in Mayence) has celebrated her 80th birthday in East Berlin. To honour her, her 1922 thesis on Jews and Judaism in the work of Rembrandt has been republished in the DDR. She became a member of the German Communist Party in 1928. In the same year she received the Kleist Prize for her novel "The Revolt of the Fishermen of St. Barbara" for which she was denigrated in the "Völkische Beobachter". By adopting the pen name of Anna Seghers, she tried to conceal her well-to-do Jewish background. E.G.L.

### AUSTRIAN GOLD MEDAL AWARD

Miss Paula Fichtel, 78, housekeeper to the Freud family for 50 years, and still looking after 84-year-old Dr. Anna Freud at her Hampstead home, has been awarded a gold medal for services rendered to the Austrian Republic. Miss Fichtel started working for the Freud family in Vienna in 1929 and accompanied them to England when they fled from the Nazis in 1938. She has still many clear memories of the late Sigmund Freud.

### NEW WOLFSON FOUNDATION DIRECTOR

The new director of the Wolfson Foundation, which dispenses some £4 millions annually for medical and educational projects, is Sir John Barnes, a former British Ambassador to Israel.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### "ANNIE ZUNZ WARDS"

Sir,—I wonder whether one of your readers could provide any information to help us find out some personal details about Annie Zunz, after whom wards in several London hospitals are named. We have a plaque on the ward reading as follows: "By the terms of the Will of Siegfried Rudolf Zunz his Trustees have made a grant of the sum of £10,000 to this Hospital in memory of Annie Zunz 'the best of wives whose whole life was spent in helping and aiding others' 1901."

We know that S. R. Zunz of Henry R. Merton (Ltd.), Metal Merchant, who died on 31 December 1891, aged 57 years, bequeathed £80,000 for London Hospitals, but all our efforts to find out details about the family have, so far, failed.

The Royal Free Hospital,

Pond Street,  
London  
NW3 2QG.

PHYLLIS GEORGE, FRCS,

Consultant Surgeon,  
Zunz Ward.

### ERNST BUSCH

Sir,—Your short obituary of Ernst Busch (AJR Information, September, 1980), states that after the war Busch "occasionally still appeared on the stage". In fact he was one of the most prominent and successful Brecht interpreters in the "Berliner Ensemble", particularly in the memorable parts he played as Azdak in the "Caucasian Chalk Circle", as Pfeifenpieter in "Mother Courage" and above all as Galileo. He took part in the first London tournee of the Berliner Ensemble in 1956, shortly after Brecht's death.

5 Endersleigh Gardens,  
London, N.W.4.

F. HELLENDALL.

### GERMAN BOOKS BOUGHT

Art, Literature, Topography,  
generally pre-war non classical

### B. HARRISON

The Village Bookshop  
46 Belsize Lane, N.W.3  
Tel: 01-794 3180

### "WOODSTOCK LODGE"

40 Shoot-up Hill  
London, NW2

- \* Well furnished single and double rooms.
- \* High standard of care.
- \* Family atmosphere.
- \* S.R.N.s in attendance.

Please telephone Matron for details 01-452 6201

### "AVENUE LODGE"

Licensed by the London Borough of  
Barnet)

Golders Green, N.W.11

NORTH-WEST LONDON'S EXCLUSIVE  
HOME FOR THE ELDERLY AND  
RETIRED

- \* Luxurious single and double rooms with telephone.
  - \* Principal rooms with bathroom en suite.
  - \* Lounge with colour TV.
  - \* Kosher cuisine.
  - \* Lovely gardens—easy parking.
  - \* Day and night nursing.
- Please telephone the Matron, 01-458 7094

### THE DORICE

Continental Cuisine—Licensed  
169a Finchley Road, N.W.3  
(624 6301)  
PARTIES CATERED FOR

### WALM LANE NURSING HOME

Purpose designed, modern comfortable, medical Nursing Home. Convalescent, medical and post-operative patients, both long and short term stay, cared for by fully qualified nursing staff. Single and shared rooms with every luxurious facility. Lifts to all floors. All diets catered for - Kosher meals can be provided.

Licensed by Brent Health Authority and recognised by B.U.P.A. and P.P.P. insurance

Contact Miss G. Rain, Matron  
141 Walm Lane London N.W.2  
Tel. 450 8832 or 452 2281

### COLDWELL RESIDENTIAL HOTEL

DIETS AND NURSING  
SERVICES AVAILABLE

Lovely Large Terrace & Gardens  
Very Quiet Position.

North Finchley, near Woodhouse  
Grammar School.

### MRS. COLDWELL

11 Fenstanton Avenue,  
London, N.12  
Tel.: 01-445 0061

### DAWSON HOUSE HOTEL

- Free Street Parking in front of the Hotel
  - Full Central Heating • Free Laundry
  - Free Dutch-Style Continental Breakfast
- 72 CANFIELD GARDENS  
near Underground Sta. Finchley Road,  
LONDON, N.W.5.  
Tel: 01-624 0079

### MAPESBURY LODGE

(Licensed by the Borough of Brent)  
for the elderly, convalescent and partly incapacitated.

Lift to all floors.  
Luxurious double and single rooms. Colour TV, h/c, central heating, private telephones, etc., in all rooms. Excellent kosher cuisine. Colour TV lounge. Open visiting. Cultivated Gardens.

Full 24-hour nursing care.  
Please telephone sister-in-charge, 450 4972

17 Mapesbury Road, N.W.2

### GROSVENOR NURSING HOME

Licensed by the Borough of Camden  
Luxurious and comfortable home. Retired, post-operative, convalescent and medical patients cared for. Long or short term stays. Under supervision both day and night by a qualified nursing team. Well furnished single or double rooms. Lift to all floors. A spacious colour TV lounge and dining room, excellent kosher cuisine.

Please telephone Matron for full details. 01-203 2692/01-452 0515  
85-87 Fordwych Road, N.W.2.

### BOOKS WANTED GERMAN AND JEWISH ILLUSTRATED, ETC.

E.M.S. BOOKS  
Mrs. E. M. Schiff  
223 Salmon Street  
London, NW9 8ND  
Tel. 205 2905

MANICURE, PEDICURE,  
FACIALS  
AND FACE MASSAGE  
in your own home  
if required  
TRUDICLAY, M.F. PHYS.  
Tel.: 328 3584

### YOUR FIGURE PROBLEMS SOLVED

... by a visit to our Salon where ready-to-wear foundations are expertly fitted and altered if required.

Newest styles in Swim-  
& Beachwear & Hosiery  
**Mme H. LIEBERG**

871 Finchley Rd., Golders Green,  
N.W.11 (next to Post Office)  
01-455 8673

### BELSIZE SQUARE GUEST HOUSE

24 BELSIZE SQUARE, N.W.3  
Tel: 01-794 4307 or 01-435 2557

MODERN SELF-CATERING HOLIDAY  
ROOMS. RESIDENT HOUSEKEEPER  
MODERATE TERMS.  
NEAR SWISS COTTAGE STATION

# MISCELLANY

## EXHIBITIONS

### Ben Uri Gallery Anniversary

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the Ben Uri Art Society. To celebrate the occasion an exhibition will be opened in the Gallery (21 Dean Street, W.1), on 17 November to mark the centenary of the birth of Jacob Epstein. The exhibition will comprise numerous portrait bronzes, water-colours and drawings, drawn from the Society's own collection and from many private and public sources.

The Ben Uri, established during the First World War in London's East End, has gone a long way since then and "is part of the artistic and cultural life of London." It has a large and important collection of works by Jewish artists; it mounts exhibitions by well-known and promising artists; it holds concerts and recitals; it arranges lectures and it engages in many activities of a cultural nature.

The constant problem of the Society has been one of finance. As stated in the Annual Report for 1954, "of the many thousands of people who visit the Gallery each year, very few trouble to enrol themselves as members." The situation has not changed much since then and it is a sad reflection on the Anglo-Jewish community that it is not prepared to give its full support to an institution of this kind. The Jewish community in Germany developed first-rate cultural activities as a response to the Nazi onslaught. An Anglo-Jewish Cultural Centre in London has been talked about for years and plans have been drawn, but the public response has been negligible. Must we await a similar external stimulus to see such an essential need turned into reality?

Wolf Kahn

At the Waddington Gallery recently there has been an exhibition of works by the distinguished American painter Wolf Kahn. He was born in

Stuttgart, came to England with a *Kindertransport* in 1939, and was re-united with his father in America in 1940, where he studied at the art school transplanted from Munich by Hans Hofman. He has had many one-man exhibitions in America and has also participated in numerous group exhibitions. His work is represented in many public collections.

ALICE SCHWAB.

## PRIZE FOR JEWISH POETESS

Rose Auslaender, the Jewish poetess living at Düsseldorf, has been awarded the literary prize of Gandersheim, worth 10,000 marks (about £2,300).

## "THEATRE AND CULTURE"

Our S.B. contributor is on holiday. His column will be resumed next month.

## HANS LIBROWICZ, 90

Dr. Hans Librowicz recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Born in Hohensalza, he practised as a dental surgeon in Berlin. In 1937 he came to this country, where he successfully resumed his professional work. As a student, he was a member of the KC Fraternity and he has retained his connections with his "Bundesbrueder" ever since, especially as chairman for 10 years of the group of former KC members in the North of England. At the same time, he did spadework in the Bradford (Reform) Synagogue. His religious upbringing and his great knowledge of Hebrew and Jewish history enabled him to conduct the services for many years, when the Synagogue was without a Rabbi, and also to prepare barmitzvah boys and keep post-barmitzvah classes. We join his wife, his children and grandchildren in expressing our sincerest congratulations to the public-spirited nonagenarian.

## PROFESSOR WILHELM FELDBERG, 80

On 19 November Professor Emeritus Wilhelm Feldberg, CBE, FRS, MA, FRCP, will celebrate his 80th birthday, and his many friends, colleagues and students will welcome the opportunity to congratulate him and to pay tribute to his many achievements.

He was born in Hamburg. Whilst still a medical student, he started research at the Physiological Institute in Berlin. In 1930 he became Privatdozent at Berlin University, and when the Nazis threw him out of his appointment in 1933, he was invited by Sir Henry Dale to work with him at the National Institute for Medical Research in London. For 11 years he taught and carried out research at Cambridge. In 1949, he became Head of the Division of Physiology and Pharmacology at the Institute.

In 1965, the year of his official "retirement", the Medical Research Council established a new department for him, the Laboratory of Neuropharmacology. Even now, 15 years after his official retirement, he continues his work of research at the Institute.

Many honours have been bestowed on him. He received honorary degrees from eight universities and was made an honorary member of eight medical societies in Britain, France and Germany. He continues to travel extensively in order to fulfil lecturing engagements overseas. Yet despite the honours and distinctions which the scientific world has conferred on him, his innate modesty and gentle sense of humour have remained his most endearing qualities.

He used restitution monies and his pension as Emeritus Professor in Germany to establish a Foundation for Exchange Lecturerships in medical research between Britain and Germany.

We join with Professor Feldberg's friends all over the world to wish him many more years of scientific work in undiminished health and vigour.

O.E.F.

**ANTIQUE FURNITURE AND OBJECTS BOUGHT**

Good prices given

**PETER BENTLEY ANTIQUES**

22 Connaught Street, London, W2  
Tel.: 01-723 9394



**ORIENTAL RUGS & KELIMS**

BOUGHT - SOLD EXCHANGED

Stalls outside Duke of York, Church Street, Edgware Road.

Saturdays only.  
Details 01-267 1841 after 6.00 p.m.

**CROFT COURT HOTEL** כשר

"In our hotel you are a personality—not just a room number!"

RAVENS CROFT AVE., GOLDERS GREEN, LONDON, N.W.11  
01-458 3331/2 & 01-455 9175

Centrally heated throughout. Some rooms with private bath & w.c. Beautiful garden. Sun Terrace. Children welcomed.

**LIGHT WEIGHT SILK-LINED MOHAIR COATS**

(26 ozs. approx.) Ideal for travel, evening and day wear. Light and warm, 14 styles approx. 10 colours. From £106.50 Sketches and colour cards on request.

**Sutin Couture**  
45 Westbury Road, London N12 7PB

To see these coats, telephone 01-445 4900 for an appointment.

**Buecher in deutscher Sprache, Bilder, Moebel und Porzellan kauft**

**A. W. Mytze**

Postfach 246, D-1 Berlin 37

Ich bitte um detaillierte Angaben!

Die Buecher werden abgeholt!  
Keine Transportprobleme.

Bezahlung bestens und umgehend!

**DRESSMAKER**

HIGHLY QUALIFIED VIENNA TRAINED

St. Johns Wood Area

Phone for appointment: 01-328 8718

**HIGHEST PRICES** paid for

Gentlemen's cast-off Clothing

WE GO ANYWHERE, ANY TIME

**S. DIENSTAG**  
(01-272 4484)

**MADE-TO-MEASURE**

Double knit Jersey wool and washable drip-dry coats suits, trouser-suits and dresses. Outsize our speciality. From £9.00 inclusive material. Also customers' own material made up.

'Phone 01-459 5817  
Mrs. L. Rudolfer

**CAT-LITTER**

Free Delivery - Low Prices

For details phone 226-1734 or send SAE to

**UROPETS**  
37b, Mildmay Grove London, N1 4RH

**R. & G. (ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS) LTD.**

199b Belsize Road, N.W.8  
624 2646/328 2646

Members: E.C.A.  
N.I.C.E.I.C.

**DENTAL REPAIRS ACCEPTED**

previously at 11a, Chapel Street, N.W.1.

Phone: 435-2173 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**MONDAY - THURSDAY**