

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Jack Barnett

A QUESTION OF IDENTITY

Only a few years ago it would have been difficult to imagine the *New Statesman*, Britain's premier intellectual weekly of the left, feeling itself compelled to publish a major feature article condemning anti-semitism in the country's universities. On 20 June, 1980, it did precisely that in a report by one of its principal feature-writers, Christopher Hitchens, using for his title, "The Socialism of fools," a term borrowed from the German Socialist leader, August Bebel, who interpreted anti-semitism as a method of conscripting the politics of envy for racial purposes. Hitchens gives a number of examples of the harassments suffered by the Union of Jewish Students (UJS) on the Campuses; but seems to offer in some mitigation that "the current outrage over Begin's colonial policy has led, disgracefully, to a certain shoddiness in the vocabulary of some campaigners."

The Jewish students suffer from a lack of finance and more seriously, insufficient numbers to combat their tormentors effectively, and the National Union of Students, where it has not openly supported their opponents, has lacked the authority to protect them. The UJS is only able to attract to its ranks a minority of the Jewish students attending British universities. These are mainly those who arrive with a strong Jewish or Zionist commitment. Most of their fellows do not possess the additional strength of purpose that is required to maintain their place in the academic rat-race, pursue their general political or social interests and meet the calls of Jewish, religious or communal duty. They face the classic dilemma of the *Jew in the Modern World*, which is the generic title of a new book co-edited by an Israeli academic, Paul R. Mendes-Flohr, and an American Professor, Jehuda Reinharz,* and which, if it may not give Jewish students much comfort, could provide them with an understanding that their dilemma has been shared by many distinguished Jews of earlier generations.

The publishers wrongly describe this book as a "Documentary History." This is an exaggeration, probably forced upon the authors for commercial reasons. It is an excellent "anthology" of historical sources, which does not need this kind of artificial boost. The grounds for the claim are probably based on the mainly excellent notes which accompany each document, placing them in the context of their time and problems with conciseness and erudition. The reader already finds this quality in the Preface where they summarise the general approach that governed the selection of their material. Take this example:

"The modern, secular world has granted the Jews equality and has opened before them undreamt of opportunities for intellectual and personal development. . . . Yet this same new era has been for many Jews a veritable purgatory: in the Jews' passage through modernity their religion, culture and identity have suffered

severely, and, tragically, they have borne the brunt of the most demonic enemies of modernity, the anti-Semites, who, eventually, leading an apocalyptic war to dismantle the modern world—or at least what in their eyes were its most egregious features, democracy and Jewish emancipation—unleashed a Holocaust that devoured a third of the Jewish people. This trauma, in consonance with the contradictory rhythms of Modern Jewish history, was quickly followed by the rebirth of the State of Israel and a renewal of Jewish pride and sense of community."

The editors contrast two main conceptions of modern Jewish history; that of Simon Dubnov, who argued that the era of Jewish political emancipation (and the anti-Semitic reaction to it) was ushered in by the French Revolution of 1789; and that of Ben Zion Dinur whose starting point is 1700, when Rabbi Judah Hasid led a band of some thousand pious Jews on a march to settle in the Holy Land. Most of his followers failed to complete the difficult journey, but for Dinur their effort at "organised immigration" to the ancestral homeland signified the beginnings of the revolt against Jewry's millennial Exile, ineluctably culminating in the reestablishment of the State of Israel in 1948.

Conceptions of Jewish Modernity

The editors of this book further argue that many conceptions of Jewish modernity share in common the "conviction that the last two hundred years or so have witnessed a radical transformation of Jewish life." The pattern, however, has been uneven; "the Jews of the Orient have for the most part just begun to enjoy the ambiguous fortunes of modernization with their settlement in the twentieth-century State of Israel." They have arranged the documents according to themes that illustrate the various dimensions of Jewish modernity—political, social, intellectual—that are significant, but have "emphasised those aspects that point to a break with, or at least a weakening of, traditional values, institutions and socio-economic patterns of Jewish life." This "eclipse of tradition, both in its specific religious and broad cultural sense . . . roughly coincides with what are generally considered to be the temporal delimitations of the modern period in Europe. . . . This implies that . . . Jewish modernity derives its primary energy and legitimation from sources other than the sacred authority of Jewish tradition."

This occurred first in any comprehensive way among the Jews of the German-speaking countries in a particularly intense manner:

"Hence the dynamic of Jewish modernization—with all its passion, ambiguity, promise and contradictions—is viewed in an especially clarion fashion in Germany and Central Europe. Moreover, the Jewry of these regions—the so-called *deutscher Kulturbereich*—established many of the intellectual and institutional forms that were paradigmatic for Jewish modernity in general. We may mention, at random,

Reform Historical (or Conservative) and Neo-Orthodox Judaism; the academic study of Judaism (*Wissenschaft des Judentums*): political Zionism."

The most universal Jewish experience of modernity was anti-semitism. And it was in these same lands, also, that it received a unique stamp. Again Germany provided its most intense and voluble expression; and the Holocaust.

It is perhaps logical that the book's first document is Menasseh ben Israel's appeal to Oliver Cromwell, as Lord Protector of the Commonwealth to re-admit the Jews to England. He presented his address personally in 1655 and "although his mission was ostensibly unsuccessful, it did prepare the way for the resettlement of the Jews in England," from which they were expelled in 1290. Besides providing Cromwell with a potted history of his people's dispersion, Menasseh gave strong emphasis to the value of Jewish traders to the economies of the countries where they were permitted to reside. This was often the limited basis of the tolerance that they received. Service to the imperial courts often afforded individual Jews special privileges, grudgingly granted. The document on the Appointment of Samson Wertheimer as Imperial Court Factor to Emperor Leopold I, aptly illustrates this: "We, . . . with this letter proclaim publicly that we have graciously looked upon the industrious, indefatigable, efficacious, loyal and selfless services that have been rendered to the Holy Roman Empire and to our, the Imperial House of Austria . . . by the Court Factor Samson Wertheimer, chief rabbi of the Jews in our countries, throughout the last seventeen years."

In 1740, the Plantation Act of the English Parliament removed the requirement of the Christian oath to Jewish residents of Britain's American colonies. Native English Jews had to wait another 13 years for a Jewish Naturalisation Act to be enacted by Parliament, only to see it repealed within a year in "face of the energetic opposition by Christian Merchants of London." Cynics of today may see some comparison with recent events inside the "square mile", thinking it no coincidence that persons recently refused confirmation to elected office there, have been of Jewish origin. It is of course to the City of London's credit that it was their repeated return of Lionel de Rothschild to be their MP, despite his being denied the right to take his seat in the House of Commons because of his refusal to make the Christian Oath, that led to the removal of that major impediment to Jewish emancipation in England. The striving, however, took another 100 years, the Jewish Relief Act finally being approved on 23 July, 1858.

Jewish emancipation in continental Europe proceeded at a somewhat faster pace. The influence of Moses Mendelssohn is evidenced in many documents, either directly initiated by him, or published under his influence in Germany. It was at his behest that the leading German scholar in constitutional law, statistics and modern history, Christian Wilhelm von Dohm, wrote his famous essay: "Concerning the Amelioration and Civil Status of the Jews" in 1781. Its appearance coin-

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cided with Emperor Joseph II's Edict of Tolerance and "thus helped give focus to the ensuing debate throughout Europe on the desirability of granting the Jews civil parity." Mendelssohn was suspicious of the Emperor's motives, but it did mark the acceleration of various civic and economic reliefs even if they were often offset by contrary restrictions such as the banning of the use of Yiddish and Hebrew in public and commercial records. Its worst feature, perhaps, was its perpetuation of two categories of Jews, the "tolerated" and the "regular protected" which had been a specific feature of Frederick II's earlier "Charter Decreed for the Jews of Prussia" of 17 April, 1750.

The invective of the opponents of Jewish emancipation has its echoes down the centuries. Document 10: "Arguments Against Dohm" by Johann David Michaelis, German bible scholar and professor of oriental languages at Goettingen University, dated 1783, is salutary reading: the Jews' conception of themselves as God's Chosen People prevent them from mingling with other people; the Jews "will always see the state as a temporary home"; "will never be reliable in an hour of danger"; they will not contribute soldiery as they will not fight on the Sabbath; "as long as they observe the laws about kosher and non-kosher food it will be almost impossible to integrate them into our ranks."

The Dreyfus Affair

It can be argued that the debate in Germany eased the way for the parallel progress in France following the revolution. The Declaration of the Rights of Man of the French National Assembly, 26 August, 1789, also had echoes of the American Declaration of Independence: "All men are born, and remain, free in equal rights." The assumption that the declaration would automatically accord equal citizenship to French Jews was soon rudely shattered and it took a further two years of bitter debate before that was affected. Thus began the French Republic's political tradition of ambiguity towards its Jewish citizens, which has surfaced again and again for the best part of 200 years, guilt and hatred intermingling and anti-semitism excused in high places. The physical attacks on Jews and their property in 1980 with the hints of the possible involvement of members of the Police is not far removed from the framing of Captain Dreyfus for political ends or the dismal collaboration of French authorities in the deportation of Jews to the Nazi extermination camps under the Vichy government. It is one of the ironies of history that the persecution of Dreyfus led almost directly to Herzl's founding of modern political Zionism. It is not too hard to imagine that recent right-wing excesses in France and elsewhere in Europe may also be harbingers of some other form of Jewish renaissance.

Napoleon gave further impetus to Jewish emancipation throughout Europe as he applied the French principles of equality to the territories he conquered. His famous calling of a *Sanhedrin* was not without a hint of political opportunism: "As Napoleon marched east to Poland and to Russia he had undoubtedly hoped that this dramatic 'messianic' gesture . . . would earn him the enthusiastic support of the millions of traditional Jews of the region." This seeking of Jewish support was the Emperor's personal initiative; 100 years later his example was to be followed by the harbingers of the Balfour declaration with more lasting consequences. Napoleon's Waterloo was also a defeat for Jewish aspirations and marked the erosion of many of their civic gains in Europe, outside France itself. The Liberal-

democratic mood required the revolution of 1848 to see its rekindling. "The process of legal emancipation of the Jews in Central Europe was completed only with the unification of Germany from 1869 to 1871, and even then was not truly consummated," write our editors, "until after the First World War."

Because this book is so rich in evocative material there is a temptation for a reviewer to pursue many highways and byways in the chequered history of Jewish emancipation. One can only assure the general reader that he can profit and enrich his knowledge by dipping into almost any section of this compendium. Not least in value is the section on the "Emerging Patterns of Religious Adjustment: Reform, Conservative and Neo-Orthodox Judaism." The battle over the Reform movement's attempt to reinterpret the *Halakha* early in the 19th century as epitomised by the Hamburg Israelite Temple Association is central to that theme. The rabbinic court of Hamburg published a volume entitled *Eleh Divrei ha-Brit* (These are the words of the covenant), in 1819. It presented statements by 22 of Europe's leading rabbis condemning the "Hamburg reforms as based on a specious reading of *Halakha* and constituting a schismatic threat to the unity of the Jewish people. They conspicuously ignored the Reformers' contention that halakhic Judaism itself was in effect schismatic by its failure to acknowledge and adapt to the fact that an ever-increasing number of Jews were abandoning Judaism because they found it incompatible with their new sensibilities and priorities." The arguments of the 1980s have not advanced all that far. The influence of the women's liberation movements may have introduced women Rabbis within some Liberal and Reform congregations, but this is only an advancement of the practical differences not of ideological or theological approach.

The documents that this book reproduces follow the logical sequence from the purely internal religious argumentation to a strong section on the Science of Judaism (*Wissenschaft des Judentums*), and follow this with one on "Jewish Identity Challenged and Redefined." The essence of this section is perhaps partly captured by quoting a comment by Isaac Deutscher from his famous essay "The Non-Jewish Jew," where he speaks of Spinoza, Heine, Marx, Rosa Luxemburg, Trotsky, and Freud as having "lived on the margins or in the nooks and crannies of their respective nations. Each of them was in society and yet not in it, of it and not yet of it. It was this that enabled them to rise in thought above their societies, above their nations, above their times and generations, and to strike out mentally into wide new horizons and far into the future."

It is perhaps significant that Deutscher was unable to include the name of Albert Einstein, who perhaps epitomises the Jewish genius who can develop a revolutionary concept for mankind without abandoning or ignoring his Jewish origins.

Racial Anti-semitism

Here we begin to enter an area of profound trial for many Jews during the inter-war years and may well pause to salute those who faced a rising tide of anti-semitism with great bravery. In the documents of this section our young Jewish students will find much to compare and identify with their own present day conditions. Equally they will find that the "Zionism is Racism" resolution of the 20th century United Nations has many forebears and will recognise the accuracy of the opening sentence of the section on Political and Racial Anti-Semitism: "Modern anti-semitism, as distinct from Christian medieval contempt toward Jewry, is prompted, at least at the ideological level, by secular motives."

Possibly the most important lessons to be learnt from this book are from its documents on the

Holocaust period. They pinpoint with accuracy Hitler's personal responsibility for instigating the Final Solution, popular profit-seeking modern historians notwithstanding. And unerringly as ever they hit upon an essential point in their introduction to those documents that they have selected to illustrate their theme:

"The lack of moral resolve to aid the victims of the Nazi atrocities invites reflections on Goebbels' cynical observation in his diary that the silence of the Churches and the Western democracies indicated implicit approval of Nazi anti-semitism. In every respect, the Holocaust revealed a profound weakness in the moral conscience of Western man."

Here one must enter a caveat. There is a danger that history and historians will accept this summary as complete truth. It does not do full justice to the facts. The current playing down of the efforts within the democratic countries both before and during World War II to mitigate the worst effects of the Nazi horrors is creating a new mythology. Missing from these documents is the allied condemnation of Nazi war crimes of 17 December, 1942. Nor will you find here the famous telegram of Gerhart Riegner, General-Secretary of the World Jewish Congress in wartime Geneva, that alerted simultaneously Rabbi Stephen Wise in New York and Sidney Silverman, MP, in London, of the German plot to exterminate the entire Jewish population of Europe and eventually the world. The significance of these events and how they both resulted in the saving of some Jewish lives and led to the projection into the allies' war aims the prosecution of the genocides has been badly underestimated. They were successfully evaluated by Arthur D. Morse in his "While Six Million Died" (Random House, New York, 1968), but to my mind wrongly assessed by Walter Laqueur in his recent writings on the period. This is a debate that is not merely academic, because it carries with it also the argument that Jewish leaders either ignored or did not do enough to combat the threat and atrocities of Nazism.

Nothing that could have been done would ever have been sufficient. But it is important that the lessons of the period are looked at in depth and with honesty, because even in the era of the computer and micro-chip technology, man still has an ability to direct his own destiny. And Jews "being the same as other people only more so," finding themselves faced with not dissimilar problems to those of their fathers and forefathers, need a true understanding of their own history in order to do so.

ANGLO-JEWRY'S RELIEF WORK

More than £300,000—were spent by CBF/World Jewish Relief for constructive welfare work in this country and abroad during the year June 1979/80. This is recorded in the 47th Annual Report of the organisation. The Report also deals with the use of the Fund derived from the proceeds of the Jewish Trust Corporation out of the heirless Jewish property in Germany, which is separately administered by the Allocations Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. H. Oscar Joseph, OBE. The main single item of expenditure consists of the cost for the Homes (jointly administered with the AJR) which amounted to £58,000 during the year under review. The Report expresses the CBF's gratitude to Mr. A. S. Dresel and Dr. C. I. Kapralik who have retired respectively as chairman and vice-chairman of the management committee of the Homes, but who have agreed to remain members of the committee. To fill the vacancy, Mr. Ludwig Spiro (who is also hon. treasurer of the AJR) was elected chairman. Thanks were also extended to Mr. Julian Layton, OBE, who decided to retire as chairman of the Jewish Refugees' Committee after 30 years of devoted services; he is succeeded by Mrs. Simone Prendergast, JP, who was made an OBE in the New Year Honours List.

HOME NEWS

HOME SECRETARY'S PLEDGE

The Home Secretary, Mr. William Whitelaw, has pledged to take all possible measures to protect the Jewish community from racist attacks. In a letter to the Board of Deputies he stated that he understood their concern at the possibility of acts of violence against British Jews in the light of recent incidents in France and Germany and assured them that the security services would exercise the strictest vigilance. He also expressed concern at the recent growth of overtly racist groups, which organised provocative marches and produced pernicious propaganda.

MICHAEL FOOT OPPOSES VENICE AGREEMENT

Any doubts concerning the attitude of the new Labour Party leader, Mr. Michael Foot, on Middle East questions were completely dispelled when he addressed a Labour Friends of Israel dinner in the House of Commons. He attacked the recent Venice declaration of the EEC saying: "I believe that the Foreign Office has shown a certain shortsightedness. I do not believe that what happened at Venice would be considered a great achievement. I concur with every word spoken on the subject by Peter Shore. I believe in the friendship between Britain and Israel and particularly between the Socialist parties of the two countries, a friendship which is one of the greatest events in the world today."

BENN ON FASCISM

Speaking at a recent Anti-Nazi League rally Mr. Anthony Benn, MP, blamed society for the resurgence of racist groups in Britain. "It is our fault," he declared, "for allowing the creation of conditions by which they are attracted to a fascist solution to the problems of unemployment and inflation." Mr. Leo Heinemann, a 72-year-old concentration camp survivor, wearing a symbolic prison uniform repeated an oath he had taken when imprisoned by the Nazis: "We fought the fascists in the streets but we had to pay a heavy price in the concentration camp. We took an oath then never to allow fascism to rise again and to exterminate them root and branch. We must not allow the Nazis to have any part in the streets again."

LONDON CONSERVATIVES' ANTI-VIOLENCE PROPOSALS

A Conservative Party campaign guide for the Greater London Council Elections next May urges that the existing public order powers governing the direction or banning of marches should be extended to other protest gatherings. This would enable the police to ban counter demonstrations such as those mounted by the Anti-Nazi League and others in opposition to National Front marches and meetings. They want control, however, left in the hands of the police and the Home Secretary. Other recent proposals have suggested that political decisions of this nature should become the province of either local authorities or parliament. The Conservative guide accuses the London Labour Party of wishing to control the Metropolitan Police and that political interference could ultimately lead to a totalitarian state.

NAZI SOCCER HATE CAMPAIGN

Mr. Sydney Bidwell, MP (Labour, Ealing, Southall), is heading a group of MPs in making representations to the Home Secretary concerning antisemitic activities at a number of London football grounds. This follows a campaign by the extremist British movement to recruit new members at football matches and in schools. The antisemitic material includes a gramophone record by the "4 be 2s" (rhyming slang for Jews) and badges with the legend "I hate Tottenham Yids." It is understood that the Minister for Sports, Mr. Hector Monro, has referred the matter to the Home Office.

APPEAL TO PRIME MINISTER

The Society for Religious Peace, an interfaith group which works for tolerance in the community, has written to the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary expressing concern at the increase of extreme right-wing activities in Britain.

JEWISH BOOK WEEK

23 February to 1 March

This year's Jewish Book Week will be held from 23 February to 1 March at Adolph Tuck Hall, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1 (Entrance in Tavistock Square). The Opening Lecture on Monday, 23 February at 8.15, of which the AJR is one of the sponsoring organisations, will be given by Dr. David Patterson, president of the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Jewish studies, on "Ahad Ha'am, Smolenskin and the Rise of Jewish Nationalism". There will be a Symposium on "Antisemitism Today" on Wednesday, 25 February at 8 p.m., with three expert speakers on the subject, Professor Leonard B. Schapiro, Dr. S. J. Roth and Mr. C. C. Aronsfeld under the chairmanship of Professor S. J. Gould; the function is sponsored by the Institute of Jewish Affairs to mark the 40th anniversary of its establishment. Of equal topicality will be the Thursday lecture at 8 p.m., when the author and director of "Britain and Israel", Terence Prittie, will speak on "The Future of Jerusalem", The Ven. C. Witton Davis, Archdeacon of Oxford and Canon of Christ Church, will be in the Chair of the lecture, which is sponsored by the B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck (London) Lodges.

There will be further lectures on Tuesday at 8 p.m. by Dr. Stefan Reif on "The Geniza and its Secrets", on Sunday, 1 March, at 7.30 p.m., by Dr. Jonathan Frankel on "1881-1981—The Course of Jewish History since the Assassination of Tsar Alexander II". The programme also includes a "Hebrew Evening" and, on Wednesday, 25 February, at 6 p.m., musical recitals by the flautist, Eugenia Zukerman.

Special morning functions for schoolchildren have been arranged and an Exhibition and Sale of Jewish and Hebrew books will be opened on Monday at 7 p.m. and continued during the following days from 10.30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

A full programme, which carries further particulars, may be obtained from: The Jewish Book Council, B'nai B'rith Hillel House, 1-2 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DS, Tel.: 01-387 5278/5954.

SHOW AUSCHWITZ FILM IN SCHOOLS

Following a report that a group of Nazis were recruiting in schools in his constituency, Mr. William Benham, Conservative MP for Buckingham, called for the showing of films about Auschwitz concentration camp to the pupils affected. He made his appeal following a demonstration in which teenage skinheads shouted "Sieg Heil" and gave Nazi salutes.

PREFECTS WITH SWASTIKAS

The Glasgow Jewish Representative Council felt it necessary to make representations to the Headmaster of the Mearns Castle School, Renfrewshire, after reports that prefects there wore swastika badges, antisemitic slogans were daubed on walls and that Jewish children were told to go to the back of a dinner queue. The headmaster had given assurances that satisfactory action had been taken over some incidents that had occurred.

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AJR ROUND-UP

IN MEMORY OF "THE MODERN PIMPERNEL"

Next Thank-you Britain Fund Lecture

A special lecture in memory of Professor Robert Auty (1914-1978), who on account of his courageous rescue of Nazi persecutees was called by his friends "the modern Pimpernel", will be held on Thursday, 12 March, at 5 p.m., at the British Academy, Piccadilly. Professor G. H. N. Seton-Watson, FBA, of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies (London), will speak on "Language and National Consciousness".

Professor Auty, in whose memory the lecture will be given, was a distinguished scholar, who held several academic positions and, at the time of his death, was Professor of Comparative Slavonic Philology at Oxford. However, his activities outside his professional sphere were not as widely known as he deserved. After the November pogroms, he went to Germany to intercede with the authorities, particularly the Gestapo, for the release of Jews who had been arrested, and he also persuaded many people in Britain to offer them personal guarantees. In March 1939, shortly before the German occupation, he entered Czechoslovakia on the last free train to cross the border in an attempt to continue the same work. The fact that he spoke fluent German and Czech made his efforts particularly effective.

It is a fitting tribute to Robert Auty that a lecture in his memory has been arranged under the auspices of the "Thank-you Britain" Fund. No admission cards will be required but it will be helpful if acceptances (with the indication of how many will attend) could be notified to the Secretary of the British Academy, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0NS.

CITY FREEMAN

Dr. Arnold Horwell, Executive Committee member of the AJR, has been awarded the Freedom of the City of London and elected a Livery Man of the Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers, one of the distinguished City Guilds.

Dr. and Mrs. Horwell's son, David, who is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons and Gold Medallist of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, has been awarded a visiting fellowship and a visiting consultancy at the Singapore University Hospital.

Congratulations to the Horwell family on their outstanding achievements.

POLICE GENEROSITY

Commander Donald Hanson, chief of Barnet police, presented the Leo Baeck House with a cheque for £1,000 from the Police Property Act Fund. This happened at a ceremony at the Ella and Ridley Jacobs Home in Hendon which also benefited.

NEW YEAR HONOURS

The New Year Honours List includes several recipients of Continental origin.

Mr. Paul Herzberg Frankel, president of Petroleum Economics Ltd., was made a CBE. Mr. Vilem Tausky, director of opera at the Guildhall School of Music, also received a CBE; before he came to this country in 1939, he was for 10 years conductor at the National Opera House in Bruenn. Mr. John Manfred Silbermann, chairman of the Brent Group of Companies, was made an OBE; we extend our special congratulations to Mr. Silbermann who has been a long standing member of the AJR. Hanover-born Heinz Joseph Lobenstein, member of the Hackney borough council, became an MBE; Mr. Lobenstein takes a leading part in Anglo-Jewish affairs.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Haig's Appointment Welcomed

The naming of the former General Alexander Haig to be the new Secretary of State has been generally welcomed by the American Jewish community and politicians in Israel. Fears that his concern for the strengthening of the NATO alliance may make him over-sympathetic to the European Middle East initiative are offset by his strong pre-election commitment to Israel. In October, 1979, he told the Zionist Organisation of America: "It is moral to support the right of the Jewish people to their own State. As in the past, a strong, viable Israel will continue to offer assistance to American interests and activities."

UN Human Rights Record Assailed

Some 100 internationally recognised academics, scientists and intellectuals, including 30 Nobel Prize winners, have accused the United Nations of forgetting its humanitarian role and allowing itself to be completely dominated by anti-Israel forces. Their accusations were contained in a statement issued by the Committee for UN Integrity. It stated, *inter alia*: "The (1975) UN resolution which branded Zionism with the false label of racism must bear some responsibility for the scourge of antisemitism now reappearing in many parts of the world. The UN is no longer the guardian of social justice, human rights and equality among nations. Indeed, perverted by irrelevant political machinations, it is in danger of becoming a force against peace itself." Among the Nobel prize winners signing the document are Professor Kenneth Arrow, Professor Hans Berthe, Professor Felix Bloch and Professor Andre Lwoff. Other signatories include Sir Isaiah Berlin, Elie Wiesel, Simone de Beauvoir, Eugene Ionesco; and Eugene V. Rostow and Mr. Richard Pipes, two of President Ronald Reagan's close advisers.

Elizabeth Taylor Holocaust Narration

Actress Elizabeth Taylor has joined Orson Welles on the Board of Trustees of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies in Los Angeles. She has been active in raising funds for a 77-minute film, videotape, slide and sound programme on the wartime extermination of the Jews scheduled for nationwide exhibition. Miss Taylor and Mr. Welles are joint narrators of the descriptive text.

Vigilantes Opposed

The Long Island Chapter of the American Jewish Committee is opposed to a proposal put forward by the Jewish Defence League to establish vigilante patrols in the face of a number of acts of anti-semitic and racial vandalism. The police had made over 40 arrests on suspicion concerning 160 incidents. They did not suspect either Ku Klux Klan or neo-Nazi involvement.

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BERLIN-BORN WASHINGTON SENATOR

Rudy Boschwitz, the Republican Senator for Minnesota, who has just been elected to the US Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, is the son of Jewish Refugees and came to the States at the age of three. He is tipped to become the leading pro-Israel spokesman among the six Jews now in the Senate.

CANADIAN HELP FOR FALASHAS

Three Beta Israel (Falashas), black Jews from Ethiopia, have arrived in Canada to be the first to emigrate to North America. Their ultimate destination is Israel, but they were enabled to come to Canada through the efforts of the recently formed Canadian Association for Ethiopian Jewry, based in Toronto, and through the friendly relations that exist between the Ethiopian and Canadian governments. It is hoped that as their cause is publicised more funds will be raised to help the Beta Israel and their integration in Israel. Their community in Ethiopia is estimated at 28,000. More than 200 settled in Israel before 1976.

AUSTRALIAN ARCHBISHOP IN SYNAGOGUE CEREMONY

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne became the first senior Roman Catholic churchman to address a synagogue congregation in Australia when he addressed Temple Beth Israel, the oldest Australian progressive congregation, now celebrating its 50th anniversary. Speaking on the developing relations between Jews and Catholics, the Archbishop, Dr. Frank Little, stated that "just as it was unacceptable to blame Jews for the death of Jesus, so it would be unacceptable to blame the Church for the Holocaust."

FRANCE

Silence may be best defence

The new fascist propaganda in Europe might be better met by silence than argument which only adds to its publicity. Professor Saul Friedlander, the historian from Tel Aviv University, told 200 representatives attending a Youth Conference on racial, religious and political intolerance at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Arguing that the revival of Nazism was fanned by the publicity it obtained, he suggested that "when you see this literature of the new right about how there were no concentration camps or gas chambers in Germany, you should refuse to react because otherwise you will be causing these views to revive." The Professor added that it was essential to reappraise history so that the full horror of Nazism in Germany was realised.

WAR CRIME SENTENCES

Four Soviet citizens were sentenced to death for collaborating with Nazi occupation troops during the war and their involvement in burning people to death and shooting cripples. They were also charged with killing 500 residents of the Russian village of Zallazni in a two-day massacre in January, 1943.

YIDDISH THEATRE'S MOSCOW SUCCESS

The Jewish Chamber Musical Theatre, founded three years ago, held three performances in Moscow recently to packed audiences. The total of tickets available were sold out in two hours and soon fetched a black market price in excess of £50. The troupe belongs technically to the Jewish Autonomous Region, but most of its 90 actors and employees live in Moscow. Its creation was subsidised under the government programme for aiding ethnic cultures. It has not been permitted to perform in Leningrad or Kiev during 1980, but has given shows in at least six other cities.

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GREEK CHURCHMAN'S HATE BOOK

An antisemitic book by the Metropolitan of Corinth entitled "Jews and Christians" has been distributed to the hierarchy of the Greek Church, leading political figures and journalists throughout the country. It contains numerous references to Jews, Zionists and Communists, accusing them of responsibility for "corrosive propaganda" against Greek history, national institutions and the Orthodox church. Among its wilder claims is that Marxists, Jehovah's Witnesses and Zionists have as their sole aim the destruction of Christianity.

ITALY

Annuities for Camp Victims

A large number of Jews are among the Italian citizens who have been awarded annuities under a new Italian law that benefits those who survived detention in Nazi concentration camps during World War II. Beneficiaries include survivors of the San Sebba "rice depot" near Trieste, the only death camp established by the Nazis inside Italy. Women survivors over 50 and males over 55 are eligible for payments. Those under the qualifying age have been classified to receive the same employment rights and medical treatment accorded to war invalids. The Committee set up to adjudicate on claims includes representatives of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities. The annuity payments are expected to total 3,000 million lire (about £1,400,000) a year.

Jewish Community aids Earthquake Victims

The Union of Italian Jewish Communities was among the first organisations to send relief to the victims of the nation's earthquake disaster. All 22 member communities contributed to a Victims' Relief Fund. Thousands of blankets were immediately despatched to the worst hit areas. In Rome an extensive clothing collection was organised among the 15,000 strong community, many of whom are engaged in the wholesale and retail clothing trade. Israel's Magen David Adom organised large shipments of relief supplies. The Israel Embassy in Rome opened a relief fund among members of its staff. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in addition to a \$30,000 donation offered the services of its Italian staff for relief work, as did the Italian office of HIAS. The Israel Government also offered to accommodate 300 children from the earthquake areas for the winter.

MENTEN'S DEBT TO SOTHEYBY'S

A Haarlem district court ordered Peter Menten who is serving a 10-year jail sentence for war crimes, to pay some £110,000 to Sotheby's Amsterdam branch. The payment is for auction debts and compensation for having to cancel a sale of Menten's art treasures in 1976. Menten owed £62,000 to Sotheby's for purchases he made at auctions before fleeing to Switzerland in order to escape arrest.



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Margot Pottlitzer

AS OTHERS SEE US...

It was probably the success of "Holocaust" and "Roots" that has made TV producers delve into past history, and Jewish history in particular, in recent months. BBC2 started it with a six-part Sunday serial "The Lost Tribe", recounting the trials and tribulations of a Lithuanian Jew and his family who had come to Scotland as refugees from Tsarist persecution. Their story was not a particularly typical one and must have given some strange ideas to the ordinary British viewer, but at least it followed a consistent, if not always convincing line.

Soon afterwards BBC1 showed "Beyond the Pale", purporting to portray the experiences of one particular immigrant and the political background to his reception in this country: antagonism and xenophobia leading to the passing of the 1905 Aliens Act, and the antics of the antisemitic British Brothers League. The play was obviously meant to show a parallel to present-day anti-immigration measures and attitudes. Unfortunately, even that did not become very clear, since—a fact which not all viewers realised—the play was "devised", i.e. the actors were given a general outline of the story and had to make up the dialogue as they went along. It led a few of them to think they ought to include as many Yiddish words and expressions as possible, once again not very enlightening for the ordinary viewer, and sometimes downright disastrous.

Finally ITV came up with the controversial TV drama "Playing for Time" with Vanessa Redgrave as the equally controversial heroine. Artistically, it was in a different class from the other two productions, having been scripted by the American playwright Arthur Miller and based on the Auschwitz recollections of Fania Fenelon, a half-Jewish Paris cabaret singer who survived as a member of the camp orchestra. As Fania, Vanessa Redgrave gave a great performance, but she did not convince this reviewer that she was a Jewish inmate of Auschwitz. Some time ago, Fania Fenelon herself appeared on BBC2's "Light of Experience" programme and said that she

had strongly objected to Vanessa Redgrave representing her, not only because of the actress's known political stance, but first and foremost because she was totally unlike her.

Up to a point, "Playing for Time" gives a much truer picture of one section at least of conditions in Auschwitz than "Holocaust" ever achieved, and for this reason its immediate impact is much greater. However, it, too, once more reveals the fallibility of human memory and the limits of human imagination when faced with the ultimate horror. The leader of the camp orchestra in which Fania played, was Alma Rosé, a niece of Gustav Mahler, who did not survive. In the play she is depicted as a heartless and cruel disciplinarian who sacrifices everything to the supremacy of her art. Another survivor, the cellist Anita Lasker, now in London as a member of the English Chamber orchestra, has protested against this defamation of one who can no longer defend herself, and said that she received nothing but kindness from her. She also makes the valiant point that inmates only saw their immediate surroundings and that she herself, on a recent visit to Auschwitz, had not recognised anything. Other survivors have doubted an incident where Fania refuses to eat a slice of bread given to her by a girl who had earned it by sleeping with a guard. One obvious error of the play is that Auschwitz was liberated by the British—as it was in fact liberated by the Russians, and it did not happen as shown on the small screen.

What is probably the most accurate and harassing account of Auschwitz has been written by another survivor, the Italian Primo Levi, and his story certainly differs greatly from that shown on TV. He writes:

"All the healthy prisoners . . . left during the night of 18 January 1945. They must have been about twenty thousand coming from different camps. Almost in their entirety they vanished during the evacuation march . . . Perhaps someone will write their story one day."

How fallible is human imagination!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OUR VISIT TO BONN

Sir,—In your December 1980 issue you briefly reported that 113 former Jewish citizens of Bonn had paid a visit to the town at the invitation of the city authorities. As one of the participants I want to say that it was one of the most emotional experiences in my life and that of many other guests. The Mayor's invitation was framed in a unique way, asking for forgiveness, a theme which went through all the speeches held in our honour at the many receptions. The occasion of the invitation was the 30th Beethoven Festival, which we celebrated by attending the concerts in the Beethoven-Halle. We were also invited to the "Bundestag", where we were addressed by speakers of all three parties as well as by the Association of Christians and Jews, and we attended interdenominational services. The press extensively reported on our visit and published many personal interviews. Yet the most emotional experience was the reunion of so many old friends from all over the world, many of whom one had thought perished in the Holocaust. The order of the day was "tears and laughter", and I unashamedly admit that I cried for the first time since I was a small child. Among others I met seven of my old school friends from the Jewish school and its old teacher, now living in Israel.

All expenses (including air fares and hotel accommodation) were paid by the city, and each guest was given DM 200.—spending money. Most of the visitors came from the US (55) and Israel (23). From London, four families were invited. The arrangement of a further visit by former Jewish Bonn citizens is under consideration, and I shall be pleased to help any interested readers. 1 Borden Avenue, Enfield, Middx.

HARRY KLEY.

"HISTORY REPRINTED"

Sir,—We would like to state that Dietrich Bonhoeffer would have utterly rejected the antisemitic views quoted and described in your December 1980 issue by Mr. Egon Larsen in his review of the reprint of the *Denkschrift des Freiburger Mitarbeiterkreises (1945)*, which the new editors of 1979 have wrongly chosen to call "*Denkschrift des Freiburger 'Bonhoeffer-Kreises'*". Dietrich Bonhoeffer's views may be found in Eberhard Bethge's article "Dietrich Bonhoeffer und die Juden", page 171 of the book "*Konsequenzen—Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Kirchenverständnis heute*", published 1980 by Chr. Kaiser Verlag, München.

SABINE LEIBHOLZ-BONHOEFFER (Dietrich Bonhoeffer's twin-sister)
EBERHARD BETHGE (Dietrich Bonhoeffer's friend, editor and biographer)
Herzberger Landstrasse 57, 3400 Göttingen

SS FILM AT PRAGUE EXHIBITION

One of the more unusual contributions to the Prague Exhibition of Jewish Art held at the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, was the screening of a 1944 propaganda film, "The Fuehrer Gives the Jews their own Town", which was flown over from Koblenz. Originally made under commission from Heinrich Himmler it was designed to mislead the Red Cross into believing that Theresienstadt was not a concentration camp but a model resettlement centre.

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MISCELLANY

GERMAN HARDSHIP FUND

We refer to the announcement in our December 1980 issue. Meanwhile, we received the following official statement of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany:

Jewish victims of Nazi persecution who were in no position to file claims under German indemnification laws may apply for a grant from a Hardship Fund established with German Federal Government appropriations.

According to the Guidelines issued by the German Government, grants will be made to such Jewish persecutees who suffered damage to their health and are in straitened financial circumstances. The Guidelines limit individual payments to DM 5,000 (five thousand) per person.

It is the intention of the German Government, within its budgetary limitations, to make available up to DM 400 million for this purpose in the coming years. The Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany will distribute the funds subject to the German Government Guidelines.

The Hardship Fund is intended primarily to handle applications from such Jewish victims of Nazi persecution who left Eastern Europe after 1965 when the deadline for filing claims under the German indemnification laws expired. Other persecutees who failed for very valid reasons to file timely indemnification claims in past years may also apply to the Hardship Fund.

Interested individuals should register by writing to:

Conference on Jewish Material Claims
Against Germany
Grüneburgweg 119
6000 Frankfurt, Germany

not later than 31 December 1981. Applicants should state their full name, current address, date and place of birth and the date and country from which they emigrated.

RÖSSLER'S "FUENF FRANKFURTER"

In 1911, Carl Rössler wrote a comedy about the Frankfurt Rothschild family and called it "Die fünf Frankfurter". It described the background of the Rothschilds and the youth of the five brothers who went out to establish their banking business in the capitals of Europe. The play was a great success and continued to form part of the programmes of German theatres in big and small towns until 1933. In 1952, it had its first post-Nazi revival in an overcrowded small Frankfurt theatre—all the big ones had been destroyed during the war. A Jewish actress, who had once been the star of the renowned Frankfurt Schauspielhaus, returned from emigration in Israel to play Gudula, the lovable Rothschild mother, and was given an ovation by an audience of old Frankfurters who avidly followed the performance and understood every word of the "Judendeutsch" which occurs throughout the play. Now, the "Frankfurter Volkstheater" has taken the play to Israel and has given performances, sponsored by the German Embassy and the Goethe Institute, in Tel Aviv and Haifa. Carl Rössler, born in Vienna in 1864, came to Britain in 1938 and died in London in 1948.

AUSTRIA

Tyrolean Peasants against Nazi Mayor

When it was suggested that 60-year-old Franz Hausberger, Mayor of Mayrhofen, Tyrol, should be made a freeman of the town, a number of inhabitants protested that Hausberger had been a voluntary SS member and had taken part in persecution of Jews in Holland and should not become Freeman of a Christian town. Farmer Josef Troppmair declared under oath, that, whilst on leave in 1941, Hausberger had boasted that together with other SS officials he had driven men, women and children, mostly Jews, into a lake in Eastern Prussia and shot at them when they tried to keep their heads above water. Hausberger has brought a libel case against Troppmair and his son.

THE MOZART MYSTERY

After the publication of Robert Weltsch's article in our November 1980 issue several readers drew our attention to one of Pushkin's "Little Tragedies", "Mozart and Salieri", which was set to music by Rimsky-Korsakov in 1879. An assessment of Pushkin's tragedy and Rimsky-Korsakov's one-act opera by Gabriella Gros-Galliner appeared in the Summer 1976 edition of "About the House", the Magazine of the Friends of Covent Garden. With the kind permission of the authoress we publish below the end of her article about the Mozart Salieri Enigma. A special article about the musicologist Guido Adler (1855-1941), who is quoted by Mrs. Gros-Galliner, will be published in one of our next issues.—The Ed.

It is surprising that Salieri, who to all intents and purposes had achieved his aims, should have gone to such extremes as to poison his opponent. It is true that towards the end Mozart was obsessed with the idea of having been poisoned, and the name of Salieri may have been mentioned. Certainly the rumour of such a story must have been active for a good many years, and apparently Pushkin believed in its possibility.

This story has been discredited long ago, but I have recently come across an item in an East German publication, *Presse der Sowjetunion*, 1955, 53, p. 1136, reporting on a book published in the same year in Moscow, by Professor I. Belsa, a music historian. Belsa states that another music historian, the Austrian Guido Adler, has found a detailed report of Salieri's confession in the Vienna Archives. Apparently, this confession was made by the composer to his father-confessor, a bishop, and Salieri not only admits his guilt of murder by slow poison, but also describes the occasion on which the poison was administered. Guido Adler seems to have made a thorough investigation of the details contained in the confession, and concludes that there can be no doubt that the facts are true. The report ends by stating that although Adler intended to reprint the discovered confession, "the Vatican, understandably, had suppressed any such publication".

Before Salieri died in Vienna in 1825, he sent for Ignaz Moscheles (1794-1870), a German musician and said to him: "I did not poison Mozart". Was this a case of: "Qui s'excuse, s'accuse", or was he telling the truth?

GABRIELLA GROS-GALLINER.

CLUB 1943

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

- 2 Februar. Hans Freyhan: "Humor in der Instrumentalmusik der Wiener Klassiker" (Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven).
- 9 Februar. Dr. Angela Hobart, Ph.D.: "Dance and Drama on the Isle of Bali" (with slides).
- 16 Februar. Dr. F. Hellendall, LL.B. (Solicitor): "Geschichte der Heine-Ehrungen und Nicht-Ehrungen".
- 23 Februar. Dr. R. von Schulze-Gaevernitz: "Schiller und seine Freunde und Freundinnen, zum Teil aus persönlichen Erinnerungen" Jena, Weimar.
- 2 Maerz. Walter Lewis: "Die Russische Revolution von 1905".
- 9 Maerz. The Hon. T. C. F. Prittie, M.B.E. (Mil.), M.A., will speak on "JERUSALEM", prior to the publication of his book "Whose Jerusalem".
- 16 Maerz Alfons Rosenberg: "Gibt es nur einen Gott? Hinduism, Buddhism und Islam".
- 23 Maerz. Dr. Kurt Pflueger: "Hampstead and the Highgate Cemetery".
- 30 Maerz. Adele Reifenberg-Rosenbaum: "Kuenstler sprechen ueber Kunst und Kuenstler".
- 6 April. Arno Reinfrank liest Auszuege aus seinem Buch "Wir waren froh dieses Leben nur getraumt zu haben".

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The AJR CLUB (9 Adamson Road) would appreciate it if members of the AJR would contribute gifts and support the SALE by their attendance.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

NAZIS AND NEO-NAZIS IN COURT

20-year old Ralf Platzdasch, a Frankfurt publisher and bookshop owner, was given a suspended one-month's jail sentence for forming a neo-Nazi group and inciting hatred against Jews. With a 19-year-old co-defendant who was given a suspended six-months' sentence, he had founded a "National Socialist Democratic Workers Party" early in 1980 which had adopted all the principles of the NSDAP. He had also published a poem "Holokotz" in which he claimed that the Jews and the Zionist press had invented the murder of 6 million Jews "in order to force the German people to pay reparations." The trial took place in a juvenile court before a jury, but the court refused to apply the law for juvenile offenders.

In Düsseldorf, former SS Colonel Kurt Christmann was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for complicity in the murder of Jews and other civilians in Southern Russia in 1942 and 43. The jury found that he had been responsible for the gassing of at least 30 Jews in a special van and had been in charge of the mass execution of more than 50 men, women and children. He had been a willing instrument of the Nazi rulers, had not acted under duress and had been an extremely brutal persecutor. Christmann had pleaded "Not guilty" and said that he had not believed that a German court would sentence him on the basis of evidence given by Russian witnesses.

LAST IMPORTANT NAZI TRIAL?

71-year-old pensioner Kurt Asche, once the SS "Judenreferent" for Belgium and Northern France appeared before the Kiel criminal court alone, after his co-defendant Ernst Boje Ehlers had committed suicide and 73-year old former SS Colonel Konstantin Canaris had been found medically unfit to stand trial. He said he did not remember anything about the deportations to Auschwitz, as he had only collected reports and written situation surveys in his Brussels office between January 1941 and October 1943. He said that in June 1942, he and his Paris colleague had been ordered to Berlin where Adolf Eichmann told them that Jews from Belgium, Holland and France should be sent to Auschwitz and work there. He had to organise transport for the Jews from Belgium, but this had been merely clerical work and he had never wondered how all these people would be accommodated in Auschwitz. He had joined the SA in 1931 as an unemployed chemist and had changed over to the SS in 1935, because he thought "Hitler would have more success than all the others." In May 1944 he was dismissed from the SS and sent to prison for 16 months, as he had kept Jewish loot for himself and acted as a fence. Before the trial opened, 300 people, including 150 Belgian Jews, some of whom wore camp uniform and displayed their camp numbers, marched silently through the town. They carried banners reading "We shall never forget Auschwitz", and "Justice not Revenge!".

END OF MAIDANEK TRIAL IN SIGHT

In the Düsseldorf Maidanek trial, which has just ended its fifth year, prosecuting counsels have begun their final pleas. They will be followed by those of the 18 defending counsels who represent the nine defendants left. During the five years of the trial, the court made thirty journeys to almost all parts of the world to hear the depositions of 67 inmates of the Lublin-Maidanek camp. Altogether, 318 witnesses were heard during the trial. At the end of the hearings, transcripts of all the depositions were read out.

In 1965 a Frankfurt jury needed 182 days to pronounce sentence in the Auschwitz trial, which was said to have been the most important murder trial in the history of the German courts. That court heard 359 witnesses from 19 countries. Six of the 20 accused received life sentences.

BALANCE SHEET OF TRIALS

The Baden-Wuerttemberg Minister of Justice Heinz Eyrich (CDU) told the press that the Ludwigsburg Central Office for the Examination of NS crimes would not be closed for some time to come. In 1980 there were still 2450 cases pending. Between the end of the war and the 1st January 1980, 86,498 persons had been investigated, 6,446 of whom were brought to trial and sentenced. A staff of 42, including ten judges and public prosecutors, were still working at Ludwigsburg.

FIGHT AGAINST NEO-NAZIS

Hans Jochen Vogel, Federal Minister of Justice, said in a press statement that the number of prosecutions of neo-Nazis had risen from 992 in 1978 to 1483 in 1979. In that year there were 272 antisemitic incidents. Mr. Vogel added that, whilst these figures might be an indication that there was a need for increased vigilance, they also proved that the security and law offices of the Federal Republic were aware of the dangers of right-wing activities and doing their utmost to fight them. One loophole to be closed in the immediate future was the unhindered importation of Nazi propaganda material from abroad.

RESTORED SYNAGOGUES

The octagonal neo-Baroque Synagogue of Floss in Lower Bavaria which was destroyed in 1938, has been completely rebuilt by the State. It will serve as a museum, as there are no longer any Jews living in Floss which once had a large community set up in the 17th century. Floss is situated near the notorious Flossenbürg concentration camp.

The town of Hadamar has bought the old synagogue and will, after restoration, use it as a memorial shrine for the Jews of Hesse-Nassau. The State Archives will provide it with all important documents or copies of documents relating to the long history of the Jews in Hesse.

ISRAELI ORCHESTRA'S VISIT

During a two-week tour of the Federal Republic, the Tel Aviv University String Orchestra played in Berlin, Tübingen and Karlsruhe and in the Station Hall at Rolandseck near Bonn, a well-known centre of artistic activities where Menuhin and Zuckerman had played before them. The orchestra of 20 players had followed an invitation by the German-Israeli Society for Academic Co-operation between Tel Aviv University and German Universities. Last year they accompanied a Berlin choir during its Christmas concerts in churches and music halls in Israel.

HERSFELD REMEMBERS ITS JEWS

In Bad Hersfeld near Kassel, the German Federation of Trades Unions fixed a tablet to its office building in the old Jewish school which reads: "Former School of the Hersfeld Jewish community. To remember the Jewish citizens of our town who were persecuted and killed by the Nazis. The citizens of Bad Hersfeld". The town mayor said at the unveiling ceremony that in 1910, the town had 325 Jewish citizens, three per cent of its population. Thirty years later those who had not managed to flee abroad, had been murdered by the Nazis. The trade union official who had been responsible for the restoration of the school, Eugen Weigel, had been in concentration camps because of his trades union activities.

MANNHEIM JEWS DURING THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC

In the 1980/II edition of the "Mannheimer Hefte" the city's former Lord Mayor Dr. Watzinger referred to the deportation of Mannheim Jews to Gurs forty years ago and published an essay on the Jewish Community in the Weimar Republic, both in its relationship to its non-Jewish environment and its own organisation. The basis of his studies were the preserved copies of the "Gemeindeblatt". Subsequently he gives sketches of 16 Jewish personalities who made a name for themselves in public life during that period. They include Dr. Paul Epstein, lecturer at the Commercial Academy, later a leading member of the Reichsvertretung who was deported to Theresienstadt and shot in the so-called Kleine Festung for reasons which have never been sufficiently explained. Another sketch is devoted to Rabbi Dr. Max Gruenewald, now president of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York. Dr. Watzinger intends to follow up his studies with a history of the Jews of Mannheim between 1862 and 1918, as he has already written about their fate between 1660 and 1862.

EGL

TRIER

The city of Trier will celebrate its second millenium in 1984, and research into its past has been resumed with great vigour. It will be interesting to see whether it will include research undertaken nearly 50 years ago by Chief Rabbi Dr. Adolf Altmann whose centenary was celebrated in 1979. (A handsomely laid out illustrated brochure recounting the celebration addresses was recently published by the city of Trier.) Dr. Altmann discovered a menorah from the third or fourth century which he thought to have come from a Jewish burial place or catacomb. He regarded it as the earliest proof of Jewish life on German soil, but was contradicted by other Jewish researchers who pointed out that there is documentary evidence for a Jewish presence in Cologne in 321.

E.G.L.

SIMMERN (HUNSRLUECK)

In a booklet "650 Jahre Stadt Simmern im Hunsrück", Rector Gustav Schellack, the chairman of the Hunsrück History Association, reveals that there had been a Jewish school in Simmern for many years, but that it was conspicuous for its rapid turnover of teachers, particularly between 1825 and 1872. This was partly due to a lack of money and of proper schoolrooms, but also to a shortage of suitable candidates. There were 13 teachers during that period. Between 1833 and 1838 the number of Jews in Simmern grew from 143 to 167, but in the 1920s there remained only 80, constituting 2.1 per cent of the town's population. The booklet also contains a picture of the Hunsrück Synagogue, but not a word about the fate of the community and its members. It is, however, known that the community employed a teacher and rabbi until 1938.

E.G.L.

EXPENSIVE HITLER DRAWINGS

At an auction by the Munich auctioneer Graf Klenau, three 1909 water colours by Adolf Hitler were sold to an American public gallery for some £12,000.

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NEWS FROM ISRAEL

300,000 ISRAELIS IN THE UNITED STATES

A report compiled by the Israel Government and the Jewish Agency as the basis for discussions on how to combat emigration effectively estimates that between 300,000 and 500,000 Israelis are now living permanently in the United States. It also estimates that there are 100,000 children of emigrants with Israeli citizenship although they were born or brought up outside Israel. For the first time in 12 years the monthly arrival figures of new immigrants to Israel has fallen below the 1,000 mark. One of the reasons has been the sharp decline in the numbers of Jews being allowed to leave the Soviet Union. In November this figure stood at 789 for the month, but only 200 came to Israel.

PUBLISHERS CHALLENGE BOYCOTT

The Publishers' Association is taking up the case of Corgi Books who refused to comply with Arab boycott regulations with the Foreign Office. The company refused to supply the authorities of Kuwait with a letter guaranteeing that they did not trade with Israeli companies and that none of their employees had Israeli interests. Corgi is a subsidiary of Bantam Books, New York, the majority of whose employees are Jewish, and Bantam are a subsidiary of Bertelsmann of West Germany which has just invested in a book club in Israel.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE'S ANTI-BOYCOTT ADVICE

The importance of Anglo-Israel trade, which is enjoying a substantial boom, is reflected in the publication by the Board of Trade of 50,000 leaflets for British companies giving advice on how to avoid the Arab boycott.

YAD VASHEM TEACHING SEMINAR

Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, for the second year running is organising a summer institute in July entitled "Teaching the Holocaust" directed towards teachers and community leaders. The course will offer intensive study with emphasis on teaching techniques. Further information is available from Shmuel Spector, Director, Education Department, Yad Vashem, PO Box 3477, Jerusalem.

NEW HOLOCAUST CHAIR AT BAR-ILAN

Bar-Ilan University at Ramat Gan has established an Institute for Holocaust Studies, which is to be headed by Professor Nathaniel Katzburg, the present holder of its chair in modern Jewish history. The new Institute will specialise on the experience of religious Jewry in Europe during the Nazi period.

ARAB PUNISHED FOR DEATH THREAT

A 32-year-old Israeli Arab was sentenced to six months imprisonment—three months suspended—for telling a Jewish merchant with whom he had quarrelled: "It is too bad Hitler did not gas all the Jews. Still, I will finish you off".

NEW BREED OF BIRD

"Molrad" is the name of a new bird bred in Israel by crossing a swan with a duck through artificial insemination. It is supposed to taste better than any other known bird and to produce lean meat and therefore to become an export asset in due course.

RUSSIAN BEAR FOR SICK GIRL

As a humanitarian gesture, the Russian Ministry of Education sent a toy Olympic bear to a chronically ill Israeli girl who wanted it for her birthday. Her parents were unable to obtain one anywhere, and her mother wrote to the Russian Government, offering to pay for it. They replied by sending it through a Ministry official attending the International Medical Congress in Jerusalem, accompanied by a letter of birthday greetings in English.

GOLAN DRUSES ASK TO BE ISRAELIS

During the first month of a new Knesset law permitting Druse in the administered territories to become Israel citizens, some 500 from the Golan Heights submitted applications to do so. It is anticipated that should Israel ever formally annex the territory many more would do so.

RAINMAKERS AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY

A committee of leading American scientists has told Congress that cloud seeding research by Hebrew University of Jerusalem scientists is the most reliable in the world and, with annual budget under £180,000, the cheapest too. Braving danger, the University's atmospheric scientists take off by plane into the clouds during Israel's all-too-short rainy season and bombard them with silver iodide at a temperature of below -5 degrees centigrade. This makes ice-crystals form, causing the clouds to dump between 15 to 20 per cent more of their rain than they normally would.

BLIND HELPER HONOURED IN ISRAEL

A number of Institutions for the Blind in Israel are to be called after Saarbrücken Dr. Ernst Blum who died 10 years ago and who was largely responsible for the great work done by the W. German "Aid for the Blind of Israel". Dr. Blum who was himself blind, was a lawyer and social worker who until 1935 and after 1945 held leading offices in the Saarland administration and regularly attended congresses of international and Jewish welfare organisations. In 1965 he was awarded the Leo-Baeck-Prize of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and donated it to the "Aid for the Blind in Israel." In his youth he had been assisted by the Berlin Steglitz Jewish Institution for the Blind. The organisations which are to bear his name, are a dental clinic for the blind and their families, and a gymnasium for blind children. Both have received generous support from the German organisation. E.G.L.

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

The latest campaign of the voluntary organisation *Am Yafe—Am Ehad* (Beautiful People—One People) epitomises the triumph of hope over experience. Dedicated to improve the quality of life in Israel they hope to persuade politicians not to hurl verbal abuse at one another. It is to start off by asking Knesset members to sign an anti-slander pledge. This is to be followed by approaching the general public to sign petitions against political mud-slinging and a watch on the media advertising of all political parties.

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DISTORTED HISTORY — A NEW CHAPTER?

After a neglect of the history of cultural life amongst the exiles from Nazi Germany for more than a generation interest by German academics in that subject has suddenly started to bloom. Some years ago Gabriele Tergit reviewed in this journal (October, 1973) the first two volumes of Hans Albert Walter's "Deutsche Exil-Literatur 1933-1950" under the headline "Verzerrte Geschichtsschreibung" (Distorted Writing on History). A new volume of Walter's grand oeuvre "Exilpresse" has now been published*, a tome of 841 pages dealing with what the author apparently considers to be the 12 most important periodicals of Anti-Nazi exiles under three main chapters "political and cultural", "cultural and literary" and "Periodicals of the Jewish Mass Emigration". Some of these journals were fairly well known at the time, like "Das neue Tagebuch", "Die neue Weltbühne", Thomas Mann's "Mass und Wert" and the New York "Aufbau", one of the two journals of the "Jewish mass emigration" honoured with an analysis betraying the author's gross ignorance of the problems of Jewish exiles from Germany in the USA and other countries of refuge, not to speak of the repeated sneers at the "Jewish mass emigration" as opposed to the political exiles. Other journals analysed by Walter, such as "Die Zukunft" published by Willi Münzenberg in Paris after his break with the Communists for about 18 months or the "Deutsche Blätter" published by a group of anti-Nazi Germans in Chile between 1943 and 1945 were hardly known to the politically interested refugees of those years. None of the German language journals published in London during the war is considered worthy of any thorough consideration, nor is any of the anti-Nazi daily papers appearing in Saarbrücken and Paris during the first years after 1933. In 19 long introductory pages the author gives no satisfactory explanation for his arbitrary choice of 12 journals out of 430 exile publications admitted by Walter to have existed. As a result the historical value of Walter's new tome must be regarded as extremely doubtful.

Another—possibly worse—example of a study of German literature in exile by one of the "Nachgeborenen" is a paperback by Alexander Stephan, born in 1946, and Assistant Professor of Contemporary German History of California in Los Angeles.** Some of the "facts" reported there are contradicted by the author himself. Whilst on p. 65 Stephan alleges that apart from "Die Zeitung" which he dismisses as an English propaganda organ there was no German language periodical in Great Britain during the war, he reports in detail on p. 122 on the contributions by various well-known authors, including Thomas Mann to "Freie Deutsche Kultur", the monthly journal of the Free German League of Culture in Great Britain although he remains silent about other German language periodicals in London during that period, such as "Freie Tribüne", "Zeitpiegel", etc. Whereas on p. 65 he gives the impression that only Richard Frieden-

thal, Jakov Lind (who according to Stephan was 18 years old when the war ended) and Martin Esslin stayed in England, we discover on p. 168 that Grete Fischer and Alfred Kerr remained in London. Nobody would guess that Erich Fried, who is honoured by the author with a number of sneering remarks, has lived in London and written in German (not in English as Stephan alleges on p. 151) since 1938. Although—quoting as his source of information Klaus Mann who died more than 30 years ago—he mentions that the Pen Centre of German Writers Abroad in London became the representative of German literature in the International PEN after the Nazis left that organisation in 1934, not a word is mentioned about the fact that this Centre still exists and counts amongst its members quite a few outstanding writers in London. Stephan pontificates that apart from some poems by Brecht and Anna Segher's novel "Transit" important books by exiles on the subject of exile are missing. Lion Feuchtwanger's "Exil" and "Unholdes Frankreich" are dismissed with the remark that Feuchtwanger's world-wide reputation originated from his historical novels and not from these books. Arnold Zweig's fascinating semi-autobiographical novel "Traum ist teuer" and Gabriele Tergit's "Effingers" evidently escaped the attention of the author.

Impudent Classification

There are repeated sneers in Stephan's book at the "Jewish mass emigration"—defined by Walter in his previous volumes as those who left Germany not because they were active opponents of Nazism but only because they tried to save themselves. The impudence of such classification requires no further comment. Stephan tops his sneers with a passage on a number of famous writers of that period, such as Heinrich and Klaus Mann, Alfred Döblin, Stefan Zweig, Kurt Tucholsky and others of whom he says (on p. 154): "The experience of exile was hardly new to those—often bourgeois and Jewish—writers to whom exile was already a form of life before 1933. To them the lifting of provinciality, the disentanglement from commercialism in culture, the loss of social ties, in other words the hard school of the experience of exile, meant little. Outsiders, homeless, reflective and distrustful—all this they had already been before their flight". Joseph Goebbels could not have formulated it better!

It is a relief to read after this again what the exiles themselves felt and wrote about their experience in exile in a symposium compiled by Ernst Loewy,*** a former exile himself and who has carefully chosen 230 texts by 100 different exiled authors. These give more insight into the lives and works of anti-Nazi writers in exile than the secondary and tertiary pseudo-scientific treatises by the Walters and Stephans. In this excellent symposium Lion Feuchtwanger—in spite of Stephan's strictures one of the most impressive writers of German speaking exile—summarises the

position of exiled writers better than tomes by Walter and Stephan:

"Gradually, whether we like it or not, we are changed by the environment and with us everything that we create is changed. . . . The writer in exile meets such a mass of new material and new ideas, such a mass of faces which he would never have encountered at home . . . and the enforced permanent contact with the foreign language proves in the end to be an enrichment. . . . Lastly suffering may make the weak weaker, but the strong stronger."

Arnold Zweig in his "Answer to Tucholsky", an Obituary written after Tucholsky's suicide and reproduced by Loewy, gives the answer to the Walters and Stephans:

"One of the ridiculous lies which the Jews allow to be spread about themselves is the tale about the Jews being a wandering people. If one left them alone they would not move any longer. Their roots are and they feel at home where the graves of their ancestors are, and as a hopeless minority and defenceless are thus particularly useful to distract from mass discontent. They are chased away and then called nomads. . . ."

"Or "mass emigrants", "Wirtschaftsemigranten" or "homeless" outsiders", . . .

*Hans-Albert Walter, *Deutsche Exilliteratur 1933-1950, Band 4: Exilpresse*, J. B. Metzlersche Verlagsbuchhandlung, Stuttgart, 1978.

**Alexander Stephan, *Die deutsche Exilliteratur, 1933-1945*, Verlag C. H. Beck, München, 1979.

****Exil, Literarische und politische Texte aus dem deutschen Exil 1933-1945*, herausgegeben von Ernest Loewy unter Mitarbeit von Brigitte Grimm, Helga Nagel und Felix Schneider, J. B. Metzlersche Verlagsbuchhandlung, Stuttgart, 1979.

NAZI REFUGEE BECOMES RECORDER

A Jewish refugee from Nazism, who came to Britain from Vienna, Mr. Rudolf Rosenfeld Russell, was recently sworn in as a Recorder by the Lord Chief Justice's Court in London, after being a deputy circuit judge for a number of years.

FAMILY CHRONICLE AVAILABLE

Among the items left by a recently deceased former German Jewess was a chronicle of the families of Leonhard Fürst and Victor Israel, written by Jacob Fürst of Crefeld in 1912. As none of the close relatives of the deceased is interested in the booklet, descendants of the Fürst and Israel families, who would like to obtain the copy, are advised to get in touch with the AJR, where it is deposited.

COPIES OF "AJR INFORMATION"

Our stock of April and June 1980 issues of "AJR Information" has run out. Any readers who can spare both copies or one of them should kindly send them to our office, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London NW3 6LA.

LEGACIES

Mrs Elizabeth Rose Maier who died last June, left £43,000, of which £200 go to Leo Baeck House and most of the residue is equally divided between the AJR and the Leo Baeck Women's Lodge.

Miss Martha Eckstein left £1,000 to Heinrich Stahl House and several other legacies. The residue of her estate is to be equally divided between the Jewish Blind Society, the Jewish Association for the Physically Handicapped and the AJR.

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OBITUARIES

ADRIENNE THOMAS

The writer Adrienne Thomas has died in Vienna, aged 83. Her best known novel "Die Katrin wird Soldat" which appeared in 1930, was avidly read by the generation that grew up in the Thirties and was translated into many languages. She survived the Nazi years in France, Switzerland and finally the US together with her husband, the socialist politician Dr. Julius Deutsch. They returned to Vienna in 1946 where Deutsch was appointed manager of the Austrian Socialdemocratic Publishing House. Before his emigration he had been a member of the Austrian National Council and at one time commissar for the Army. Adrienne came from a Lorraine Jewish family.

EGL

MAURICE BOUKSTEIN

American Zionist leader Maurice M. Boukstein died in New York, aged 75. He was legal adviser to the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organisation since 1946. He also played a leading role in the negotiations with West Germany for compensation for victims of Nazism and was one of the founders of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany.

MRS. LOUISE MENDELSON

Louise Mendelsohn, widow of the famous architect Eric Mendelsohn has died in the United States aged 86. Born Louise Maas in Mannheim, she studied the cello in Germany and Italy and was married in 1915. Her husband was one of the leaders of the modern movement in architecture and earned much recognition for designing the Potsdam Observatory to further the researches of Albert Einstein. The couple left Germany in 1933 because of the anti-Jewish activities of the Nazis and took up British nationality in 1938. They settled in the United States in 1941, first staying with the American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright in Wisconsin before moving on to San Francisco. Mendelsohn who died in 1953 did much work in Palestine, where he designed, among other buildings, the Hadassa Hospital. He was also involved in designings for the Atomic Energy Commission at Berkeley.

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

Guttfeld:— Mr. Frank Guttfeld, former Antiquariats Bookseller of Berlin, is celebrating his 80th birthday on 1 February.

Deaths

Hahn:— Irene Hahn passed away on 14 December 1980, in her 76th year after an illness patiently borne. Profoundly mourned by her daughter Rita Knopf, son-in-law, grandchildren, sister, relatives and many many friends. She will always be remembered.

Herz:— Walter Herz, born 1908 in Pflugstadt. Mourned by his wife Lotte and family.

Mattes:— Mrs. Hedwig Mattes passed away in the early hours of December 31st, 1980, after a protracted illness. She is deeply mourned by all her family and her very many friends.

Moses:— Dr. Otto Moses died on December 28 peacefully at his home, 32 Wolverton Gardens, W6. Sorely missed by his wife, Greta, son, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, brother, relations and friends.

Ryde:— Stephanie Ryde, née Antal, suddenly passed away after a long illness on 3 December 1980, in her 80th year. Mourned by her brothers, sisters, relatives and friends.

Schlesinger:— Bertha Schlesinger of Heinrich Stahl House, The Bishop's Avenue, London N2, formerly Pforzheim, passed away peacefully on December 23rd, 1980.

Shackman:— Werner Shackman of Northwood, Middx., died on 27 December peacefully at home, following a short illness.

CLASSIFIED

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SHLOMO LEWIN

Shlomo Lewin, 69, chairman of the Nuremberg branch of the Association for Christian-Jewish Co-operation, was murdered along with his companion, Miss Frida Poesche, at their home in Erlangen. Both had been shot in the head, and the Federal Criminal Investigation Agency has taken over the case from the local police. Mr. Lewin was born in Jerusalem, but taken to live in Silesia by his parents when a child. Educated at Breslau and Cologne, he later became a teacher. He was arrested by the Nazis in 1933, escaped and fled to Paris. He returned to Palestine in 1938 and joined the Haganah, becoming an officer in the Israel Defence Forces when the State was established. He returned to Germany in 1960 and founded the Ner Tamid publishing house. Shlomo Lewin was very active in promoting Christian-Jewish understanding and German-Israel youth exchanges.

ROMAIN GARY

The novelist and former French diplomat Romain Gary took his own life in his Paris flat at the age of 66. He was born in Vilna of a Jewish mother, Mina Josel, and a father of Mongol ancestry, Leibja Kacew, who abandoned the family when Gary was seven years old. Gary took a degree in law at the University of Paris and was in Poland studying for a diploma in Slavic languages when war broke out. He served first as a fighter pilot with the British air force and later with the Free French "Lorraine" squadron. After the war he entered the French diplomatic corps. His lasting work, however, was in the literary field. One of the best-known books, "Roots of Heaven" is set in a German concentration camp; another, "The Dance of Genghis Cohn" deals with a Jewish Berlin nightclub comedian who dies in Auschwitz, became a *dybbuk* and entered the subconscious of his executioner.

LEOPOLD SCHEUER

The death has occurred of Leopold Scheuer, founder member and honorary life president of the Hounslow and District Synagogue, which he also represented at the Board of Deputies and on the education committee of the United Synagogue. He came to England from Austria in 1938.

SIR JULES THORN

Sir Jules Thorn, president of Thorn Electrical Industries since 1976 and its chairman from 1936 to 1976, has died aged 81. Born in Austria, he studied business management at the University of Vienna, but settled in Britain in 1928, when he established his Electrical Lamp Service Company, opening his first retail shop at Twickenham in 1931 and acquiring his first factory the following year. In 1936 he bought control of the Ferguson Radio Corporation, from which developed one of the world's largest electronic companies bearing his name. A very private but charitable man he was knighted in 1964. Among the organisations that received his support was the Haifa Technion, which gave expression to both his Jewish sentiments and his scientific expertise.

MONROE GOLDWATER

Monroe Goldwater, for many years a prominent Democratic Party politician in New York, has died aged 95. A former local president of the United Jewish Appeal he led wartime efforts to raise funds for Jewish refugees and served as a vice-president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. He was also actively involved in the securing of compensation for Jewish victims of Nazism.

DR. ERNST MUELLER REMEMBERED

On the occasion of the centenary of his birth, Dr. Ernst Mueller is remembered by his numerous friends and fellow workers. Before he came to this country, Dr. Mueller was Vice-Director of the Vienna Jewish Community Library. He was an authority on Jewish mysticism, and his works include an English translation of the Zohar. He died in London in 1954. A vivid description of Dr. Mueller is given by Mr. Richard Kobler (Zurich), the son of the historian the late Dr. Franz Kobler. He recalls a fiery discussion in his parents' house between the two scholars, the subject of which was a fight over the right German word for a Greek word in Plato's Symposium. "The gentleness and simultaneous strength of mind of Ernst Mueller, based not only on mysticism and philosophy but also on his deep knowledge of mathematics, left their mark on anybody fortunate enough to have known him", writes Mr. Kobler.

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BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO ANNA FREUD

Anna Freud, Sigmund Freud's last surviving daughter, celebrated her 85th birthday at her home in Hampstead. She was his favourite daughter and, throughout her adult life, his closest collaborator who understood his ideas and interpreted them to the world. At one time, he was strongly attacked for having submitted her to analysis, but it was part of her introduction to his ideas. In Vienna, she was head of the Institute of Psychoanalysis until 1938, when she emigrated to Britain with her father, already struck by his final illness. Her special field had always been the analysis of children, about which she wrote a book in 1927.

After her father's death she founded the Hampstead Child Therapy Clinic in Maresfield Gardens which has become world famous, not only for the practical work done there, but also for the teaching and training of child analysts from all over the world. During the war, her special self-chosen task was the care and treatment of children who had been psychologically damaged by war events, emigration, bombing, separation from loved ones and many other war-inflicted damages. This work is described in her book "War Children". In 1968, she published her major work, the condensation of her teaching and experience in which she describes the methods of children's development and treatment.

She received honours all over the world. In 1967 she was awarded a CBE. In 1971 she was given

an ovation when she returned to Vienna for the first time and took part in the Psychoanalytical Congress. In the following year, she received an honorary doctorate from Vienna University. When she received an honorary charter from the Hebrew University recognising her contribution to human scholarship, she regarded it as a posthumous honour bestowed on her father.

To celebrate her birthday, the Hogarth Press have just published a volume "The Techniques of Psychoanalysis, Discussions with Anna Freud" by Joseph Sandler, Hansi Kennedy and Robert Tyson, which summarizes the discussions of a number of eminent practitioners, whilst quoting Anna Freud's wise and witty remarks verbatim.

Anna Freud has been a member of our organisation for a long time, and belatedly we join the many friends and admirers who wish her many more years of creative and fulfilled activities.

CANETTI IN ENGLISH

The autobiography of Elias Canetti ("Die gerettete Zunge"), which was mentioned in our birthday tribute to the author (October 1980), is now also available in an English translation by Franz Neugroschel under the title "The tongue set free" (The Seabury Press, New York).

WARBURG PRIZE FOR ART HISTORIAN

The DM 20,000 (abt £5,000) Aby M. Warburg Fund, set up last year by the Hamburg municipality, has been awarded to 59-year-old Polish art historian Jan Bialostocki, director of the Warsaw National Museum, who spent nine months in the concentration camps of Mauthausen and Linz in 1944 and 1945. A further scholarship of DM 10,000 was given to Dr Bredekamp of Hamburg University. The prize, distributed every four years, is to be awarded to scholars, artists and writers whose activities conform to the "high standards set by Aby Warburg" (Hamburg 1866-1929), who began, in 1901 to collect books and documents relevant to the study of art and culture. They formed the basis of the Warburg Institute transferred to London in 1933 and now a world-famous Research Institute of London University.

The Valentin Koerner publishing house in Baden-Baden has just brought out a volume "Ausgewählte Schriften und Würdigungen" which contains 25 essays by and about Warburg. Among the London contributors are Sir Ernst Hans Gombrich, director of the London Institute until 1976, and Professors Fritz Saxl and Gertrud Bing who died in 1948 and 1964 respectively.

EGL

ANNE FRANK FILM AT ANTI-FASCIST WEEK

The film "Diary of Anne Frank" and a display of holocaust photographs were among the items used by the Leicester Jewish Students' Society during an anti-fascist week held at the University.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

A record on records? When 18-year-old *Erich Wolfgang Korngold's* opera "Violanta" was first produced in Munich in 1916, the young composer (who had already been in the limelight with his pantomime "Der Schneemann" several years before) was hailed as a great talent. Now, the record firm CBS started 1981 with a rather surprising issue of "Violanta" on two discs; modern reviewers are enthusiastic and find the work of the young musician, influenced though he was by d'Albert and Richard Strauss, worthy of unqualified praise. Later on, Korngold became better known for his opera "Die tote Stadt" which is rarely performed these days. After emigration to the United States he made his name mainly as a composer of film music.

Opera in Vienna. Halévy's "La Juive", an opera that deals with Jewish persecution during the Middle Ages, was given concert performances at the Vienna State Opera last month. José Carreras sang the part of Eleazar, a dream role for tenors early this century when sung to perfection by Caruso and, later, by Leo Slezak.

Opera in London. Alban Berg's "Lulu" (based on Wedekind's plays "Erdgeist" and "Büchse der Pandora"), completed after the composer's death by Friedrich Cerha, will be performed six times at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, starting on 17 February.

A great actor remembered. An exhibition is being held at the Munich Residenztheater Foyer in honour of *Gustaf Gruendgens* who died in 1963. Simultaneously, a series of his films is being shown at the Munich Stadtmuseum; his most brilliant film, Goethe's "Faust" (a filmed perform-

ance of the Hamburg Schauspielhaus, 1960), starring Gruendgens, Will Quadflieg and Elisabeth Flickenschildt, was recently presented by the London Goethe Institute.

Birthday. Theatre and Film producer *Otto L. Preminger* who after his early years as theatre manager on the Continent has become one of the busiest film directors in the United States, celebrated his 75th birthday.

Obituary. The death is announced of *Karel Stepanek*, a versatile actor who will be remembered for many stage and film rôles. He came to Britain in 1940, and played parts as varied as the German admiral in the film "Sink the Bismarck" and Werfel's "Jacobowsky and the Colonel". He was 81.—Walter Rilla, who had returned to Germany after the war and had been active as actor and broadcaster, has died in Rosenheim (Bavaria) at the age of 86.

GRAPHIC ART EXHIBITIONS

Victoria and Albert Museum

Dr. Berthold Wolpe, RDI, renowned calligrapher, designer of typefaces and of books, bibliophile and craftsman in precious metals, was born in Offenbach-am-Main, studied under Rudolf Koch and taught in Offenbach and Frankfurt until 1935 when he emigrated to England. He is now 75 years old, and the Victoria and Albert Museum has mounted a comprehensive retrospective exhibition of his work (open until 15 March 1981) to mark the occasion. The catalogue "Berthold Wolpe: A Retrospective Survey", published by the Museum and Faber & Faber, is

itself a magnificent example of the printer's art and worth its place on any library shelf.

The design of typefaces, book production, illustration and all the arts in which Wolpe excels are the backroom arts of the publishing and printing trade. Often we neither realise or care who has been responsible for the design and format of the books that give us so much pleasure, but it only needs a cursory glance at this exhibition and its catalogue to realise what a debt we owe to Wolpe for the excellence and imagination of his work and for the technical virtuosity of his skill.

When visiting this exhibition at the Victoria and Albert, it is also worth visiting their Ganymed exhibition. The somewhat complicated history of this renowned press is well described in the excellent catalogue produced for the occasion. The Ganymed Graphische Anstalt was established originally in Berlin by Bruno Deja, a well-known printer, and Julius Meier-Graefe, the art historian and former editor of "Pan". Destroyed during the Second World War, it was re-established, and a linked establishment was also set up in London in 1949. The exhibition shows examples of the work executed by the press over the years, including graphic works by Oskar Kokoschka, Henry Moore, L. S. Lowry, Ben Nicholson and many others.

For those who missed the exhibition of 20th Century German and Austrian Art at the Goethe Institute, there is a representative exhibition of similar work at the Cottage Gallery, 9 Hereford Road, London, W.2, until 7 February. From 20 February the same gallery will be showing works by Leonard Baskin.

Alice Schwab

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