

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Margot Pottlitzer

JOURNEY'S END

The Recovery of Heirless Property

A few months ago, the Jewish Trust Corporation for Germany was wound up. It had achieved the goals it had set itself when it was established more than 30 years ago.

When the war ended, both the Americans and the British set up central registry offices in their respective zones of occupation, where refugees in the United States and in Britain could register their claims for restitution of property looted by the Nazis. However, as soon as the full extent of Nazi atrocities became known, it was realised that there was a vast amount of looted Jewish property which would never be claimed, because its former owners had perished in Hitler's murder camps. It was widely considered intolerable that this property should continue in German hands, and responsible Jewish organisations, knowing that the surviving victims of persecution would need all the help they could get, decided that it should be secured and used for the relief and rehabilitation of such survivors. Consequently, in 1947, the Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation (JRSO) was formed under American Military Law as a body incorporated in New York for the American Zone of Occupation. A similar military law for the British Zone was promulgated in May 1949. It was to serve as the basis for the setting up of the Jewish Trust Corporation for Germany, empowered to claim all heirless and unclaimed spoliated Jewish property in the British Zone of occupation. At the time its activities were expected to recover about DM 25 million.

The Trust Corporation was sponsored by the Central British Fund, the American Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency, each entitled to nominate three representatives to its Council. It was also decided that the chairman was to be appointed by the CBF. Thus the late Sir Henry d'Avigdor Goldsmid was its first chairman who, after his death was succeeded by Mr. H. Oscar Joseph, OBE. The Agudas Yisrael World Organisation, the Anglo-Jewish Association, the Association of Jewish Communities in North West Germany, the Board of Deputies, the Council of Jews from Germany, and the World Jewish Congress British Section, were also represented.

The British authorities had set up a central registry in Bad Nenndorf, where individuals could file their claims, but where every person or public authority in Germany who had acquired Jewish property or knew about such acquisition, was obliged to submit a declaration. All depositions at Bad Nenndorf were made available to the new Corporation, but it was soon realised that, though they constituted valuable source material, they were far from complete. In August 1950, the Trust Corporation was designated as the Jewish

Successor Organisation for the former British Zone of Occupation and given access to all files, records, and registers kept by German courts, land registers, banks, public notaries and other authorities. With the support of the British occupation authorities, a central office was opened in Hamburg directed by Dr. R. Lachs, a distinguished refugee lawyer, followed by four branch offices in the major cities of the British zone, also run by refugee lawyers from Britain and Israel whose special knowledge of German law and local circumstances proved to be invaluable. Using a great number of special investigators, including carefully selected Germans, the Corporation soon started its own intensive search programme. The tracing of looted property proved difficult, because many records had been destroyed either deliberately or by war action. For the first few years, the so-called Allied Staff, i.e. those staff members coming from Israel and Britain, were paid from loans provided by the CBF, the Joint and the Jewish Agency, totalling £40,000. The salaries of the German staff, the billets for the Allied Staff, office rent and all other costs were financed by a loan of DM 1 million from the Foreign Office, which later waived repayment. By December 1951, the Corporation was able to pay its own administrative costs and began to collect funds.

Registration of Claims

For political reasons, and in view of the pressing needs of the survivors of concentration camps, speed was of utmost importance. During the first two years of activities, landed property formed the basis for most claims. Wherever possible, lengthy court proceedings were avoided and cash settlements of claims reached. Of all the claims handled, only 30 per cent came from the Bad Nenndorf registry, whereas 70 per cent were discovered by the Corporation's investigators. 5,300 cases were settled by agreements, but, in spite of the Corporation's avowed policy, 7,400 went to court. The Corporation was not keen to receive restituted property which would necessitate costly administration, but in many cases, particularly where a property had been bombed or severely damaged, the restitutors refused to pay cash and gave the property back. In addition, buildings confiscated by the Nazi administration, and in particular former communal property had to be returned as it was mostly required by the newly established Jewish communities in the zone. With this exception, restituted property was always sold at the earliest possible moment, but even so, some 820 buildings remained for which a special Pro-

perty Control Department had to be set up in Hamburg.

Much greater problems arose from monetary claims against the Nazi Reich of which 57,640 were filed. They arose from the wholesale confiscation of banking accounts, insurance policies, household belongings, jewellery, and other valuables. The West German authorities and the successor organisations were equally interested in an equitable settlement of such claims. Therefore, in March 1956, the Federal Government agreed to pay to the three successor organisations (there was also one in the French Zone) a sum of DM 88,440,000 in total settlement. The Corporation's share was DM 37,392,000. It did not at any time aim to engage in relief activities, but rather relied on the existing organisations, such as the Joint, the Jewish Agency, the CBF and the Council of Jews from Germany. A number of Jewish welfare projects in this country benefited from this policy—they include the Old Age Homes established by the CBF together with the AJR, a number of synagogues and other community buildings and several B'nai B'rith programmes.

Survivors in British Zone

In the early 1950s, some 5,000 Jews lived in the British Zone. Some of them were returnees, mostly elderly who had not been able to settle satisfactorily in their countries of refuge, others, survivors of Belsen and other camps, and quite a few who had lived underground or in so-called protected marriages during the war. They now wanted to re-establish some kind of Jewish religious and communal life and they looked to the Corporation for assistance. As most communal and organisational property had been transferred by the Nazis either to the Reich or to Nazi organisations, it was comparatively easy to secure their transfer to the Corporation without litigation, and some 900 items, including 620 cemeteries, were thus recovered. Only in a few rare cases, where individuals had acquired communal property, was it necessary to appeal to the restitution courts. After supplying the communities with the property they required, they agreed with the Corporation to establish a central fund for the use of the communities in North West Germany in which the major part of recovered property or the proceeds from its sale, were to be vested. The remainder went into the Corporation's general funds. The Jewish Communal Fund for North West Germany which was thus established continues to function to this day. It took over the responsibility for looking after some 600 disused Jewish cemeteries which had been entrusted to them, though the Federal Government and the respective Lander governments undertook to provide the money needed for their maintenance.

Most of the communal property that had been secured was severely damaged, mainly due to war action. Under the 1953 Federal Indemnification Law, compensation for such damage could and was claimed. Eventually a global settlement with the various Lander and the city of Hamburg was

Continued at column 1 page 2

Continued from page 1

HEIRLESS PROPERTY

reached, under which the Corporation received some DM 43,000,000, of which DM 29,000,000 were transferred to the communities and their organisations.

In Berlin, the situation was on the whole similar to that in the three zones of occupation, but special problems arose from the fact that the city was divided into four sectors. The brief of the Trust Corporation extended to Berlin, but rather than open an office of its own, it appointed the JRSO office, which had existed since 1949, as its general agent. Immovable property and its proceeds were allocated according to the sector in which it was situated. This was of course not possible for such property as confiscated bank accounts, securities and bonds, and it was agreed that the Corporation should receive 43 per cent of recovered property of this nature and at the same time pay a 43 per cent contribution to the administrative costs.

Whereas the search for heirless property in Berlin presented no more difficulties than in the three zones, the settlement of claims did. Most of the city, and hence the property to be recovered, was in ruins, and those obliged to make restitution were most reluctant to enter into settlements. Many properties had to be taken back by the Successor Organisation without the slightest chance to dispose of them. Eventually another global settlement, this time with the City of Berlin, was reached: against payment of DM 13,500,000, the city was assigned all properties already recovered and all outstanding claims concerning landed property and mortgages.

Records of Confiscation

Under the Nazis, Berlin had been the centre for confiscated securities and bank assets from everywhere. Thanks to German thoroughness, complete records of such transactions were kept in the archives of the former Reich Ministry of Finance, and in the case of shares and bonds, of the former Prussian State Bank and the Reichsbank. All these records, and the entire correspondence referring to these transactions, were meticulously preserved. In addition, 46,000 individual files of the Berlin-Brandenburg Oberfinanzpraesidium supplied detailed information about confiscated property, including the notorious *Deportations-Index* which contained the names of all deported and expropriated persons with cross references to their respective files. All this material served the formulation of claims. However, it was established that the bulk of the funds of the Reichsvereinigung der Juden which had been set up by the Gestapo for the confiscation of property belonging to communities and social and welfare organisations, had been transferred to Prague during the war and was therefore irretrievably lost. Another problem was solved when after lengthy negotiations, the Bonn Ministry of Finance agreed to convert recovered pre-war bonds into bonds of the Federal Republic.

Contrary to its early modest expectations, the Jewish Trust Corporation received some DM 174,000,000 during the 30 years of its existence. Of these, the CBF received nearly DM 28,000,000, the Joint DM 25,000,000, the Jewish Agency over DM 49,000,000, and the Leo Baeck Charitable Trust on behalf of the Council of Jews from Germany some DM 11,000,000. Thanks to strict economies and rapid staff reductions as soon as the situation permitted, only 7½ per cent of its income was ever used for administrative and legal expenses.

In a number of cases, people had not submitted their claims for restitution in time, and their property had been secured by the Corporation. In agreement with the Foreign Office, the Corporation restored property it had recovered or compensation it had received to such people if they could prove that they had valid reasons for missing the time limit. Legally they would have had no redress, but the Corporation paid out a total of DM 15,850,000 in this context.

From its early days until his formal retirement in 1969, Dr. Charles Kapralik was General Secretary of the Trust Corporation and largely responsible for its smooth working and its success; he continued his co-operation as Hon. General Counsel to the very end. He also described the history of the Corporation in his book "Reclaiming the Nazi Loot" (Vol. I 1962, Vol. II 1971).

At our request, he has supplied us with the information on which this short review of the Corporation's work has been based. We are grateful for his help in this endeavour as in many past ones. Both in office and retirement, he has done many things and helped many people, but his work for the Trust Corporation is probably the major achievement of his life. In his own short summary of its work he concludes:

"We had every reason to be grateful to the Foreign Office and to the British Occupation Authorities in Germany for their support. I wish to add that the authorities of the Federal German Republic, of the Lander and of the cities of Hamburg and Berlin were throughout friendly and helpful. . . . The final result of our work by far exceeded our expectations."

BALANCE SHEET OF MURDER

On the 20 and 21 October 1940, the National Socialists deported more than 6,500 Jews from Baden and Wuerttemberg to Camp Gurs in the French Pyrenees. It was the dress-rehearsal for the Holocaust: for the first time, human beings had, at a moment's notice (in actual fact the time given varied between 15 minutes and two hours), to abandon their homes and possessions and leave for an unknown destination. Our French sister-organisation "La Solidarité" marked the 40th anniversary of this traumatic event by publishing a historical study in French, English and German "The Deportation of German and Austrian Jews from France" by Dr. Barbara Vormeier of the Sorbonne. It is dedicated to the memory of the victims.

In a short preface, the organisation's president Dr Neu explains that, having fulfilled its social role to bring aid and relief to the German and Austrian survivors, it now feels bound to keep alive the memory of those "who paid the highest price for having trusted in existing institutions and in humanity". Of course, those deported from France in 1942 and 1943 included not only the inmates of Gurs and its adjoining camps of Rivesaltes, and Les Milles, but also many individual refugees who had come to France, the ancient citadel of Liberty, because they did trust the aforementioned institutions.

The book gives a short outline of French policies towards aliens and towards refugees in particular in the Thirties. As soon as war broke out, aliens were rounded up and interned. According to still existing German Foreign Office files, the Nazis had originally planned to send some 270,000

Jews from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia, most of them elderly, to France, but the French authorities objected vigorously and demanded the early removal of those they had already unwillingly received and compensation for expenses incurred by them.

Soon after the Wannsee Conference in 1942, deportations to Auschwitz started. In March 1942, the first convoy left camp Drancy north of Paris with over 1,100 French and foreign Jews. The Laval Government co-operated enthusiastically. When newspapers in Allied and neutral countries attacked the French authorities for their participation in the deportations, Laval sent a telegram to French embassies abroad in which he said "the French Government has decided to send with their families those stateless Jews who have settled in the unoccupied zone. . . . Such a high percentage of stateless Jews, involving themselves in the black market and in Gaullist and Communist propaganda, constituted a source of trouble that had to be brought to an end. . . . The authorities have no doctrinal ulterior motives, and their only concern is that of preventing our nation from becoming disease-ridden".

Deportees from France

Between March 1942 and 31 July 1944, 76 convoys left France for Auschwitz, Maidanek and Sobibor concentration camps. At least 75,720 Jews were thus transported to the death camps. They included some 47,000 foreign Jews, of whom at least 6,258 were German and 1,746 Austrian. There is one flicker of humanity in this report. The author says: "We also know there was another France and that many German and Austrian Jews, both adults and children, not to mention a number of political refugees, were able to survive the war in France or to escape deportation thanks to the outstanding help of individuals and aid organisations."

The most harrowing part of the book is a list of names of the German and Austrian Jews who were deported, giving their place and date of birth and details of the transports which took them to their destination. Over 20 of them were over 80 years old, whilst the youngest deportee was a boy of 7. The list is quoted from Serge Klarsfeld's "Memorial de la Deportation des Juifs de France", published in 1978. The author adds that it is not complete, and as it is based on the original deportation lists, drawn up by French officials, the names of people and places are sometimes misspelt, but nevertheless very few contemporaries of those people will fail to find a familiar name in the list.

It is sometimes said, by Jews as well as by Gentiles, that the time has come to stop digging up the past. However, if one considers that anyone under 35 today is unlikely to know anything about the particular events this book records, it is tempting to imagine what impact this compilation of bare facts would have on those young people in Germany for example who were so deeply shocked by the fictitious horrors of the Holocaust serial. Perhaps it should also be made required reading for the young people in this country who are so fascinated by Nazi insignia and uniforms.

The book (85 French F.) can be obtained from:
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HOME NEWS

KNIGHTHOOD FOR CHIEF RABBI

The Queen's Birthday Honours List includes a knighthood for the Chief Rabbi, the Very Rev. Immanuel Jakobovits. Whilst this is in the first place a personal tribute to him, it is at the same time an honour for Anglo-Jewry. Dr. Jakobovits was born in Koenigsberg and brought up in Berlin. Together with his family, he came to this country as a refugee, and whenever the opportunity arises, he unreservedly identifies himself with his fellow refugees. This is an added reason for us to convey our congratulations to him on the recognition of his achievements in this country.

OLD-ESTABLISHED SHOPS CLOSE

Two well-known London shops have been obliged to close after many years of service. The first is Kopelovitch in Berwick Street, where an amazing variety of lace fabrics in all colours and from all countries was to be seen on the shelves. Not the least of the shop's functions was to supply the wardrobes of our leading theatres and television companies — designers and research assistants mingled there with dress manufacturers and future brides. Kopelovitch was founded 70 years ago by a Lithuanian Jewish immigrant and was continued by his family. But increasing years and the changing scene of Soho have forced them to discontinue the business.

A few miles away in West Hampstead a quite different enterprise, Samuels Stores, which delivered groceries to the last, has also been obliged to close. Again, the problems of retirement and changing circumstances have brought 60 years of service to an end.

SELF-HELP THROUGH SCIENCE

Israel's unceasing search for self-help has made her the world's most concentrated laboratory of applied science, according to one writer. For example, Israelis lead the world in the use of solar energy, with one-quarter of households heating their water by solar hotwater appliances. In another field, a way has been found to take the bitterness from orange and lemon peel, so enabling soft drink manufacturers to reduce sweeteners in their products. Citrus juice waste is used for cattle food and the by-products of sugar-making, brewing and cheese-making are processed into animal foodstuffs.

"NETUREI KARTA" SPEAKERS DISOWNED

Rabbi Israel Domb, a well-known spokesman for the Neturei Karta Orthodox organisation, has disowned the group of young men who appear at anti-Zionist and pro-Arab meetings. They were only representing themselves, he declared, "We are not fighting Zionism on an Arab platform—we are fighting it on a Jewish platform." Other members of the Orthodox community have echoed his words, condemning appearances at pro-Arab meetings and calling those who speak for BAZO "completely lawless."

RABBI J. J. KOKOTEK, 70

Rabbi Jakob J. Kokotek, the Minister of the Belsize Square Synagogue, recently celebrated his 70th birthday. The fact that the Synagogue comprises former refugees and their descendants is added reason for the AJR to extend its sincerest congratulations to him.

Born in Bedzin, Rabbi Kokotek studied in Hamburg and Breslau, where he obtained his rabbinical qualifications at the Jewish Theological Seminar. From 1934 to 1939 he was rabbi in Waldenburg (Silesia). In this country, where he arrived with his family shortly before the outbreak of war, he held positions with several congregations in London, Dublin and Liverpool. In 1957, he was elected rabbi of the Belsize Square Synagogue (formerly New Liberal Congregation) as successor to its first rabbi, the late Dr. Georg Salzberger. The guiding principle of his work has always been a blend between the traditions of destroyed continental Judaism and the values this country of refuge had to offer. Within the movement of Progressive Judaism he holds a right wing position, working for re-introducing or retaining the more conservative trends of Judaism. Having himself shared the fate of his congregants, Rabbi Kokotek has become a personal friend to his congregants and their families. Many addresses delivered by him on joyful and sad occasions bear witness to this. His loyalty to his Continental origin also manifests itself in his long standing membership of the AJR Board.

His duties are widespread, comprising religious services, lecturing, educational work and social activities. He is supported in his activities by his wife, Wally, who is also chairman of the Women's Society.

Outside the congregation, Rabbi Kokotek has served in various capacities and leading positions with a number of Jewish and inter-denominational organisations, among them the World Union of Progressive Judaism and its European Board, the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues and its Rabbinic Board, the Council of Reform and Liberal Rabbis, the Council of Christians and Jews and recently as chairman of its consultative committee. Last but not least, he also teaches at Leo Baeck College.

It is understood that he will soon retire but, considering his undiminished vigour, he will certainly continue to use his freedom from the day-to-day duties for the benefit of Jewry and Judaism. We wish him health and happiness for many years to come.

DEPUTY MAYOR OF BRENT

The new Deputy Mayor of Brent is Councillor Ernst Rudolph Friedlaender. Born in Posen, in 1908, Cllr. Friedlaender trained as a specialist engineer in electronic components. He came to Britain in 1936 and is a regular supporter of the AJR.

MOTHERCARE BOYCOTTED

The well-known firm of Mothercare has been put on the Arab boycott list. In point of fact, it has no trading links with Israel, nor indeed with any other country in the Middle East, but as a matter of principle the firm's representatives declined to fill up the questionnaire required by the Damascus boycott office.

LEGACIES

Mr. Joseph Lee left a legacy of £266 and Miss E. J. Oberlander a legacy of £217 to the AJR Charitable Trust.

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NO COVER-UP BY BOARD

Dr. Jacob Gewirtz has defended the Board of Deputies against accusations of "covering up" antisemitic vandalism. The Jewish Socialist Group had alleged in a Radio 4 broadcast by its secretary that the Board was operating a "hush-hush" policy in face of organised and orchestrated fascist attacks on the Jewish community, its institutions and buildings. In reply, Dr. Gewirtz said that the Board of Deputies had issued a series of papers on such matters, among them a widely-publicised report submitted to the Home Secretary. It would, he said, be indefensible to exaggerate the level of these attacks. In his view, the attitude of the Jewish Socialist Group was due to annoyance at the Board's refusal to associate with the Anti-Nazi League.

ANTISEMITISM COMMISSION

A worldwide commission for combating the increasing manifestations of antisemitism, under the Chairmanship of Lord Lever, was established by the World Jewish Congress. The commission, which was founded at a recent meeting of the WJC Executive, held in London, will carry out its work in close co-operation with the Jewish communities in various countries. It will be assisted by the monitoring and research activities on antisemitic phenomena to be conducted by the Institute of Jewish Affairs in London, the research arm of the World Jewish Congress.

CENTENARY DINNER OF F.W.V.

To mark the 100th anniversary of the students' fraternity F.W.V. (Freie Wissenschaftliche Vereinigung), the British group of former F.W.V. members held a dinner on 6 June, which was also attended by several "Bundesbrueder" from abroad. In his address, the chairman of the group, Mr. R. Graupner, recalled the circumstances which brought the fraternity into being. It was conceived as the bearer of the ideas of tolerance and liberalism to counteract the then existing conservative and antisemitic fraternities. The sponsors and friends included, among others, Professors Virchow and Mommsen. Whilst originally the idea of parity between non-Jews and Jews was put into practice, gradually, as was the trend of the times, the groups, with few exceptions, consisted mainly of Jewish members. They all had to share the tragedy which set in in 1933. However, Mr. Graupner stressed, the basic ideas of tolerance and liberalism had retained their values. The function was a pleasant reunion of members who had kept the strong feelings of community built up in their formative years. Congratulations of invited guests were conveyed by Dr. L. Nelken on behalf of the KC and Dr. W. Rosenstock on behalf of the AJR.

FRED UHLMAN EXHIBITION

Last month, an exhibition of paintings and drawings by our friend, 80-year-old painter Fred Uhlman was held at the Hereford City Art Gallery. In the handsome catalogue, the Friends of Herefordshire Museums and Arts who are sponsoring the exhibition, express their pleasure to be able "to show the work of an artist who is essentially a poet" and refer to his autobiography as well as to his moving short story "Reunion" which has been translated into several languages.

IN MEMORY OF RABBI MAYBAUM

The Jewish Joint Burial Society of Reform Synagogues made a £2,000 grant to the London Leo Baeck College for the purchase of books in memory of the late Rabbi Dr. Ignaz Maybaum. The books have been purchased and a plate designed by Harry Blacker has been inserted.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

First-Time Memorial Ceremony

For the first time, a ceremony has been held in the White House in remembrance of the 6,000,000 Jews who died in the Holocaust. In the presence of 300 guests, mostly Jewish, President Reagan spoke of the suffering and death of Jews and of all others persecuted in the Second World War. It is proposed to hold a similar ceremony each year.

Defence League Acquittal

The trial of Irving Rubin, the leader of the militant Jewish Defence League in the United States, has ended in an acquittal on the charge of soliciting murder. At a news conference in March 1978, just before the planned Nazi march through Skokie, Mr. Rubin had, according to a tape recording of the proceedings, offered a reward of \$500 to anyone who "in defence of the community, kills, maims or injures a member of the American Nazi Party . . .". This tape was the only evidence presented in court and the prosecutor felt that he could not prove specific intent to commit murder.

Ten-Language Teacher Honoured

As a 12-year-old, Jay Sommer lost his family in the Holocaust and he himself was sent to a concentration camp. Nevertheless he survived and emigrated to the United States from Hungary in 1948. Now teaching 10 languages, including Hebrew and Russian, at a New York school, Mr. Sommer has been named as National Teacher of the Year.

More Friendliness towards Jews

Despite an increase in antisemitically motivated vandalism, Americans in general are becoming more positive in their attitudes towards Jews. This has been revealed by a Gallup poll taken in 300 American towns and covering 1,601 people. No more than 2 per cent of those questioned admitted to "highly unfavourable" opinions of Jews and 40 per cent were "highly favourable" towards them. A similar survey in 1975 had shown a "highly favourable" count of only 33 per cent. Denominational breakdowns showed that 46 per cent of Catholics and 39 per cent of Protestants reported favourable attitudes towards Jews. The proportion of Americans approving of mixed marriages rose from 59 per cent to 69 per cent over the 10-year period 1968-1978.

Theresienstadt Exhibition

Some 300 paintings, drawings and sketches from the Theresienstadt Camp were exhibited at the Yeshiva University Museum in New York. The artist, Bohemian born Norbert Troller (85), a survivor of Theresienstadt and Auschwitz, who now lives in New York, accomplished the work in a garret during his 2½ years stay in the camp. The pictures were confiscated by the Nazis but were found after the war.

DANISH JEWS IN TV WRANGLE

The appearance of Denmark's Chief Rabbi in a television film about the Jewish community has led to acrimonious wrangling. Rabbi Melchior, the son and successor of the late Dr. Marcus Melchior, was dismissed by the Board of Representatives on the grounds that he had not asked for their permission before the film was released, and that they had a right to ban anything which might be a security risk to the community. However, Rabbi Melchior has strong backing among his 8,000-strong congregation and the Danish Board of Deputies has called on the Board of Representatives to resign over the affair.

TOO SENTIMENTAL FOR DANISH TV

"Playing for Time", the film based on the Auschwitz orchestra, has been turned down by Danish TV. It was decided that the film, in which Vanessa Redgrave portrayed Fania Fénelon, was "too sentimental and too American".

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

NEW FRENCH GROUP COMMITS DESECRATION

A successor to the banned FANE, the New French Nazi Front (FFNN) has claimed responsibility for the desecration of the Jewish cemetery at Bagneux, a suburb of Paris. 80 or more memorial stones were smashed or daubed with such slogans as "Adolf Hitler is our President". Most of those commemorated were Polish victims of the Holocaust. A mass demonstration against the desecration was later held at the cemetery and shops in the Jewish quarters of Paris remained closed as a mark of protest.

Award for French Village

Every inhabitant of the French village of Le Chambon has a degree from an American college. Haverford College, Philadelphia, awarded an honorary degree to the whole community as a sign of admiration for their conduct during the Second World War, when 2,500 Jews were hidden from the Vichy Government and the Nazi occupiers, and the children among them educated. The Protestant clergyman of Le Chambon organised the rescue, which formed the subject of a book by Philip Hallie (Lest Innocent Blood be Shed, London: Joseph, 1979). His widow, Mme. Magda Trocmé, and their daughter accepted the award on behalf of the 3,000 villagers.

ITALY

New Study of Jewish Resistance

Jewish participation in the wartime Italian resistance is to form the subject of a book by Professor Meir Michaeli of the Hebrew University. He is currently in Rome, where he proposes to carry out researches for the next three months, as the guest of the Italian National Research Council. Professor Michaeli's visit has been arranged under the Italian-Israeli cultural agreement.

Day Centre in Earthquake Area

Five Jewish organisations, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the American Council of Jewish Federations, Hias, Ort and the Jewish Agency, have together contributed one-third of the finances required to open a children's day centre in Potenza. The town was one of the worst-hit in last year's earthquake disaster in Southern Italy.

NEO-NAZI MEETING IN BELGIUM

At a meeting organised by the "Vlaamse Nieuwe Orde" in a Flemish village, Dutch and French neo-Nazis held a ceremony in memory of Adolf Hitler. Also present was a Frenchman, Jean-Marie Loret, the self-styled son of Hitler.

BOYCOTT FOR SWISS HOTEL

The Arab boycott organisation in Damascus have added one of Geneva's largest hotels to their blacklist. The "Noga Hilton" is owned by Nessim Gaon, President of the World Sephardi Federation, and the boycott is attributed to his Zionist activities and his friendship with Israeli leaders, including Mr. Begin. The Swiss paper "24 Heures", in reporting the matter, points out that the site of the hotel belongs to the city of Geneva and the boycott is considered an "assault against local interests."

ARAB CITIZENSHIP FOR AUSTRIANS

The Austrian Socialist Party newspaper, the "Arbeiter-Zeitung", recently published an advertisement by the "People's Office of the Socialist Libyan People's Jamhariya" inviting applications for Arab citizenship. Sympathisers, it was stated, could approach any local committee of El Fatah for information and applications should be sent to the People's Office, formerly the Libyan Embassy in Vienna. The "Arbeiter-Zeitung" had refused an earlier advertisement from the same source calling for volunteers for the Libyan People's Army.

FAR EAST

Reports from South China tell of a Jewish community which has sprung from a single convert to Judaism. The number of Jews in the village is said to be 115 or thereabouts.

APPEALS FOR SOVIET DISSIDENTS

Local radio services in Britain have recently broadcast pleas by the wives of two Soviet dissidents. In Birmingham, Mrs. Chana Fridman spoke of her husband Kim, at present held on a charge of parasitism in Kiev. Although his wife and daughter managed to leave Russia four years ago, Kim Fridman has now waited 10 years for a visa; the reason given for the authorities' refusal is that he has knowledge of military secrets. He was not allowed to attend his daughter's wedding in Israel. The Birmingham 35s group take a particular interest in the Jews of Kiev, where hostile acts against dissidents have recently been intensified.

In Sheffield, Mrs. Shcharansky also appealed for her husband Anatoly. She hopes for an approach by the Sheffield city council to the Soviet authorities on behalf of her husband, at present in a labour camp. Sheffield is twinned with Donetsk, Shcharansky's home town, and last year pressed for clemency in the case of four Donetsk Jews condemned to death for minor offences. Later, Mrs. Shcharansky, accompanied by the historian Lord Bethell, met Mrs. Thatcher in London. The Prime Minister promised to raise the case of her husband with the Soviet Union.

Rabbi Fishman of the Moscow Synagogue has said that he would not take up the case of Anatoly Shcharansky. He had been told by the Soviet authorities that, because of the high proportion of emigrants who "drop out" from going to Israel, there was a possibility that all Jewish emigration would be halted. Dropping out, the authorities said, was a disgrace to Russia and a disgrace to Israel.

SOVIET POLICE PREVENT LECTURE

In Stockholm, a Swedish scientist who had intended to lecture his Soviet-Jewish colleagues at the home of Dr. Victor Brailovsky, has told how he was prevented from doing so by KGB men. Professor Herman Diamant said that when he arrived at the suburban Moscow flat, a group of five policemen told him to turn round and go home. No violence was offered but, alone in a strange place, he could do nothing else but return to his hotel.

Six months ago, Dr. Brailovsky was arrested without explanation and nothing has been heard from him since then. However, by law, the Soviet authorities must very shortly make a formal accusation or release him. In his absence Mrs. Brailovsky and other friends are carrying on the seminars.



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David's ISOPON

William Guttman

LAST WALTZ IN VIENNA

The tragedy of European Jewry which Hitler produced, though universal and monolithic in its horror and sadness, is but the sum total of an infinite number of tragedies varying according to the conditions and traditions of the place where they happened and the communities, families and individuals who were victims.

In a book just published by the Ullstein Verlag (and to be published next September by Macmillan in London) under the title "Das waren die Klaars—Spuren einer Familie" by George Clare, himself one of the survivors, the scene is what was once the Habsburg Empire centred around Vienna, the author's native city; the cast, the people of the country including a large Jewish component with the members of the Klaar family in the leading roles; and the time a whole century stretching up to the climax of the drama with expulsion and extermination for some, salvation for others.

The outstanding merit of the book is that the author had the energy, ability and the means to research and study, on the one hand the history of that century and the political and social developments which shaped and conditioned the Jews within the society in which they lived; on the other hand, the background, the roots of the individuals, their careers, education, their personal relationships and their fates down to the details of how they met—or escaped—extermination. It is a gripping tale, moving and saddening, but also as is proper for a Jewish story, with many touches of sarcastic observations and humour, both bitter and hilarious.

The first member of the family to leave the anonymity and obscurity of the Ghetto for the journey into European civilisation which for some of his descendants would end in Auschwitz, was Great-Grandfather Herrmann Klaar, born in 1816 in Stanislau in the Bukowina. He combines in a remarkable way eccentric as well as typical features of the Jewish destiny.

Typically for Eastern Europe, Herrmann's father, coming from a family of innkeepers, had risen in the social scale to become a wine merchant, and his son in turn was able to receive a higher education and studied medicine. Quite untypically, however, after qualification as a doctor, for many years he made the army his career, served in it for 20 years, rose to become a regimental doctor with the final rank of major, saw active service in the wars against Italy and France in the years 1859 and 1866 and was mentioned in dispatches, ending his days as a respected doctor in private practice in Vienna. This achievement of full integration into Viennese-German culture—or rather, alas, the illusion of it—was made easier by the accident of his birthplace being in the Bukowina. The reason was that the Bukowina had been under Turkish domination until 1774 when the Habsburgs conquered it. So the Jews of the Bukowina, unlike their brethren in Polish parts of the Habsburg Monarchy, were on the side of the local people in their detestation of the Turkish oppressors and, together with them, fullheartedly embraced the blessings of German culture which the new masters brought to the province. They were simply part and parcel of this culture without distinction, apart from purely religious ones, from their fellow citizens. It was not difficult for them to become fully fledged Viennese and the old joke of the Vienna Jew who was not really a Wiener but only a "Bukowiener" is, if one can take it seriously at all, a distortion of a sociological fact.

So Herrmann Klaar established a German-Austrian-Viennese family of the Jewish faith, almost a dynasty of doctors. His youngest son Ludwig—George Clare's grandfather—was, as Stadtphysicus, Oberbezirksarzt and Obermedizinalrat, in public service. Two of his grandsons, Paul and Joseph, also became doctors—Paul, after war service (where he was highly decorated) in

public service with the Vienna Police and a "Hofrat". Another son, Ernst—George Clare's father—became a banker in the service of the Landesbank, an institution with international links, and reached a distinguished position there. Ernst's wife hailed from Lwow in Galicia and her family had achieved a considerable degree of affluence in business—the tobacco and corn trade. Characteristically, George's maternal great-grandfather still wore the kaftan, a sharp and significant contrast to the soldierly appearance of the paternal great-grandfather Herrmann in his glittering uniform of a K. und K. army officer; and indeed this contrast illustrates the existence of two original strands in Austrian Jewry; the completely assimilated Jews and those where the Jewish tradition still remained prevalent. The Klaars in the melting pot of Vienna became fully integrated into the society of "their country"—Austria—and of Vienna in particular, where life was so largely influenced and enriched by the contributions of Jews in all fields of human endeavour. But alas antisemitism remained endemic in Austria and grew from the apparently more manageable form of the proverbial "respectable pre-war antisemitism" into its vicious, racial and inexorable variety. During all that time, Austrian Jews had been searching for their identity, the meaning and the dangers of their Jewishness, and men like Moritz Benedikt, the editor of the Neue Freie Presse, the writer and dramatist Arthur Schnitzler, the writer and journalist Karl Kraus (Fackel-Kraus) and last but not least Theodor Herzl, had expressed the thoughts and attitudes not only of themselves but of many of their fellow Jews.

Would the Klaars' way out of the ghetto lead them and their children in the end to full equality and peace of mind, to complete freedom from fear? So far, in spite of difficulties, the progress had been successful enough and filled them with optimism for the future, an optimism that turned out to be self-deception and a snare and made their fate all the more tragic.

The danger signals from across the German border, Hitler's rise and eventual assumption of power, the Nuremberg laws, the radicalisation of the Nazi politics as the Party gained ascendancy over the army in February 1938 remained unheeded or were brushed aside with the notorious illusion "it can't happen here"; and the ominous events in Austria itself, the murder of Dollfuss and the civil war of 1934 were not recognised as such. Even the last hectic weeks of independent Austria that began on 12 February 1938, with the Austrian chancellor Schuschnigg being summoned to Hitler did not induce the family to change their daily routine and to take drastic action for their salvation. It was, after all, carnival—and young George in the last week in February was still in the mood to attend one of the traditional great balls, the first of his life—and indeed his last waltz in Vienna. Then the Nazis took over, the dream had come to an end. With some ironic bitterness Clare remarks that the very brutality of the takeover, the cruelty and humiliation inflicted upon the Jews was in a way a blessing in dispelling the illusions with a vengeance and bringing home to the Jews the deadly urgency of the situation—that flight was their only chance of survival.

The Klaars were fortunate in getting visas, indeed Ernst Klaar having the possibility of emigrating either to Ireland or to France chose the latter where—an incredible stroke of luck in those circumstances—he got a job with his old bank. The choice, tragically enough, was his death warrant. Because caught by the war in France and trapped by the Vichy regime, in spite of substantial help by the local people, he was deported with his wife who insisted on staying with him and they both perished in Auschwitz.

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FROM THE GERMAN SCENE

DOUBLE STANDARD FOR TERROR ATTACKS

The number of right-wing disturbances and acts of violence in West Germany shows a steady increase, according to the Minister of the Interior, Gerhart Baum. In an interview with Hessischer Rundfunk, he said that such cases had risen from 616 to 1643 in the years 1977-1980. Membership of right-wing organisations had also tended upwards in the previous year from 17,300 to 19,800 and the number of organisations had similarly increased from 69 to 75 in the same period. Stressing the swing of right-wing activism towards such acts of illogical fanaticism as "living bombs", the Minister believed that a "double standard" was maintained towards such acts as the Munich Oktoberfest explosion and bombings by the Deutsche Aktionsgruppe: "How would public opinion react if it had not been right wing but left wing extremists who were responsible?" He felt that right wing extremism had been underestimated, but that in any case the authorities had the situation well in hand.

A survey by the Ministry of Justice tends to confirm that more emphasis is given to left wing terrorism than to right wing. From the statistics given, it appears that 102 terrorists with left wing backgrounds have recently been charged or held on suspicion, compared with 33 right wingers. 273 convictions have been passed against left wing extremists, 11 of them being sentenced to life imprisonment, while on the right the respective figures are 89 convictions, five incurring a maximum of 15 years' imprisonment. Comparing casualties, the left wing are held responsible for 30 deaths, 110 cases of attempted murder, 100 people injured and 163 hostages taken. Right wing extremists have caused 17 deaths, but only two charges of attempted murder have been made against them, while 221 persons have been injured by right wing violence.

NO INSURANCE FOR WAR CRIMINAL

A former member of the notorious "Organisation Todt" who received a life sentence for war crimes by an American military court, but was later amnestied, claimed that his time in prison should count as a qualifying period for his retirement pension. The Supreme German Social Court rejected his application, stating that this type of imprisonment did not count as military service.

EXEMPLARY SENTENCE ON PUBLISHER

An exemplary sentence of 32 months' imprisonment was imposed on Erwin Schönborn in a Frankfurt court recently. Schönborn, chairman of the Kampfbund deutscher Soldaten and a leading neo-Nazi activist, was found guilty of distributing antisemitic leaflets and letters. This was the latest of a series of convictions and the court felt that the sentence should be a deterrent to those who, like him, provide an "intellectual weapon" for new rightwing extremist parties.

INTERPOL AND GESTAPO

The French antiracial MRAP organisation has claimed that the international police organisation Interpol which has its headquarters in St. Cloud outside Paris, holds the entire wartime Gestapo files which disappeared at the end of the war, and that several post-war directors of Interpol had co-operated closely with the Nazis. The organisation published a photo of Paul Dickopf, Interpol's president from 1968-1972, in SS uniform. During the war, Interpol was based in Berlin's Kleine Wannsee-Strasse. MRAP says that if Interpol has nothing to hide, it should open its archives to the French authorities. Interpol replied that it is barred by its statutes from doing so, but that it will move back to Vienna, where it was founded in 1923, if attacks on its integrity continue.

SCHOOL BUST OF ANNE FRANK

The Anne Frank School in Frankfurt a.Main now displays on its wall a bust of the child who died in Belsen in 1945. After the unveiling, Anne Frank's stepmother, Mrs. Fritzi Frank, was shown the work by its sculptor, Knut Knudsen.

RIGHTWING MURDER OF MINISTER

Heinz Herbert Karry, the Hessian Minister for Trade and Communications, was recently assassinated in his own home in Frankfurt a.Main. Responsibility for the murder has been claimed by the co-called "Third Reich Movement" in West Germany. The father of their victim was a Jew who underwent several years in a concentration camp and Herr Karry, a "Mischling" under Nazi law, was sent to a forced labour camp; he did not in fact practise Judaism but was a Christian. After the war, he became a leader of the Free Democratic Party.

INVITATIONS BY GERMAN TOWNS

The municipality of Tübingen has invited its former Jewish citizens to one week's stay in their home town and allocated DM 130,000 for this scheme. Of the 59 invitees so far 34 have accepted the invitation.

The Local Council of Giessen would be pleased to give its former Jewish citizens hospitality (accommodation and breakfast in one of the hotels). Interested readers should get in touch with the Magistrate, Ostanlage 45. The city is, however, not in a position to defray the costs of the fares. The archivist of the town, Dr. Erwin Knauss, would also be interested in any information about the fate of former Giessen residents. So far, he has only obtained particulars from Israel, because Giessen is a twin town of Natanya.

WUPPERTAL EXILES MEET

Third Reich exiles from Wuppertal living in Israel recently enjoyed a social gathering in Tel Aviv. The meeting was first suggested by Wuppertal councillor Ulrich Föhse, who brought greetings from the Mayor and introduced a film about Wuppertal, "Verliebt in meine Stadt".

LIMBURG'S TOKENS OF ESTEEM

In Limburg, the Mayor has recently unveiled a bronze plaque to mark the site of the synagogue destroyed in November 1938 and to remind passers-by of their fellow-citizens' fate. Stressing the importance of the Jewish community in the town's history, the Mayor referred to such signs of continued contacts as the tending of the Jewish cemetery, letters exchanged with former Limburgers and hopes for future visits from them. Two streets in Limburg are to be named after former Jewish citizens, Philipp Weinholt and Leo Sternberg.

JEWISH TOPICS IN STUDENT ESSAYS

In a nation-wide essay competition organised by the Koerber Foundation of Hamburg, over 12,000 young West Germans aged between 12 and 21 submitted over 2,000 individual and group entries on the subject of "Everyday life during the Nazi regime". Many of the young researchers focused on Jewish subjects, such as persecution in different districts, anti-Jewish legislation, the November Pogrom, "Aryanisation" and deportation. The Koerber Foundation distributed a quarter of a million information kits about these events; over and above this kind of help the students sought out eye-witnesses and survivors who could round out their portrayal of the times.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SAP

For several decades the "Deutsche Bibliothek" (Frankfurt/M) has been active in collecting, scrutinising and making available literature published in Exile during the Nazi period. The eighth volume of its special works on this subject is an analytical bibliography under the heading "Die Presse der Sozialistischen Arbeiterpartei Deutschlands (SAP) im Exil 1933-1939". It has been compiled by Oberbibliothekar Harro Kieser, Dr. Brita Eckert and Dagmar Schluender. The author of the preface is Professor Dr. Walter Fabian, who spoke about his experiences in exile at the presentation of the book on 1 April.

PEACE PRIZE FOR REFUSENIK

The 1981 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, amounting to £5,000, was awarded to the Russian writer and researcher Lew Kopelew who now lives in the Federal Republic. He will receive it during this year's Frankfurt Book Fair.

ARRESTS FOLLOW DAUBING

Daubed Nazi symbols have led to the arrest of four young neo-Nazis in Kassel, who have been charged with planning or committing acts of violence. Propaganda and small arms found in their homes were seized by the police.

It is thought that the group, whose moving spirit was a 29-year-old clerk, intended to attack the SPD offices in Kassel. Earlier this year, it is alleged, they blew up cars belonging to Turkish workers and sprayed such slogans as "Kanacken raus, sonst bomben wir euch aus!" and "Sieg Heil—Türken raus".

Under the name "Aktion wehrhafte Demokratie", the four men are accused of distributing pamphlets in a school, paying some pupils to help them. The pamphlets called for maintenance of the purity of the German race, an end to Jewish influence and the "lifting of the ban on National Socialism". The film "Holocaust" was described as a "horror-screed" which helped to suppress the teachings of Adolf Hitler and National Socialism. "Police terror", it was threatened, would be answered with counter-terror.

APOLOGY FROM MUNICH MAYOR

In the name of all citizens of Munich, Mayor Zehetmeier has sent a letter to the Jewish community deploring a recent swastika-daubing on the memorial to the former synagogue in the Maxburgstrasse. The building was one of those destroyed in the pogrom of November 1938.

GERMAN HANG-GLIDERS IN TERROR ATTACK?

The German manufacturers of motorised hang-gliders, Firebird Production of Seeg (Bavaria), believe that their products may have been used by Palestinian terrorists against Israel. Although the gliders are normally used for sport, the firm has delivered 24 of them to Syria and 20 to Kuwait and Bahrain. The Gulf states told Firebird Production that they wanted to use hang-gliders in coastal patrols, but it is possible that they eventually fell into the hands of Palestinians and were used in the attack on Israel earlier this year.

SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRANTS

The number of Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union in April was 1,155 as against 1,407 in February and 1,249 in March, according to figures issued in Vienna. Of the April emigrés, only 179, or 15.5 per cent, chose Israel as their destination.

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J. W. Bruegel

THOMAS MANN'S DIARIES

Thomas Mann died soon after his 80th birthday in Zurich in 1955. He had ordered that the Diaries kept by him should not be opened until 20 years after his death. Since 1975, his biographer Peter de Mendelssohn, has published (apart from a volume covering the years 1918-1921) so far three massive volumes containing the notes for the years 1933-1939 (S. Fischer Verlag). Ample commentaries were supplied by the editor to explain the background and to give information about the persons mentioned. They take up more than 300 pages in the last volume and there are still many things which remain unexplained, in spite of the commendable tracing abilities of Mr. de Mendelssohn.

Unlike most other German writers known for their opposition to National Socialism, Thomas Mann was never an emigré in the proper sense of the word: he was on a lecture tour abroad, when Hitler installed his régime in Berlin and did not return anymore. But to the disappointment of many, not least of his own children Erika, Golo and Klaus, Thomas Mann refrained at first from all expressions of criticism, although he had been an active opponent of National Socialism up to January, 1933. He kept silent out of regard, hardly understandable today, for the wishes of his publisher, Samuel Fischer who, up to his death (1934), lived under the illusion that he could continue in Germany in the old spirit, provided his authors did not attack the régime. Thomas Mann's later contributions to the struggle against the Third Reich have amply compensated for his initial silence. His wartime messages to the German people, broadcast by the BBC, urging them not to follow Hitler into the abyss, were heard secretly by many in Germany and remain of permanent value as documents of a "better Germany". Nevertheless, Mann's justification for his silence, as disclosed in the Diaries, sometimes contains dubious arguments. Meditating as to whether he should make public the fact that he had been granted Czechoslovak citizenship, so that the deprivation of his German citizenship had become an empty gesture, he noted as late as 1 December 1936:

"... Neuer Anruf Bermanns (S. Fischer's son-in-law and successor), mit dem übereinkam, mit der Veröffentlichung doch bis Neujahr zu warten. Handelt sich im Grunde um das deutsche Weihnachtsgeschäft, welches ein Gesichtspunkt".

Thomas Mann's belated change from silence to attack was motivated by an article in the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" (January 1936), stating that not the whole German literature was in emigration, but only the "Romanindustrie" represented "only" by Jewish authors who did not follow the notable example of the reticent Thomas Mann. Though Thomas Mann even at a later stage insisted on his superiority in comparison with people he characterised as "Emigrantschaft", the attack in the Zurich paper forced him to an unambiguous protest, expressing open opposition to National Socialism and associating himself *expressis verbis* with exile literature.

It goes without saying that Thomas Mann, married to a Jewess and father of six half-Jewish children, an enemy of National Socialism in all respects and hence naturally of its racist barbarity, cannot and must not be accused of any antisemitic feelings. Nevertheless, much of what he says on the subject in the Diaries is strange in the extreme. Even if one takes his side in his old conflict with a man like Theodor Lessing, it is painful to read that he did not overcome his aversion after Lessing had been murdered by two

Nazi killers in 1933: "Mir graust vor einem solchen Ende . . . weil es so elend ist und einem Lessing anstehen mag, aber nicht mir." These were his reactions to the Nazi terror, noted on 20 April 1933:

"Die Revolte gegen das Jüdische hätte gewissermassen mein Verständnis, wenn nicht der Wegfall der Kontrolle der Deutschen durch den jüdischen Geist für jenen so bedenklich und das Deutschtum nicht so dumm wäre, meinen Typus mit in denselben Topf zu werfen und mich mit auszutreiben."

Some days earlier (10 April), he had noted about Alfred Kerr:

"Dass die vergiftende Nietzsche-Vermauschelung Kerr's ausgeschlossen ist, ist am Ende kein Unglück; auch die Entjüdung der Justiz am Ende nicht".

A Bad Joke

While competition is great, the prize for the worst possible taste and, at the same time, for the most bizarre recollection, must certainly be given to the entry for 25 December 1933:

"Die Kinder, . . . befragt, was von Weihnachten das Schönste gewesen sei, erklärten: 'Als Herr Papale bei Tisch einen Juden nachmachte'".

In May 1937, he was furious "über das infame jüdische Cliquen-Wesen beim 'Neuen Tagebuch'", because Hermann Kesten had had the temerity to review positively in that paper a novel by Alfred Döblin whom Mann did not like. He had always been badly treated by "Jewish criticism" which ignored his achievements, he complained in a letter to Bruno Frank, "indem sie einen Bluts- und Cliquen-Genossen mit unverschämter Ostentation gegen mich, den dummen Goi, auf den Schild erhebt." Consequently, he declined to supply further contributions to "Neues Tagebuch" (a threat which did not last long).

Not everything which he said in the Diaries and which is faithfully reproduced in the three volumes for the years from 1933 onwards is of interest to the outsider. The extent of egocentrism of the author is sometimes difficult to fathom, like the entry made during an ocean journey on 28 May 1934:

"Schuld an dem Unbehagen ist vor allem das

besonders niedrige geistige Niveau unserer Tischgenossenschaft. Ich kann mich gewisser Empfindungen der Beschämung angesichts der herrschenden völligen Unbekanntheit mit meiner Existenz nicht entschlagen. Es fehlt an jeder orientierten Aufmerksamkeit auch von seiten des Kapitans."

Much of the category "Menschliches, Allzumenschliches" can be tolerated in personal notes laid down by a genius, but one would have wished for the elimination of some derisory remarks made by Thomas Mann about persons still living. One could do without being told about every day at what hour breakfast had been taken and whether it had consisted of tea or coffee. Daily meditations about the weather 45 years ago seem as expendable as complaints about digestion difficulties.

It is really "warts and all" which are reflected in the Diaries, yet the disagreeable impression created by some of those warts should not push into the background the immense value which Thomas Mann's daily notes have for the understanding of the great works he created in emigration and of their genesis. The Diaries show the multitude of Thomas Mann's interests and the strict discipline of his working day. Without these, neither the quality nor the quantity of his remarkable output would have been possible—the finishing of the Joseph-Tetralogy, "Dr. Faustus", "Lotte in Weimar" and much more, apart from innumerable essays, speeches, lectures, addresses and magnificent efforts to rescue many of Hitler's victims. There was hardly a single day in the years between 1933 and 1939 on which Thomas Mann did not add several thousand words to his collected works—the penultimate chapter of the novel "Lotte in Weimar" was written in September 1939, whilst sitting in a deckchair on an ocean liner sailing from Southampton to New York, and the book was published still before Christmas. *Ceterum censeo*: The ability of Thomas Mann to build a new existence at the age of sixty, filled with highly successful activity in Switzerland and, once more, at the age of 65 in the United States, as reflected in the Diaries, can only heighten the admiration for one of the greatest writers of this century.

UNSUNG HEROES

A counsellor of the Israeli Embassy in Bonn presented the Yad Vashem Medal for the Righteous of the Nations to Mrs Charlotte Oewerdieck in Berlin for herself and for her late husband. They had saved several Jewish families from deportation and death, thus risking their own security and livelihood. Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Jewish community, expressed its thanks and said that but for the courage of the Oewerdiecks, several members of the present community would not be alive.

In Innsbruck, Mrs Antonie Viehboeck was given the Yad Vashem Medal, because together with her late husband she had hidden a Jewish refugee from Berlin for more than three years.

In Düsseldorf the Council of Christians and Jews awarded an honorary membership to Dr. Georg Ufer from Betzdorf, Sieg, who saved a Greek Jew from deportation in 1942 by taking him to Albania in his car. Dr. Ufer had already been awarded the Yad Vashem Medal for his dangerous and courageous act.

On the occasion of his 65th birthday, Bishop Dr. Josef Stimpfle, Augsburg, was honoured by having his name entered in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund in recognition of his untiring work for the state and the people of Israel. The Augsburg Jewish community planted a Josef-Stimpfle Grove in Jerusalem. Dr. Stimpfle has repeatedly visited Israel as the guest of the government, and on one occasion he opened a boarding school in the town of Sapir for which he had collected funds. He was the first German ever to receive the Yad Vashem Medal.

CLUB 1943

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

- 6 Juli. Dr. E. Seligmann: Lecture on Mexico and the Majans. Peter Seglow: Colour slides.
- 13 Juli. Dr. Angela Hobart Ph.D. Temple-Complexes in Cambodia: The concept of God-Kingship (with slides).
- 20 Juli. Dr. John Gabriel Ph.D. (University of London): A Thousand Activities in Search of an Explanation: Play, Art, Drama.
- 27 Juli. Dr. Kurt Pflueger: St. Marylebone. Der Stadtteil, der sich seines Namens schaehte.
- 3 August. Mitgliederversammlung. Berta Sterly: Ernstes und Heiteres aus meinem Leben.

IN MEMORY OF WALTER BRESLAUER

SPOKESMAN OF GERMAN JEWRY

Dr. Walter Breslauer, who recently passed away, was a man whose whole life was, in an unobtrusive way, devoted to the German-Jewish Community. As Director of the Juedische Gemeinde of Berlin from 1931-1936 he rendered outstanding service, especially during the Nazi period. After the War, in London, in close co-operation with the late Dr. Fritz Goldschmidt, he made unceasing efforts to influence and improve, for the benefit of the Nazi victims, the German legislation and practice relating to restitution and compensation. Although he carried on a busy legal practice in London, no journey to Germany for meetings with the German authorities, at all times of the year and in spite of advancing age, was too much for him. He brought to his task a brilliant legal mind, complete integrity, a deep sense of fairness and thorough application—qualities which earned him the high regard of the authorities.

Invaluable work was done by him on behalf of the United Restitution Office and as Vice-President, later Joint Chairman, of the Council of Jews from Germany (the international organisation representing the refugees from the Hitler Reich). He chaired many meetings of the Council, combining exemplary courtesy with absolute firmness where required.

The writer remembers Walter Breslauer as a man of immense, genuine kindness and consideration for others. He was of an exceptional innate modesty which made him shun the limelight and thus, far too few are aware of his dedicated efforts on their behalf. Those who knew Walter Breslauer will always remember him as one of the finest men they ever met.

FRANK. E. FALK

FOUNDER OF THE AJR

In paying tribute to Dr. Walter Breslauer, we also gratefully remember his work as co-founder of the AJR in 1941 and member of its Executive until 1949, when he decided to concentrate his

energies on the work of the Council of Jews from Germany but remained associated with the AJR activities as a member of the Board. The initial period of the AJR was not an easy one because the majority of the refugees were poor and the means necessary to accomplish the manifold tasks were limited. Dr. Breslauer was one of those Executive members who understood the difficulties with which the small staff had to cope and as an experienced administrator played a decisive part in developing the organisation.

It should not be forgotten either that, during the war years, when his practice in international law had come to a standstill, he worked as a book-keeper with the Board of Guardians (now Jewish Welfare Board); it was an important position but certainly not in keeping with his high intellectual standard. He was also one of the few refugee jurists of his generation who resumed their legal studies in this country and obtained an LL.B.

After the death of his wife a few years ago, Dr. Breslauer moved into the house of his daughter and her family. There he was given all possible care and also enjoyed the visits of his friends and former fellow workers. When his health deteriorated, he was accommodated at Osmond House, where the devotion with which his nurses looked after him will always be gratefully remembered by his family and others near him.

WERNER ROSENSTOCK

A VERY DEAR FRIEND

It is always sad to have to say goodbye to an old and very dear friend of many years' standing. It is a comfort to know that Dr. Walter Breslauer had a long, fruitful and happy life. I was fortunate enough to be able to share a legal office with him until, for health reasons, he had to work at home. We also worked together in the AJR of which he was a founder member and in connection with the German legislation for restitution

and compensation. Dr. Breslauer was one of the leaders in the negotiations with the German Government regarding these matters. Not only the Jewish refugee community in this country, but also the refugees of other countries owe him a lot for his very successful efforts in this respect. He was indeed a remarkable man, a man of absolute integrity, high intelligence and an almost excessive modesty. He also had many interests besides his profession, especially in the field of politics and economics, and it has always been stimulating to discuss problems with him. I shall never forget him.

ALFRED S. DRESEL

DR. HANS LIBROWICZ

Dr. Hans Librowicz, whose death was announced in our previous issue, did spadework in the Bradford Reform Synagogue. Born in Hohenzalza, he practised dentistry in Berlin and came to this country in 1937. In the tribute, paid to him in these columns a few months ago on the occasion of his 90th birthday, special reference was made to his outstanding Jewish knowledge and his close association with his "Bundesbrueder" of the former KC fraternity in Germany. We extend our sincerest sympathies to his widow and the other members of his family, who are Jewish communal workers in their own right.

MRS. SADIE KOHN

The death has occurred in Israel of Mrs. Sadie Kohn, one of the first volunteers to join the Jewish Relief Unit in 1945. After helping to rehabilitate survivors in Belsen and other DP camps, in 1949 Mrs. Kohn took on the responsibility for emigrants sailing to Israel, where she herself settled in the same year.

MRS. DORA WOOLFSON

Formerly of Glasgow, Mrs. Dora Woolfson died recently in Jerusalem. In the '30s, she was an active worker on behalf of young refugees and after the war devoted her attention to the cause of Israel, where she eventually moved following the death of her husband.

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Egon Larsen

HATING PEOPLE IS WRONG

A History of Philosemitism

At first sight, a book about philosemitism in history looks like a jolly good idea. But on second thoughts one begins to wonder whether "a friendly attitude to the Jew", as the author defines philosemitism, is really a concept suitable for a historical investigation. After all, it is nothing else but the absence of antisemitism, a refusal or inability to hate people, of persecuting, of murdering them. One might just as well embark on a history of civilised behaviour, of decency, of toleration—virtues that are supposed to be matters of course since mankind has surpassed its most barbaric early era.

But has mankind really surpassed it? We know only too well that relapses into barbarism have occurred throughout history, right into our own century; and therefore the author, Vienna-born Professor Solomon Rappaport, had a good reason for writing his book ("Jew and Gentile: The Philosemitic Aspect", Philosophical Library, New York). "Though pro-Jewish attitudes appear to be rarer and less characteristic than antagonism towards the Jews," he says, "the motives of philosemitism are, nevertheless, as interesting and significant as those leading to antisemitic sentiment, thought and action."

There was hardly any philosemitism during the Middle Ages, when all arguments in favour of the Jews were silenced by the merciless "*Tut nichts, der Jude wird verbrannt*". The Reformation brought some enlightened men into the limelight, such as Erasmus of Rotterdam who "found great inspiration in the Jewish religion", and who coined the sarcastic maxim "If it be Christian to hate the Jews, then we are true Christians." The French philosophers, Lessing with his "Nathan", Herder with his work on Hebrew poetry, the Jacobin Mirabeau: they all prepared the ground for the emancipation of the Jews in Europe. Rappaport quotes a splendid prayer composed by the Austrian Emperor Joseph II when he issued his Edict of Toleration in 1781—a hymn to the ideals of humanism which fathered the emancipation.

However, edicts did not do away with the deep-seated anti-Jewish feelings among the European petty-bourgeoisie, mainly motivated by primitive materialist impulses. Your reviewer's favourite analysis of Christian antisemitism comes from Heine's introduction to his essays on Shakespeare: "I know a good Hamburg Christian who can never get used to the fact that our Lord and Saviour was born a Jew. A deep annoyance overcomes him every time he has to admit to himself that the man who, a paragon of perfection, while deserving the greatest veneration, belonged to the tribe of those snotty longnoses whom he sees hawking their junk around the streets, whom he despises so thoroughly, and who are even more obnoxious to him if, like himself, they turn to the wholesale trade in spices and dyes, thereby encroaching upon his own interests."

Some, but by no means all German poets of the romantic period expressed their sympathy with the Jews; the nationalistic Arndt admired them as the "eternal Protestants", the upholders of the right to be different. In Britain, George Eliot,

Walter Scott, Swinburne, Browning, Byron, Trollope and, in our century, C. P. Snow were among the substantial number of writers who declared themselves as friends of the Jews. Richard Wagner was, of course, the great antisemite among the musicians, but Liszt sympathized with the Jews, and so did Pablo Casals, says Rappaport. In France, the Dreyfus affair brought out the worst as well as the best in people whose voices influenced public opinion; Zola, with his grand indictment of the military caste and the clerical leaders, "*J'accuse*", turned the tide in favour of the unjustly libelled and condemned Jew Dreyfus. A few years later, T. G. Masaryk, the Czech academic and patriot who was to become the independent country's first president, stepped into the political arena with his courageous defence of Hilsner, a Jew who had been accused of ritual murder. "I am convinced that he who has Jesus for his guide," said Masaryk, "cannot be an antisemite. That is clear to me because Jesus was a Jew, because the apostles were Jews, because ancient Christianity has much in itself that is essentially Jewish. If I accept Jesus, I cannot be an antisemite."

Few philosemites in modern times have acted, or at least spoken out, as valiantly and defiantly as "T.G.M.", but the German pacifist F. W. Foerster and Cardinal Faulhaber were certainly among them, and so is the Russian poet Yevtushenko with his famous "Babi Yar" (1960): "It seems to me that I am as old/as the Jewish people itself . . . /I am each old man that was slaughtered here, /I am each slaughtered child . . . /Let the "Internationale" ring out joyously/when the last antisemite on earth is buried." But Professor Rappaport's praise for Thomas Mann, about whose early antisemitic period he seems to have known nothing, is somewhat overdone.

Even stranger is Rappaport's lengthy attempt at whitewashing Pope Pius XII (Pacelli), whom he keeps calling "Piux"; the criticism of that Pope's friendly attitudes towards Hitler and Nazism was based only on "general assertions and fragmentary testimonies", says the professor. And wholly unacceptable is his praise for the South African politician and Prime Minister Dr. Malan, who did his utmost to keep the country out of the Allied front against Hitler—and who was one of the main architects of apartheid, a manifestation of racialism just like antisemitism. It is only from the book's back flap that we learn about Rappaport's position of professor at the University of Witwatersrand.

"THE THREEFOLD CURSE"

Autobiography of Dr. Kaete Frankenthal

Under the heading "Der dreifache Fluch: Juedin, Intellektuelle und Sozialistin" the memoirs of the physician Dr. Kaete Frankenthal, who was also active in the political sphere and took an active part in the development of social medicine under the Weimar Republic, has been published by Campus-Verlag, 6 Frankfurt, Schumannstr. 65 (DM30.—). Dr. Frankenthal was a member of the Berlin City Council and the Prussian Diet. She had to leave Germany, when the Nazis came to power and ultimately settled in the US.

The contribution of refugee physicians to their country of adoption is also described in a book by Dr. Kathleen M. Pearle under the heading "Preventive Medicine: The Refugee Physician and the New York Medical Community, 1933-1945" (University of Bremen, PO Box 330440, D 2800 Bremen, Distribution No. RA 005, DM 6.— plus postage).

MARGARET JACOBY'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

It seems incredible, but it is true: on 22nd May Margaret Jacoby-Orgler was 99 years old. In 1956, together with the late Gertrud Schachne, she founded the AJR CLUB in Zion House, Eton Avenue, Hampstead. It fulfilled an urgent need. Owing to the special circumstances of refugee life, there were a great many ageing men and women in our community, who in the twilight of their lives, after many years of hard work, found themselves increasingly lonely. From the small beginnings of those days, the Club rapidly developed, until it became necessary to move to larger premises. Supported by the late Dr. Hans Reichmann then chairman of the AJR, at the initiative of Mrs. Jacoby the AJR Charitable Fund purchased No 9, Adamson Road which is now just adequate for the growing number of people to whom the Club with its 400 members has become their real home. To this day, Mrs. Jacoby has remained its chairman with undiminished strength and enthusiasm, and in its turn the centre has become the fulfilment of her life. She still attends actively to all its tasks, however big or small, and she seems to thrive on it.

It was therefore a fitting tribute and an expression of gratitude that the Club arranged a surprise birthday party for her which she enjoyed as fully as all the club members and friends who attended it. The club rooms on both floors were filled to overflowing. Mrs. Dora Segall and her helpers deserve high praise for the wonderful organisation and the provision of food and drink.

Mr. C. T. Marx, chairman of the AJR, expressed his own and the organisation's good wishes and admiration to Mrs. Jacoby as well as his hopes for an even grander occasion to celebrate Mrs. Jacoby's 100th birthday. Johanna Lichtenstern-Metzger, accompanied by her husband, provided a serious musical background with her beautifully sung Schubert-Lieder and her "Reich mir die Hand mein Leben" duet from Don Giovanni in which she was partnered by Dr. Hans Freund. The latter then produced two musical birthday tributes: One was a poem to which quite a few gifted friends had contributed verses, sung to the tune of "O alte Burschenherrlichkeit", in which the audience joined with gusto. His further tribute was a rendering of the well-known "Aennchen von Tharau" song, in which the name of Aennchen was aptly replaced by that of Mrs. Jacoby.

Mr. Arnold Horwell followed with a warm-hearted, spirited, and deeply moving tribute, in which he referred to his own and his parents' many years of close friendship with Mrs. Jacoby and her late husband. In a serious and yet light-hearted poem, Mr. C. H. Guttman praised the role of the club against the background of the history of the refugee community.

After cutting the birthday cake, having patiently listened to all the praise bestowed on her, Mrs. Jacoby rose and gave a beautifully formulated ten-minutes talk in which she thanked all contributors, related some events in the history of the Club and ended with one of her own graceful little poems.

It was a heart-warming afternoon greatly enjoyed by all those present who left full of gratitude to a woman who has done so much over many years to enrich the lives of others. She did a lot of social work before she came to England, but surely the club represents the culmination of her achievements. May she long continue to guide it with undiminished youthful strength.

M.P.

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NEWS FROM ISRAEL

HOLOCAUST IGNORANCE AMONG STUDENTS

First-year Haifa University students have recently been questioned on their knowledge of the Holocaust. Their replies reveal that about 8 per cent did not know the meaning of the term "The Final Solution", half of them had never heard of Zyklon B, while two-thirds could not identify Joseph Goebbels. One girl, asked about Yad Vashem, replied that it was the name of a Nazi concentration camp. In an attempt to dispel this kind of ignorance, Israeli schools now include Holocaust studies in their syllabus.

YAD VASHEM HONOURS POLISH FAMILY

The Jerusalem Yad Vashem Institute awarded the Medal of the Righteous to the Polish family Tyryllo now living in Lodz. During the war, they saved the lives of several Jews in Vilna where they then lived, by hiding and feeding them.

TOURIST FIRMS SEEK VATICAN HELP

Christian tourist agencies in Israel are agitated by reports that the Israeli Tourism Ministry has given instructions that only licensed guides may accompany groups of pilgrims. Virtually all the 3,000 licensed guides are Israelis. The agencies fear that Christian clergymen will be prevented from leading pilgrim groups. As a counter-measure, they propose to ask the Vatican to protest against the decision.

SPANISH TWINNING WITH ISRAELI TOWN

For the first time towns in Israel and in Spain have been twinned, even though no diplomatic relations exist between the two states. The towns in question are Toledo and Safed, where hundreds of Sephardic Jews exiled from Toledo settled in the 16th century. At the twinning ceremony in Safed, the Mayor of Toledo referred to his city as a model of tolerance and co-existence, comprising Christians, Moslems and Jews, whose religion and culture had given the city its present-day personality. He regretted, however, that he had not received any response from Nablus to his offer of twinning, since he would have welcomed the foundation of a similar friendship with a Palestinian Arab community.

BRITISH COAL FOR ISRAEL

Britain is selling coal to Israel on particularly favourable terms. Under a recent contract with the Coal Board, Israel will buy 150,000 to 750,000 tons each year for the next five years.

2,000 YEARS IN ONE VILLAGE

A single family, named Zinati, claims that it has lived uninterruptedly in the small village of Peki'in, Central Galilee, for 2,000 years. The village is traditionally the only settlement in Israel with a permanent Jewish population dating back to biblical times. Hopes of expanding the Jewish presence there have not succeeded in the past, though fresh attempts are currently under way.

MIDDLE EAST

Marriage Hardships for Syrian Jews

Anxiety is growing in Israel concerning the Jewish community in Syria. Attempts to obtain permission for Jews to leave the country have had only one minor success: in 1977 12 young Jewesses were allowed to go to America to marry. President Assad exploited this as propaganda, but no other girls have been able to emigrate. The number of marriageable women who can find no suitable Jewish husband in Syria is now put at 500, while their menfolk are liable to torture and murder without the means to save themselves. The Israeli Public Committee for Syrian Jewry is seeking to arouse world opinion and has approached the Pope, UN Secretary-General Waldheim and a number of women in important posts, such as Simone Veil, Margaret Thatcher, Norwegian Premier Brundtland and the US Ambassador to the UN, Jane Kirkpatrick.

Rabbi Arrested in Iran

Deepseated alarm is felt by the trapped Jewish community in Iran, following the arrest of the acting Chief Rabbi and his wife. 80,000 Jews attempted to emigrate from the country when Ayatollah Khomeini took control, but many had to return because they could find no place of settlement. Now, with virtually no possibility of escaping, they fear the Rabbi Kohen Tzedek may be harmed or even killed and that his arrest may signal a wave of persecution against the whole community. His wife is at present under house arrest.

PERSONALIA

GEORGE H. TRENTER 70

George H. Trenter, a long-standing member of the AJR, will celebrate his 70th birthday on the 26 July. Mr. Trenter, who was born in Berlin and took an early interest in Zionism, joined the "Blau-Weiss" at a young age and became a very active member.

During the Nazi period, he worked with the Palestine Office in Berlin, where he did a great deal to promote the "illegal" aliyah. He escaped to England shortly before the War and, when War broke out, he volunteered for the British Army. He saw service in several theatres of War, distinguishing himself in the Burma campaign under Lord Mountbatten.

After the War, he became one of the leaders of the Theodore Herzl Society and worked with great devotion in the Zionist Federation of which he is now a Vice-President and Chairman of the Constitution Committee. In business, Mr. Trenter showed great competence in developing from small beginnings a very successful manufacturing company.

His daughter, Pamela, went on aliyah some years ago to a kibbutz in the danger zone of the Golan Heights and recently married in Israel.

Our warmest wishes go out to George Trenter and his family. F.E.F.

RAYMONDE WEIL 80

We congratulate Raymonde Weil on reaching her 80th birthday on July 3rd. Over the years she did sterling work for Self Aid of Refugees for whom she was personally responsible for raising many thousands of pounds. She did this with all the charm and tact for which she is famous and helped to give comfort to many fellow refugees. Our good wishes are with her.

DEATH OF SAMUEL WEIL

The death of Samuel Weil has recently been announced in Johannesburg at the age of 83. Swiss-born, he was educated in Germany and emigrated to South Africa in 1936. In 1939 he became responsible for settling Jewish refugees in Swaziland and Northern Rhodesia, and he was also the co-founder of "Our Parents' Home", a refuge for elderly German-Jewish immigrants. With the late Leo Ascheim he established the well-known fashion house of Weil & Ascheim in Johannesburg.

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Diamond Wedding

Dux:—Dr. Walter and Margarete Dux (née Sichel) will celebrate their Diamond Wedding on 20th July. 18, St. George's Road, St. Margarets-on-Thames, Middlesex.

Golden Wedding

Heimel:—Karl and Alice Heimel (née Grosz) announce with great thankfulness the 50th anniversary of their marriage which was solemnised at the Turner Synagogue, Vienna, on July 26th 1931.

Thanks for Congratulations

Margaret Jacoby:—The 99 year old birthday child thanks most heartily Dr. Rosenstock, Dora Segall, the AJR Executive, her relatives, her friends, all the generous donors and the dear members of the Club for their most touching congratulations including the hundreds of cards received on this occasion.

Deaths

Deutsch:—Miss Margaret Deutsch (formerly Vienna and Leicester) of Heinrich Stahl House, passed away peacefully June 2nd. Sadly missed by all her friends.

Izbicki:—Herbert Philip Izbicki died suddenly on May 17th, 1981. Deeply mourned by his devoted wife Trude, sisters, family and many friends.

Lacks:—Erna Lacks (Manchester, formerly Würzburg) passed away suddenly 29th May 1981. Sadly mourned by her relatives and large circle of friends.

Schachter:—Miss Jenny Schachter (born in Essen) of 22 Oakfield Road, N.3., died suddenly on Sunday, 24th May.

Weyl:—Gretel (Margarethe) Weyl passed away at the Morris Feinmann Home, Palatine Road, Didsbury, aged 73 years. Will be remembered by her son Michael, daughter-in-law Helen and grandchildren Sarah and Rachel, as well as many other relatives and good friends. Flat 20, Lansdowne House, Wilmslow Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 0UJ.

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Loewenthal:—Rolf Loewenthal left Bremen in first children's transport Nov. 1938 to England with younger brother. Herbert Goldschmidt of Bremen wishes to make contact. 42, Wendover Court, Finchley Road, London, N.W.2.

OBITUARY

ERNEST SANDER

Mr. Ernest Sander who has died in London, aged 94, was for many years a member of the AJR and an avid reader of AJR Information. Born in Stuttgart, he came to London before the first world war and worked in a bank. He was interned for the duration and had to return to Germany afterwards. He went to Berlin, where he opened a private bank of his own and mixed with an interesting circle of friends which included Bruno Cassirer, the pioneer of French impressionism, Leonid Pasternak, father of the writer, and his daughter Josephine who remained a life-long friend. When Ernest Sander came to Britain a second time, as a refugee in 1934, he brought with him a collection of beautiful paintings, works by Renoir, Derain and Picasso as well as Pasternak among them. He again started work in the city which he continued, though by then severely handicapped, until a few months before his death. In 1935, he married British-born Marian Cohn-Speyer, a Warburg descendant and a gifted designer of furniture, some of whose work is to be included in the Victoria and Albert Museum's exhibition of 20th century furniture. Their home became a social centre where refugees and English people mixed easily throughout the years to discuss music, politics, and the arts. A close friend of Ernest Sander was the French resistance hero-

ine Bertie Albrecht. The Sanders' only daughter, now Mrs. Audrey Gale, studied to be a barrister and became a founder-member of British Amnesty. M.P.

STEFFI PANKE

Steffi Panke, a devoted member of the AJR staff for 17 years, died on June 5 at the age of 65. She was born and spent her youth in Breslau, and the family later moved to Berlin. When the Nazis came to power she first emigrated to England and from here to India, where she met her husband, a dental surgeon. They had a son, and after the war the family decided to settle in England. Then tragedy set in. She first lost her son, then 13 years old and shortly afterwards her husband. Soon after that she started to work for the AJR, where she eventually became secretary to the director and editor of "AJR Information". In this capacity she was also personally responsible for certain duties in connection with the publication of our journal. In addition, she was in charge of the "Meals-on-Wheels" service and a number of other tasks. The feelings of comradeship her colleagues at Fairfax Mansions cherished for her were re-affirmed when she fell ill six months ago and as, by frequent visits, they anxiously observed the gradual deterioration of her condition. Sadly as she will be missed, we may find comfort in the thought that death came to her as a release from painful suffering. S.B.

NEUENGAMME CONCENTRATION CAMP Request for Material

The Museum fuer Hamburgische Geschichte is preparing an exhibition about the Neuengamme, Fuhlsbuettel and Wittmoor Concentration Camps, which is to be opened on 18 October 1981. Any readers who can supply information, documents, photos or equipment of the prisoners and the guards should get in touch with the Museum fuer Hamburgische Geschichte, Holstenwall 24, 2000 Hamburg 36.

CZECH JEWS MAY GET HELP

Discussions have recently taken place in Prague between a delegation from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the leaders of the Jewish community, as well as between the Joint and government representatives. For 30 years, the Joint has been unable to provide aid for Czechoslovak Jews but, following long, secret and delicate discussions in Vienna, there is now hope that its activities may be resumed.

HUNGARIAN POET ON THE HOLOCAUST

"The Choice of Destiny" has recently received its premiere in Pecs. Written by a noted Hungarian poet, Gyula Illyes, the plot of the play concerns the Nazi war crimes against the Jews in Hungary, of whom 600,000 were murdered.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

NS-Massacres in Poland on German Television.

It has become the custom with German-speaking television programmes that presentations of controversial plays are followed by discussions with a view to making a new generation acquainted with events of the (not-so-distant) past. When Ida Fink's play "Der Tisch" appeared on the small screen recently, the lamentable events in Poland were the subject of such a debate, the "table" forming the actual centre from where the SS issued their murderous orders. A cast of mainly Israeli actors was assembled to increase credibility and, in the subsequent discussion, the actors reported about their lives during that period of terror.

50 years ago the opera sensation of the year was Alban Berg's "Wozzeck", based on Georg Büchner's play. The opera, conducted by Erich Kleiber, was given an enthusiastic welcome in Philadelphia whilst in Germany, Berg, a disciple of Arnold Schönberg, was already then called a "creator of questionable art" and his work criticised as "modern radicalism". However, "Wozzeck" triumphed in Vienna (surprisingly, perhaps, under Clemens Krauss!); nowadays, the opera is in the repertoire of many opera houses in Germany and elsewhere.

Books. "Das war der Frühling in Berlin" is the title of a book of recollections by Hans Borgelt, published by Schneekluth Verlag, Munich. It would appear that "Frühling" is not altogether

well-chosen when post-war Berlin in its rubble and ashes, its starvation and despair between 1945 and 1950 is depicted against the background of an allied cultural reconstruction. Some quite interesting chapters refer to Furtwaengler, Heinrich George, the young Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Kaethe Dorsch (known for her hitting-out at critics—very literally!)

Birthdays. Fritz Rotter, creator of numerous evergreen lyrics ("Ich kuesse Ihre Hand, Madame") is 80 years old. He now lives in Ascona, Switzerland. Vienna's popular actor-producer Hans Jaray is 75. S.B.

SOMETHING FOR ALL TASTES

George Him Exhibition

The Ben Uri Art Gallery is mounting an "Ancient and Modern Exhibition" (23 June-13 July) of the work of GEORGE HIM.

George Him was born in Lodz in 1900 and studied law, antiquities and the history of religion, but eventually he turned to art and studied and worked as a graphic designer from 1920-1933 in Bonn, Leipzig and Berlin, contributing to the *Berliner Tageblatt*, *Der Querschnitt* and *Die Jugend*. In 1933 he left Germany and returned to Warsaw, but emigrated to England in 1937. In his new homeland we particularly recall his arrangement of the first Ghetto Exhibition in this country, and the magnificent Masada exhibition

which eventually was displayed all over the world. Many of us will also recall the lively and exciting advertising exhibits he prepared for Schweppes and the advertisements he produced for El-Al. In addition, he illustrated children's books, particularly the Alexander saga. And at the same time he went on painting.

The exhibition covers a wide range of his work, including sketches done in Israel in 1951 and in 1980. His pictures will undoubtedly appeal to every age and to every pocket.

The Ben Uri Art Gallery (21 Dean Street, W.1) is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays each week.

ALICE SCHWAB

DR. MAX GRUENEWALD HONOURED

Rabbi Dr. Max Gruenewald was awarded the public service medal of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe. The first recipient of this medal was Dr. Nahum Goldmann. Dr. Gruenewald is Honorary President of the "Federation". He is also a member of the Presidium of the Council of Jews from Germany and a co-founder and international President of the Leo Baeck Institutes in New York, Jerusalem and London. We express our sincerest congratulations to Dr. Gruenewald, with whom many in our midst have closely co-operated throughout the years, on this well deserved recognition of his signal services.

SIGMUND FREUD—Sigmund Freud will be commemorated by an Austrian 3-schilling stamp to be issued this year, the 125th anniversary of his birth.

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