

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Martin Stern

THE CASE OF
EICHMANN'S MEMOIRS

November inevitably brings back memories of the Kristallnacht and the great tragedy that followed inexorably from that prelude. And here we find ourselves confronted by a long book* claiming to be the memoirs of Adolf Eichmann. Two questions come immediately to mind. Are they genuine? And even if they are, does it really matter? With due caution and wariness one finds oneself answering in both cases: yes.

The book is published by Druffel, the extreme right-wing (*rechts-radikal*) house with a list chiefly concerned with "revising" and whitewashing the history of the Third Reich. Eichmann is supposed to have recorded his memoirs in Argentina in the mid- and late-fifties, and the publishers claim to have received tapes, microfilms and documents through and from Eichmann's wife and son, and they print a sworn affidavit of authenticity from his wife. One wonders whether these materials are available for inspection. There are eight photographs in the book, and one would have expected the publishers to use them to show what the tapes and microfilms looked like, but they do not. In the photographic reproduction of Eichmann's Personnel Report of 1937, his wife's name is given as Vera Liebel, whereas on the printed affidavit it is Veronika Liebl. Perhaps this was a printer's error, but Eichmann and his editor make much of bureaucratic errors of detail when it suits them—in fact, it is their chief line of defence.

The book has been edited and provided with a commentary and notes by Rudolf Aschenauer, the lawyer who has defended many Nazis in war crimes trials. The background material he provides is selective and tendentious, and sometimes clearly false. Thus, on a crucial issue, Aschenauer claims that the original transcript of the proceedings of the Wannsee Conference, where the decision on the Final Solution was taken on 20 January 1942, was never found (p. 478). The original can be seen by any serious researcher in the Political Archive of the German Foreign Ministry in Bonn in the File Section "Inland II G, Vol. 177". Eichmann remembers how "after the Wannsee Conference Heydrich, Müller and I sat cosily around the fireside." (p. 446). On a trivial level, Aschenauer follows his dubious sources and says that Alexander Kerensky was a Jew, which, of course, he was not. (p. 42). Aschenauer dismisses Eichmann's comments and testimony at his trial in Jerusalem as "worthless", since he was under pressure, yet he does not hesitate to quote from the testimony and cross-examination verbatim and at length—without attribution—when

it suits him. Gideon Hausner's "Justice in Jerusalem" is not listed in the bibliography, an extraordinary omission in a book with scholarly pretensions. Hannah Arendt's "Eichmann in Jerusalem" is also omitted (though her "Origins of Totalitarianism" is included). Raul Hilberg is called Paul.

In his potted historical background survey, Aschenauer seems to imply that since antisemitism was widespread in Germany and elsewhere, it was a natural and respectable ideology to adopt. In any case, the book is being examined by the Munich State Prosecutor with a view to determining whether its content contravenes the law.

Authenticity

Nevertheless, despite the sloppy editing and pseudo-scholarly presentation, from the internal evidence of Eichmann's text, it would seem to be authentic. Prof. Helmut Krausnick, former head of the Munich Institute for Contemporary History, considers the memoirs genuine, and remarked in an interview that if they had been published by his Institute, they would doubtless have been called a brazen forgery by extreme right apologists, since Eichmann concedes and admits so much about the criminal anti-Jewish policy of the Third Reich, more than the reader could ever have expected. Eichmann sketches sharply-etched word-portraits of his colleagues: Heydrich, Kaltenbrunner, Müller, Schellenberg, Höss, Canaris, *et al.* Eichmann also implies that Müller was a Soviet agent.

We only have space to report some of the major points that emerge from the memoirs. There is the question of Hitler's direct involvement with the order for the implementation of the Final Solution. Much has been made in recent years of the fact that no written order from Hitler to exterminate the Jews has been found. Eichmann says that only an idiot could imagine the Reichsführer of the SS, Himmler, issuing a written order saying that Hitler had commanded physical extermination. Orders for

murder or extermination were always given by word of mouth. Eichmann writes: "It is completely wrong to believe that at the start of the Russian campaign, Himmler, Heydrich, Müller and Eichmann decided upon the extermination of Jewry. The Head of the Sipo (Security Police) and of the SD (Security Service) Heydrich received the order. In my opinion it was in no way his own idea. I still remember the very moment when he told me that the Führer had ordered physical extermination. I heard the expression for the first time in my life and I shall never forget that moment." Later, Eichmann writes: "As I have stressed, Heydrich personally told me that the Führer had given the order and the Reichsführer SS, as is well known, had charged Brigadeführer Globocnik with carrying it out within the framework of the Reinhard Action."

Goering's role turns out to be more important than previously assumed. Eichmann reports: "In October 1941 Goering gave the Head of the Sipo and SD (Heydrich) responsibility for carrying out the Final Solution of the Jewish problem." It will be recalled that just after the November pogrom of 1938 Goering declared that if war broke out there would be a great reckoning with Jewry. In notes he made after his arrest Eichmann wrote: "The entire solution of the Jewish problem at the highest level really lay with . . . Reichsmarschall Goering."

Himmler's Visit

For the enlightenment of those neo-Nazi apologists who deny the existence of gas chambers, Eichmann confirms their existence in Auschwitz, Treblinka and elsewhere, says that Höss, commandant of Auschwitz, invented gassing by Zyklon B, and reports Höss having told him of Himmler's visit to Auschwitz, where Himmler witnessed "physical extermination from gassing to cremation" (p. 458). On the next page Eichmann tells of how Höss showed him a pile of corpses on an iron grate in a ditch, which were then incinerated, and that he was so horrified that he could still see it as he wrote. Aschenauer writes (p. 52): "Defendants and witnesses in Nazi proceedings confirm Eichmann's statements."

Eichmann and Aschenauer quibble about the number of Jews killed, and juggle with the figures. "However," Aschenauer writes on p. 53, "Eichmann's figures are relatively large".

The Eichmann who emerges from these memoirs, however self-serving they may be, shows how wrong-headed Hannah Arendt was when she spoke of the "banality of evil". She was taken in by Eichmann's presentation of himself at his Jerusalem trial as a mere bureaucratic cog in the wheel of destruction. Eichmann presents himself here as a highly-motivated idealist who made many sacrifices for his cause, and we know that he was full of enthusiasm and drive and that he showed very great initiative in delivering Jews to the death camps despite all the difficulties he faced in war-torn Europe. It is all there in the 1937

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*Ich, Adolf Eichmann. Ein historischer Zeugenbericht. Edited by Dr. Rudolf Aschenauer. Druffel-Verlag, Leoni am Starnberger See. 550 pp.

Continued from page 1

EICHMANN'S MEMOIRS

Personnel Report: "Very lively, sociable, highly motivated . . . very alert mind and understanding, especially good at negotiating, speaking and organising . . . an energetic and impulsive person, a great talent for independent administration, a recognised specialist in his field." In a sense, there is the essence of the Nazi phenomenon: the use of rational means for a wildly irrational end. A specialist in the persecution, then destruction of Jews.

The Nazi phenomenon and the Holocaust were central events of the 20th century, perhaps the central events. Myths tend to cluster around such events. Young hooligans, unable to cope with the complexities of the world around them, look backwards for images and examples of violence and aggression, to be discharged upon any convenient victim. Old Nazis, who were once part of a dynamic consensus, as they still see and feel it, have neither the courage nor the maturity to face the reality of the devil they served, nor the insight and strength to reconstruct their sense of themselves and the world without the ideology that once sustained them. So they revise and distort, they lie and deny, but inside themselves, and among their cronies, they know the truth, and they always did. The myths and the lies must be nipped in the bud, and monitored with constant vigilance. In their twisted way, if Eichmann's memoirs are authentic, they make their contribution.

NAZI SPEECHES ON CB

A Citizens' Band radio enthusiast in West Berlin has been fined 2,000 DM for broadcasting recordings of speeches by Hitler and Goebbels.

GYPSY TRIED FOR WAR CRIMES

A gypsy sent by the Nazis to a concentration camp, Hermann Ebender, has been charged in Fulda with the brutal killing in 1945 of 17 fellow-prisoners in the camps of Rottleberode and Stempeda near Nordhausen.

OLDEST JEWISH HOUSE IN GERMANY

Standing in the Trier Judengasse is perhaps the oldest Jewish dwelling in West Germany. According to tests carried out by Professor Alfred Haverkamp, the oak tree used for the beams of the house was felled in 1311. His researches show that about the same time 300 Jews were living in Trier, and he hopes that the house will be maintained as a historical monument.

JEWIS IN WUERZBURG, 1900-1945**Request for Material**

The City of Wuerzburg has embarked on a research scheme aimed at preserving the memory of the once flourishing Jewish life of the town. One of its objectives is the publication of a biographical handbook "Jews in Wuerzburg 1900-1945 and their subsequent fate". The scheme was suggested by the present Wuerzburg Jewish community and is being carried out in co-operation with Professor Herbert Strauss of the Research Foundation for Jewish Immigration, New York.

Any information (including the names of other Jewish former citizens) should be sent to: Stadt Wuerzburg, Amt Oe u. St. Postfach, 8700 Wuerzburg, German Federal Republic.

DUESSELDORF DOCUMENTATION PLANNED

Moritz Kanarek, a 79-year-old Israeli, is preparing a documentation of the Jews of Düsseldorf, where he lived both before and after the Second World War.

NEWS FROM GERMANY**EAST GERMAN JEWISH NEWS BULLETIN**

The latest issues of the News Bulletin of the Jewish community of East Berlin and the Association of Jewish Communities in the GDR (Nachrichtenblatt) bring together information about the various Jewish centres in the country. There are brief reports from the Jewish communities of Berlin, Dresden, Erfurt and environs, Halle/Saale, Karl-Marx Stadt, Leipzig, Magdeburg and Mecklenburg. There is a homily from the late Rabbi Dr. Martin Riesenburger, and articles on the old Jewish cemetery in Dresden, on Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Jews, on Max Mack, the pioneer German film director, who died in London in 1973, on the March 1981 meeting in Amsterdam of the European Council of Jewish Community Services (to which Czech, Hungarian, Polish and East German representatives came as observers), and on Stefan Zweig. In East Berlin, the writer Walter Kaufmann gave a talk, with music recordings, about "Three Journeys to the Promised Land". Strongly contrasting views about the talk were expressed by members of the audience, some agreeing and some disagreeing with the apparently favourable impressions of the speaker. The Dresden section records greetings received for Shavuot from Dr. Josef Burg, the Israeli Home Minister, who was born in Dresden. Many of the community reports tell of visits of Christian confirmation groups with their vicars, to whom Jewish practice and customs were explained.

The Rosh Hashana issue of the Bulletin contains a moving article on "Cultural Life in the Theresienstadt Ghetto" by Dr. Max Poper of Prague, reprinted from the Nachrichtenblatt of the Czech Jewish Community. The article describes the intense cultural activity in the ghetto, and quotes the courageous address by Rabbi Leo Baeck, who spoke on "Large Nations and Small Nations", and how small ones often lived on in history because of their cultural and spiritual contributions while the large ones are forgotten, ending with a pointed reference to Jan Hus, whose fame and influence outlived that of his persecutors. There is also an article on Thomas Mann's "Seven Manifestos on the Jewish Problem". In the item mentioning the ceremonial inauguration of a memorial stone to the Herbert Baum Resistance Group, opposite the Palace of the Republic, the writer expresses regret that there was no mention on the stone, and only casually in the dedicatory speech by Herbert Grünstein, Chairman of the District Resistance Committee, that the Baum Resistance Group were subject to double jeopardy as both Jews and communists.

COURT MILDNESS IN STADE

A court in Stade has reduced the sentences on Edgar Geiss, a neo-Nazi propagandist, from 15 to 10 months' imprisonment. The original charges related to leaflets spread by Geiss during the Cologne trial of Kurt Lischka. The leaflets bore the words, "I'm an ass who still believes that Jews were gassed in German concentration camps". The judge explained his leniency by saying that the accused could not have known his activities were illegal, as his lawyer had assured him that he ran no risk of prosecution. However, only a few days earlier in Nuremberg, Geiss had been cleared on charges of glorifying Nazi criminals: he had laid a wreath at the Nuremberg courthouse in memory of the men accused and sentenced at the Nuremberg Trials of 1946/47. Another court in Stade, after acquitting a former SS-man on charges of murder, ordered that he should receive compensation for his time in custody.

BOYS MADE TO GIVE HITLER SALUTE

A 55-year-old teacher in Maxhütte near Amberg has been suspended from his post and faces a court hearing, after it was alleged that he had forced pupils to give the Nazi salute when they met each other.

CELLE NAZIS IN OFFICE

Eckart Spoo, Hanover correspondent of the "Frankfurter Rundschau", recently decided to look round the pleasant town of Celle for former National Socialists and to trace their careers since 1945. He found a host of past and present judges and lawyers who had risen to high positions in Celle courts after the war, notwithstanding their records. One judge had sentenced two soldiers to death in 1943 for destroying a picture of Hitler: another had been the Gestapo chief in Paris. Both rose to the rank of President of their respective courts after the war. Karl-Heinz Müller, a former SS Obersturmführer sentenced to death in absentia by a French court for his war crimes, achieved the post of Chief of the Criminal Police.

Walter Zusan, a National Socialist since 1931, when he was an illegal Hitler Youth in Austria, is now the political editor of the influential "Celleschen Zeitung", despite attacks from the liberal press. His career includes membership of the SS since 1936 and the editorship of a neo-Nazi paper. Criticising the film "Holocaust", he likened its content of historical truth to "meat in charity soup". When another newspaper disclosed details of his career and said that he sprayed his readers with National Socialist propaganda, Zusan prosecuted but without success.

COLOGNE TABLETS REINSTATED

In 1266, Archbishop Engelbert II of Cologne issued a *Schutzbrief* or "Privilege" confirming the rights of Jews in his bishopric. Among other provisions, the proclamation declared that Jews might bury their dead in the Jewish cemetery without payment of duty, and that no executions should be carried out near the cemetery. The Archbishop put Christians and Jews on an equal footing so far as taxes were concerned, and protected Jewish moneylending businesses by forbidding Christians usurers to enter Cologne. In his final sentence, Engelbert recommended that these freedoms should be cut in stone and set up as an eternal reminder in the sight of the people.

The Latin text, measuring nearly seven feet long, was duly inscribed on two stone tablets, which were set in the wall of the Cathedral treasury alongside a chain and staff said to be relics of St. Peter. In 1868, however, the treasury had become so dilapidated that the tablets were moved to the southern tower of the Cathedral, where they were virtually forgotten. Now, over a century later, the Cathedral architect, Dr. Arnold Wolff, has retrieved them and for the second time fulfilled Archbishop Engelbert's decree: he has set up the stones in the entry to the sacristy, so that they are once again established "in the sight of the people".

AUCTIONEERS IN TROUBLE

The Munich state attorney is taking proceedings against the partners in a firm of auctioneers because, between 1977 and 1979, they put on sale flags, medals and uniforms from the period of the Third Reich. A judge's robe is said to have fetched 800 DM.

Defence counsel has pointed out that the State of Bavaria, nominated by the Allied occupying powers as heir to the goods of prominent Nazis, has itself sent valuables formerly belonging to Goering and others to the sale-room for auctioning.

POLICE CRIMINALS SENTENCED

Two former members of a Nazi police unit have been sentenced in Hamburg to six-and-a-half and six years' imprisonment respectively. Ernst Benesch and Walter Stegemann took part in mass deportations of Jews from Przemysl and in mass executions of Polish Jews. Both men were released pending appeal.

HOME NEWS

RENT AND RATE REBATE APPLICATIONS German and Austrian Pensions

We referred in a previous Notice (May 1979) to the treatment applied by Camden and other boroughs to German and Austrian Pensions granted to victims of Nazi persecution, in the calculation of total income for rent and rate rebate purposes. There is still no uniformity in the practice of the different Boroughs.

We are pleased to advise our readers that the City of Westminster has agreed to make the rebate calculations "by reference to the taxable element of the benefits received from the German and Austrian authorities". This implies that Compensation Renten (Entschädigungsrenten) paid under the German Federal Compensation Act (Bundes-Entschädigungsgesetz) need not be included in the Statement of Income at all. German and Austrian Social Insurance Pensions and Public Service Pensions should be included in any application, but against the full figure should be stated "Restitution—only one half taxable" or, where appropriate "none taxable".

The City of Westminster Housing Department has arranged that in all such cases the applicant will be asked to produce his Tax Assessment. In cases where a Pensioner's tax affairs are dealt with by an Accountant, the Accountant should be asked to send to the applicant a copy of the Assessment for submission to the Housing Department of the City of Westminster, or the Accountant should send such a copy direct to that Department. There should then be no difficulty in having 50 per cent of the Pension or, in cases where the Pension is wholly tax-exempt, 100 per cent disregarded in the calculation of an applicant's income for rent and rate rebate purposes.

It is to be hoped that other London and provincial boroughs will agree to treat the Pensions in a similar way. We will make every effort to achieve this in cases where the borough has so far not adopted this treatment. F.E.F.

MURDER MESSAGES WERE DECODED

Mass murders of Jews in Russia by the invading Germans were the subject of numerous messages decoded by the British experts at Bletchley Park during the Second World War. The newly published volume of "British Intelligence in the Second World War" issued by HMSO contains an appendix with details of messages by the German police in the occupation forces. Kurt Daluge, chief of the police, even gave a warning to his subordinates in September 1941 "that there was a danger that matters of great secrecy, such as the exact number of executions, might be deciphered by the enemy".

In 1942/43 the Bletchley Park team intercepted details of daily returns of prisoners at 10 concentration camps, including Dachau, Buchenwald and Auschwitz. They worked out that the figures related to the number of inmates, new arrivals and "departures by any means", and realised that the last category was mostly accounted for by deaths.

The historian Martin Gilbert points out that the camp referred to was Auschwitz I, which held only 20,000 prisoners, mainly political. The Germans, by a series of deceptions, managed to conceal the enormities committed at the Birkenau camp until 1944. One manoeuvre to this end was Eichmann's pretended negotiations for the lives of Hungarian Jews.

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REFUGEE RELICS AS TEACHING AIDS

"Rabbi David" has become a real person to the children of Bassingbourn, Herts. They have been learning about the Holocaust through the collected papers of Rabbi David Samuel Margules, which were presented to a history teacher at the school. The teacher instituted a project of research into the life of the Rabbi, who was born in Lemberg in 1884, graduated from the University of Vienna and served the Salzburg community. For a time he was the minister at Tachov in Czechoslovakia. Following the Anschluss, he was imprisoned in Dachau, but managed to reach England at the beginning of the war. After internment at Onchan, I.O.M., he lived in Cambridge with his wife and daughters, who now live in New York. Rabbi Margules died in 1952. Pupils of Bassingbourn Village College have written and published a pamphlet, "Rabbi David", tracing the life of a man who died before any of them were born and who suffered in a way they can only imagine.

"NF WHISPERS" ATTACKED

In a fierce attack on "irresponsible rumour-mongering", Dr. Jacob Gewirtz of the Board of Deputies has condemned those who try to arouse hysteria in the community by accusing various shops of condoning National Front activities. Last year shops in North-West London were forced to publish advertisements denying that they had any connection with Fascist or racist organisations. The latest victim is Sainsbury's Kingsbury branch. National Front newspapers are sold nearby and the store is powerless to interfere with the vendors; but gossip charges the shop with giving the Front permission to sell its papers within the entrance. This is strongly denied by Sainsbury's who point out that no one is allowed to sell newspapers of any kind on their premises and that in any case the Kingsbury entrance is far too small for such activities. Dr. Gewirtz commented further, "This is absolutely disgraceful. . . . The Board does not want to close the door to legitimate information but people must be prepared to substantiate gossip with hard facts".

REFUGEE PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

Professor Shammai Davidson, director of the Shalvata Mental Health Centre (Tel Aviv) and the Holocaust and Social Studies Centre (Bar Ilan), recently visited Britain to attend a seminar on the psychosocial difficulties of refugees. His paper, the only one to deal with the problems of Jewish refugees, was entitled "Effects of trauma on the life-cycle of refugees and on the families of the next generation". The seminar was organised by the Ockenden Venture under the auspices of the Standing Conference of Refugees.

ORT HELPS YOUTH TRAINING

The British Ort Trust is to collaborate with the Manpower Services Commission in setting up a vocational training centre in North Manchester. 45 places will be offered to young people over 16 to train as plumbers, carpenters, secretaries and to learn other skilled trades. Later, a course in computer training will be given and it is hoped eventually to extend the project. The enterprise is an echo of those undertaken in the '40s, when Ort opened workshops for the training of Jewish refugees from Germany.

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ENGLISH VOICE GAVE PROTECTION

Son of the late John Segrue, who was recently honoured by the Guild of Jewish Journalists for his help to Jews in Nazi Germany, Austria and Hungary, Brian Segrue accepted the certificate of the Guild's award. He told of a 1933 visit to his father, then foreign correspondent of the "News Chronicle" in Vienna. John Segrue had asked his son to accompany Ernst Klein, an elderly Jewish journalist, to the train taking him out of Austria. He told Brian to speak very loudly in English, so that his colleague would be protected. The Guild is planting 50 trees in Israel in memory of the courageous Catholic journalist.

CALL FOR BAN ON ARAB BOYCOTT

Following the declaration by an Industrial Tribunal that Mr. Anthony Simmons had been unfairly dismissed, his former employers—the property company MEPC—have decided not to appeal against the decision. The Tribunal found that there had been unlawful discrimination against Mr. Simmons, whose dismissal coincided with MEPC negotiations with a Kuwaiti bank. Mr. Eric Jay, who lost his job at the same time, says that he is not Jewish.

Mr. Simmons has called for a ban on compliance with the Arab boycott. Legislation to this effect has been passed in France and some Germans have appealed for a similar ruling in West Germany. A number of Government ministers and the Commission for Racial Equality have been asked to look into the position regarding the effects of the boycott in this country.

PRESBYTERIANS AGAINST DUNDEE TWINNING

Presbyterian ministers and elders in Dundee have voted for a complete withdrawal from the controversial Nablus twinning. At a recent meeting of the Presbytery, the church council, the voting was 43 to 38 in favour of abandoning the relationship. One minister said that, out of 250 of his congregation, only 12 gave support to the twinning.

POLYGLOT AS CONSUL-GENERAL

Although Sinai Rome, the new Israeli Consul-General in London, says he "operates best" in English, he is an accomplished linguist. Coming from a Lithuanian family in Johannesburg, he speaks Yiddish, holds an honours degree in Hebrew, an MA in Romance philology and a BA in Latin and Greek. As a young man he fought in Israel's 1948 War of Liberation as a sergeant in the Air Force; he stayed in the country and joined the Foreign Ministry. In the course of his diplomatic career, he was sent to Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Canada, Cuba and Ecuador, acquiring in South America a working knowledge of Spanish and Portuguese. He believes that one of his main tasks is to encourage the involvement of diaspora Jewry with Israel, even if it entails criticism of Israeli shortcomings.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

CZECHOSLOVAK PROBLEMS HIGHLIGHTED

In the course of a Radio 4 interview, Dr. Desider Galsky, a partisan fighter in World War II and now President of the Council of the Jewish Community in Bohemia and Moravia, spoke of the difficulties facing Jews in his native country. For example, active believers were not always able to secure teaching posts; but this was common to all those professing religions in an atheistic society. The average age of the community was 65-70 and this, together with apathy, presented a threat, although there were fervently Orthodox young people, who sometimes became a problem in themselves. The place of Rabbi Sicher has not yet been filled, though he has now been dead for some years. The first of his prospective successors left for the West in 1968 when the Russians invaded Czechoslovakia. Now the intended Rabbi, Daniel Meyer, still faces three years' training in Hungary.

Dr. Galsky pointed out that, although the Government pays Jewish office-holders' salaries (as in the case of other religious functionaries) and also maintains community buildings, this is to some extent in its own interest, since most tourists make a bee-line for the old Jewish quarter in Prague. However, the authorities have now permitted the community to receive funds from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, out of which a new organ and a modernised kitchen have been installed.

ANTI-SEMITISM AND DEFENCE IN POLAND

Poland's Grunwald Union, the "anti-Zionist" organisation set up in March, will shortly publish its own newspaper. Commentators have linked the increasing activity of Grunwald with the recent election of hardliner Stefan Olszowski to the Politburo of the Polish United Workers' Party. At the same time General Moczar and President Henryk Jablonski lost their Politburo positions. Both men had acknowledged the Jewish contribution in Poland's history, even though each of them had been active in the anti-Jewish campaign of 1968.

The London Institute of Jewish Affairs recently issued a report by Dr. Lukasz Hirszowicz on "Jewish Themes in the Polish Crisis". While setting out the antisemitic tendencies in Poland today, Dr. Hirszowicz points out that anti-Jewish propaganda is being challenged by intellectuals, politicians and trade unionists. The situation is therefore not the same as in the 1968 attacks on "Zionists".

FOOD PARCELS FOR POLAND

Fourteen years ago, a Polish government directive halted the flow of aid parcels from abroad. Now the Polish Jewish Refugee Fund has been able to overcome the restrictions and hopes that it will be able to send parcels each month to homes for the aged, orphanages and hospitals. The first consignment was sent to the Jewish old age home in Warsaw a few weeks ago; it contained kosher meat, soup, fish, coffee, rice and tea. A Polish embassy official accompanied the food on its way from Britain to Warsaw. Visits to Poland by Sir Jack Lyons and Dr. Werner Schindler, officials of the Fund, will clarify the help which can be given to the 6,000 Jews who still live in Poland.

US SYNAGOGUES FOR DEAF

Three synagogues in America are specially dedicated to the needs of deaf members of the community. Ameslang, the US sign language, has had to be adapted to the needs of the congregations, since it has so far lacked symbols for Jewish religious concepts: for example, the Bible was represented only by a sign derived from the idea of "Crucifixion".

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

AUSTRIA

After the Bomb Blast in Vienna

Solidarity with the Jewish community in Vienna following the Arab bomb attack on the Seitenstetengasse Synagogue has been expressed in many parts of the world. A European Delegation, led by Mr. Greville Janner, QC, MP, went to Vienna to express its solidarity with Austrian Jewry. The Austrian trade mission premises in Toronto were picketed by 300 people distributing leaflets in protest against Austria's lenient PLO policy. Mexico's Central Jewish Committee made a similar protest to the Austrian Ambassador there. Parisian synagogues and Jewish institutions are under continual police protection.

On a visit to London, Rabbi Chaim Eisenberg reported that the Vienna community has voted the sum of £100,000 for security measures and armed police stand guard on all the city's synagogues. Rabbi Eisenberg also described the increase in the Austrian community, which now included immigrant Jews from Poland, Romania, Hungary and Bokhara. The country now had 11 Jewish schools of various grades and types.

Old Austrian Law Unfair to Jews

Austria's Israelitengesetz, which 100 years ago established a single Jewish community within the nation, has been declared unconstitutional. Following an appeal by Agudas Israel, the Constitutional Court decided that, since the law did not grant the right to Jews to join a denomination of their choice, while Christians could do so, the Israelitengesetz violated the rules of equality. Agudas Israel may now establish a separate Jewish community in Austria.

DANZIG TREASURES ON VIEW

Only a few weeks before the outbreak of the Second World War, the doomed Jewish community of Danzig packed its art treasures into 10 crates which were then shipped to the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York for safekeeping. Most of the collection was the gift in 1904 of Lesser Gieldzinski, a grain merchant and art collector living in Danzig, and this section includes plates and engravings dating from the 17th century. Two smaller divisions comprise the religious objects formerly used in the Great Synagogue of Danzig and, touchingly, heirlooms and pieces of religious art added at the last moment by individual Danzigers.

DUTCH HERO HONOURED

A retired local government official in Holland has been awarded the Cross of Merit by the German Federal Republic. As described in the citation, Daniel van Hoepen hid a German-Jewish couple, Julius Schloss and his wife, from 1942 until the end of the war, regardless of the risk to his own life. Throughout this time, Holland was occupied but Mr. van Hoepen managed to keep the pair in his own house and so saved their lives.

In his memoirs, written during the war, Julian Castle Stanford (formerly Julius Schloss) describes how he and his wife lived underground and were succoured by Dutch Christians. His book was first published in English in 1965 under the title "Reflections" (Oakland, Calif.: Institute for the Righteous Acts, Judah L. Magnes Memorial Museum) and has now appeared in German as "Tagebuch eines deutschen Juden im Untergrund" (Darmstadt: Verlag Darmstädter Blätter). Dr. Günther Schwarz, the publisher of the Darmstädter Blätter, sought out Mr. van Hoepen and suggested to the German government that his brave action should be recognised.

FRENCH DEPORTEES REMEMBERED

Representatives of President François Mitterand and Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, together with French government ministers, attended a remembrance ceremony for 80,000 French Jews deported to the death camps during the Second World War. The Chief Rabbi of France presided at the service.

JEW'S HIDDEN IN VATICAN

Pope Pius XII saved many thousands of Jews during the Second World War: this is the claim made by an English historian, Father J. Derek Holmes. In his new book, "The Papacy in the Modern World", Father Holmes says that two German diplomats, Baron Ernst von Weizsäcker and Albert von Kessel, created a barrage of deception to protect the Pope from being seized by the Nazis and the Vatican from occupation. They knew that the Pope was sheltering at least half the Jews of Rome within the Vatican and successfully protected his efforts. Because of the diplomats' smoke-screen, the position of the Pope appeared ambiguous and this led to later accusations that he had been lukewarm about the sufferings of the Jews. Fr. Holmes's book will be reviewed in a later issue of AJR Information.

MOSCOW BOOK FAIR CENSORSHIP

Western book publishers exhibiting at the Moscow Book Fair in September were pleasantly surprised to find that only about one-quarter the number of books impounded by the authorities last year were taken from their shelves this time. However, although the works not allowed to be shown amounted to some dozen or so, several of them were on Jewish themes. Among the books removed were Henry Kissinger's "White House Memoirs", Abba Eban's "My People" and the American Jewish Year Book for 1981. Also confiscated were a book on the Third Reich, another on Alexander Solzhenitsyn, a study of Euro-Communism and a review of US foreign policy. All were returned to the exhibitors when the fair closed. The Israeli stand aroused much interest and long queues waited for a chance to see the wide selection of Israeli publications.

ROMANIAN OFFICIAL FORCED OUT

Because members of his family wish to leave the country, Leonte Rautu, a Jewish-descended veteran of the Romanian Communist Party, has been obliged to give up his post on the executive political committee and his Rectorship of the party's Stefan Gheorghiu Academy, where high officials are trained. President Ceausescu is currently campaigning against defection to the West and emigration from Romania, but Jewish community leaders report a steady stream of applications for exit visas to Israel. Since 1948, 350,000 emigrants—90 per cent of the Romanian Jewish population—have arrived in Israel and the remaining community now stands at only 33,000.

FIRE IN MOROCCAN SYNAGOGUE

One of the oldest synagogues in the city of Fez has been destroyed by fire. The 18th century Saba Synagogue had been closed since 1971, but there were plans to turn it into a Jewish museum. There are 18,000 Jews in Morocco, 500 of them in Fez where four active synagogues still exist.



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BERNHARD WEISS REMEMBERED

Courageous Prussian Jew

Bernhard Weiss died in London 30 years ago, an emigrant who had played a brave and dramatic part in the last years of the Weimar Republic, and a man who deserves to be much better known, as a public figure and as a Jew. He was Deputy Police Commissioner in Berlin during the Nazi rise to power in the years 1927 to 1932, and if there had been a more general will in Germany to stop Hitler's push to dictatorship, he could well have been somewhere at the forefront of the campaign to do so, as a defender of law and order in the Republic. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary *Die Zeit* devoted a full page to him and his career, written by Dr. Dietz Dering of Cologne University.

Weiss was born in 1880 into an affluent Berlin family. His father was on the Board of a Liberal Synagogue, and Weiss, the eldest son, grew up in a Jewish atmosphere. He was always at ease with his Jewishness and was devoted to it. He was sent to the Franzoesische Gymnasium and later studied law.

Though Prussian Jews had nominally equal rights, unbaptised Jews did not have access to the officer corps. Weiss therefore did his national service in Bavaria, where he became an army reserve officer. In the First World War he reached the rank of Rittmeister and was decorated with the Iron Cross First Class for exceptional bravery. When, in 1916, the last Royal Prussian Interior Minister wanted "the best man available" to liberalise the ministry, he chose Bernhard Weiss. He was the first unbaptised Jew to obtain a higher administrative post. At first Weiss was deputy head of the criminal police (Kripo), and then, from 1919 to 1924 he was head of Department 1A, the political police. His task was to defend the

infant Weimar Republic from attacks from the extreme left and extreme right. He did his best to turn the police into the bulwark of the Republic, and it was a daunting task in the conditions of the time. By 1926 he had become head of the Criminal Police.

In 1927 he was appointed Deputy Police Commissioner, in charge of 22,000 men. He promoted the idea that the police were to be the "helpers and friends" of the public, and wrote a book in which he said that the police should be the chief defenders of the state through the law, and that they should be apolitical and serve the whole community, and not a party.

He was certainly the right man to defend the Republic, but the forces ranged against him were too strong, and the real failure was the lack of support and political skills in the centre. In 1926 his chief antagonist, Goebbels, arrived in Berlin determined to undermine the order and authority of the Republic with all the oratorical power and the scurrilous libels and mendacity at his command, always calling him "Isidor" Weiss. Bernhard Weiss sued Goebbels several times for libel, and won, but his authority was undermined by the vicious lies and ridicule of Goebbels' gutter press.

Nevertheless, Weiss was never lacking in courage. As the situation deteriorated, he was called with a police squad to the Reichstag by Reichstag President Löbe to arrest four Nazi Reichstag members who had beaten up a journalist, and arrest them he did. The next morning he also arrested the prominent Nazi Gregor Strasser at the Anhalter Station, and brought him to police headquarters.

When Jews criticised him for exposing himself to censure by handling matters involving antisemites, Weiss replied that a Jew holding an

official position had to carry out the duties of that position. If he could not act against antisemitic lawbreakers, then that would mean that a Jew could not hold any position which involved conflict with antisemites—that is, that no Jew could become an administrator, or a judge, or hold any similar position. "The more we are attacked, the more strongly and forcefully we should defend ourselves as upright, self-respecting German-Jewish citizens, above all with restraint, and unimpaired, to fulfil our obligations to the common good, each in the position that destiny has placed him."

Dr. Dering tells for the first time the interesting story of Weiss's role at the time of the von Papen coup, when von Papen, as Hindenburg's chancellor, dismissed the Social Democratic government on 20 July 1932. Papen was above all concerned to get the Prussian police under his control, and to make sure that the demoralised leaders of the regime should vacate their offices without a struggle. At 11 a.m. the commander in charge of the emergency, General von Rundstedt, rang the Police Commissioner, Grzesinski, and told him that he, Weiss and Commander Heimannsberg were dismissed. Grzesinski arranged for his department heads to leave their posts at 12. It was Weiss who reminded his superior of the Kapp putsch (1920) and that he was supposed to be the supreme defender of the Constitution—it was absolutely impossible for him to allow himself to be dismissed by telephone! Grzesinski let himself be persuaded and asked von Rundstedt for written confirmation.

Their designated successors arrived at 2 p.m. with the documents. Again it was Weiss who delayed the transfer of power. He pointed out that the papers had neither a date nor a file number, and therefore were wholly unacceptable since they were officially invalid. The successors were non-plussed, but the accompanying army detachment, armed with hand-grenades, approached threateningly, and Weiss declared, "A violation of the Constitution cannot be justified even by an emergency order from the Reich President." Grzesinski, Weiss and Heimannsberg were arrested. As they passed the President's room, Weiss saluted, and when the salute was returned by the soldiers, Weiss said, "The salute was for the President, not for you!" Weiss's courage was a personal trait, but it also reflected the great hopes that Jews of his generation had placed in the Weimar Republic. The Nazis destroyed his flat but he managed to escape and eventually settled in London, where he died in 1951, and where his daughter still lives.

Dr. Dering is writing a biography of Bernhard Weiss and would be grateful for any information, which should be sent to: Dr. D. Dering, Albertus-Magnus-Platz, 5 Cologne 41, West Germany.

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MOSES MENDELSSOHN WALK

On the occasion of the official opening of an historical exhibition, "Prussia: An Attempt at an Assessment", in West Berlin, Dr. Ulrich Eckhardt of the Berlin Festival announced the inauguration of a Moses Mendelssohn Walk in honour of the man he called the central figure of the Berlin Enlightenment. The Walk, passing close to the Berlin Wall and going through a patch of wasteland, at least partly covers the path taken by the 14-year-old Mendelssohn, who, coming from Dessau in 1743, had to turn back from the Halleschen Tor to the Rosenthal Gate, since Jews could only enter Berlin at the Rosenthal Gate.

TUCHOLSKY

A proposal for West Berlin to acquire and restore the house in Luebecker Strasse (Moabit) in which Kurt Tucholsky was born in 1890 and set it up as a museum in his memory was found unfeasible by the Senate, but negotiations with the Restoration and Preservation authorities would be pursued.

E.G.L.

Donald A. Prater

STEFAN ZWEIG

Centenary of a Humanist

28 November this year will mark the 100th birthday of Stefan Zweig, and on 23 February next the 40th anniversary of his death by his own hand as an exile in Brazil, in despair of ever seeing his "true homeland" of Europe survive the fratricidal strife of Hitler's war. Zweig was a prolific and vastly popular writer, once ranking as the most translated author of Europe, with books available in nearly 40 languages. To the present generation in England he is regrettably little known. Even in Germany, it is a paradox that, while many of his best works are still in print, attracting a wide readership, and often appearing as television productions, he has till now been almost totally ignored by "German literature". The impact of the centenary of his birth, however, seems to be correcting this injustice to a sensitive and many-faceted writer, and fortunately there is now some prospect that he will regain the recognition he deserves.

Great popularity in a writer's lifetime, to be sure, is not always a sign of worth or necessarily a guarantee of posthumous fame. But there was more to Zweig than merely the author of beguiling Novellen, popularising essays and romantic biographies. He occupied, both before and after 1914, a unique place in the intellectual history of Europe, indefatigable as a mediator, a translator in the best sense from one culture to another. He was a Jew who fulfilled his people's sacred mission, as Rolland put it in "Jean Christophe", "qui est de rester . . . le peuple qui tisse, d'un bout à l'autre du monde, le réseau de l'unité humaine", and a humanist like his "revered master of another age", Erasmus. The ideals for which he strove—peace, the liberty of the individual, the moral unity of Europe and the world—remain still before us, lending a significance today to his work which will surely be seen to overshadow that of many of his better-remembered contemporaries.

Born into the wealthy Jewish bourgeoisie of Vienna, he early developed an almost fanatical enthusiasm for the world of letters, which was actively encouraged by his parents. He had barely left school when his first volume of verse appeared ("Silberne Saiten", 1901). But already in his university years he was directing his gaze beyond the confines of Austria and Germany and devoting himself to the translation of the works of the Belgian poet Emile Verhaeren, in admiration of Verhaeren's enthusiastic view of life that transcended the limits of the national and seemed to herald a truly modern flowering of the European spirit. And, with his doctorate behind him, he used his material independence not just to travel through Europe and the world but to live for months at a time in Belgium, England, France or Italy, a true "citizen of the world". The undoubted talent he showed in following well-trodden paths with his verse, dramas and Novellen soon brought him a modest renown, even success. But in the perspective of today we can see as perhaps more valuable the apparently secondary activity of translations, reviews and essays which he had already begun to devote to the wider sphere of European literature, and which found a symbol in the meeting he arranged in Paris in 1913 between Rilke, Romain Rolland and Verhaeren.

After the first shock of war in 1914, it took some time before he could recover his international outlook and draw its logical consequence, the positive pacifism of Romain Rolland. Unfit for

active service, he began with propagandist work in the War Archives in Vienna, but he felt growing revulsion at the never-ending slaughter. In 1916 he poured out his feelings in the dramatic poem "Jeremias": the apotheosis of defeat and of the eternal power in the Jewish people to overcome and survive it. He was able to travel to Switzerland for the staging of the drama by Reinhardt, joining the small international band of those who were against the war: Rolland, Pierre-Jean Jouve, Frans Masereel, Hermann Hesse.

In the immediate postwar years he began to develop a conscious programme of internationalism, a contribution, as he saw it, to understanding between the former combatants. He published a trilogy of major essays on Balzac, Dickens and Dostoyevsky, and completed an enthusiastic biographical study of his idol Rolland. He deserted Vienna for Salzburg, a more central base from which he could readily travel to the corners of his "vielfache Heimat". An Insel-Verlag author since 1906, he now actively contributed to widening Anton Kippenberg's list to embrace European rather than purely German literature, notably with the "Bibliotheca mundi" editions in the original languages and with his introduction to a translation of Verlaine.

Great Popularity

But the extraordinary popularity he enjoyed in the twenties and thirties, with editions among the biggest of the Insel-Verlag, came primarily from his stories of passion and conflict ("Fear", "Amok", "Letter from an Unknown Woman", "Confusion of Sentiments"), and then from the vivid biographies ("Fouché", "Marie Antoinette"). It was a success which many begrudged him, and often tended, then as now, to deprecate as vulgarisation of Freud or mere railway-carriage reading. In fact, it derived from an insatiable curiosity about human motivations and an unerring ability to portray them in situations which were far from everyday.

On such a firm basis he could afford to devote himself to the work which he considered more important and for which his name assured a receptive public. There were further essay trilogies—Stendhal, Casanova and Tolstoy (1928); Hölderlin, Kleist and Nietzsche (1925) and the "healers through the mind", Mesmer, Mary Baker Eddy and Freud (1931)—and a notable series of historical miniatures, "The Tide of Fortune" (Sternstunden der Menschheit) (1927). He also scored considerable dramatic successes with a free adaptation of Ben Jonson's "Volpone" (1925) and a play on a Napoleonic theme, "Das Lamm des Armen" (1929). These were all substantial achievements in their own right, but again, just as important was his prodigious output of articles, essays, introductions, appreciations of the work of his contemporaries in Europe and the great figures of its past, in counterpoint as it were to his main themes.

His aim with such work, he wrote in 1937, was "to serve, modestly but loyally, our imperishable ideal: humane understanding between men, ideas, cultures and nations". But his concern for understanding found expression also in the ties of personal friendship, which for him, in Rolland's words, was almost a religion. He was a tireless promoter of the work of others (Felix Braun,

Ernst Weiss, Joseph Roth, Ernst Fischer and Walter Bauer were among the many who had reason to be grateful to him for this). The tally will never be established of his countless acts of generosity and self-sacrifice. It is not always those whose humanist ideals are most praised who can translate them into real humanity in their dealings with others.

Such an outlook presupposes an essential optimism. In Stefan Zweig's make-up, however, his idealistic enthusiasm was combined, in sharp contrast, with a strongly pessimistic streak. He was always subject to periodic deep depressions, and even at times of greatest euphoria tended to stress the black side of life. This was especially so in politics, where his usually naive approach was strangely assorted with a remarkable clairvoyance, which was to be proved right time and time again by events. Already by the end of 1933, with a foreboding of what was to come to Austria, he had moved for a time to London, and in fact set up home here in the following year, though continuing to travel as restlessly as before. His emigration was in effect only one more move in an already nomadic life. After the Anschluss in 1938 he applied for British naturalization, which was eventually granted in March 1940. During these years he wrote the successful biographies of "Magellan" and "Mary Queen of Scots" and his only full-length novel, "Beware of Pity", a nostalgic evocation of pre-First War Austria which made a successful film in 1946 and has recently re-emerged as an excellent Franco-German television production.

The English, he found when he first arrived, had only one aim: to keep out of the political minefield—"and that is mine too as a writer." This did not spare his books from the burning of 10 May 1933, but it also subjected him to criticism from exiles who would like to have seen him more active in the fight against Nazism. His reaction

Continued on page 7

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STEFAN ZWEIG

was typically indirect, to symbolize his standpoint in a brilliant study of "Erasmus of Rotterdam" (1934)—also a man of the "middle way" in times of fanaticism—and later in one of Castello, the opponent of the fanatic Calvin ("The Right to Heresy", 1936). He was of course obliged to sever his 25-year association with Kippenberg's Insel-Verlag, but he did not escape further criticism for failing to withdraw the libretto he had written (before 1933) for Richard Strauss's opera "The Silent Woman", which was to be performed in Dresden in 1935.

Seeing himself always as a European, he never forgot that he was also a Jew, and it was the appalling plight of his people, as the Nazi tide surged remorselessly ever further, which prompted him to break an otherwise total silence. In articles and speeches he addressed himself to this burning question—but, again typically, he argued against returning hatred for hatred. "I believe that a man who yields to it permanently loses a part of his moral strength, and, above all, I believe, just as I did in the Great War, that hatred must never be directed against a whole community. . . . The only way of fighting the new hatred is from within . . . by finding the road back to ourselves." In his legend of the Menorah, "The Buried Candelabrum" (1937), he wrote: "Perhaps the eternal persecution of our people over the earth has a meaning: that the holy appears to us holier still with distance, and that our heart becomes ever more humble in our extremity." It was not a message that could be expected to find approval everywhere, but it was entirely of a piece with Zweig's humanist and pacific nature. Not that he sat inactive on the sidelines: both publicly and privately, his personal efforts were immense to help with money and practical assistance the refugees less fortunate than himself. When the war finally came, he soon recognized that the destruction of Hitler was the only way to the world's salvation, but he felt, with his ever-pervading pessimism, that his generation would not live to see it.

Sailing in the summer of 1940 from England to America for a lecture tour in Brazil and Argentina, he found himself incapable of attempting a return, for he thought Europe as he had known it was lost beyond recall. He found refuge finally in Brazil, settling in September 1941 in Petropolis, near Rio de Janeiro. His "memoirs of a European", "The World of Yesterday", perhaps the finest work to have come out of the German exile and an incomparable record of his time, was sent off for publication in Stockholm, and he completed one of his best shorter works, "The Royal Game" ("Schachnovelle"). But he worked with increasing listlessness, obsessed by the feeling that his time was past, and an essay on Montaigne, and above all the "great Balzac" he had planned for many years, remained torsos. With the entry of Japan into the war and the fall of Singapore, the pessimist in him gained the upper hand, and in February 1942 he and his young second wife sought death by their own hands.

He held it better, he wrote in his last message, "to conclude in good time and with self-respect a life in which intellectual labour meant the purest joy, and personal freedom the highest good on earth. I salute all my friends! May it be granted them yet to see the dawn after the long night! I, all too impatient, go on before." Almost exactly 40 years before, with a self-confidence not to be found in his "World of Yesterday", he had written in an autobiographical sketch a revealing assessment of his endeavours, which may well stand today on his 100th birthday:

"I give as much as I can—it is not for me to

IN MEMORY OF RABBI J. J. KOKOTEK

It is hardly three months that tribute was paid to Rabbi Jakob J. Kokotek in these columns on the occasion of his 70th birthday. It would be inappropriate to repeat all the data of his career as a Rabbi and scholar on the occasion of his death on 10 September.

He received his Hattara from the *Juedisch-Theologische Seminar* in Breslau. The Seminar's aim was the teaching of "positive historical Judaism"—the faithful conservative acceptance of Jewish tradition and precepts, and their "historical" interpretation, often freely expressed in the inquisitive and searching process of liberal thinking in its continental connotation. This solid traditional background was the essence of Rabbi Kokotek's personality, coupled with true feeling for and understanding of the religious and human problems facing a community of continental Jews who found an economic and intellectual home in England, but not a religious one in the factions and categories of Anglo-Jewry's religious life. To this community—once the New Liberal Jewish Congregation, now the Belsize Square Synagogue—Rabbi Kokotek represented a true Moreh Nevuchim, a Guide for the Perplexed. Many of his congregants would uncritically accept his words in sermons and lectures or in a simple *Schrifterklaerung* on Sabbath mornings, but others would consider them an intellectual challenge; an attitude he respected and to which he responded often with tolerance and understanding; all the more remarkable, as in communal affairs he often gave the impression that he would not suffer fools gladly.

When he accepted his "call" from Liverpool to Hampstead he was warned that he would face an ageing community whose days might be numbered as their children had already either integrated into other synagogues of Anglo-Jewry, or had lost interest in religious and communal life. How wrong these prophets of doom proved to be. Under Rabbi Kokotek's guidance his congregation doubled in membership, and whilst the synagogue valued and respected the mature and aged members of continental origin, a new age group of their children and their children's friends, born and educated in this country, accepted the Rabbi's precepts and are carrying on the tradition of the Congregation's founders in the management of communal affairs and even in the conduct of the Synagogue's religious services.

Reference has been made in other places to Rabbi Kokotek's scholarship and the warmth of his personal relationship to congregants and friends. Some aspects, not shown so far in other tributes, deserve to be mentioned: foremost, his true *Yiddishkeit*, manifested in a sense of humour and the facility with which he could relate a good story, often apposite and resolving an otherwise critical and potentially controversial situation. This *Yiddishkeit* was coupled with a spirit of modesty—he willingly undertook to *leienen* and, with great musical talent, to accept the functions

estimate its worth. But on the other hand I feel for myself an important obligation consciously and actively to develop that unifying, comprehensive element which—through the European mode of life of my early days, varied experience of the world and friendships reaching out beyond Germany—has not been without effect. . . . Here I see a task for which I am by nature and destiny particularly suited, and I take comfort in the thought that my literary achievement, even if itself insignificant, may be of value in this sense of solidarity, perhaps even of greater effect in this invisible way than in the outward form of book or drama."

of a *chazan* whenever this was required. Perhaps his fine feeling for music was only another expression of his artistic talents so evident in his own designs for the Synagogue's Ark and the Menorah which graces the lobby to the Synagogue's hall. One should also mention his great love of Israel—Israel the people, and Israel the state and the country. Only a person truly committed to Israel could point out weaknesses in policy without being suspected of being "anti", an attitude so often, and wrongly, attributed to leaders and members of progressive congregations. Rabbi Kokotek devoted great efforts to oecumenical tasks within the Council of Christians and Jews and had a happy relationship with the Synagogue's neighbour, St. Peter's Church next door. His cordial relationship with Rabbis of other sections of the Jewish Community—on the orthodox side as well as on the progressive one—also reflected his oecumenical views.

He was a member of the B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck (London) Lodge which he addressed on many occasions. His forthcoming retirement would have provided a welcome opportunity for him to take a more active part in the life of the Lodge.

And finally, one should mention his devotion to his family—his wife, a tower of strength even in occasional hours of depression and despondence; his daughters and sons-in-law who in no small way contributed to impressing a youthful character on the Belsize Square constellation, and his five grandchildren, his own joy and a promise for the future of the Synagogue.

Jakob Kokotek was looking forward to his retirement. In his active career he often proved that he would not disdain the good things in life—and these included intellectual stimuli as much as the comforts of a good life. He could hardly ever enjoy them at leisure. It was not granted to him in retirement—he went as he would have wanted to go, without any lingering suffering or intellectual decline. Our sympathy goes out to his family and friends, and last but not least to his congregation, who will find it difficult to find a replacement with the same background as that of its founder members, forward looking progressive in their outlook and conservative in preservation of all that is best in their tradition—all of which was personified in Rabbi Kokotek's life and character.

ARNOLD HORWELL

DR. EUGEN GLUECKAUF

Dr. Eugen Glueckauf, FRS, who was Head of the Radiochemistry Branch at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell until his retirement in 1971, died recently at the age of 75. He was born in Eisenach, and was educated at the Technische Hochschule in Berlin, where he received the degrees of Dip. Ing. in 1931 and Dr. Ing. in 1932. He emigrated in 1933, was at first at Imperial College and then, from 1939 to 1947 at Durham. He was interned for several months in 1940. His nuclear research started in 1944, when, using chromatography he succeeded in separating the isotopes of lithium, of neon and of hydrogen.

In 1947 he was invited to Harwell, where he was appointed a Principal Scientific Officer and spent the rest of his working life. He rose quickly as his outstanding ability was recognised and he became Head of the Radiochemistry Branch. He was awarded a DSc (London) in 1951 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1969.

His enthusiasm stimulated all who worked with him. He was a great music lover and had a remarkable collection of records. He was a member of the Parish Council of Chilton, where he lived. He was a devoted family man. In 1934 he married Irma Tepper and they had one daughter, Barbara. He was an active member of the Oxford Jewish Congregation, treasurer of the Oxford B'nai Brith group and a member of the AJR.

MISCELLANEOUS

WOLFHAGEN-STORY WITH OMISSIONS

Paul Görlich's "Wolfhagen—the History of a North Hessian City" opens with the present mayor's remark that "Whoever wants to understand the present has to know the past". The understanding of the past appears to be selective. After noting that the economic boycott of the Jews obliged them to abandon their businesses, and that the subsequent fate of very few was known Görlich remarks that "no Jewish inhabitant of Wolfhagen was transported to an extermination camp", omitting the crucial work "directly". There appear to have been no Jews in Wolfhagen from very early on in the Nazi period. While in the appendix all those killed in the First World War (including Jews) are listed, there is also a list of those killed and missing in the Second World War, but with no mention of what happened to the Wolfhagen Jews. On the other hand, there is a one-page list produced in 1948 which, drawn from the town's archives, records the Jewish inhabitants' "Property and Accommodation Position" in 1933, a document that could have been dispensed with since there is no comparable material for any other section of the population.

In a book on Melsungen (which, with Wolfhagen belonged to the Hessian-Nassau Jewish District Office of Kassel)—"Melsungen, the History of a City" there is no special chapter on the Jews, but useful information can be found in the text. Thus, nine Jews from Melsungen found refuge in the USA, three each in Palestine, Belgium, England and South Africa, and one in South America; but 40 could not leave. E.G.L.

DR. JOSEF SCHUSTER

Dr. Med Josef Schuster was awarded the University of Wuerzburg's Prize for outstanding scientific achievement for his thesis on "The Mortality Rate of Jewish and Non-Jewish Babies". The Hebrew University in Jerusalem sent an invitation to Dr. Schuster to give a lecture during its First International Congress on "Medicine in the Bible".

FORMER CITIZENS INVITED

Once again the Gesellschaft für christlich-jüdische Zusammenarbeit has invited former Jewish citizens to the city of Marburg, the third such gathering since 1979. 30 guests came from the USA, Brazil, France and Israel, many of them seeing the town for the first time in 50 years. Greetings from local dignitaries and organised tours of the district made the visitors feel at home. In the course of their stay they saw Martin Buber's house in Heppenheim, the restored synagogue of Worms and the mediaeval cemetery there.

In St. Wendel in Saarland, a similar invitation was extended to former citizens. Among the places of interest which they visited was the Heimatmuseum where an exhibition of works by the local painter Leismann was to be seen. The artist's paintings showed many features drawn from his experiences in Israel.

EMIL GUMBEL REMEMBERED

There seems to be a rebirth of interest in the life and work of Emil Gumbel, the economist-statistician and political activist of the Weimar Period, who died in 1966 in New York, and who would have been 90 on 18 July. After the First World War, in which he had fought, he brought out a series of books about secret German rearmament, and about the murderous activities of the German extreme right ("Verschwörer, Zur Geschichte und Soziologie der deutschen nationalistischen Geheimbünde 1918 bis 1924", "Vier Jahre politischer Mord"—both recently reprinted). As early as 1929 Gumbel was suspended from his teaching post in mathematical statistics and actuarial mathematics at Heidelberg, and dismissed in 1932. He later taught in American universities and published in English a book ("Statistics of Extremes", 1958) which was also translated into other languages; he himself translated Bertrand Russell into German. There is an Emil Julius Gumbel Collection in the New York Leo Baeck Institute comprising a wealth of material on his scholarly and political activities. E.G.L.

CORRECTION

The address of the publishers of Lotte Kramer's "Family Arrivals" (p. 9 of the October issue) is "Poet and Printer", 30 (not 340) Grimmsdyke Road, Hatch End, Middx. The price is 90 pence including postage.

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"PLAIN SPEAKING" CALL IN ESSEN

In a memorial ceremony in Essen, timed to coincide with the 50,000th visit to the exhibition in the Old Synagogue since its opening in 1980, stress was laid on the proper use of words. The sarcophagus in front of the Old Synagogue formerly bore the bland inscription, "Over 2,500 Jews of the city of Essen had to depart this life during the years 1933 to 1945"; the wording has now been changed to read "In memory of the 2,500 Jews of the city of Essen who were murdered by the Nazi regime in the years 1933-1945". In his closing speech, Benno Reicher (representative of the Jewish Community of Essen) said, "Truth is also a matter of language. In Nazi documents about their victims you can see such phrases as 'died in the concentration camp'. Documents like that are included in the exhibition here. But that is not the truth. The truth is called Murder. . . . I should like to thank you for the new inscription and also to thank you for the efforts which have been made to speak the truth, so that here in this house young people have an opportunity to learn German history. In this way the city of Essen fulfils that duty which the victims demand from us . . .".

JEWISH FATE IN WUPPERTAL

Following the appearance of a book issued by the town of Wuppertal concerning anti-Nazi resistance in the area, Kurt Schnöring was inspired to write on the fate of the Jews in Wuppertal (formerly Elberfeld-Barmen). Published by Peter Hammer Verlag, his work is entitled "Auschwitz begann in Wuppertal" and in it he traces the individual stories of Jewish citizens and gives a broad picture of their conditions of life under the swastika. Several references are made to perhaps the most noted Jewish inhabitant, the poet Else Lasker-Schüler, who emigrated in 1933. Illustrations show the synagogue destroyed in 1938 together with the memorial plaque which now exists on the site.

LEGACIES

The AJR Charitable Trust received a legacy of £1,417.54 from the estate of the late Miss Martha Eckstein and £7,324.07 from the estate of the late Mr. Martin Newstead.

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MAGIC OF THE DESERT

There is no greater proof that it is better to travel hopefully than to arrive, than the Egged route from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea. Through the bus window one gazes enthralled at the rhythmic sandy folds of the Judaeen desert. This is the only desert that the conventional British tourist to Israel usually sees. Soon, it may be almost all the desert that he will be able to see when the handover of Sinai to Egypt is completed and Israeli army plans to turn the Negev into a vast military training ground materialise.

Lesley Hazleton is no conventional British tourist. An English psychologist-cum-journalist living in Israel, she has fallen victim to the magic of the desert, soaked herself in its mystique, studied its flora, fauna, inhabitants, history, geography, geology and agriculture.

Some of this knowledge and fascination she imparts in a highly readable book, *Where Mountains Roar: In search of the Sinai desert*.^{*} Skipping like a mountain goat from dune to dune, riding camel-back with the Israeli Army's Camel Corps, learning the art of desert tracking with a Beduin expert, travelling in a jeep with the Nature Reserve Authority's Green Patrol, she opens unknown vistas on desert life. Her activities result in passages with delicately drawn, carefully observed detail — of the sex life of the desert snail, for example, or of the psychology and physiology of the camel — as well as more down-to-earth descriptions of the ill effects of dehydration or the pleasures of drinking freshly-ground Turkish coffee.

These minutiae do not exclude discussion of larger issues, such as the Arab-Israeli dispute or the peace with Egypt. Not all Ms. Hazleton's findings are wholly creditable to Israel. The attitude of the Israeli government to the Beduin population of the desert, and the actions of the Green Patrol in implementing its policy are likely in her opinion to draw Israel's 40,000 Beduin, once active upholders of the regime, firmly into the Middle East conflict.

Likewise with agriculture, the Israelis' attitude to the desert, encapsulated in Ben Gurion's philosophy of "making the desert bloom", is contrary to her own. "The development towns", she states, "seems like fortresses turned in on themselves in a futile attempt to resist the force of the desert outside". And elsewhere: "green fields" do not belong there . . . they are too tame, too pretty for the desert".

Michael Evenari, botanist and agriculturalist whom Ms. Hazleton interviewed, agrees with her. "The desert may conquer us, but we will never conquer it", she quotes him as saying.

^{*}*Where Mountains Roar: In search of the Sinai desert*, by Lesley Hazleton, Victor Gollancz Ltd., 1980. £7.95.

"And when we think we have done so the desert gets its own back, and we find the human desert asserting itself in the form of labour strife at the Dead Sea potash works or the spiritual and social poverty of the development towns. . . ."

Evenari has attempted to re-create Nabataean agricultural methods in the desert ("We haven't imposed ourselves on the desert. We've adapted ourselves, our ideas and our methods to the desert and established a creative harmony with it".) At the other end of the pole is hydro-geologist Arieh Issar, who discovered an "ocean" under Sinai which is today being utilised for drip irrigation. Yet he too seems to be striving towards the same end. "We have the scientific energy, the intellectual energy. And by using it wisely, we won't be imposing ourselves on the desert. If we use what is in the desert with wisdom, we can achieve a creative harmony with it . . .".

Creative harmony is obviously the golden mean to be aimed at, and it is little wonder that many have found, if not the Creator, the inspiration to seek Him in its lofty expanses. Ms. Hazleton analyses "that unnameable fear that led people to create a single strong god in the desert". It was "no chance of historical fate that all three of the world's monotheistic religions are very strongly linked to this desert".

THE JUEDISCHER FRAUENBUND 1904-1938

This book on the Jüdischer Frauenbund by the 35-year-old American historian Dr. Marion A. Kaplan, which originally appeared in 1979 in English, has just been published in a German translation. The German version is much more than just a translation, since it is a considerably expanded book, with twice as many explanatory footnotes. The Hamburg "Institut für die Geschichte der deutschen Juden" undertook the task and published the book as Volume VII of its series "Beiträge zur Geschichte der deutschen Juden". In German the book is called "Die jüdische Frauenbewegung in Deutschland—Organisation und Ziele des Jüdischen Frauenbundes 1904-1938" (Hans Christians Verlag, Hamburg, 1981).

Much of the material on which the book is based came from the Leo Baeck Institute in New York. Among the subjects covered are Jewish women and their organisations 1871-1914, Bertha Pappenheim, the social composition, aims and organisation of the JFB, the feminist demands of the JFB, and the struggle for women's suffrage in the Jewish community.

E.G.L.

A CENTURY OF AUSTRIAN JEWS

Newly published by Macmillan is George Clare's "Last Waltz in Vienna: the destruction of a family 1842-1942", £8.95. The German edition was reviewed in our July issue.

ERICH LUETH'S NEW BOOK

In the latest instalment of his autobiography, "Ein Hamburger Schwimmt Gegen den Strom" (Conrad Kayser Verlag, Hamburg), Erich Lüth tells us as much about the times he has lived in as about his personal life. And on the brink of 80, it is a long life with much to tell, above all about the people he has known as a journalist with very wide interests in the arts and politics. He began by writing on theatre and sport, during the Nazi period was forced to confine himself to a specialised economics journal, then as an American POW was editor of the Lagerpost, and returned to journalism in Hamburg after the war. He has always had a special interest in Jews and Jewish affairs and Israel, successfully sued Veit Harlan over "Jud Suss" and wrote the "Friedens bitte an Israel". Among the well-known Jewish personalities appearing in the book are Gershon Avner (originally Günter Hirsch from Berlin), Miriam Ziegel-Horwitz, Ben Gurion, Martin Buber, Rabbi Dr. Paul Holzer of Hamburg, Ambassador Felix Shinnar, Dr. Robert Kempner, Eliahu Livneh (originally Dr. Karl Liebstein).

E.G.L.

AWARD FOR FORMER FRANKFURT LAWYER

The Hessian Culture Ministry in Wiesbaden has awarded its Goethe Medal to Dr. Ludwig-Lutz Rosenthal, the former Frankfurt lawyer who emigrated, through Holland, to Guatemala, for his services to literature and history. He was born at Bergen near Hanau. Among his works are his "History of the Jews in the former Duchy of Hanau", a history of the Darmstadt Haggada, of the minnesänger Süßkind von Trimberg, of the Hanau Rabbi Mosche Sondheimier and his descendants' metal trading firm, and "Heine the Jew" (Ullstein, 1973). His most recent work (1980) is "Endlösung der Judenfrage: Massenmord oder Gaskammerlüge?".

BERLIN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

The West Berlin Senate has established an Institute for Advanced Study on the model of the ones at Princeton (USA), Wassenaar (Holland) and France. It is called "Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin", and among the first 18 scholars invited to pursue their researches there are Prof. Gershon Scholem of Jerusalem and the young American literary critic Michal Ginsburg. They will be joined later by the Cologne-based linguistic scholar Dr. Dietz Dering, who is writing a biography of the Police Vice-President of Berlin in the late twenties and early thirties, Dr. Bernhard Weiss (see report in this issue).

E.G.L.

DR. HERBERT ARENDT

Dr. Herbert Arendt died on 20 September. He came to this country with his late wife several years before the outbreak of war. As he already had a good knowledge of English Tax Law, he continued his studies in this country and became the trusted adviser of many fellow refugees. During the post-war years, his clientele included many recipients of compensation payments, whose interests he took up with great expertise and success. He was a member of the KJV students fraternity and of the AJR since its inception. A kind and helpful man, he will be missed by all who knew him.

MRS. MARIE HYAMSON

Mrs. Marie Hyamson, who died recently in London at the age of 88, was one of the last survivors among those closely involved in the setting up of the British Mandate in Palestine. Her husband Albert held the post of Director of Immigration under the Palestine High Commissioner, Sir Herbert Samuel.

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NEWS FROM ISRAEL

NEW ISRAELI TOURIST OFFICER

Once turned away from Palestine's shores, when he was a passenger on the notorious immigrant ship Exodus, Aharon Dishon's new job is to welcome tourists to Israel. He has just taken over as head of the Israel Government Tourist Office in London.

A native of Poland, Mr. Dishon fled to Russia with his parents when the Germans invaded his country. The family were among the very first immigrants to the new State of Israel in 1948, their immigration numbers being, 3, 4 and 5. With them came 50 Jewish orphans whose parents had been murdered by the Nazis.

CORAL TANKS IN ELAT

An Israeli chain of hotels, the Moriah group, is soon to offer a new attraction in Elat, where it is building coral reef tanks as an extension to its offshore underwater observatory. The visitor seeking a thrill of terror to complete his enjoyment will be able to gaze on great sharks and other tropical fish. Elat Marine Museum and observatory is considered one of the finest sea projects in the world; the company run another similar project at St. Thomas (American Virgin Isles).

HAIFA CENTRE SEEKS FUNDS

When Rabbi Max Meir Elk, the German Liberal leader, emigrated to Palestine in 1935, he set up a synagogue in Haifa, followed by a classroom in 1938, and finally established the Leo Baeck School and Educational Centre. Today the enlarged Centre, still sited in Haifa, caters for 1,200 teenagers, many of them immigrants from the Soviet Union, France and the Americas. A high proportion are Sephardis. Although the school receives Government grants, these are insufficient to cover special projects or to help poor parents: accordingly the Centre is appealing for £2.5 million from progressive Jewish communities in Europe and America. The executive director, Mr. Herbert Bettelheim, and his wife have lately visited London to further the task of fund-raising.

MORE GERMANS VISIT ISRAEL

Nearly 80,000 Germans visited Israel over the period January-May 1981, a rise of 11 per cent over the corresponding figures for last year. Tourists numbered 69,616 out of a total of 78,576 visitors during those five months.

ISRAELI PRISONS CRITICISED

Israel's prisons have been condemned in a report by a special committee. Conditions were described as "overcrowded and subhuman" and the report recommended that the Interior Ministry should be relieved of responsibility for the country's 15 prison establishments. However, the committee did not personally blame the Minister, Dr. Yosef Burg, and it was emphasised that Jewish prisoners suffered quite as much as Arabs.

SEA-TO-SEA CANAL PROBLEMS

Israeli plans for a canal between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea have met with objections from the Jordanians, who say that the link should rather be with the Red Sea. This, they believe, would replenish the Dead Sea's failing waters far better than the Israeli scheme. Both parties declare that their respective plans will not harm the potash plants on the southern shores of the Sea, and each maintains that the other's scheme will interfere with potash-winning. The Israelis point out that, from the outset, Jordan has been asked to take a direct part in the sea-to-sea project.

Because of Chancellor Bruno Kreisky's anti-Israel statement, Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Simcha Erlich cancelled a visit to Austria, where he was due to promote the sale of Israel Bonds to finance the canal project. On a happier note, eight British founder-subscribers were presented with souvenir scrolls detailing their purchase of Israel Bonds. Professor Yigael Yadin, attending the function, said that the Med-Dead Sea canal, paid for by bond subscriptions, "would be the fulfilment of Herzl's dream".

OLD AGE PROBLEMS EASED

A problem unique to Israel is the high proportion of elderly people who first came to the country as immigrants. Addressing an Age Concern meeting in London, Professor Simon Bergman, professor of gerontology at Tel Aviv University, spoke of the special difficulties for the older immigrant for whom "immigration is displacement, it is uprooting, it is unlearning norms". He was proud of Israel's progress in dealing with the trouble of its older citizens.

CHURCH SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL

Nes Ammin, the Christian settlement in Israel, has expressed its fears concerning Israel's position in the world today and has called on all churches to display solidarity and understanding for Israel's plight. Settlement leaders also seek sympathy with the innocent who have suffered on both sides of the border, and continuing endeavours towards reconciliation. Finally they appeal for prayers for a lasting peace in the region, so that all the peoples affected may live in safety and human dignity.

YAD VASHEM BOOK AWARD

Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, has announced a new book award in memory of the unknown victims of the Holocaust. It will be known as the Ka-Tzetnik Award. Books and manuscripts to be submitted must have been published or written within the previous five years; they have to be original works on the Holocaust or on Israel's rebirth, and testify against hatred while encouraging the dignity of man.

ELAT CONNECTION FOR AIR TRAVELLERS

El Al passengers on the Sunday flight from Heathrow to Tel Aviv will soon be able to change at Ben Gurion airport into an aircraft flying direct to Elat across the Negev. Customs and immigration formalities will take place at Elat. This is the first flight connection between London and the popular Red Sea resort.

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.

Deaths

Arendt:— Herbert Arendt passed away on 20 September. His wife Lieselotte died a few months earlier. Our sympathy to Elizabeth, John and relatives. Herbert and Lieselotte, our dear irreplaceable friends will always be remembered by Charlotte and Hermann Schreiber, Bournemouth.

Levy:— Doris Levy, widow of Franz Levy, died peacefully at the age of 89, on Tuesday, 13 October, 1981. Deeply mourned by her children, grand-children and great-grandchildren.

Lincoln:— Alfred Lewis Lincoln (formerly Alfred Levy of Saarlouis), of 132 Webbeath, Netherwood Street, London, N.W.6, passed away suddenly on 19 September, 1981, aged 84, deeply mourned by his family and friends.

Marcuse:— Dr. Anna Bertha Marcuse died on 19 September, 1981, at the age of 86. Very much missed by her friends.

Schoenewald:— Dr. Gert Schoenewald, General Practitioner and Cardiologist, died on 3 October, while on holiday in Germany, after a brief illness. He will long be mourned and sadly missed by all his family, friends and patients.

Sulzbacher:— Martin Sulzbacher, on Erev Yom Kippur, October 7th, aged 85. Sadly missed by his wife, his sons and daughter, daughters-in-law, son-in-law, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and many relatives and friends.

Birth

Fisher:— On 11 October to Ronnie and Hanna (née Barrie) a son. First grandchild for Mr. Kurt and Mrs. Inge Fisher, third great-grandson for Mrs. Lisl Fisher.

Birthdays

Jordan:— L. J. Jordan (formerly Leo Jossek), Breslau, will be celebrating his 75th birthday on 13 November. "Ballardene", Warren Road, Kingston Hill, Surrey.

Pickhardt:— Mrs. Mathilde Pickhardt of 48 Messina Avenue, London, N.W.6, recently celebrated her 85th birthday. In appreciation of her devoted services as Hon. Secretary of the Theodor Herzl Society over many years, the Executive gave a Dinner in her honour.

Schwab:— Mrs. Kaethe Schwab, 78 Audley Road, Hendon, London, N.W.4 (formerly of Chemnitz), will be celebrating her 85th birthday on 17 November, 1981.

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General Enquiries
The Jewish Refugees Committee, Woburn House, 5th Floor, Upper Woburn Place, London WC1 0EP, is looking for the addresses of the following persons: Rene and Herta Chomed, born in Vienna, 1922 and 1914 respectively. Dawid Swirski, born

1921, last known address 6 Middle Field, St. John's Wood Park, London, N.W.8. Theodor Korner, born 1926 and mother Erna Korner (née Coon), lived in Scotland at one time but mother and son are thought now to be living in London.

SOLDIERS OF THE JEWISH BRIGADE. Adi Grossmann, Ernst Hesse, Alfred Levy (who studied in Oxford), all from Stettin, are asked for by their comrade H. H. Hammerstein, 1 Rakephet Str., Naharia, Israel.

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PERSONALIA

SELMA STERN-TAEUBLER

The outstanding Jewish historian Dr. Selma Stern-Taeubler died in an Old Age Home near Basel, 91 years old. Her most important work was the seven-volume "Der Preussische Staat und die Juden", covering the period from the Great Elector to Frederick the Great and comprising both a full description and analysis of the period and a collection of documentary sources. The work had been commenced in Germany in 1926 under the auspices of the Academy of Jewish Sciences and, with the help of salvaged material, completed after the war and published by the Leo Baeck Institute. Other works include a biography of the Jewish spokesman ("Shtadlan") Josef von Rosheim and an historical novel "The Spirit Returneth". Selma Stern was married to the historian Professor Eugen Taeubler and emigrated with him to the United States, where he died in 1953. For many years she was an active member of the New York branch of the Leo Baeck Institute.

RUDOLF CALLMANN MEDAL

The "Deutsche Vereinigung fuer gewerblichen Rechtsschutz und Urheberrecht", founded 100 years ago, has created a medal to preserve the memory of the victims of the Nazi period and of those who helped them. The medal is to bear the name of Rudolf Callmann (1892 Cologne-1976 New York), an authority on questions of copyright, protection of trade marks and unfair competition. Rudolf Callmann also played a leading part in Jewish life both in Germany and, after his emigration, in the US. In Germany, he was a member of the Presidium of the Central-Verein and of the Reichsvertretung. In the United States, he was President and later board chairman of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe and a member of the Presidium of the Council of Jews from Germany. He also took an active interest in the work of the German-Jewish welfare organisations and was associated with the American branch of the Leo Baeck Institute. The University of Cologne appointed him an Honorary Professor in 1959, and his guest lectures made a great impact on the students.

The first recipient of the medal is the Cologne lawyer Dr. Walter Oppenhoff, who for 13 years was president of the "Vereinigung" and defended the interests of the persecutees under the Nazi regime without regard to his own safety.

PROF. GERHARD LEIBHOLZ, 80

Dr. jur., Dr. phil. Professor Gerhard Leibholz will be 80 on 15 November. Born in Berlin, he was Professor of Public Law in Goettingen until 1935. In 1938 he emigrated to this country, where he held fellowships with the World Council of Churches and Magdalen College, Oxford. After the war he returned to Germany to become Professor at Goettingen University, an office he held until his retirement in 1972. During the major part of this period (1951-71) he was also Judge at the Bundesverfassungsgericht in Karlsruhe. Professor Leibholz, who is married to a sister of the murdered theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, has many books on public law, politics and sociology to his credit. He now lives in Goettingen.

FROEBEL TEACHER REMEMBERED

The head of a Froebel teachers' training college between 1918 and 1933, Hedwig Burgheim, has been commemorated in a medal to be awarded by the city of Giessen. A native of Leipzig, she lived in Giessen for 17 years and eventually perished in Auschwitz in 1943. Her story was told in a radio programme, and inspired the city to issue the medal in her honour, to be awarded for outstanding services to communication and sympathy between man and man. The first recipient was Dr. Adam Scheurer, aged 83, for his work in connection with rebuilding of the school system after 1945; the ceremony of the award was held on the anniversary of Hedwig Burgheim's birth.

THEATRE AND CULTURE NEWS

Our columnist S.B. was on holiday last month. His column will be resumed in our December issue.

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ART EXHIBITIONS

INNOVATIVE ART

The "Christo: Surrounded Islands" display at the Juda Rowan Gallery, 11 Tottenham Mews, London W1 (29 September-14 November 1981) is something unique. It cannot be better described than by the artist himself: "about 10 of the islands . . . will be surrounded with 5½ million square feet of pink woven polypropylene fabric covering the surface of the water, floating and extending out approximately 200 feet from the island into the Bay". The exhibition, comprising photographs, plans and sketches for this outstanding project, provides an insight into an amazing conception.

At Marlborough Fine Art (London) Ltd, 6, Albermarle Street, W1, there was an exhibition (until 31 October) of Kurt Schwitters in Exile: The Late Work 1937-1948. Schwitters, originator of MERZ, was born in Hanover, studied at the Dresden Academy, left Germany in 1937 for Norway and settled in England in 1940. After a succession of camps, where he was allowed to paint, he finally took up residence in the Lake District where he died in 1948. This was an exhibition of great importance and, with its catalogue (more a book than a catalogue), gave a deep insight into the aims and achievements of this unique and highly gifted artist.

Alice Schwab

EVA FRANKFURTER

I did not know Eva Frankfurter personally, but it would have been a pleasure to meet a person of such sensitivity and social consciousness, as is so clearly evident in her life and work.

In 1939 Eva Frankfurter, then aged nine, came to England from Germany as a refugee. She studied art at St. Martin's School, which she left in 1952. However, she did not return home to her family, but set herself up in the East End of London, where she earned a meagre living as a waitress and worker in a sugar refinery. But all this time she was painting, not as a commercial effort to earn money, but to experience the character and qualities of the people with whom she came into contact. She travelled abroad extensively, painting and sketching as she went. Early in 1959 Eva Frankfurter took her own life shortly after making a successful effort to train as a social worker.

In the wide range of her work recently exhibited at the Margaret Fisher Gallery, there were many water colours and sketches. A lot of the sketches were from Israel, different types displayed in muted colours with a conscious, deeply expressed effort to attain an understanding of their inner purpose. Also on display were a number of her lithographs. Curiously, these are much stronger than her water-colours, although treating much the same themes. It is as if the discipline of the lithographer had strengthened the artist's mild, slightly despondent world view.

The pictures on display were varied in size, from quite small sketches to full-scale portraits. They were all decorative, pleasing and certainly nice to look at, even to possess.

A.S.

WILHELM HENSEL'S PRUSSIAN PORTRAITS

In connection with the "Preussenjahr 1981" the West Berlin National Gallery held an exhibition under the heading "Preussische Bildnisse des 19 Jahrhunderts—Zeichnungen von Wilhelm Hensel". This Prussian "Hofmaler", Professor and Member of the Academy of Arts, was the husband of Fanny Mendelssohn Bartholdy, the sister of the composer. He left about 1,000 portraits, which are now the property of the National Gallery and of which 232 were selected for the exhibition. They depict personalities, well known in the field of politics, literature and arts, members of the Prussian Royal family, and of the nobility. There are also many portraits of the Mendelssohns and other Jewish families of the period. The catalogue, produced by the historian Cecilie Lowenthal-Hensel (Berlin), a great-granddaughter of the painter, is a masterpiece. It carries a concise biographical introduction and biographical notes to each reprinted portrait. These notes are based on thorough historical research. They describe the depicted personalities and their cultural and genealogical backgrounds, and are in many cases enhanced by relevant anecdotes. Thus, in addition to being a guide for visitors to the exhibition, the catalogue is an outstanding work of history in its own right.

W.R.

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