

Robert Weltsch

THE TRANSIENT AND THE LASTING

Reflexions on the Holy Days

The High Holydays, which coincide with the approach of autumn in the countries of the Northern Hemisphere, are still the strongest bond holding the whole Jewish people together. This remains the case in spite of the fact that the Enlightenment, which emanated from the French philosophers of the outgoing 18th century, reached Western Europe and the Russian intelligentsia in the wake of the Napoleonic conquests. The impact of the French Revolution transformed Jewish life in Europe and the United States. True, it was not absorbed by the masses who clung to the old tradition of partly mediaeval origin; but apart from that, the great historical events and changes in the surrounding world could not be without impact. Yet even most of the Jews who have been estranged from tradition and often disregard Jewish customs feel solidarity in these days; many who do not frequent the synagogue during the year go there for the autumn festival. Communities have to hire additional rooms or buildings to accommodate the overflow. In some countries they engage famous chazanim or rabbis, advertising these star performers in order to sell tickets. At least on these three days many people want to make their appearance and take part in the service, sometimes only out of piety for their ancestors. The memorial service for the dead has a particular solemnity on these Holy Days. Such Jews were often jokingly called "Jews for three days"—*Drei-Tage-Juden*—but Jews they are and they want to demonstrate it. To know that in the whole world Jews are celebrating gives them a feeling of solidarity. In this respect, there is no difference between the various trends of Judaism, although their rites may be different—orthodox or reformist or what is now called conservative.

Israel and the Diaspora

When, after the terrible days of the Holocaust, the State of Israel was established, and especially after the Israeli victories in several wars, it was widely believed that the identification of Diaspora Jews with the new State and their support for it, though it was often merely rhetorical and financial, would be an additional element of unity for the whole Jewish people. Yet, while certain politicians argued that this new element in the Jewish front required unconditional support of the policy of the State, even when one could not agree with its policy, the position was shifting. Deviation from the official political line was branded as sacrilege or treason. In Western countries, especially in America, where there are no compulsory communities as there were in Central Europe and partly also in Eastern Europe, and the formation of communal bodies was (and is today) purely voluntary, unconditional identification could not

automatically prevail for ever. One has to take into account that a large part of American Jewry is not organised at all and when Israeli political acts become controversial, the support for Israel can not be taken for granted.

In order to stop the plunge into chaos, Nahum Goldmann, much abused for his non-conformist attitude to Israel's official policy, invented the so-called Presidents' Council consisting of the Presidents of the various voluntary organisations. It was destined to speak authentically for American Jewry. But this did not succeed in establishing uniform support for the State of Israel for ever, the less so when Israel embarked on a policy which enlightened American Jewry could not subscribe to. It would be impossible, in the course of this article, to follow up all stages of this process. It must suffice to quote a recent pronouncement of one of the prominent spokesmen of American Jews, Dr. Arthur Herzberg, a reform rabbi, who accused the present Israeli Government of being "a government of splitting", because its extremism in political and religious matters is thwarting the invulnerability of union. This was said in a newspaper article shortly before Mr. Begin's visit to the United States, planned for the eve of Rosh Hashana, where his supporters, actually a small but vociferous minority, were preparing an enthusiastic welcome. The large majority of American Jews had strongly condemned not only the Israeli raid on Beirut, where a great many civilians were killed, but also the subjection of the new Israeli Government to the dictates of the orthodox religious extremists.

Thus, even a realistic perception of the attitude of a whole people in the face of a changing world strengthens in us the feeling—which is an inevitable accompaniment of the sequence of years in any case—of the relentless change of things which at some time seemed permanent. To the ancient Greek philosopher Heraklitos is attributed the frequently quoted sentence *panta rhei*—all is fluid, nothing is everlasting. This awareness of the fugacity of all things occurring in the course of time, including things nearest to one's heart, arises together with the question harassing us on this day, the question of what to expect from the

coming year. It is an unfathomable, disturbing idea, nowhere pronounced in a more moving form than in Hofmannsthal's verse (untranslatable, if one wants to preserve the emotional undertone):

*Das ist ein Ding das keiner voll aussinnt
und viel zu grauenvoll als dass man klage
dass alles gleitet und vorüberirnt . . .*

The awe of flying and passing time has been the subject of poetry and lament among all nations from Horace onward (*Eheu—woe!* he exclaims). However, that makes these things, as Eva Reichmann, quoting some lines by Elias Canetti, recently wrote in this journal, perhaps more intelligible but not more explicable. A similar affliction I have found manifested with admirable bluntness in one of the English-language poems of an Israeli poet, Lilit Pavell, entitled "After Midnight", from which I quote some lines: *

*I lie awake at night
long after midnight
Noises ebb away . . .
Turmoil of crowded thoughts
yesterday's
tomorrow's problems
grow outsized . . .
. . . first rays of a morning
lift some of the weight— . . .
And yet . . .
there is no simple answer
because
there is no simple question.*

Continued on page 2

SELF AID CONCERT 1981

You will already have seen the announcement of the date of the next Self Aid concert in the last issue of "AJR Information", which also contained a ticket application form.

If you have not yet applied for your tickets, let me remind you that this concert is not only a way of supporting our very own charity, but, as our only major annual social function, it offers a most enjoyable occasion to meet old friends and renew acquaintances.

We are holding this year's concert on a Sunday afternoon. The programme is a very charming and varied one, calculated to include something for every taste.

The need to replenish the funds of Self Aid is most urgent. In promising you an enjoyable afternoon, I can also assure you that you will thereby give much joy to the less fortunate ones among us.

You will find full details of the concert on page 7, and a further ticket application form is enclosed. Do send it in NOW, and I shall look forward to seeing you on the day.

C. T. MARX,
Chairman,
AJR and Self Aid of Refugees.

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enrol as a

"FRIEND OF THE AJR"

TRANSIENT AND LASTING

Continued from page 1

Such is the result of passing time. It is remarkable how Lilit Pavell hits the feeling prevailing on the Holy Days, without mentioning them:

"... Meaning is only
in understanding
in wasting yourself
and renewing yourself
in contemplation."

Indeed, "renewing oneself in contemplation" is the climax of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.

Now, though it would not be necessary to introduce such authors as Byron or Elizabeth Barrett-Browning, it may not be inappropriate to say a few words about an Israeli woman creating poetry in English and German, of which portions are printed in a publication called "Voices". Lilit Pavell lived in Addis Ababa for four years, from 1966 onwards, while her late husband was "lent" by the Israeli Government as a townplanner to Haile Selassie University. At that time Israeli scientists and administrators were often invited by the Abyssinian Emperor (the best known case perhaps is that of Norman Bentwich, who wrote many autobiographical books). In Addis Ababa the language of communication was English, and thus Lilit wrote her first poems in that language. Only six years later did she "venture" (her own word) to write in German. Her special concern, she says, is creating her own style by "omission", in order to induce the reader to join in the thinking. That is the originality of her writing.

Contemplation and Daily Affairs

While the central idea of the Holy Days is contemplation and purification of the soul at the start of a new year, man also has to make order in the affairs of his daily life. It becomes the more urgent, if one sits in front of a desk covered by mountains of papers which have to be cleared away, separating the important from the casual which once seemed memorable but has lost its pertinence owing to the evanescence of time. One has not only to take stock of one's own actions and errors, but also to concentrate on what is of lasting value; particularly if among the papers are numerous manifestations of friendly feelings or messages on a special personal occasion. This requires another sort of *cheshbon nefesh*—introspection—weighing the wish to voice one's own gratitude against the inhibitions of decreasing vigour in old age. So I may be pardoned if I exploit the occasion of the advent of a New Year for thanking all those, among them a great number of readers of this journal, for their friendship and sympathy, to which I hope to be able to reply in a more individual way in due course.

The passing of the old year is reason not solely to re-examine events and actions, including errors and, yes, one's own shortcomings, but also to meditate on the changes that have been their result. This makes one more aware of the transitoriness of things, the fugacity, to use a Horatian phrase, the *Vergänglichkeit* which, in Hebrew mythology, is depicted by the allegory of the magic tree *kikayon* in the enigmatic book of Jonah which is read in synagogue when Yom Kippur draws to its close. This tree, which collapses overnight, has been rationalized by modern interpreters identifying it with the Ricinus plant, yet the word has been adopted in the Hebrew vocabulary as an equivalent for transitoriness, so that the Hebrew *kikiyoni* means approximately the same as the German "vergänglich"; it is its most adequate translation, derived from *Kikayon-de-Jona*, i.e., the tree of which the Book of Jonah narrates.

I am not a theologian, nor am I a Bible scholar, but consulting authoritative commentaries I have not found a plausible explanation of that parable

which, in its literary form, is congenial to some of Kafka's stories, where animals are also introduced in an anthropomorphic way to allude to a transcendental occurrence. Here is the fish which—so to speak—fulfils God's order first to devour and later to spit out the prophet Jonah who had tried to disobey God's direction to go to Nineveh on a religious mission. The emphasis of the Book has, apparently, been transferred (by "redactors"?) to this moralising purpose. But the popular legend did not conform: it was fixed on the miracle of the *Kikayon* which represented the idea of transitoriness, in order to stress the decisive motif of human consciousness in such a critical situation. *Alles Vergängliche ist nur ein Gleichnis* (Goethe)—no more than a parable.

Postscript: Here speaks Thomas Mann

When the present article was ready for despatch to the editor of AJR Information, I received a telephone call from Eva Reichmann in London, who knew of my subject which was partly prompted by her AJR article on the occasion of 20 June. She drew my attention to the existence of an utterance by Thomas Mann, entitled *Lob der Vergänglichkeit*. This had originally been an answer to an American radio enquiry and was now included in a German volume posthumously published in 1956 under the title *Altes und Neues aus fünf Jahrzehnten*. As I am physically unable to do the searching myself, it was not easy for me to get hold of this text but luckily it was discovered for me in Jerusalem.**

Everyone interested in literature knows that hard North German Thomas Mann and soft Austrian Hofmannsthal as writers and thinkers were very different characters; they also use the word *Vergänglichkeit* in different contexts and directions. While Hofmannsthal perceives with dolour the vanishing of—only just now present—hours of sweet happiness, Mann praises the cosmic mechanism which for indefinite millions of years, by sweeping away the amassed transitory factors of the astronomically tiny earthly planet's past, makes room for the new, thus enabling man to exploit and enjoy his most precious good, namely time for creative action unburdened by remnants of the past.

Each point of view has its own dignity and all are valid within their own contexts. In the field of literature different men may prefer the one or the other. It is fair to assume that for those fascinated by Hofmannsthal's enticing musical verses it is beneficial to pay attention also to the other side of *Vergänglichkeit*.

To stress the complexity of the problem, here is another quotation from Goethe, which I also owe to Klingsberg:

*Warum bin ich vergänglich, o Zeus? So
fragte die Schönheit—
Macht' ich doch, sagte der Gott, nur das
Vergängliche schön.*

("Vier Jahreszeiten").

* As my article cannot fulfil the function of an anthology, I can only quote some characteristic lines, indicating my omissions by three dots. I hope that even in this abbreviated form the principal intention of the author comes out.

** I want to thank Mr. Ruben Klingsberg of Jerusalem, who not only copied Thomas Mann's little article for me, but also provided me with all the bibliographical sources and remarks pertinent to its story.

This article was written before Mr. Begin's recent visit to Washington.

CORRECTION

The end of the first paragraph of Mr. Loeb's article on page 1 of our September issue should have read: "the desperate needs of the depressed areas of the North coincided with the equally desperate need of the refugees to find shelter."

THE AJR AT WORK

Meeting of Volunteers

The appeal for voluntary helpers, published in our January issue, has met with a wide response. To exchange views on the current work and on new tasks to be embarked upon, a Meeting of volunteers was held at Hannah Karminski House on 19 August. The fact that more than 75 people attended the function re-affirmed the great interest of the devoted workers in their efforts to improve the quality of life of residents in the Homes and people living alone.

The guests were welcomed by Mrs. Ruth Anderman, member of the AJR Executive and in charge of the volunteer scheme. A number of important tasks were outlined by Miss Ruth Gawthorpe, Matron of Heinrich Stahl House. Personal friendships, she stated, should be established, especially with those residents who have no relatives or friends to visit them. Invitations to tea would also be enjoyed, involving, as they do, dressing up a bit and giving residents self-respect and real pleasure.

Mrs. S. R. Taussig, General Secretary of the AJR, enumerated several directions in which assistance was required. In the ensuing discussion, a number of points were elaborated on. Sometimes divergent views were expressed, e.g., in connection with escorting people for outings in the minibus. It became clear that on some subjects guidelines should be drafted. Mrs. Taussig also emphasised the need for communication through the AJR so that offers and absences could be noted, substitutes found wherever possible and coordination achieved to create a really viable and creative service.

Mr. Maurice Ross of World Jewish Relief referred to the Arts and Crafts Centre in Osmond House, available on Wednesdays and stated that the Centre could also be opened on other days and operate as a Day Centre for people outside the Homes as well, for whom meals could be provided if required. However, such an extension would only be feasible if voluntary helpers could be enlisted because funds were not available for employing staff to organise this additional work.

Mr. L. Spiro, Chairman of the Management Committee for the Homes and Hon. Treasurer of the AJR, summed up the feelings and suggestions expressed and stated how much he was encouraged by the splendid turn-out and devotion of the volunteers. He pointed out that many members of the House Committees had maintained their work for 20 years and that gradually younger people would have to step in. They should help to care for the generation of their parents and grandparents.

It was agreed that the gathering had served a most useful purpose and that it should be repeated in about six months time.

REICHSTAG FIRE TRIAL STILL IN LIMBO

The case of Marinus van der Lubbe, executed for his alleged part in the Reichstag fire of 1933, drags its way through West Germany's courts. Dr. Robert M. W. Kempner, leading counsel for the prosecution at the Nuremberg Trial, has been pressing on behalf of van der Lubbe's brother for a new trial. In 1974, the Bundesgerichtshof referred the case to the Berlin Supreme Court, which then decided it had no jurisdiction in the matter; the dissatisfied Dr. Kempner took the case to the 2. Senat des Bundesgerichtshof, which has now declared that on formal grounds "without regard to the facts" there is no possibility of appeal against the Berlin decision. It would appear that by a juridical anomaly the case of Marinus van der Lubbe, executed as a consequence of miscarriage of justice, cannot find any court competent to decree a re-hearing. Even his posthumous acquittal pronounced in Berlin in 1980 now seems to be in doubt. Dr. Kempner, however, is to make a further approach to the Federal Constitutional Court.

HOME NEWS

CAMBRIDGE UNION PRESIDENT CONDEMNED

Mr. Greville Janner, MP, has turned down an invitation from the Cambridge Union Society to a debate with Martin Webster of the National Front. Moreover, he has advised that the Union should be boycotted during the current Presidency of Giles Kavanagh, if he persists in offering a public platform to the National Front. The invitation has been strenuously opposed both by the Cambridge Students' Union and by Jewish groups at the University. The Union of Jewish Students has threatened "militant opposition" to any debate including Martin Webster. Mr. Kavanagh, who has invited a number of other speakers to oppose the National Front, has said that "a meeting without Webster would be a firing squad without a victim".

ATTACK ON GDR ATTITUDES

In a report on the Claims Conference to the Anglo-Jewish Association, the AJA Vice-President Clemens Nathan strongly criticised the East German authorities who had "rejected responsibility for those Jews who lived on its territory during the Nazi era". He stigmatised the GDR's attitude as disgraceful and derisory, and pointed to the example of Canada, which had refused to improve trade links with East Germany, until the Government showed some changes in its attitude to reparations.

SOUTHPORT REFUGEES SOUGHT

A group of 20 girl refugees brought from Austria and Germany to Southport in 1939 spent part of their time in compiling a book of their experiences in England. At the time they were living in Harris House, where the matron was Mrs. Margaret Stone. Now the book has come to light at a Southport jumble sale. After it was found, the surviving members of the Southport Committee of the Movement for the Care of Children from Germany met at the home of Mrs. Ruth Livingstone, the founder chairman of the Committee. Memories of those times were exchanged and it is hoped to organise a reunion of the girls of Harris House. Several of them, it is known, are now living abroad.

NEW DOORWAY FOR BURNLEY

Polish-born artist and architect Roman Halter has carried out his designs for the impressive doorway of Burnley Crown Court. The new building was recently opened by Mrs. Justice Heilbron. Mr. Halter's vandal-proof design comprises metal-work, terrazzo and a spectacular inlaid Royal coat-of-arms on the steps of the court building. He is particularly proud of his massive metal handles to the main doors.

LEGACIES

The AJR Charitable Trust received a legacy of £200 from the estate of the late Mrs. J. Perlmann and £2,500 (interim payment) from the estate of Mrs. M. Winterburgh.

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BANKRUPTCY THREAT TO NF

A National Front supporter who lent money to the organisation to buy property is now petitioning for an order leading to the compulsory winding-up of NF Properties. Mrs. Jean White put up the finance for the purchase of a building in Hackney to serve as NF headquarters; however, the local Council forced out the Front when its rate arrears had risen to £11,000 and a further £5,000 fell due before the headquarters premises were recently burnt down. Richard Verrall, vice-chairman of the National Front, is being sued for non-payment of rates.

NEO-NAZI TRENDS IN ROCK MUSIC

The Decca record company has withdrawn an album entitled "Strength through Oi". The record sleeve depicted a "skinhead" with balled fists, kicking out at the viewer and bearing a British Movement tattoo. The young man who served as model was given a four-year sentence this summer for causing an affray and conspiring to attack black people.

These facts are given in a report by the Centre for Contemporary Studies, entitled "Rock and the Right". The report is strongly critical of irresponsible rock promoters and record companies who allow pop music to exploit Nazi images and racial hatred. Details of the British Movement's destructive outbreaks at pop events are set out in the CCS report, culminating in the promotion of an Oi concert at Southall which led to a riotous brawl between Asian youths and skinheads.

AUSCHWITZ AIR PHOTOS TO BE SCREENED

Early next year the BBC is to put out a television programme on the subject of Auschwitz and the Allies. The showing will include air photographs taken by South African reconnaissance missions during the war, in which the inmates of Auschwitz and Dachau, the gas chambers and execution sites are to be seen. Surviving SAAF pilots explain that their mission was to locate oil refineries and munition dumps in relation to the sites of what were believed to be prisoner-of-war camps. Since they were flying at 28,000 feet, the airmen knew nothing of the horrors below them; in fact, it was not until 1979 that the CIA published the enlarged air photographs to reveal the queues of prisoners and other details of the camps.

MEMORIAL SERVICE WARNING

At the service for Holocaust victims organised by the Belsize Square Liberal Synagogue, Mr. Max Kochmann gave a warning that "our enemies are gathering strength . . . they are even trying to deny that the Nazis murdered 6,000,000 of our people." A plea was made to all Jews to counter prejudice in all its forms.

MR. S. BALSAM HOST TO THE DISABLED

To mark the Royal Wedding, Mr. S. Balsam, the former owner of the restaurant in Finchley Road (now Dorice), gave a luncheon party for 90 disabled people at the Riverside Restaurant in Leamington Spa, for which he held the catering licence until he retired last year at the age of 85. His generous gesture was widely acclaimed in the local press, which also recalled that Mr. Balsam celebrated his 85th birthday by giving a party for 40 old age pensioners.

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REPORTER WHO DEFIED SS-MEN

Thirty-nine years after his death in Stalag 8, Silesia, John Segrue has been honoured by the Guild of Jewish Journalists, who conferred their 1981 award upon him. Mr. Segrue, a Roman Catholic, was foreign correspondent of the "News Chronicle" but was expelled from Berlin and Vienna for denouncing Nazi persecution of the Jews. He was captured by the Germans in Zagreb during the war and sent to the prison camp where he died in 1942.

In 1938, as John Segrue watched Jews being forced to wash cars in Vienna, kicked by the SS and mocked by a screaming mob, an SS-man took him for a Jew because he did not join in the laughter. Thrusting a rag on him, the Nazi shouted, "There, you damned Jew, get to work and help your fellow swine". Segrue quietly helped an exhausted old woman to finish her task and then returned the rag to the SS-man. Showing his passport, he said in a gentle voice, "I am not a Jew but a subject of His Majesty the King of England". To the SS commander, he said, "I could not believe that the stories about your brutality were true. I wanted to see for myself. I have seen. Good day". Then he walked away.

The story was reported to London by an Austrian journalist and inscribed on a plaque in the old "News Chronicle" building. The plaque is now in the possession of Mr. Segrue's son.

HARDSHIP FUND

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany called upon all Jewish victims of Nazi persecution, who may be eligible to receive grants from the Claims Conference Hardship Fund, to file their applications not later than **December 31, 1981**. More than thirty million D.M. were paid out already to eligible claimants.

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

The Claims Conference assumed the responsibility for the administration of the Hardship Fund, which is funded by the German Federal Government and distributed under German Government Guidelines. The Guidelines limit individual payment to D.M. 5,000 (five thousand) per person.

Application forms may be obtained by residents of this country from: Claims Conference Hardship Fund, Grueneburgweg 119, 6000 Frankfurt/M, German Federal Republic.

AJR INFORMATION

We regret that the previous issue of "AJR Information" reached our readers with some delay. This was due to reasons entirely beyond our control.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Pole Advises Secretary of State

One of the closest friends and advisers of Alexander Haig, US Secretary of State, is Dr. David Korn, originally of Kolbuszowa in Poland. Born in 1934, he and his parents survived the war in Russian labour camps and the family emigrated to the USA in 1950. From 1953 to 1955, Dr. Korn served in Berlin with the US Army police intelligence unit before returning to an academic career in America. While studying at Georgetown University, he met the then Major Haig and a firm friendship sprang up between the two men and their families.

When President Reagan appointed the former General Haig as Secretary of State, one of the Secretary's first acts was to name his friend and adviser Dr. Korn as his special assistant. Life in the State Department proved uncongenial and Dr. Korn wanted to return to his Chair of Russian Studies at Harvard University. Mr. Haig nevertheless prevailed on his old friend to take over the guidance of external education at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute.

Brooklyn Irish Resolution Condemned

The Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women has strongly condemned the action of the Brooklyn branch of the Jewish War Veterans Association in adopting a resolution calling for an end to "the torture of political prisoners" in Northern Ireland and for the withdrawal of British troops. Ajax protested sharply to the JWVO and declares that it is deeply disturbed by the report, stigmatising the resolution as "harmful and irresponsible". Speaking to a Daily Telegraph reporter, the Brooklyn post commander (head of the branch) admitted that the resolution had been brought about by a conversation between a lawyer acting for Noraid, the IRA's fund-raising body in the US, and one of the Jewish veterans. "There was no real discussion. We voted on it and that was that. . . . Nobody likes the torture of political prisoners". He conceded that the branch members had no first-hand knowledge of the situation in Ulster, nor any facts to back up the assertion of torture.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL FOR ARMENIANS?

The United States President's Holocaust Commission is considering whether the Armenians massacred during the First World War should be included in the Holocaust Memorial in Washington. Some Jewish members of the Commission argue that to include other sufferers would weaken the impact of the Holocaust. Others believe that the inclusion of genocidal acts both before and after the period of the Third Reich would bring home the idea of the Holocaust even more strongly.

Turkish newspapers have reacted forcefully to this suggestion, pointing out that Turkey had welcomed Jewish refugees from the Nazis and carrying headlines such as "American Jews Cooperate with Armenian Murderers". Despite some press reports, the Commission has not given any promise of inclusion in the memorial to the Armenians.

The Chief Rabbi of Turkey, David Asseo, has also sent telegrams to major American Jewish organisations, deploring proposals to allocate space for the Armenian massacres at the Holocaust Memorial. As widely reported in the Turkish press, Rabbi Asseo has similarly expressed regret that moves "to deviate from the real purpose of the Memorial" should ever have been made. His attitude has been welcomed by the Turkish authorities and praised by the country's newspapers.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

JEWES NOT LEAVING ARGENTINA

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society has denied an Israeli report that it is planning to evacuate 300,000 Jews from Argentina. Edwin Shapiro, the President of Hias, recently reported that over the last four years conditions for Jews there have changed dramatically for the better, and they enjoy freedom of movement and religious practice.

Meanwhile the Argentine community is divided on the question of Jacobo Timerman, the former editor of "La Opinion", now living in Israel after being expelled from Argentina in 1979. He has recently published a book, "Prisoner without a Name, Cell without a Number", describing his secret arrest in 1977 and his subsequent imprisonment, from which he was released only after an international outcry. While in Israel, Mr. Timerman has also written articles sharply critical of the Argentine government and the Jewish establishment in that country which, he asserts, did nothing to help him during his detention. Many community members dispute this and believe that, rather than proving helpful, the exiled editor's activities have led to a retaliatory outcrop of anti-semitic writing in the Argentine press.

ZIMBABWE COMMUNITY IN DANGER

The Jewish community of Zimbabwe, now numbering only 1,850, are alarmed by a growing anti-Zionist trend becoming evident in public speeches and the media. A report by the Central African Jewish Board of Deputies, while acknowledging that the Government had not displayed any overt antisemitism, spoke of "unceasing diatribes" against Zionism and Israel. The community, the report stated, was aged rather than ageing and this, coupled with the natural tendency to emigrate from an atmosphere of hostility, was a pointer to a future which could not be ignored.

UNCLAIMED SOUTH AFRICAN FORTUNE

When Dr. Felix Kuttner of Johannesburg died intestate at the age of 90, he left a fortune of \$1,000,000 to which no heirs have so far been found. The money will eventually revert to the state unless a successful claimant appears. The late Dr. Kuttner was born in Wongrowitz, formerly Province of Poznan, the son of Professor Bernhard Kuttner; his sister Elisabeth, born in Frankfurt 1886, married Dr. Franz Adler. The Adlers had two children, Heinrich (born 1908) and Elisabeth (born 1914). Both children were born in Frankfurt and it appears that the whole family left Germany before the Second World War. Anyone interested should apply to Mr. Joe Kuttner, P.O. Box 4474, Johannesburg 2000.

GREEK-JEWISH HYMNS PRESERVED

Lost traditions of the Jewish community of Jannina, a town in the Epirus region of Greece, have been revived in a compilation issued by Professors Benjamin Schwartz and Apostolos Athanassakis. Traditional Hebrew hymns and religious songs by their own rabbis, composed over several hundred years, were translated by the Jannina Jews into the local Greek dialect and written down in the Hebrew alphabet, as the only appropriate script for sacred literature. 16 of these hymns were smuggled out of occupied Greece before the Nazis deported and murdered the 2,000 Jewish inhabitants of Jannina.

Professor Schwartz, of Lincoln University, Pa., began to translate the songs into English 20 years ago; later he was joined by Professor Athanassakis, now at the University of California, who had attended school in Jannina and knew the local dialect. Now their joint work is to be published under the title "Greco-Judaic Hymns of Jannina". The book will give the English translations alongside reproductions of the Hebrew manuscript together with the Greek transliteration. The project is financed by members of the American and Greek Jewish communities.

HOLIDAY DISCORD IN TUNISIA

Fighting broke out in a Club Méditerranée village in Korba, Tunisia, after the French group leader sang an Israeli song ending with the words "Long Live Israel!". The Tunisian authorities told him to leave the country.

BREZHNEV AND WALLEBERG ARREST

Reports from Israel that USSR President Leonid Brezhnev had been personally concerned with the arrest and abduction of Raoul Wallenberg in 1945 have been confirmed by Justice Ingrid Garde-Widemar, chairman of the Raoul Wallenberg Association in Sweden. The first public account came from a former Red Army lieutenant, Yaakov Leontevich Lakhotsky-Menaker, who emigrated to Israel in 1979. Discovering that the matter was still being discussed, he submitted his own account of what happened to the Swedish paper Aftonbladet. In this he described how the future President Brezhnev, at that time a major-general and head of the political branch of the Soviet 18th Army in Hungary, had ordered the Swedish diplomat's arrest in the belief that he was an American or German spy. Wallenberg may in fact have had access to American funds to further his work of saving Jews. Mr. Lakhotsky-Menaker said that a secret "successful operation" during the battle for Budapest had often, though cautiously, been mentioned among former Soviet officers in the 70s. He had also spoken to the man who actually detained Wallenberg. Mrs. Garde-Widemar said that her Association had known about Mr. Brezhnev's personal involvement for almost a year, but had decided not to publicise it for fear of hampering rescue attempts. If he is alive, Wallenberg has just passed his 69th birthday.

SWISS SOCIALIST'S ATTACK DISCLAIMED

After a visit to Baghdad as a member of a Swiss Socialist Party delegation, M. Jean-Pierre Metral compared Israel's policy towards Palestinians and Arabs with that of Hitler to the Jews. For this he was castigated both by party chiefs and by the Swiss press. The Socialist Party vice-president and Parliamentary leader, Felicien Morel, disclaimed such a comparison, saying "Without agreeing with all aspects of the present policy of her leaders or with the bombing of the Iraqi atomic centre, it must be remembered that Israel is struggling for her survival."

DUBROVNIK WEDDING AFTER 56 YEARS

A recent wedding in the 14th-century Dubrovnik synagogue took on the status of a historic event: it was the first held there for 56 years. The bridegroom, Dr. Michael Papo, now living in the US, was born in Sarajevo and he and his parents used to spend holidays in Dubrovnik, where his uncle is leader of the 13-strong community. Remembering the synagogue from his boyhood, Dr. Papo brought his bride Judith and 60 guests from America to the ceremony, conducted by Yugoslavia's one and only Rabbi, Tsaddik Dannon.



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Martin Stern

AMICHAÏ'S WUERZBURG PRIZE

A Blend of Three Cultures

The foremost Israeli poet, Yehuda Amichai, who has also gained something of a world reputation, was recently awarded the Würzburg Culture Prize, which brings with it the sum of DM10,000. At the ceremony, the Governing Mayor, Dr. Klaus Zeitler, said that Amichai was "a poet born in Würzburg who had to leave his native city, and who represents modern Hebrew literature everywhere in the world." He went on to say that "there was no escape from history, but that the post-war generation should not be made responsible for the deeds of their parents". Dr. Hildegard Hamm-Brücher, Staatsminister at the Bonn Foreign Ministry, delivered the encomium, and said that by awarding Amichai the prize they were not in any way pretending to "appropriate" him as a Würzburg poet, even though his native city is mentioned frequently in his work.

Yehuda Amichai, who was born Ludwig Pfeuffer, left Würzburg at the age of 12 in 1935 for Palestine, where he and his family settled in Jerusalem. His first book of poems appeared in 1954 and was immediately recognised as an outstanding new departure in Hebrew poetry. Basically, what Amichai did for Hebrew poetry was to introduce the modernist revolution familiar to us in English from the work of Eliot, Auden and their contemporaries: he used natural colloquial speech as a medium of powerful expression, and established it as the norm of poetic diction. He was fully aware of what had happened to English verse, and was also an admirer of the work of Else Lasker-Schüler, whom he had observed when she was an eccentric old lady in Jerusalem. Though his poetic medium is the natural spoken language, he is steeped in classical Hebrew literature from the Bible onwards, and uses traditional

images and references with great effect. He is a master of metaphor.

He is a great poet by any standards, and most unusually, his work translates well into other languages, though he has also been lucky with his translators. Two books of translations into English have been published by the Oxford University Press in this country: *Amen and Time*. A third is now in preparation, and a book of *Love Songs* has just been published by Harpers in America.

He is invited to read his work all over the world, and was most recently at the Cambridge Poetry Festival in June, his own reading being broadcast by the BBC. He has also written two novels (one, *Not of This Time, Not of This Place*, published in Britain and America). His radio play, *Bells and Trains*, which has the German Jewish experience and the Holocaust as its background subject, has been broadcast in many countries and languages. The languages of three cultures have influenced his work—German, English and Hebrew. If history had taken a different turn, and he had never left Würzburg, he would probably have been the major German poet of our time.

In the Second World War he served as a sergeant-major in the Jewish Brigade of the British Army, and afterwards, in the Israeli War of Independence, and all the subsequent wars. The tensions of war and its terrible cost, which ran through his work, caught the imagination of the whole of Israel, where he became the voice of his generation. In Israel, he is a best-seller, and it is not uncommon for one of his books of poetry to sell 15,000 copies and more. He is taught in the schools, and children know his work by heart. When he returns from a foreign journey, some young Israeli immigration officer invariably—after

perusing his passport—quotes his verse at him, and jokingly complains of having had to learn it at school.

At the ceremony, he said that most of his childhood memories of Würzburg were pleasant, though there had been antisemitic incidents. His family had been spared the worst, and had emigrated to Palestine intact. "I have served on active duty as a soldier in four wars" he said. "My father served four years in the First World War. He was given the Iron Cross before Verdun and the Bavarian Knight's Cross on the Isonzo. I put his decorations together with mine in a little box, and my eldest son used to play with these colourful shiny objects when he was small without knowing what they signified. There were the chaos of history and the confusion of human destinies packed in a little box.

"I said in the beginning", he continued, "that the worst was spared us. But the worst happened, and no one should forget it. There are two peoples who must not forget it, the German and the Jewish peoples. Forgetting is human, but also inhuman. We want to forget, but must remember. We want to remember, but must forget. We are all concerned for survival and getting on with life, with healing. Even when it no longer hurts, the scar reminds us always of the bad and the worst. But the scar also signifies healing and further growth."

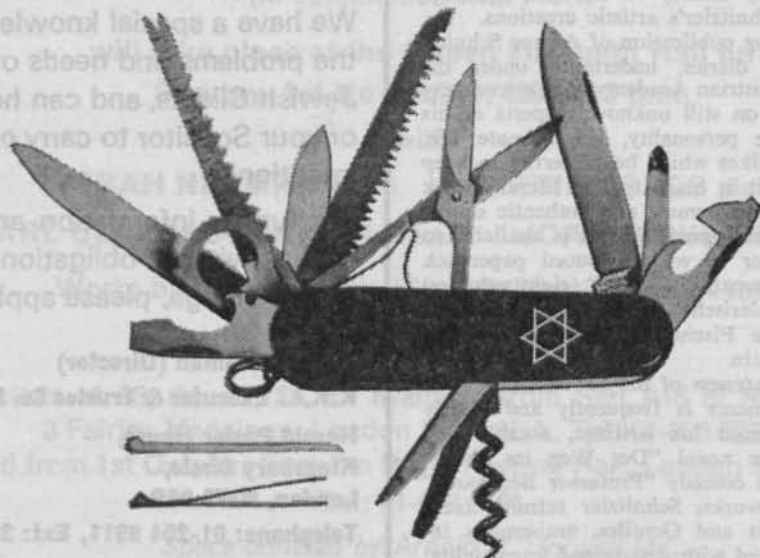
SECOND GENERATION

CBE for Prof. P. J. Mittler

The award of a CBE to Professor P. J. Mittler in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours list has added lustre to our community. Professor Mittler was born in Vienna 51 years ago and, together with his family, came to this country in 1938. He is now Professor of Special Education at Manchester University and the honour was awarded to him in recognition of his outstanding services to mentally handicapped people. From 1975 to 1980 he was chairman of the National Advisory Group for the mentally handicapped and he is the founding director of the Hester Adrian Research Centre, based at Manchester University.

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- 5 Okt. Kein Vortrag. (Ferien im Hannah Karminski House).
- 12 Okt. Else Goldschmidt: The Ancient Civilisation of Egypt (with slides).
- 19 Okt. Bertha James: Childhood in a Village in the early 1900's. History of Buckinghamshire Lace.
- 26 Okt. Walter Lewis: Wladimir Jabotinsky (1880-1940) The Zeev.
- 2 Nov. Dr. R. Schulze Gaevernitz: Briefwechsel zwischen Aristoteles und Alexander.
- 9 Nov. Gerald Holms: Hjalmar Soederberg. Historietta.
- 16 Nov. Nina F. Marks, B.A.: My Impressions on Visits to the Soviet Union (with slides).
- 23 Nov. Prof. H. Fifer, B.Sc., Ph.D.: A Lecture with slides. The subject will be announced at a later date.
- 30 Nov. Berta Sterly: J. Krishnamurti, Sein Leben und Denken.
- 7 Dez. James Walters: The Life and Work of Rabbi Dr. M. Warschauer.

F. L. Brassloff

HOMAGE TO ARTHUR SCHNITZLER

50th Anniversary of his Death

When Arthur Schnitzler died on 21 October 1931, at the age of 69, it was widely felt that a distinguished representative of an era had passed away. The era itself had already vanished with the disappearance of the Austrian empire, in whose capital, Vienna, many eminent or at least noteworthy writers, artists, thinkers and scientists had made remarkable contributions to Austrian, German and general culture. The role played by Jews and men of Jewish extraction in this unique set-up was conspicuous. It was fiercely resented and increasingly aggressively rejected by a large and vocal opposition, hostile to the Jews as an "alien" and "destructive" element. It was significant that the then director of the Burgtheater, Anton Wildgans, was taken to task for having raised a black flag at the playhouse as a tribute to the author of "Liebelei" and other dramatic works which had been shown at the theatre in the course of almost four decades. The gesture of appreciation even contributed to Wildgans' enforced resignation.

The writer of this article belonged to a minority of his contemporaries who were opposed to the common opinion that Arthur Schnitzler's oeuvre was no longer relevant. He remembers his first impression of Schnitzler when in 1913, as a child, his father greeted the famous writer (and physician) respectfully in passing and told him about Schnitzler's importance. In 1926, he tried to analyse the main themes and ideas of Schnitzler's plays in a rather immature and superficial essay. He was too shy to call on the author but learnt from his devoted secretary, Miss Frieda Pollak, that Schnitzler had been pleased to learn that an adolescent did not consider him outdated. When Schnitzler's last novel, "Therese", appeared two years later and was treated by reviewers with condescension, the present writer published an enthusiastic appreciation in a provincial Swiss daily, to give expression to his attachment to an author, who, in his opinion, was treated unfairly by most critics.

Now—50 years later—the memory of Arthur Schnitzler is widely honoured. A younger gener-

ation, unhampered by former preconceived notions, is impressed by the literary quality of Schnitzler's works, their lucidity and the depth of their psychological insights. Quite a few of his plays are often shown successfully on the stage. They have also been discovered by the medium of television. Circumstances and backgrounds, brilliantly sketched in such pieces as "Anatol" (1888-1891), "Liebelei" (1894), "Das weite Land" (1910) and "Professor Bernhardt" (1912), are no longer topical, but these and other plays still have a strong appeal to viewers and readers. "Reigen" (1896-1897), which provoked antisemitically inspired violent excesses on account of alleged pornography when performed in Berlin and Vienna in the early twenties, is no longer considered "risqué". Max Ophuels' film version "La Ronde" (1950), though a remarkable effort, does not quite convey the spirit of the original, whereas the short story "Fraulein Else" (1923) was given a congenial and moving interpretation on the screen by Elisabeth Bergner und Albert Steinrück in 1926.

Viennese Atmosphere

Renewed and intensive interest in the works and ideas produced in Vienna during the era of the "fin-de-siècle" is also manifested in numerous appreciations of Arthur Schnitzler's contribution and in the publication of correspondence and memoirs. Of particular interest is the exchange of letters of Schnitzler with the director of the Deutsches Theater and the Lessing Theater, Otto Brahm (1856-1912), whose sympathetic understanding of the Viennese author contributed much to the popularity of his plays on the Berlin stage and beyond. Schnitzler, by the way, though deeply rooted in the peculiar world of Vienna's liberal bourgeois society, considered himself a part of German culture. Yet his writings are in many respects, in style, intonation and thought, determined by Austrian tradition, notably in the constant preoccupation with the interplay of harsh reality, playfulness and dreams, sex and death. Another great Jewish Austrian, Sigmund Freud, recognised and acknowledged the strong and, in his view, uncanny affinity of his own scientific discoveries to Schnitzler's artistic creations.

The forthcoming publication of Arthur Schnitzler's voluminous diaries, undertaken under the auspices of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, may throw new light on still unknown aspects of his apparently serene personality, his intimate life, the likes and dislikes which he preferred to keep to himself. But it is his extensive literary work which remains the foremost and authentic source for enjoyment and appreciation. It is available to the general reader in well produced paperback editions: "Das dramatische Werk" (eight volumes) and "Das erzählerische Werk" (seven volumes), published by the Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag, Frankfurt am Main.

Schnitzler's awareness of his Jewishness and of anti-Jewish sentiments is frequently and clearly expressed throughout his writings, notably and extensively in the novel "Der Weg ins Freie" (1908) and in the comedy "Professor Bernhardt" (1912). In both works, Schnitzler refrains from taking sides. Jews and Gentiles, antisemites included, are depicted with determined impartiality. He only shows sarcastic contempt for opportunist

converts. "Der Weg ins Freie" may impress readers today less because of its literary quality than as a comprehensive period picture of Viennese Jewish society, especially of its problematic younger generation, shortly after the turn of the century, torn between Zionism, assimilationism and Socialism. Schnitzler had already met Theodor Herzl during their student days and was obviously unfavourably impressed by the latter's inclination to pomposity and showmanship. Their frequent contacts remained on a polite and rather distant level. Schnitzler was obviously merely ironically amused when Herzl tried to win him over to Zionism by offering him the directorship of the national theatre in a forthcoming Jewish state. Scepticism and agnosticism governed Schnitzler's attitude to religious beliefs and political convictions throughout his life.

Prophetic Insight

In the posthumously (1968) published recollections "Jugend in Wien" Arthur Schnitzler voices the hope that the frequent references to Judaism and antisemitism may appear to future readers hardly just, unnecessary and even not in good taste. He imagined that the so-called "Jewish question" would no longer be topical at the time of the publication of the memoirs. Schnitzler showed more prophetic insight in observations made in letters to Olga Weissnix, to whom he was deeply attached in the period of his early literary efforts. In a letter dated 3 March 1897, he confesses to a feeling of "insane touchiness caused by the strange condition of not being fully accepted by millions solely because of one's origin". "I have such strong feelings of vengefulness vis-à-vis this scum that I would quietly hang them myself. The time will come again soon for writing about the tragedy of the Jews." It was fortunate for Arthur Schnitzler that he did not live to see how his forebodings became reality in a way and to an extent that he could not have foreseen.

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GERMAN SOCIAL INSURANCE (2)

The article on page 7 of the September issue of AJR Information regarding German Social Insurance calls for some additional explanation.

The article deals under (2) with those who, whilst having received the education indemnification, have not submitted an application for the consent of the insurance authority to payment of contributions and who—though this is not specifically stated but implied under (2) of the article—have no German contributions to their credit. It states under (2)b the limits within which such persons may be able to establish the right to payment of contributions and thereby to a pension entitlement.

The article deals under (1) with those who, as distinct from the cases dealt with under (2), have already paid contributions on the basis of the education indemnification and who can now pay an additional contribution, thereby improving their pension entitlement. The right of these persons to payment of further contributions is *not* limited by the restrictions mentioned under (2)b, which apply only to those who have no German contribution record. It is the purpose of this supplementary article to point out that others who have a German contribution record—not only those who have paid contributions on account of the education indemnification—may also qualify for a further contribution payment, as long as their contribution record, including a substitute contribution period (Ersatzzeit), amounts to 60 months or more and, of course, provided they had received the education compensation. Applicants who come under this category would not be subject to the limitations of No. (2)b of the article in the September issue. As regards the time limit and the question as to which insurance authority to apply to, the remarks under No. (1) of the article in the September issue are applicable. Whether a further contribution payment is worth considering in an individual case would require examination. As a general rule, no such additional payment is advisable or even possible in cases in which the person concerned has already paid further contributions on the strength of the fact that an employment was terminated for reasons of persecution.

To give an example: a person, born in Germany in 1921, has obtained the education indemnification because of the fact that he or she was unable, for discriminatory reasons, to complete his or her schooling. He (or she) then found employment in Germany. This short-lived employment was terminated in November 1938 because the employer was no longer able to keep his Jewish employees. The person concerned then emigrated to the UK. On recent application to the competent German insurance authority he obtained an acceptance of a total contribution record of 136 months, comprising the period of his employment of three months and 133 months substitute contribution period, extending to 31.12.1949, for persecution-based unemployment and emigration. He had missed the time limit of 31.12.1975 for application for the consent of the insurance authority to payment of further contributions for past periods (Nachrichtungung von Beiträgen). The German contribution period which he has to his credit is insufficient for an old age pension. He will only be able to obtain, at the appropriate time, a German old age pension with the help of his British National Insurance contributions on the basis of the EEC regulations on social security—an unsatisfactory result, as this will lead to a very small German pension entitlement. This is a typical case in which a person should take advantage of the possibility of further contribution payments, in order to complete the qualifying period (Wartezeit) of 180 months and establish his entitlement to a German old age pension on the basis of German contributions only.

F.E. GUMPERT

PILGRIM TOURS DISPUTE SETTLED

Israeli tourist authorities have conceded defeat in the dispute about guided tours. Originally they have demanded that all visiting groups must be led by licensed Israeli guides, but this led to an outcry among Christian organisers of pilgrimages to the Holy Land, the Catholic authorities being particularly vociferous in opposition. The Israeli Government has now agreed that religiously motivated groups may be led by priests or by their own tour leaders.

THE MODEL OF A MODERN GENERAL

8 October 1981 marks the 50th anniversary of the death of General Sir John Monash, one of the greatest Jewish soldiers in history. Indeed there are other Jewish generals on record, apart from those of Biblical times and of the modern state of Israel. But Monash was outstanding and indeed one of the most successful British generals of the First World War, whose great qualities, in the opinion of some observers, might have made him eligible for the post of British Commander-in-Chief if the war had lasted longer.

John Monash, born in June 1865 in Melbourne, Australia, as the son of a Jewish immigrant from Krotoschin in the then Prussian province of Posen achieved a splendid career as a civil engineer in his native Melbourne and rose to great eminence in his profession. But already as a student he had enlisted as a part-time soldier in the Australian army and had risen by the beginning of the First World War to the rank of colonel and brigade commander. Sent overseas and promoted to brigadier general he participated in the Gallipoli campaign. He subsequently went to France where in May 1918 he assumed, as Lt-General, command of the Australian Corps and at times of a force of no less than 200,000 men. In this capacity he planned and carried out some of the victorious operations which ultimately helped to bring about the defeat of the Germans.

After the end of the war he returned to Australia and his old profession, having received a knighthood and numerous other honours. A man of many and varied talents and accomplishments he brought his brilliant mind to the practice of the military art, grasping, in particular, the importance of new techniques and methods for the prosecution of military aims.

Thus one of his biographers describes him as the first 20th century general "with petrol in his veins and a computer in his head"—indeed the model of a modern general.

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NEWS FROM GERMANY

THINKING OF OTTO HIRSCH

On the 40th anniversary of the murder of Otto Hirsch in Mauthausen (19 June), the Stuttgarter Zeitung published a tribute to him by Thomas Borgmann. The writer recalled Hirsch's remarkable career as an outstandingly talented civil servant in the Wilhelmine and Weimar government service. Appointed a Ministerialrat at the early age of 36, Hirsch was Director of the Neckar Corporation, and worked out plans for canalising the Neckar, his great dream being the construction of a navigable waterway linking the Rhine, through the Neckar, to the Danube. It has remained a dream, and in view of the post-war political boundaries, is likely to remain a dream. Borgmann points out that in his role as head, with Rabbi Leo Baeck, of the Reichsvertretung der deutschen Juden, Hirsch deserves much of the credit for the fact that of Germany's 540,000 Jews, over 250,000 were able to be saved.

At Shavei Zion in Israel, which was founded by Jews from Rexingen, there is an Otto Hirsch Memorial. There are many people who found refuge in Israel who owe their lives to him.

AWARD OF MEDAL QUERIED

Questions have arisen concerning the award of a medal to Josefina Jürgens of Düsseldorf. Mrs. Jürgens, a Social Democrat and a prominent member of the Stille Hilfe prisoners' aid organisation, was given the Service Cross of the Federal Order of Merit for her years of work on behalf of prisoners. When it became known that she had also assisted the former Maidanek guards accused at the Düsseldorf Trial, protests were made by democratic circles in West Germany. The North Rhine-Westphalia Government disclaimed knowledge of her support for the relief of "Nazi suspects and convicts" and said that a recommendation to the West German President to think again about the honour awarded to Mrs. Jürgens was under consideration.

BAN ON ARAB BOYCOTT WANTED

Former German Ambassador to Israel, Klaus Schütz, now manager of Deutsche Welle, has written to the Bundestag asking for a legal curb on the Arab League's boycott of Israel. He points out that the French government has recently forbidden firms to enter into contracts complying with the Arab boycott requirements.

HOFFMANN GANG LINKS WITH PLO

The magazine "Der Spiegel" recently published an interview with Abu Iyad, the PLO's second-in-command, which confirmed earlier reports of the Hoffmann group's links with Arab terrorism. It was the "Hoffmann Military Sports Group" which planted the bomb at the Munich Bierfest, killing one of its own members. Some of the group were caught trying to fly to Lebanon and Iyad admits that 12 of them had been sheltered by the PLO in Beirut. He denied that German neo-Nazis were trained at PLO camps, and said that an offer by Karl Heinz Hoffman, the group's leader, to sell obsolete German army lorries and other equipment to the PLO had been refused.

Hoffmann and his girl-friend Franziska Brinkmann are strongly suspected of the murder of Shlomo Lewin and Frida Poeschke in Erlangen last December. Hoffmann is still on remand, although the girl has been released, and a shortage of evidence had seemed to indicate that he would shortly be set free. However, the return of three former members of the group from a training camp near Beirut has strengthened the case against him. Although the returnees' evidence is not unassailable, since they are at odds with Hoffmann, they tell of tortures under which one man is said to have died, and plans for a further carefully planned murder this August. The West German authorities believe that the group has now effectively been broken up and its leaders arrested.

MEDIEVAL DOCUMENT ENGLISH IN ORIGIN

A remarkable document has been acquired for the Valmadonna Trust by the Trust's custodian, Jack Lunzer. Purchased at a sale of David Sassoon's library in 1978, the manuscript, comprising 482 vellum pages containing the Pentateuch, Targum, Haftarat, and Megillot, was dated 1189 and believed to be of German origin. However, when Mr. Lunzer arranged for it to be restored, the expert who worked on it told him that he believed it had been written in England. Other scholars to whom the document was submitted confirmed this opinion. The sale catalogue described it as the earliest dated example of the Targum known in Europe and the third earliest dated Hebrew manuscript, only the Reuchlin Codex in Karlsruhe and a document in the British Museum being earlier examples.

Last year, Mr. Lunzer acquired a nine-volume Babylonian Talmud for the Valmadonna Trust from the library of Westminster Abbey, where the books had lain for 450 years.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ingrid Bergman is coming out of retirement as a film actress to portray Golda Meir in an Israeli film, on which shooting has recently begun.

Ruth Lawrence, who passed the pure mathematics A-level examination at the age of nine, is the daughter and pupil of Harry Lawrence (formerly Leibel), who was brought from Austria as a child in 1939.

Honorary life president of B'nai B'rith in Britain and a Board Member of the AJR, **Mr. Fred Worms**, was recently elected chairman of the executive in B'nai B'rith International's new world centre in Jerusalem.

An active member of the Worshipful Company of Glovers of London, **Stephen Kirch** is carrying on his father's trade with the help of his brother Peter. Friedrich Kirsch, a glover of Chemnitz, brought his family to England in 1937. There he became the manager of a glove factory in Letchworth, Herts., which today is one of the very few left in Britain. His sons succeeded to the business and not only employ a number of skilled workers, but also take on apprentices to learn their delicate and demanding trade.

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THE AMADEUS QUARTET

The contribution which refugees from Nazi oppression have made in many fields of British cultural life has long been acknowledged. Musicians — composers as well as performers — have played a prominent part. High up on the list stands the Amadeus Quartet which has, for more than three decades, enjoyed an undisputed reputation as one of the world's foremost string quartets. With the exception of its British-born cellist, Martin Lovett, its members came to this country as refugees not long before the war. They met first during internment and during that grim time would hardly have anticipated the fame that lay in store for them.

Daniel Snowman, formerly a lecturer in the University of Sussex and now a producer of radio talks and documentaries with the BBC has told the story of the Amadeus in a splendid volume (*Daniel Snowman, The Amadeus Quartet, The Men and the Music*. Robson Books 1981. £6.75). A keen amateur musician himself, he supplements the biographical tale with intelligent observations of the quartet's working life, including their rehearsals, and these observations are based on personal contact.

It all adds up to a tale of miraculous success, but the report gains in impact by not ignoring the problems and obstacles — not only of an external kind — which are inseparable from the artistic triumphs.

Norbert Brainin, Siegmund Nissel and Peter Schidlof were teenagers when they escaped from the Third Reich.

Norbert was born in Vienna, where his father had settled after leaving Russia before 1914. On Christmas Eve 1938, Norbert came to London and started lessons with Carl Flesch. After Flesch's departure for Switzerland the boy continued his studies with Max Rostal. (Some readers might be interested to know that he took his meals at Balsam's, now The Dorice.) He was soon established as a violinist "on the Hampstead — Highgate — Swiss Cottage circuit."

Peter Schidlof, too, was born in Austria. He met Siegmund Nissel on the Isle of Man. (The author refers to internment as "well-intentioned slapdashery".) His release was aided by the Musicians' Refugees Committee whose members included Vaughan Williams, Myra Hess and Harriet Cohen.

Siegmund Nissel was born in Munich, but of Viennese parents. He arrived in this country with a children's transport. (The author's statement that Britain admitted only a "tiny handful of refugees" is hardly justified.)

Martin Lovett, whose father was a fellow pupil of Barbirolli, was born in London but later lived in Liverpool and Leeds. At the age of 15 he won a scholarship to the Royal Col-

lege of Music where he met the young violinist Susanne Rozsa who later became his wife. Lovett often played quartets with refugees "who spouted Goethe at me!"

"It is unclear whose idea it was" to form a quartet — in any case, the four musicians began rehearsing in 1947. Imogen Holst, daughter of the composer, invited them to the Music Course at Dartington Hall where they first made their impact. Their public debut took place at the Wigmore Hall in 1948. It was an outstanding success which was immediately followed by offers from the BBC's newly established Third Programme. At Nissel's suggestion the quartet now chose the name Amadeus, making Mozart their patron saint.

The musical situation in Britain favoured the new quartet. In spite of the prevailing austerity public support for the arts was on the upsurge, having been stimulated already during the war years (when members of the Amadeus had individually appeared at the National Gallery concerts). Soon the Amadeus were heard all over the country. In 1950, only two years after their debut, they made their first tour abroad. They started with Spain but soon appeared also in Germany where they have continued to enjoy immense popularity. Most of their recordings are on the Deutsche Grammophon label.

Perhaps there are not a few among their German audiences who are aware, like the author, that "without the Third Reich, . . . young musicians like Brainin, Schidlof and Nissel would never have dreamed of studying — much less settling — in London." And the Western democracies, "while not generous in their attitude towards those from Central Europe who had sought asylum found that those to whom they had given refuge proved to be among the most important cultural leaders of the next generation." Coming from an English author, the comment merits quoting.

World-wide fame and gratitude for what the Amadeus had to give have been reflected in

many official honours. British responses have included OBEs for each member of the quartet and invitations from Edward Heath to play at No. 10 and at Chequers. Above all, Britten wrote his last string quartet for the Amadeus and although he did not live to witness its public premiere he was able to assist with the preparation and to hear the whole work shortly before his death.

The author's chapters on the Amadeus rehearsal sessions — he was allowed some eavesdropping — are realistic and free from superficiality. (Occasionally the musicians would relax by telling "Klemperer stories"!.) The enormous problems which have to be mastered on the road to perfection are aptly covered. The music lover who enjoys an Amadeus recital may not know that in their earlier stages the players would rehearse a work for a whole year before performing it. Their mutual relationships are investigated with much understanding. But whatever tensions may have been experienced, the Amadeus have kept together for well over 30 years now, knowing that "the whole transcends the sum of its not inconsiderable parts!"

The book is well illustrated and also includes musical examples, a survey of the quartet's repertoire, and a discography.

AN ORPHAN'S SCARS

"Family Arrivals" is the title of a slim volume of 17 poems by Mainz-born Lotte Kramer (published by "Poet & Printer", 340 Grimsdyke Road, Hatch End, Middx.). Her poetry is receiving wide recognition, and most of the poems in this booklet have previously appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, the *Jewish Quarterly* and other widely-read publications. In June, she gave a poetry reading in the Holland Park Orangerie in London.

As in her previously published poems, Lotte Kramer's childhood in Nazi Germany, the persecutions suffered by her family and the memory of those killed are poignantly expressed, as is her indestructible link to the places of her youth:

*To keep a root secure
I place its constant need
Into my blood;
And lock that early love
Into the blackened Rhine.*

The collection should appeal to all those who shared her sufferings, but perhaps even more to descendants of refugees born in this country. It will make them realise the ambiguity of emotions felt by their parents — their sense of irretrievable loss and their memories of happier days.

Lotte Kramer concludes
*I share my scars
With each young orphan's wound
And man's blind guilt.*

M.P.

MOUNT SCOPUS MEETING

Friends of the Hebrew University from all over the world lately held their first international conference in Jerusalem. As part of the conference, a gala evening entertainment was held, proceeds being allocated to the special student scholarship fund.

CAMPS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"CAMPS IN THE CHANNEL ISLANDS"

Sir,—In your August issue you refer to the paperback book just published on "The Alderney Death Camp" by Solomon Steckoll, which was serialised in *The Observer*. As a member of the last Jewish family to leave Jersey, I wrote to *The Observer* (which published part of my letter only) pointing out that Mr. Steckoll's paragraphs about Jersey were completely incorrect. He referred to the 22 Jews from Jersey who were sent to Alderney "after the Jews with means had left the Island". There were not 22 Jews on the island at that time; nobody "with means" got away from the Island on their own, as everyone who wished to be evacuated was evacuated by the States of Jersey on to the Mainland. My parents were the last Jews to leave the island and I met them on the last evacuee boatload which arrived at Southampton, and they only left because my father was begged by people in authority to go away as he was such a liability for them.

I cannot understand where Mr. Steckoll got his facts from, for all my parents' belongings were saved for them by the islanders. Moreover, my brother, who returned from the forces to the island after Jerseymen had been subjected to five years of Nazi indoctrination, was elected and was top of the polls—although he was a Jew—at the very first election after the war ended. I hope that people reading Mr. Steckoll's book may be aware of some of these facts, which have been omitted from his work.

Director,
Youth Aliyah,
London, N.W.3.

(Mrs.) VERA BRAYNIS
(nee Krichefski)

PRE-WAR REFUGEE CHILDREN

Sir,—I am at present doing research work on the subject of Jewish refugee children from Europe who reached the United States either direct from the Continent or via Britain between 1938 and 1945 and am looking for such former refugee children or anyone who worked with them during that period (social workers, religious leaders, teachers, etc.). I would be grateful if anyone answering the above description would contact me. Any information received will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Aminadav Str. 16, apt. 27,
Tel Aviv 67066,
Israel.

JUDY TYDOR BAUMEL

"THE LORD FROM ALTENSTADT"

Sir,—In the article about Jews in German towns and villages (your August issue) a whole chapter of history was raised. Altenstadt in the Allgäu had Jewish inhabitants, the neighbouring Illertissen Christians only. My maternal great-grandfather was the baker of Altenstadt. I possess a family tree which goes back to the beginning of 1600. I also have photos of the synagogue and the cemetery, which were presented to me by Hugo Hirsch (later Lord Hirst). Hirst's two sons fell in the First World War on the English side.

In my novel "Effingers" I depicted Hugo Hirsch and my father as brothers.

My paternal grandfather, who came from Step-pach, was the brother-in-law of Samson Raphael Hirsch.

315 Upper Richmond Road,
London, S.W.15.

GABRIELE TERGIT

"LAST WALTZ IN VIENNA"

Sir,—As a native of Vienna, with a family background in Stanislau, Lwow and Czernowitz, I read the review "Last Waltz in Vienna" (your July issue) with great interest. I would question only one minor fact: Stanislau was, and is, situated in Galicia, which was awarded to Austria at the First Partition of Poland in 1772. Bukovina was seized from the Turks shortly afterwards, in 1775. The enthusiasm of the Jewish populations of both provinces might have more to do, in my view, with the "Toleranz-Edikte" of Joseph II than with their identifying their cause, in Bukovina particularly, with that of the deeply hostile Christian peasant masses against Muslim Ottoman rule, which had been fairly benign towards Jews.

I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to fellow-readers for help: I am assisting Dr. Ivar Oxaal, of the Department of Social Anthropology of the University of Hull, in research into the influence of migration of Jews from Galicia to Vienna on the political and cultural life of the capital. I would be most grateful for access to material, be it personal reminiscences, journals, diaries, collections of letters or photographs which shed light on the personal experiences of those who took part in that migration.

17 Dollis Avenue,
London, N.3.

M. GOLDENBERG

PICASSO'S PICASSOS

An Exhibition from the Musée Picasso, Paris

There is nothing quite like the Picasso exhibition, now at the Hayward Gallery, London, until 11 October 1981. This exhibition, marking Picasso's centenary, is the first major presentation of his work in Britain since the show of his paintings in 1960 and sculpture in 1967. In this new exhibition we are allowed to see part of the amazing collection of the artist's work which was acquired by the French nation in 1979, known as Picasso's Picassos. Eventually it will be installed in the new Musée Picasso at the Hotel Salé, Paris.

The exhibition comprises about 450 works with many major works in oil and water-colour, but the organisers have also managed to assemble an important collection of Picasso's drawings illustrating the significance of his work in this medium. There are also nearly 100 graphics, including the Volland Suite. Several states of the same work are shown together which provides a highly significant contribution to understanding the artist's method of work and development.

The exhibition is well arranged and a "must" for any art lover. As usual, a comprehensive, fully illustrated catalogue is available.

SUZANNE LACKNER, SCULPTRESS

The Loggia Gallery and Sculpture Garden at 15 Buckingham Gate S.W.1, had an interesting exhibition of sculptured works by 25 artists. Amongst them were six pieces by Suzanne Lackner.

Mrs. Lackner left Berlin in 1933 and settled in France where she taught languages. She moved to England in 1963 where she continued her teaching. However, at the age of 60 she turned to art and, in her own words, found her true vocation when she took sculptor's tools in her hands. She studied at the Camden Main Institute under the helpful guidance of Polly Ionides. Those of her works displayed at the exhibition mainly depict small animals. They reflect her sensitivity and feeling both for her subjects and for her material.

A. SCHWAB

JEWISH RADIO IN FRANCE

For the last three months, Radio-J (for Judaism) has been broadcasting from Paris, the first specifically Jewish "free radio" in France. A night-time programme operates from 9.30 p.m. to 1.30 a.m. five days a week and the station is steadily gaining popularity. Also to be heard in France is Radio Gilda, a high proportion of whose output is devoted to programmes of Jewish interest.

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

Abrahamsohn:— Mrs. Else Abrahamsohn, of 31 Langdale Gardens, Hove, Sussex, died after a short illness in her 91st year, on 22 August. She will be deeply mourned by her children and grandchildren, her relatives and her friends.

Baer:— Irene Baer, adored younger daughter of the late Clara and Alfred Weisenbeck, passed away peacefully on 24 August in the United States. Deeply mourned by her beloved husband Ernest Baer and loving sister and brother-in-law, Marianne and Josef Bronner.

Gruenmandel:— Dr. Selma Gruenmandel, Nottingham, formerly Breslau, died on the 21 August after two months' stay in hospital. Sadly missed by all her friends and family (abroad).

Lichtstern:— Mrs. Betty Lichtstern, née Wolfram, of 16 Robert Morton House, Alexandra Place, London, N.W.8, passed away on 18 August after a long illness and much suffering. Deeply mourned by her husband Gerhard.

Rosenthal:— Mrs. Nora Rosenthal, of 89 Barons Keep, London, W.14, died peacefully on 19 August at Walm Lane Nursing Home, Cricklewood, aged 88.

Stern:— Rebekka Elsbeth Stern, née Salomon, formerly Hanover, passed away peacefully in her 92nd year on the 27th July 1981.

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Miscellaneous

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OBITUARY

DR. JAMES PARKES

Dr. James Parkes, an unwearied fighter in the cause of Christian-Jewish friendship, has died in Bournemouth at the age of 84. It was in 1928, while he was secretary of the International Student Service in Geneva, that he first came face to face with antisemitism among German students and realised the existence of the *numerus clausus* system in Eastern Europe. His first book on the evil of racial hatred was published in 1930, under the title "The Jew and his Neighbour".

With the advent of the Hitler regime, Dr. Parkes became ever more committed to his campaign, to such an extent that Nazis attacked his Geneva flat in 1935 and he was put on the "Sonderfahndungsliste" of those who were to receive "special treatment" if the Germans invaded Britain. Appropriately, he met his future wife while she was helping German-Jewish refugees.

It was at the suggestion of James Parkes that the Council of Christians and Jews was formed in 1942; he was appointed to the first executive committee and continued his keen interest in the Council's work until his death. Among his many books were "A History of the Jewish People", "The Conflict of Church and Synagogue", "The Jew in the Mediaeval Community" and "A History of Palestine". In a rare mark of distinction,

he was elected president of the Jewish Historical Society. Honours were conferred on him from all sides, an honorary fellowship of the Hebrew University, an honorary doctorate of Hebrew Letters of the Jewish Institute of Religion, New York, the Hedi Munk Award from the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, together with many other testimonials to his work.

In 1966, Dr. Parkes presented his library, amounting to 7,000 works on antisemitism, Christian-Jewish relations and Judaica, to Southampton University. The Parkes Library in Southampton still provides a rich source for researchers.

ROBERT N. GRABOWER

Robert N. Grabower died on 21 August, 10 days before his 76th birthday. He had suffered a stroke five years ago and bore with fortitude the disablement of his severe illness. He was born in Berlin and, after a time as a judge and a solicitor worked for the Berlin Jewish community as administrative director of the Jewish cemeteries until his emigration to Oxford in 1939. Here he took up studies for his new profession and became a qualified accountant.

RABBI J. J. KOKOTEK

It is learned with deep regret that Rabbi J. J. Kokotek, Minister of the Belsize Square Synagogue, died suddenly last month. A tribute to him will be published in our next issue.

JOHN SHAFTESLEY

A former editor of the Jewish Chronicle, John Maurice Shaftesley has died at the age of 80. He had worked on the paper since 1937 and became editor in 1946. Even after his retirement from the board of directors in 1960, he continued for many years to work on the index to the Jewish Chronicle from its first issue in 1841.

ILSE LEDA-VORDEMBERGE

Ilse Leda-Vordemberge died in Rapperswil (Switzerland) at the age of 74 and was put to rest in the Jewish cemetery of Hanover, her city of birth. She was the widow of the painter Friedrich Vordemberge-Gildewart (Osnabrueck 1899-Ulm 1962), whose works were shown in the Anely Juda Gallery as mentioned last month. Anely Juda also published a most valuable and informative catalogue, "Vordemberge-Gildewart Remembered", in 1974.

GREEK CHILD VICTIMS REMEMBERED

The Mayor of Athens has opened a kindergarten and children's playground, mainly funded by the Aviv-Wizo Ladies' Association of Greece, in commemoration of the 13,000 Greek Jewish children murdered by the Nazis.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

New York. Comedy writers, although often conversant with the wishes of their faithful and well-disposed audiences, can have problems. Woody Allen, having concentrated on films for the past decade, supplied a comedy for the newly-opened Beaumont Theatre in the Lincoln Center called "The Floating Light Bulb". Even the (not very happy) idea of making Mr. Pollack of Brooklyn an ulcer-suffering bookmaker in love, was insufficient to save the "Light Bulb" from quick extinction. "Fools", a new (and seemingly not very witty) play by the prolific Neil Simon, based on Mr. Average's stupidity, was saved by the brilliant acting of John Rubinstein, son of the famous pianist.

Shakespeare in Tel Aviv—too "progressive"? Whilst the acting in recent Shakespeare productions in Israel is generally praised and, in particular, the actors' enthusiasm acclaimed, stage direction is severely criticised by most reviewers. A new "Othello" is described as "slow" and "undramatic" with the topic "race" most carefully avoided. The 1981 version of "Merchant of Venice" had Portia smoking a thick cigar, and Lancelot Gobbo arriving on a fume-generating motorcycle. Could they be falling into the trap of "modern" West German interpretations?

Frankfurt. The building of the former Opera House has been reconstructed. It was completely bombed out in 1944 and, in its place, a new opera house was erected after the war together with a theatre and a chamber theatre. The rebuilt former opera house will function as a concert hall and has facilities for chamber music, exhibitions, conferences and restaurants. The original inscription on the frontage "Dem Wahren, Schoenen, Guten" has been reinstated. For the first season, among other things, operetta and ballet performances are planned.

Obituary. The death is announced of the Austrian poet and writer *Hans Flesch-Bruningen*. He was 86. After having lived and worked in Italy and in Berlin, he emigrated to London in 1934, where he joined the BBC and continued writing novels. Back in Vienna since 1963, he remained active, completing his autobiography only a short while ago. Flesch-Bruningen belonged to the circle of poets who made their mark during the brighter and darker days in Austria, and was a friend of writers Heimito von Doderer and Alexander Lernet-Holenia. S.B.

GOETHE MEDAL FOR SOLTI

Sir Georg Solti, the world-renowned conductor, was recently awarded the Goethe Medal of the city of Frankfurt. On the day of the award he inaugurated, in a concert with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which he has conducted for many years, the rebuilt former Frankfurt opera house. Sir Georg was general music director in Frankfurt from 1952 to 1961. His work at the Covent Garden Opera earned him a knighthood. In a recent BBC television programme he reminisced about his Jewish family background in Budapest, and his time as a student of Bartok and Kodaly. He started his musical career with the Budapest Opera, and in 1937 was Toscanini's assistant at the Salzburg Festival. E.G.L.

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