

Martin Stern

COPING WITH THE PAST

Two Outstanding Writers

Theodor Adorno's statement that "after Auschwitz no one can ever again write a poem" is often quoted. One understands what he meant—that a certain kind of romantic effusion will always seem superfluous and superficial after what happened there. But Adorno's statement is false, since it is the duty of all serious art to come to grips with reality even in its grimmest forms, to enable us to understand better and to cope with that reality. In fact that is one of the prime functions of true art, to give form and meaning to our experience, and the Holocaust was a central experience of our century.

Nevertheless, it presents very great difficulties to the writer. The current realist style is so explicit about violence that it dulls the reader's senses, and in fact is ultimately self-defeating. To deal with the subject in realistic detail is harrowing and horrifying without purging pity and terror, as Aristotle rightly thought necessary. Art is never so powerful as when it is indirect in its approach: the original Greek meaning of obscene was what took place (i.e. the violence) *off stage*. That it is possible to deal with this harrowing subject with great depth and insight has been proven by the remarkable poetry of Paul Celan, born in Czernowitz in Bukovina, who was himself a concentration camp survivor, and who committed suicide in 1970, at 49. That the theme can also be exploited meretriciously in a pseudo-serious novel such as William Styron's "Sophie's-Choice", is also evident.

Aharon Appelfeld, also born in Czernowitz (in 1932), is a concentration camp survivor, as Celan was. His mother was killed as the Nazis swept eastward, and Aharon was deported to a camp in Transnistria, from which he escaped at the age of eight to wander the forests for three years. Eventually he was picked up by the Russians, served in army field kitchens in the Ukraine, and somehow made his way to Italy in the big migrations at the end of the war. He reached Palestine in 1946 and has been in Israel ever since, now teaching Hebrew Literature at Ben Gurion University at Beersheba.

And with all this horror, tumult and adventure behind him, how does he treat his subject? In a most subtle and powerful way, *indirectly*, seeming almost to circumvent it, but with an impact all the greater because of that. He places this short novel* in an Austrian resort town, an imaginary Kurort called Badenheim in 1939. It can only be an imaginary town, since there were no resorts where Jews could congregate in 1939, and in fact there could hardly have been any from 1933, and generally, Jews could only stay as paying guests with other Jews. One should see Badenheim as an allegorical town, symbolising the German-speaking lands as a staging-post in the long history of the Jews. But Appelfeld makes it a very real place. He evokes its

pleasant sights and sounds and scents as the Jewish holiday-makers and their entertainers turn up one after the other.

With light, deft touches of the imagination, he paints in one detail after another: the place itself and the moods of the weather, the impresario Dr. Pappenheim, the musicians and their conductor, the scholar Dr. Fussholdt, endlessly fussing over the proofs of his latest pedantic tome, and his young wife, the pharmacist and his ailing wife with her forebodings about the future, the pretentious Frau Zauberblit, and numerous others:

"The light stood still. There was a frozen kind of attentiveness in the air. An alien orange shadow gnawed stealthily at the geranium leaves. The creepers absorbed the bitter, furtive damp. Pappenheim spoiled the musicians and bought them chocolates and cream cakes. The musicians were submissive, full of gratitude. The quarrels were over. And the strange new light filtered through the clouds and illuminated the broad verandah. Dr. Schutz's love was no longer lighthearted as in days gone by. The orange shadow now lay on him and his beloved. The schoolgirl huddled into his summer coat as if afraid of a sudden separation."

Spreading Net

Then there is the bluff and bureaucratic Sanitation Department which has been given the task of registering the Jewish population, and much talk of "resettlement" in the east, in Poland, about which the holiday-makers speculate and fantasise—for some of them, Ostjuden by origin, it is, after all, "going home":

"... And in the Sanitation Department the investigations continued quietly. This was now the centre, and from the centre the net spread out in all directions. In the Sanitation Department they knew everything. They had a large collection of maps, journals, a library. You could drop in whenever you liked and look things up. The conductor went to register and came back happy. They showed him a whole cupboard full of contracts, licences, and documents. Strange, his old father had written a book about arithmetic in Hebrew. They knew everything, and they were glad to show a man his past, the conductor said."

Make at least one friend—
enrol as a

"FRIEND OF THE AJR"

Well-fed and amply entertained in the beginning, the heterogeneous community, with its flirtations and conflicts and snobberies, is shown as it deteriorates under the pressure of dwindling food and amenities, the author sketching in their growing anxiety and disorientation with one subtle brush-stroke after another. The impact is all the greater for the understatement: it is 1939, and we know what will happen to them as they still cling to the illusions and the shibboleths of their former ordinary lives. They are almost relieved when the train arrives to take them away—an engine pulling four filthy goods wagons. Dr. Pappenheim concludes brightly that "if the wagons are so dirty it must mean that we have not far to go." In a final, powerful image, "they were all sucked in as easily as grains of wheat poured into a funnel".

A word about the translation. The translator is an American (indeed the British edition is the very well-printed and handsomely-designed imported U.S. book with the Dent imprint) and she doesn't know too much about German ways, though she has tried. She obviously doesn't know what Apfelwein is and calls it cider. She transliterates the name of the town as Reizenbach when Appelfeld has Reisenbach because for her the z is pronounced as in zero. Though she has a Hebrew name, her errors are more serious from the original Hebrew. Because Appelfeld's Hebrew does not, of course, have the vowels printed, on page 62 (page 46 of the original Hebrew) she translates "jumped on the golden bandwagon" (whatever that is!) instead of the obvious Biblical reference to being hitched to "the golden calf" (Exodus 32:4 and 1 Kings 12:28, not to mention Psalm 106:19-20 and Acts 7:41). On the same page Buber, instead of Fussholdt is made to be uncertain whether Buber is a prophet or a professor. On page 77 (Hebrew 57) she calls an officers' school a military academy, which is something quite different. On page 81 (Hebrew p. 59) "the treasures of the world to come" should be "the *secrets* of the world to come". The author should also correct his reference (on p. 138—p. 97 in the original) to the First World War. In 1939 they would have called it the Great War. But these, and several other minor slips aside, it is a smooth and readable translation of a very important book, a minor masterpiece. A German translation will be published later this year by Ullstein in Berlin.

The appearance of the book of Celan "Poems" * is also an important event, much more so since there is nothing more difficult than the translation of poetry, and especially the work of a major poet like Celan. How strange that two such original talents—in Celan's case genius—should come from the German-speaking Jewish community of Czernowitz in Bukovina, so peripheral a place. On the other hand, talented writers born in the metropolis often absorb the prevalent conventional wisdom, while those born and raised in the provinces stand at a certain angle to the world and can develop originality through the very absence of metropolitan pressures. In Celan's case as a German-speaker* his community, his parents, his world were destroyed by Germans. As Michael Hamburger observes in his valuable introduction, "His German could not and must not be the German of the destroyers. That is one reason why he had to make a new language for him-

*Paul Celan: *Poems*. Bilingual edition selected, translated and introduced by Michael Hamburger. Carcanet, 307 pp. £7.95.

*BADENHEIM 1939 Aharon Appelfeld. Translated from the Hebrew by Dalya Bilu. pp. 148. Dent, £4.95.

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COPING WITH THE PAST

self, a language at once probing and groping, critical and innovative; and why the richer his verbal and formal resources grew, the more strictly he confined them to the orbit of his most urgent concerns."

Celan's poems are difficult enough in the original, and Michael Hamburger's success in translating this large selection of them seems almost miraculous, though it is, as he says, the result of long thought and very hard work. Hamburger is himself a very fine poet, one of the best writing in England today, and we are fortunate that he has given us this Celan, which won the Schlegel-Tieck Prize. (Hamburger came to Britain as a boy, in the mid-1930s.) A good example is the famous poem "Psalm":

Psalm

Niemand knetet uns wieder aus Erde und Lehm,
niemand bespricht unsern Staub.

Niemand.

Gelobt seist du, Niemand.

Dir zulieb wollen
wir blühen.

Dir
entgegen.

Ein Nichts

waren wir, sind wir, werden
wir bleiben, blühend:

die Nichts-, die
Niemandrose.

Mit

dem Griffel seelenhell,
dem Staubfaden himmelswüst,
der Krone rot
vom Purpurwort, das wir sangen
über, o über
dem Dorn.

Psalm

No one moulds us again out of earth and clay,
no one conjures our dust.

No one.

Praised be your name, no one.

For your sake
we shall flower

Towards
you.

A nothing

we were, are, shall
remain, flowering;
the nothing-, the
no one's rose.

With our pistil soul-bright
with our stamen heaven-ravaged
our corolla red
with the crimson word which we sang
over, o over
the thorn.

As he said in an early poem, "Wahr spricht, wer Schatten spricht" (He speaks truly who speaks the shade). And yet Celan came to feel that in his best known poem, "Todesfuge", he had been too explicit, and even refused further requests to anthologise it. Celan said his poems were "messages in a bottle", and they might or might not be retrieved. If the "message in a bottle" reaches the reader, it will tell him something of which he was not aware before reading it, as Hamburger remarks, continuing: "That is the distinction of poetry like Celan's, poetry always close to the unutterable because it has passed through it and come out on the other side."

The reader should not be misled by Celan's negative theology, clearly evident in a poem like 'Psalm'. It is an ancient Jewish tradition to polemicise with God (e.g. Job). If the poem is read carefully, the negation—wring from the bitterest experience of despair—will be found to harbour the seeds of transcendence.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

LEO BAECK PRIZE FOR ROBERT WELTSCH

The numerous friends and admirers of Robert Weltsch will be pleased to learn that he has been awarded the Leo Baeck Prize 1980/81 of the Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland. The Prize was endowed in 1957 and its recipients include Jews and non-Jews who, in one way or another, work in the spirit which marked the personality of the man whose name it bears.

Hardly anybody's name is as closely connected with Leo Baeck as that of Robert Weltsch. Prior to his return to Israel, he was the head of the London section of the Leo Baeck Institute and he is also the Founder Editor of the L.B.I. Year Books. As the doyen of the publicists from German language countries, he is not only a master of his mother tongue but equally proficient in Hebrew and English. What makes his activities for almost seven decades particularly remarkable is the fact that he has always had the courage to express his views, even if they were not shared by the majority. In substance they are based on the ideals of a humanitarian Zionism and are free of dogmatic doctrines. We cordially congratulate 90-year-old Robert Weltsch on this well deserved, indeed overdue award.

The other two recipients of the Prize are the archivist and historian, Professor Dr. Bernhard Brilling, and the Roman-Catholic scholar Dr. Anton Keim. Professor Brilling started his career in Breslau, and later emigrated to Palestine, where he became archivist of the City of Tel Aviv. In 1957, he resumed his research work in Germany under the auspices of the Institutum Delitzschianum of the University of Munster. He has many publications about the history of the Jews in Silesia and Westphalia to his credit. Dr. Keim obtained his doctoral degree at the University of Mainz with a thesis on "Die Judenfrage vor dem hessischen Landtag in der Zeit von 1820 bis 1849". He also prepared the widely recognised exhibition "Juden in Mainz", which was shown from October 1978 to November 1979.

APPOINTMENT OF AMERICAN SCHOLAR

Prof. Dr. Herbert A. Strauss has been elected a corresponding member of the Historische Kommission zu Berlin. He is Professor at City College, New York, and, as Executive Vice President of the American Federation of Jews from Germany, closely connected with the work of the AJR and other organisations of former German Jews in their countries of resettlement.

PRIZE FOR JEWISH STUDY

Winners in the Koerber Foundation's competition, which this year took the theme "Everyday Life under National Socialism", were recently announced. The first prize went to 17-year-old Michael Brenner for his study on the life of Jews in the Bavarian town of Weiden. Michael, the son of the Weiden Jewish community's head, spent some 300 hours in research for his study. Unlike some contestants, he did not find local authorities unhelpful, but he did discover that Jews who had returned to Weiden after emigration or deportation were unwilling to speak of their experiences. Established in 1973, the Koerber competition calls on candidates to submit projects on a set theme relating to German history; this year's subject drew more than 2,000 entries, three times as many as in the previous year.

JULIUS RODENBERG REMEMBERED

Founder of the "Deutsche Rundschau"

The 150th birthday of the writer and journalist Julius Rodenberg was recently celebrated at the newly-opened local museum at Rodenberg on the Deister, a town lying between Hanover and Bielefeld. Originally Levy, from 1855 he took his birthplace as his name. In 1874 he founded the "Deutsche Rundschau", which became a famous literary and general magazine, and was a model of its kind until it ceased publication in 1964. Eva Rademacher of Berlin has written a very informative and well illustrated booklet on Rodenberg and his magazine.

TRIAL BOOKS WIN HONOUR

The compilers of the monumental series "Justiz und NS-Verbrechen", the Dutch jurists C. F. Ruter and H. H. Fuchs, have been awarded the Federal Cross of Service. The work, now comprising 22 volumes, contains summaries of all the war crimes trials which have taken place in Germany and it forms a unique historical document. Since the compilers could not find a German publisher for the books when they began their work in 1968, the series is still published in Amsterdam.

HAMBURG WOMEN SAVED LIVES

Two Hamburg women, Elisabeth Flugge and Käthe Hauschild, aged 86 and 66 respectively, have received the Service Cross of the West German Order of Merit. Both were instrumental in saving the lives of Jews under the Nazi regime.

Despite the danger of denunciation and punishment, Jews were taken into their homes and successfully hidden until the end of the war.

Yad Vashem medals have been awarded to Professor Joseph Neyses of Düsseldorf and his late wife. They offered shelter to Erna Etschkeit in 1944, when she was threatened with persecution as a Jew because her "Aryan" husband had recently died. At first she refused their help, since her hosts would be endangered, but when the Gestapo sent her a transportation order, Mrs. Etschkeit fled to the Neyses' cellar and remained there for the rest of the war.

ON MANNHEIM JEWS

In the latest number of the Mannheimer Hefte (1981/82), the former mayor of the city, Dr. Karl Otto Watzinger, has written a 24-page study of "The Jewish Community of Mannheim in the Grandducal Period 1803-1918". The study is divided into two sections, the first dealing with relations with the surrounding community, nineteenth-century reforms such as civic rights, acquisition of surnames, schools, the Reform Movement and schism in the community, the community statute, social work, occupational structure, their place in Mannheim's economic life, cultural contributions, etc. The second part of the study presents 16 representative Jewish personalities. They range from the Social Democratic lawyer and politician Ludwig Frank, who fell in the First World War, to Dr. Simon Wolff (Hechingen 1789—Mannheim 1860), who was the long-serving Head of the Mannheim Jewish Boys' School in the city. E.G.L.

KOENIGSTEIN JEWS RECALLED

Before 1933, many Jewish families lived in Koenigstein (Taunus). Among them were the Rothschilds, the Sulzbachs, the Kohnstamms and several co-founders of the dyestuffs industry. Proposals have been made to rename the street where the burnt down synagogue stood, from Seilerweg to Synagogenstrasse. A history of Koenigstein Jewish citizens has been prepared by the municipal archivists and its early publication is considered an urgent obligation by wide circles of the population.

ROEDELHEIM MEMORIAL DESTROYED

Barely two years ago, a memorial stone was set up in Roedelheim (Frankfurt) as a gift from the citizens to mark the place where the synagogue "im Inselgässchen" stood until it was burnt down on 9 November 1938. A Bad Homburg sculptor had designed the stone, which showed a group of people going to the gas-chamber and bore memorial inscriptions in Hebrew and German. On 20 July, the anniversary of the Officers' Plot against Hitler, the memorial was found to be daubed, and two or three weeks later it was completely destroyed. The hands and heads of the figures had been knocked off with an axe and the inscriptions defaced with a pointed instrument. The leader of the evangelical Cyriakus-Gemeinde, which together with the local SPD branch first broached the idea of a memorial, has expressed his disgust and horror in the local press.

HOME NEWS

HERBERT SULZBACH, OBE

The New Year Honours List carries an O.B.E. for Mr. Herbert Sulzbach in recognition of his services to Anglo-German relations. A member of an old Frankfurt banking family, he came to this country as a refugee. He joined the Army and became Education Officer of a German Prisoners of War Camp. It was in this capacity that he started his work for Anglo-German understanding, bringing home to the German officers under his charge the crimes of the Nazi regime and the values of democracy. He continued his work as an official of the German Embassy, an appointment from which he retired only recently after 30 years of service. Whenever, in the course of his work, he addressed groups of German visitors to this country, he would stress his identity with his Jewish community of origin. At the same time, he established many contacts with well-known British personalities in various walks of life. The AJR has constantly benefited from his helpfulness. Though now nominally retired, 87-year-old Herbert Sulzbach is still of undiminished vigour and it is our sincerest wish that this may remain unchanged for a long time to come.

RESCUED AND RESCUERS MEET AGAIN

At a recent reunion in London, National President of B'nai B'rith Werner Lash met the man who rescued him and 21 others from Nazi Germany in the winter of 1938/39. Wim van Leer, then a young businessman, volunteered through a Quaker organisation to bring out Jews from Germany. Arriving on the very day of the 1938 November Pogrom, he nevertheless managed to gather a group in Leipzig and to organise their escape through Holland. Despite some near-disasters, he made several more rescue trips before the outbreak of the Second World War. A man of many talents, pilot, industrialist and journalist, Wim van Leer has lived in Israel since he emigrated after the end of the war.

Another meeting of rescued and rescuer took place in Brussels where Ernest Hirsch of Hendon saw Madame Germaine Verniers officially honoured as a "righteous Gentile" for her part in hiding Jewish families in Wavre, near Brussels, during the German occupation. Mr. Hirsch, then a small boy, fell seriously ill in hiding and Madame Verniers took him to hospital, pretending he was her nephew and carefully picking out a doctor who would not betray her secret. She nursed him in her own house until he was well enough to return to his concealed family.

ACTION AGAINST BRITISH NEO-NAZIS

After long delays, the Director of Public Prosecutions has decided to begin proceedings against Robert Hamilton Edwards, the cartoonist of "The Stormer". Publishers of the virulently anti-semitic and anti-Black comic are said to be the National Socialist Irish Workers' Party and the National Socialist Party of the United Kingdom, both with addresses in Dublin. Although the notorious racist Robert Relf openly admits to backing "The Stormer", no action is at present being taken against him.

Another current neo-Nazi publication, "White Warriors", which includes antisemitic cartoons dating back to the First World War, carries the information "Printed in USA".

The Jewish veterans' association Ajex recently approached the Home Secretary to ask why "The Stormer" and those who published it had not been prosecuted under the Race Relations Act. The Government has also come under parliamentary pressure concerning fascist organisations attending the Remembrance Day services at the Cenotaph. Members have raised this question in the House of Commons and have also called for a ban on the use by neo-Nazis of the United Kingdom flag. A legal prohibition is being considered by the Home Office.

RABBI DR. SOLOMON SCHONFELD AT 70

Rabbi Dr. Solomon Schonfeld, who will be 70 on February 21, has had a unique impact on the communal scene and has contributed greatly to the strength of the Jewish element in Anglo-Jewry.

As a pioneer in Jewish education he was already a dynamic force 50 years ago, which reminds us of how young he was when he first ventured into public life. His father, Rabbi Avigdor Schonfeld, had just started the Jewish Day School when he died at the early age of 49. Solomon, the second son, then stepped into the breach and nurtured the Jewish Day School against the opposition of various sections of Jewry. Even right-wing Orthodoxy did not welcome what they considered an education in ghetto-like isolation apart from general English life, unsuited for coping with professional and business life. This early opposition is hard to grasp today, when Jewish day schools are so much in demand, with their enrolments steadily increasing.

The school which he founded and developed was permeated by an intense Jewish atmosphere, achieved success in state examinations, and thus grew to be generally accepted and admired. Rabbi Dr. Schonfeld was both the authoritative Principal and the financial wizard. Despite these considerable achievements, his finest hour came in the agonising years following 1938, in the rescue work with victims of Nazi persecution. Working with the late Chief Rabbi Hertz, he threw his great energy and powers of persuasion into setting up a rescue network which saved many children and adults who later made outstanding contributions to Britain in industry and commerce, as specialists and professionals, and as solid citizens. He sought and found places, opportunities and livelihoods for them all.

He also found time for writing and publishing. His books, "Message to Jewry", "Why Judaism", "On Religious Education", and "Translation of the Prayerbook", reveal a sparkling mind and a compelling sincerity.

Though now retired, Dr. Schonfeld's mind remains as lively as ever. On his seventieth birthday there are thousands of people scattered over the globe who will think of him with gratitude and affection.

JUDITH GRUNFELD

CHANUKAH CELEBRATIONS

A most enjoyable Chanukah celebration took place in the AJR Club. After the kindling of the candles, Arnold and Susanne Horwell presented and introduced a well balanced programme of records, ranging from serious songs to Viennese melodies and humorous recitals. Mrs. Margaret Jacoby, Chairman of the Club, thanked Mr. and Mrs. Horwell for their most enjoyable performance.

Chanukah celebrations also took place in all Old Age Homes.

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FRANKFURT DEGREE FOR ANNA FREUD

The University of Frankfurt has bestowed an Honorary Doctorate on Anna Freud. The handing over ceremony, shortly before her 86th birthday, took place at the German Embassy in London. In his laudatio, Hermann Argelander, Professor of Psychoanalysis at Frankfurt University, described Anna Freud as the founder of child analysis. With the publication of the 10 volume edition of her collected works in German, Professor Argelander stated, she has returned to her linguistic homeland. He described the clarity and modesty of her style as unsurpassable. Notwithstanding her ripe old age, Anna Freud is still active. In the mornings she works in her Hampstead clinic and the teaching institute for child analysis attached to it, and in the afternoons she sees children for individual treatment in her house.

AWARD FOR RUDOLF GRAUPNER

The Cross of Commander of the German Order of Merit has been awarded to the solicitor Rudolf Graupner. In his professional capacity, he rendered valuable assistance to many of his fellow victims of the Nazis in their claims for restitution and compensation. He also acts as a legal adviser to the German Embassy in London. Mr. Graupner plays a leading part in the group of former members of the F.W.V. fraternity and has been an interested member of the AJR Board for many years. We express our sincerest congratulations to him.

JOAN STIEBEL

When the Central British Fund was founded in 1933 to help Jewish refugees from Germany, Joan Stiebel actively involved herself in aid for the refugees and became Executive Director of the CBF. She recently visited New York where she received the Joint Distribution Committee's certificate of honour in recognition of her devoted service to the ideals of the Joint and to the world-wide Jewish community.

AWAITING PALACE INVITATION

Jonathan Leavor, the younger son of Rudi and Marianne, grandson of Mrs. E. Bright and the late Dr. R. Bright and of Mrs. L. Librowicz and the late Dr. H. Librowicz, has just won the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. He received the Gold Badge from the Lord Mayor of Bradford and hopes to go to Buckingham Palace some time in 1982 to receive the Certificate from the Duke of Edinburgh personally. Jonathan has been particularly involved in work for handicapped people and with residential communal work.

SURVIVOR BECAME FASHION EXPERT

The youngest survivor of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, Czechoslovak-born Agnes Sassoon, has joined a friend in starting a free magazine, "Today's Woman", circulating in the Edgware district. Mrs. Sassoon introduced the first of Israel's fashion magazines while still in her teens and organised fashion shows before coming to England with her family in 1958.

IN MEMORY OF DR. G. SCHOENEWALD

After the death of the general practitioner and cardiologist, Dr. Gert Schoenewald, the Parish Priest of St. Barnabas, Northolt Park, wrote: "Dr. Schoenewald had been a doctor in this parish for forty years. His widow, Mrs. Schoenewald, tells me that the work of the AJR was close to his heart, and we hope that our donation will be of help to you." He enclosed a donation of £40. In addition the AJR received £175, donated by patients and friends of Dr. Schoenewald in his memory. We are deeply touched by these noble gestures which are not only of the greatest value for carrying out our vital activities but also testify to the affection for and gratitude felt to Dr. Schoenewald by so many people.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Anti-Boycott Action Stepped Up

American companies complying with the Arab boycott are twice as likely as previously to face proceedings. The Office of Anti-Boycott Compliance has been instructed to increase its activities by 100%. In the year 1980/81, fines approximating to one-third of a million pounds sterling were imposed on 23 companies for infringing US Government directives regarding the boycott. Some firms have criticized the anti-boycott regulations as harmful to American interests in the Middle East. Companies still on the Arab blacklist include Ford and Coca Cola, but British Leyland have recently been exempted from the boycott.

"Refugee Cover for KGB Spies"

Reports that Russian secret agents have infiltrated Israel and the USA by posing as Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union have been published by the New York Times and Newsweek. In an interview with the New York Times, a counter-intelligence agent of the FBI said that even genuine emigrants might be coerced by threats against relatives left behind into passing information to the KGB. The matter is apparently being taken seriously by both governments, Israel in particular being very much on the alert against any Soviet penetration. Similar allegations, it may be remembered, appeared in the '30s concerning Jewish refugees from Germany and played a large part in the British decision to intern "enemy aliens".

Jewish TV Archive Established

Plans for a new "Television Library of Judaism" have been revealed by the president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Programmes and news reports will be stored on video cassette and the project is so far advanced that three tapes are already available for distribution. The library will eventually contain thousands of items relating to Jewish culture and history, to Judaism and to prominent people. Its administration is in the hands of a new television and film institute and it will be housed at the UAHC headquarters in New York.

Call for Crime Crackdown

Several Jewish organisations have formed an "Emergency Anti-Crime Coalition", whose aims are to lobby politicians in favour of tougher measures against criminals. Rabbi Abraham Hecht, president of the Rabbinical Alliance in America, declares that re-imposition of the death penalty would act as a deterrent to violent crime. He also calls for longer sentences and a general crackdown on criminals. It may be noted that in New York alone on one recent week-end, twenty murders were committed.

LOST CANADIAN LINK WITH ANNE FRANK

In all Toronto's history, perhaps no private citizen has ever been so honoured at his funeral as Victor Kugler, an aged Dutch emigré, once a spice merchant in Amsterdam. Jewish leaders, Anglican and Catholic clergy, Dutch and Israeli diplomats, with many others, met to pay tribute to the man immortalised in Anne Frank's diary as "Mr. Kraler". It was he who arranged for his partner Otto Frank to move with his family into a hiding-place within the office premises and it was he who managed to keep them concealed for two years before their betrayal and deportation.

Victor Kugler, a Protestant born in the Sudetenland, moved to Canada in 1955 and died at the age of 81 a few weeks ago. He was, Rabbi Jordan Pearlson told the funeral congregation, always surprised at the honour paid him for performing what he regarded as a normal act of friendship.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

NO NEO-NAZISM IN CANADIAN MAILS

Antisemitic material has been officially banned by the Canadian postal authorities. Their decision affects a major supplier of neo-Nazi propaganda to West Germany, Ernst Zundel of Toronto. Zundel, also known as Christoff Friedrich, appropriated the Russian name of the Soviet underground press "Samizdat" for his own publishing house, which issues records of Nazi songs and material denying the Holocaust. His activities have been expressly condemned in the West German Bundestag.

MODEL OLD-AGE HOME IN ARGENTINA

When refugees from Nazi Europe arrived in Argentina, they found help and comfort in the Welfare Society founded by German-speaking Jews in the 1930s. The society set up creches for children of working mothers and in 1940 established an old-age home in San Miguel. Extensive development by the Jewish Philanthropic Association, the successor to the Welfare Society, has now made this home a model of its kind throughout South America. Although some of the money needed for its expansion came from the Claims Conference, most of it was contributed by German-speaking Argentinian Jews who still meet many of the financial burdens incurred in caring for the 200 elderly people living in the San Miguel home.

ITALIAN JEWS DEFY NEO-FASCISM

Visiting London recently, the Chief Rabbi of Rome, Dr. Elio Toaff, spoke about fascist activity in Italy. His own car was recently set on fire in an assassination attempt. Amongst references to other attacks, Dr. Toaff told of bombs thrown on Yom Kippur in a place where Soviet Jews were known to gather. He said the perpetrators were Italian youngsters "probably paid by international organisations having an interest in dramatising the political situation". Of the various neo-fascist groups in Italy, he said that some were purely terrorist, while others were devoted to anti-semitism. Although they all stemmed from the main fascist party Movimento Sociale Italiano, the different subgroups comprised dissidents who believed that the MSI was not right-wing enough.

The Chief Rabbi's view was that Italian Jews today realised what was happening and would not accept it passively. In this way the situation differed from that of 1938 and he believed that Italian Jewry understood the position well enough to take care of themselves.

VATICAN TRIBUTE TO CARDINAL BEA

The centenary of Cardinal Augustine Bea was celebrated by Italian and foreign Jewish leaders when they recently attended a meeting in the Vatican. Born in Germany, Cardinal Bea is considered the prime mover behind Vatican II's "Declaration on the Jews" in 1965. This was the statement which condemned antisemitism and outlawed the idea of so-called "Jewish deicide" in Catholic teaching. Only three years later, Cardinal Bea died, but not before he had seen some of the early results of his work for Jewish-Catholic relations.

HEIRS SUE FRENCH POLITICIAN

A former Minister faces legal proceedings because of his alleged part in the persecution of French Jews. The heirs of four Jewish families in Bordeaux have filed complaints against Maurice Papon, stating that he helped to carry out anti-Jewish measures during the Nazi occupation of France. During those years M. Papon was secretary-general of the Gironde prefecture, which includes Bordeaux. He held the post of Budget Minister under President Giscard d'Estaing's presidency and in last year's election campaign the satirical paper "Le Canard Enchaîné" accused him of applying anti-Jewish regulations during the Occupation.

JEWRY IN MOSLEM STATES

Statistics of Jews in Moslem countries have appeared in "Present Tense", a magazine published by the American Jewish Committee. Over 35,000 Jews are living in Iran, according to the article, while there are only 15 in Libya and 10 in Bahrain. Both Turkey and Morocco are homes for some 20,000 Jews and about 70 still live in Afghanistan. The Jewish community in Egypt is estimated at 300.

OTTO KUESTER 75

Rechtsanwalt Otto Kuester (Stuttgart), who turned 75 on January 7, is one of the earliest champions of a fair settlement of the damages sustained by the victims of the Nazi regime. He commenced his activities in this field as early as 1947, when he was appointed "Staatsbeauftragter" for indemnification in the Land Württemberg-Baden. He was also one of the German delegates at the Conference near The Hague in 1952, but in the course of the negotiations tendered his resignation, because the proposals of the Federal Minister of Finance did not go far enough in his view. Since then, he has written innumerable articles and comments on decisions and, at the same time, acted as the spokesman of the victims in his capacity as a lawyer. He is still in charge of a number of litigations pending before the Federal Law Court and the Federal Constitution Court. A deeply religious man, Otto Kuester's legal activities are motivated by the highest ethical principles. He is also a great friend of Israel, which he has visited on many occasions. In gratitude, we extend our sincerest good wishes to Otto Kuester.

DR. OTTO BENTAL 85

Dr. Otto Bental, Head of the Berlin office of the United Restitution Organisation (URO) celebrated his 85th birthday on January 18. An outstanding jurist and experienced negotiator, he has established a relationship of confidence with the Berlin Indemnification Office, with which he has co-operated for more than 30 years. In the course of the more recent past, he has been particularly engaged in the field of Social Insurance claims of victims of persecution and has become a widely recognised authority in this complicated sphere. His appearance and clarity of mind belie his years, and we wish Dr. Bental undiminished vigour for a long time to come.

LUDWIG WRONKOW HONOURED

It is not often that a political cartoonist receives an honorary doctorate, but such was the case with Ludwig Wronkow recently in Berlin, his birthplace, at the Communications Studies Department of the Free University. It was the first honorary doctorate awarded by the department, and was given to him for "special services in portraying and spreading humanist concepts in the field of journalism." Wronkow has lived in New York since 1938 and has been particularly active as staff cartoonist, writer and editor of "Aufbau" there. There was also an exhibition of Wronkow's work of the last sixty years at the Haus am Lützowplatz.

E.G.L.

LEGACIES

The AJR Charitable Trust received a legacy of £6,000 from the estate of the late Mr. B. Slazenger.



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"TUCHO" FOR THE ENGLISH

No wonder British and American students of modern German literature are puzzled about the revival of Kurt Tucholsky's reputation in Germany—West and East—so many decades after his death. Now the first serious and thorough English-language study (*Kurt Tucholsky, The Ironic Sentimentalist*, by Bryan P. Grenville) has been published in London by Oswald Wolff Ltd. (£4.25), who rendered the same service to Erich Kästner some years ago.

Admittedly, Kästner was easier to treat for English-speaking readers than "Tucho" since at least his children's books had been translated (and some even filmed) for non-German consumption. But the verses of both of them, so important for understanding the parts they played in Weimar literature, are well-nigh impossible to render in another language. Mr. Grenville, a young British Germanist of German extraction, has wisely refrained from attempting to translate much of Tucho's rousing, biting, warning poetry which made him, as Grenville calls him, "the greatest satirist" of pre-Hitler Germany.

However, there is much else to be related about Tucho's work, his intellectual stance, his all-too-short life. Born in 1890 as the son of a Berlin Jewish merchant, he began to write in his teens; at 21, he "left the Jewish faith", but there seems to be little evidence of the reasons. One year later, he published his first little book: *Rheinsberg—ein Bilderbuch für Verliebte*, which was an enormous success and remained compulsory reading for the young, erotically liberated generation of the 1920s. In 1913, he began his long association with Siegfried Jacobsohn's *Schaubühne*, then Germany's most important theatre magazine, later to be renamed *Weltbühne* and turned into the leading political-cultural journal of the intellectual Left. He wrote so much for it that he felt it necessary to split himself up into five authors: Kurt Tucholsky, Theobald Tiger, Peter Panter, Ignaz Wrobel and Kaspar Hauser. Thus he called his first anthology *Mit 5 PS*, counting his own name among the pseudonyms. For two years he was also the editor of *Ulk*, the weekly humorous supplement of the *Berliner Tageblatt*.

Throughout the Weimar era, Tucho's underlying attitude was pacifist, democratic, anti-authoritarian, and anti-bourgeois. "We want to fight with hatred born of love," he wrote in 1919, "for the oppressed—who don't necessarily have to be proletarian, and we love in mankind the notion of humaneness." But in 1924, he took an extraordinary step by emigrating to Paris, like the social satirists Heine and Börne before him, from the country about whose ideological and cultural wellbeing he was so much concerned. Grenville quotes as Tucho's reasons that he never liked Berlin, which he called "vile, noisy and run-down". Yet he continued to satirize the Berliners, most of all the "Wendriners".

Tucho had created Herr Wendriner as the typical German-Jewish philistine, politically short-sighted, materialistic, snobbish, and opportunist: the quintessence of the *Kurfürstendamm* bourgeois. Grenville was quite right to translate and include a Wendriner monologue in his book; but although we, who knew the type only too well, can hear him and laugh wryly about him, the piece just can't make sense to the English reader. It might have been more effective to include, instead of Herr W.'s ramblings after a party, the prophetic vision, written in 1930, of Wendriner under Hitler's dictatorship—Tucho at his most sarcastic and contemptuous. Still, Wendriner is a caricature, and how can one appreciate the value and humour of

a caricature if one has never seen the original?

And here we come to a rather sore point about Kurt Tucholsky. Himself a Jew, he developed into the nearest thing to an anti-semitic. "He was well aware of the implications of the Jewish *Weltanschauung*," writes Grenville, "and felt qualified to criticize in no uncertain terms the attitude German Jews had adopted towards their oppressors, to the extent of claiming in 1935 that they got what they deserved. . . . He also charged that they tried to be more Teutonic than the Germans themselves, and he was evidently appalled that Hitler's rise to power had not been swiftly followed by a mass exodus of Jews. . . . It was in particular the Jewish businessman's single-minded attempt to preserve his status quo," and Grenville quotes what Tucho wrote shortly before his death to Arnold Zweig:

"If you had told the average Jew in 1933 that he should leave Germany . . . he would have laughed at you. 'But I can't leave!' And then, like a gambler: 'Right now I am losing money: what about the business?' And now they crawl out, miserable, beaten up, with mud on their faces, bankrupt, robbed of their money—and without dignity. . . . You say: true, there are the Wendriners, they are loathsome—but . . . I say: there are decent Jews, too, a few, as the emigration figures show, less than 10 per cent. . . . I exclude them, I have the greatest respect for them, for their quiet suffering—but. . . . But? The others are worthless."

Staying Abroad

Tucho had one chance, or rather one reason, for returning to Berlin for good and sharing the great fight against Hitler on the spot: When Jacobsohn died in 1926, he came to Berlin at once and took over the editorship of the *Weltbühne*. But he was ill-suited for this role, he felt tied down in Berlin and was eager to return to Paris. This he did after only a few months, handing the editorship to Carl von Ossietzky, the courageous pacifist—who was to pay with his life for his ideals.

Then, late in 1932, came another strange turn in Tucho's life. He decided to stop writing. This is Grenville's explanation: "His decision must be seen as an admission of defeat and a legitimate form of protest. Tucholsky had long been aware of his political isolation. His love-hate had turned into contempt for all things German. . . . To his mind, Hitler and Germany were synonymous." Paradoxically, he stopped writing at the very climax of his fame in Germany. His *Schloss Gripsholm*, an attempt at repeating or even surpassing the success of *Rheinsberg*, had been received enthusiastically in 1931—also a kind of love story, but set in Sweden. For Tucho had left his beloved Paris in 1929 and settled near Göteborg, at the sea, on the advice of his doctors who had treated him for sinusitis for some years. But he spent the summer of 1931 in the village of Westwell, near Ashford in Kent, working on a comedy about Christopher Columbus together with Walter Hasenclever. It had its first night at Leipzig in 1932 and was a complete flop.

It would be difficult, says Grenville, to establish one single cause which led to Tucholsky's suicide in December, 1935. But there is no doubt that his physical condition played a major part: he had had a total of eight nose operations which, however, did not succeed in relieving his painful and depressing sinusitis. Then there was his financial situation: having condemned himself to silence he had no income from journalistic fees;

in Germany, his books had been banned and burnt; in Sweden, the immigration authorities restricted his freedom to travel and refused him a work permit. So he was dependent on his last close friend "Nuuna"—the Swiss physician Dr. Hedwig Müller, to whom he wrote a spate of letters and who helped him financially.

He was deeply disappointed about mankind in general and the political Left in particular. Between 1928 and 1931 he had contributed three dozen articles and poems to the Communist *Arbeiter-Illustrierte* in Berlin, and "allied himself to the KPD", as Grenville puts it. The Tucholsky paperback published by Rowohlt in 1959 quotes from a letter he wrote five days before his death to Arnold Zweig: "One has to start again right at the beginning, one must not listen to that ridiculous Stalin who betrays his people." And there was one more disappointment which affected him profoundly: Knut Hamsun, the writer he had admired most throughout his life, had embraced National Socialism. Tucho never realized that Hamsun, more than any other author of international fame, had been laying the foundations of that literary abomination beloved by the Nazis, the *Blut und Boden* style. In November 1935, just before the Nobel Peace Prize Committee decided to bestow the award on Carl von Ossietzky, then being tortured in a German KZ, Hamsun published, in two Norwegian papers, a vicious letter against giving him the Peace Prize. That may have been the last straw for Tucholsky.

ERICH LUETH AT 80

Erich Lüth will be 80 on February 1. In the last decade alone he has launched his "Peace Proposal for Israel—a Hamburg Initiative" (1976—recalling his 1951 "Peace Campaign for Israel"), his chronicle "Miterlebtes—Report on Five Decades of Hamburg History", and in 1981 his second autobiographical report, "A Son of Hamburg Swims Against the Stream", with much information on his Jewish contemporaries.

E.G.L.

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Ena Steiner

FATHER OF AUSTRIAN MUSICOLOGY

Anniversary of Guido Adler

On the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the birth of Guido Adler (1855-1941) news came from Vienna of the City's resolve to grant a grave of honour to this Jewish pioneer of Austrian musicology, who during the last war had died there a lonely death, followed by the confiscation of his important library and valuable collections.

In the absence of a biography doing justice to the diverse activities of this man wholly dedicated to the furtherance and documentation of music in general and of Austrian music in particular, his name is nevertheless well known to the reader of the life-stories of Mahler, whose genius he recognised early, and of Schoenberg and Webern, whose eventual importance he foresaw, making him the rare case of a historian with equal understanding of the past, present and future of an art, the development of which he had chosen to record and sustain.

Like Mahler (1860-1911), his junior by five years, Adler had grown up in Iglau, a provincial town in Moravia (then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire) with a long tradition of German culture against a background of increasing aspirations of the Czech minority, where life was permeated by a never-ending pageant of folksong and country dances to the accompaniment of village bands, and marching songs, bugle calls and martial music from the soldiers of the garrison stationed at the near-by barracks—an atmosphere that was to leave indelible traces on Mahler's music. In addition, the piano teaching of Johannes Brosch, which both Adler and Mahler enjoyed, albeit at different times, was of a sufficiently high standard to enable them to enter the Vienna Conservatory—Adler in 1868 as a part-time student, and Mahler in 1875 at the age of 15 at such an advanced state of competence that Julius Epstein, the celebrated piano teacher, accepted him immediately as his pupil, and before long sent him his own son for lessons to supplement the young student's meagre allowance.

By that time (1875) Adler, destined by his family for the study of law, had nevertheless advanced at the Conservatory to such a degree of efficiency as to be accepted by Bruckner for lessons in theory and composition—with Artur Nikisch and Felix Mottl as his colleagues—all of them filled with boundless admiration for Richard Wagner, and together these young people founded the "Wiener Akademischen Wagner Verein", in due course to become the meeting place for the two young men from Iglau, where the basis of a friendship was laid that would last to the end of their lives, and beyond.

It was Adler's acquaintance with the writings of the German musical scholars Chrysander (1826-1901), an authority on Palestrina, Schuetz, Couperin and Bach, and Spitta (1841-94), a specialist on Buxtehude, Bach and the music of Frederick the Great, that stimulated Adler's interest in the history of music, leading to his abandonment of law in favour of music. Musicological studies were taken up at Vienna University under the guidance of Eduard Hanslick (1825-1904), who with his book "Vom Musikalisch-Schoenen" and his well informed music criticism was far from being the ridiculous figure of a Beckmesser as which he has the misfortune to be largely remembered today. With his pro-

motion in 1880 to Doctor of Philosophy Adler was at last set to start his life's work of musical research.

The next twenty years in Adler's life, most of them spent in Prague as Professor at the Deutsche Universitaet, left him sufficient time to prepare the ground for the achievement by which he will always be remembered: the collection, editing and publication of the music of the past. It was originally conceived on an international basis, but eventually confined to the famous "Denkmaeler der Oesterreichischen Tonkunst", commencing in 1894 with compositions by J. J. Froberger, H. F. Biber and J. J. Fux, and preceded in 1892 by two volumes of an experimental nature containing compositions by the Habsburg Emperors Ferdinand III, Leopold I and Joseph I. Under Adler's editorship 83 volumes of the "Denkmaeler" were published uninterruptedly until the "Anschluss" in 1938, when he was forced to discontinue this monumental work, which at its inauguration had Brahms on the Selection Committee, and after the latter's death in 1897, Gustav Mahler, whose outstanding talent, nay genius, he had recognised early, and whose career he had taken every opportunity to promote, first by successfully recommending him as musical director at the Budapest Opera and later by supporting Mahler in his efforts to secure in 1897 the coveted position as musical director of the Wiener Hofoper in the face of opposition from Cosima Wagner, who would not tolerate a Jew as Hofoperndirektor.

Helping Mahler

Due to his efforts in 1897/98 Mahler obtained financial support from the "Gesellschaft zur Foerderung deutscher Wissenschaft, Kunst und Literatur in Boehmen" for the publication of the I and III Symphony and the orchestral parts of the II Symphony. In his letter of recommendation he described the young composer as being together with Richard Strauss, in the forefront of modern music.

In pursuance of his activities as editor of, and contributor to musicological publications, Adler founded in 1884, together with Spitta and Chrysander, the "Vierteljahrszeitschrift fuer Musikwissenschaft", where in his essay "Umfang, Methode und Ziel der Musikwissenschaft" he dealt with the principles and problems of musicological research. He lost no time in applying these principles on his appointment in 1898 to the staff of Vienna University as Professor of the history of music in succession to Hanslick, establishing there the "Musikhistorisches Institut". Under his guidance musicology developed into a respected discipline, the Institute becoming the focal point to provide future generations of students with a thorough education in this field. Ideal conditions thus prevailed in 1902, when young Anton von Webern (1883-1945), entered the University, and in 1904 took up the study of musicological subjects with Adler, whilst counterpoint and harmony were taught by Prof. Graedener and Dr. Karl Navratil. Driven, however, by his desire to make him study with a composer of stature, Adler sent this promising young student to Schoenberg (1874-1951).

The rest, of course, is history. It led to what was later to be known as the "Second Viennese School" (consisting of Schoenberg, Webern and

Berg, who also became Schoenberg's pupil in the autumn of 1904). The fact that Adler, this diviner of genius, could not always follow Schoenberg's advanced musical thought did not prevent him from including Schoenberg and his brother-in-law Zemlinsky in his plans for the reorganization of the Konservatorium der Musikfreunde under the intended leadership of Mahler, for whom this position would have provided an excellent alternative after retiring in 1907—amidst much intrigue—from his position at the Hofoper.

At Adler's request Webern wrote his thesis for his promotion to Doctor of Philosophy about the Flemish polyphonist Heinrich Isaak's (1450-1517) three-volume collection "Choralis Constantinus". Webern's edition of the second volume was later (1909) published by Adler in his "Denkmaeler", an honour also extended to Schoenberg in 1912, who contributed bass realisations for compositions by the 18th century composers G. M. Monn and J. C. Mann, whilst Mahler, although a member of the Selection Committee of the "Denkmaeler", could not bring himself to a proper appreciation of musicology.

Undiminished Activity

Adler's work in the service of music also included a book about his hero Richard Wagner in 1904, publications in 1914 and 1916 about Mahler, the "Handbuch der Musikgeschichte" in 1924—a first attempt to entrust various specialists with the task of dealing individually with the multiple subjects of musical knowledge. There was no standing still for Adler at any stage of his long life, and in 1927, the year of his retirement from the University at the age of 72, he was instrumental in founding the "Internationale Gesellschaft fuer Musik" with its seat in Basel, of which he remained the honorary president until his death in 1941.

Adler's love of Mahler and his appreciation of his music had not ended with his friend's death. Under his guidance the first Doctor's Thesis was written in 1922 on the subject of "Gustav Mahler's Lieder", this at a time when Mahler's oeuvre was by no means generally considered as a worthy subject of research. As a further token of friendship he dreamt of a Mahler Memorial in Vienna. A meeting was called in 1926, attended by Mahler's widow (by now Mrs. Franz Werfel), and money was collected. Yet the protracted negotiations were brought to an end in 1939, and the funds confiscated by the Nazis.

At the age of 80, in his memoirs "Wollen und Wirken", Adler remembers for the last time his friend Mahler and Iglau, their home town, and the friendly relations between the Jewish Rabbi J. J. Unger and the heads of the local Catholic church, where Mahler sang in the St. Jakob Choir, getting to know there at an early age works like Mozart's Requiem and Beethoven's "Christus am Oelberg".

Adler's important collection of letters from, and documents relating to his great contemporaries is now deposited with the "Special Collections" Department of the Library of the University of Georgia in Athens (Georgia USA), and it is to be hoped that before long, now that the significance of his work has been rediscovered in his homeland, this collection will serve as the basis for a "Life" of this friend of genius, a life spent in the service of music, research and untiring support of those of his contemporaries who, he knew, would have to wait a long time for recognition.

GERMAN-ISRAELI TWINNING

A pact of friendship between Dortmund and the Israeli town of Natania was formally signed by official delegates of both towns recently. Simultaneously, an exhibition entitled "Resistance and Persecution in Dortmund" was opened in Natania. It had already been seen by over 30,000 people in Dortmund and at the University of Bochum.

J. Maitlis

JEWS, VENICE AND ISLAM

Latest Volume of Baron's History

In the latest volume (XVII) of his comprehensive and detailed history of the Jews,* the distinguished historian Salo Baron turns from his discussion of Jewish life in Eastern Europe with its phenomenal rise and growth, to an earlier period in the history of the smaller and widely scattered communities in the declining Byzantine era. This is combined with an account of the emerging maritime power of the Venetian Republic, with its expansion among the Greek islands of the Aegean, and concludes with an important chapter on Jewish life under late medieval Islam and the Latin Kingdom established by the crusaders in the Middle East.

With his usual methodical analysis, based on newly researched material, coupled with full annotations, sources and bibliographical notes, Baron presents a well balanced and vivid account of a Jewish past of which we had only rather scanty knowledge. As a sociologist and historian, he deals with social mobility, advances and changes, structure and continuity in all spheres of Jewish life. Guided by his meticulous research and analysis, we note the gradual impact on Jews of the Venetian Republic, the expansion of the Italian merchants and their conquest of numerous Aegean and Ionian islands, with their small Jewish communities and their socio-economic potential.

There were Jewish settlements on the Greek islands in antiquity, particularly at the time of the Second Commonwealth, before and after the destruction of the Temple (70 CE). However, conclusive historical evidence of a permanent Jewish presence on the islands, either under Byzantine or later Arab domination, is rather scarce. Jewish communities in the area came to life again in the late Middle Ages, after the decline of Byzantium, followed by Venetian expansion in the eastern Mediterranean. A considerable wave of Jewish immigrants from the Iberian Peninsula and partly from central Europe settled in these inviting territories and strengthened the old groups of Jewish inhabitants. Oppressed Jews sought refuge on the Greek islands and found the Venetian regime more accommodating even when the Republic of Venice refused to tolerate Jews at home. According to Prof. Baron, in Crete and the neighbouring islands, particularly in Corfu, Ashkenazic and Sephardic immigrants "lived side by side with the older Greek Jewish groups".

The Venetian rulers made good use of the commercial and diplomatic skills of the Jewish inhabitants. We hear, for instance, of the noted Elijah Mavrogonato who played a significant role in the domestic and foreign affairs of the Republic in the 15th century. In addition, as Baron rightly points out, Jewish economic stratification in the region was to a great extent influenced by long-established Western patterns and ways of life. To the new territories they brought commercial expertise and technical know-how which was of great benefit and advantage to the people and its rulers.

Besides being skilled craftsmen, dealers, merchants and shopkeepers, Jews also owned farms. Among a variety of artisans, Baron mentions leather workers and farmers. On the whole Jews of the islands took an active part in financing the

maritime trade, exporting grain, salt and other commodities. They entered international trade with their usual zest and diligence, and enjoyed a measure of equality of opportunity under Venetian rule. Their advantage was in dealing with numerous co-religionists in many countries. Jewish lawyers in the newly occupied territories were allowed to represent their clients before the general courts, a professional activity which was "practically unknown in the West until the onset of Emancipation".

In addition a number of Jews were also engaged in community service as rabbis, cantors, scribes and ritual slaughterers. Of communal elders in commerce and other professions, Baron mentions the noted Elijah Capsali, who served as a rabbi and physician. Jews excelled in medicine during the Middle Ages and afterwards as well.

Despite the frequent, often arbitrary imposts, Jews in the Eastern possessions of Venice were less harassed than in most other countries. Prof. Baron concludes that relatively few Jews felt inclined to leave Candia or other places, regardless of the enticements of the Ottoman Empire, with its gradual territorial expansion in the 14th and 15th centuries reviving the glory of the mediaeval Arab Caliphate.

Arab Rivalries

Baron presents a vivid picture of the grim realities of Jewish life in late mediaeval Islam. The continuous rivalries and upheavals in the Arab lands shook Jewish communities deeply. The decline of Muslim civilization also affected the Jews under Arab domination demographically, economically and culturally. Not until the ascent of the benevolent Ottoman Empire, continually expanding its territory, did the centre of gravity of Mediterranean Jewry move back from the West to the Middle East.

Baron discusses in great detail the history of Jerusalem under the rule of the Crusaders. The conquest of the Holy City brought unimaginable massacres and destruction, which left a frightful memory for generations. The once flourishing community of Jerusalem was laid waste by repeated ordeals. In consequence utopian dreamers and the Jewish public saw in all those calamities signs of the coming of the messianic redeemer who would return the suffering Jewish people to their homeland.

Nonetheless, a revival set in, particularly after Saladin's conquest of Jerusalem. Pious pilgrims from the West returned to the Holy City. It is even reported that numerous rabbis and distinguished scholars from France and England proceeded to live in the Holy Land, where academies of higher Jewish learning were founded. The noted rabbinical authority and biblical commentator Moses Ben Nachman (Nachmanides) arrived in Jerusalem from Barcelona in 1267, and as Baron notes, the great rabbi emphasised in many passages in his commentary on the Pentateuch the duty of every Jew to live in his ancestral home.

As so often in the difficult life of the Jewish people, economic factors played a considerable role. Here as elsewhere, the pattern of economic stratification was greatly diversified. Beside being merchants and traders, Jews followed their traditional crafts, especially dyeing and glass blowing, the latter a highly skilled art in which Jews

excelled from time immemorial. We also hear from Jewish doctors who, as in other countries, were very popular among Christian and Muslim dignitaries and rulers. Jews also played a leading role in international commerce, with connections all over the world. In Tyre, for instance, we find Jewish shipowners and traders of a high standard. Expert Jewish artisans introduced new methods to the Levant.

Soon Jewish learning began to flourish. Academies of learning were established by distinguished scholars and the number of eager students grew.

Baron devotes his last chapter to Jewish life in North Africa, the so-called Maghreb. He describes a colourful community of old settled Berber Jews and new arrivals from Spain who escaped the clutches of the Church zealots and the harassing Inquisition, followed soon by the mass expulsion (1492) of Jews from the Iberian Peninsula. It is a well-documented account based on rich historical sources.

However, as Baron points out, regardless of the difficult conditions, the Jews in North Africa remained steadfast and loyal to their Judaism and maintained their heritage and even succeeded in making "occasional contributions to Jewish learning along well trodden paths".

In the Ottoman Empire the major 16th century communities under Islamic domination "injected a new vitalising force into Jewish life throughout the Muslim world". It was a national-religious culture which inspired new study and learning became a dominant factor in Jewish life in the Middle Eastern centres, and was followed "by an independent creativity among the revived communities" in North Africa. The Jews under Islamic dominion were now able "to resume their position in world Jewry as a counterpart to the upsurging and rising Jewish communities in Poland-Lithuania, and soon thereafter also in Western Europe".

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*A Social and Religious History of the Jews by Salo Wittmayer Baron. Volume 17, Columbia University Press, New York, 1980.

IN MEMORIAM

REUBEN AINSZTEIN

The historian and journalist Reuben Ainsztein died recently at his home at the age of 64. By birth a Pole, he went to Belgium in 1936 to study medicine. When the Nazis overran Europe, Reuben Ainsztein was determined to escape and, after one unsuccessful attempt, he made his way through the Pyrenees and was interned in Spain. Released from the refugee camp, he pressed on to Gibraltar and thence to Britain, where he joined the RAF as an air gunner and after a number of active missions was posted to RAF Intelligence.

Ainsztein's linguistic ability—he spoke 11 languages—stood him in good stead after the war when he joined the BBC monitoring service at Caversham. From there he went to Reuters and later became Eastern European correspondent of *The Sunday Times*. Having lost all but one of his family in the Holocaust, he wrote and spoke much on the history of the Nazi crimes in Europe. In 1974 his most important book, "Jewish Resistance in Nazi-Occupied Europe" was published. Although criticized, notably by Professor Lucy Dawidowicz, for some of its pugnacious expressions on Poles, Orthodox Jewry and Zionist revisionism, the work is a contribution to the history of the Holocaust.

BERTHA JOURDAN

Bertha Jourdan, the educationist and former Social Democratic parliamentarian, died recently in her native Frankfurt-am-Main at the age of 89. Mrs. Jourdan, who came from an old Frankfurt family, was a city councillor from 1924-28, and then, till 1933, a member of the Prussian Landtag (Berlin). She then ran a private school for Jewish children until 1939. She emigrated to Rhodesia, where she was active in educational work, and was also the UN rapporteur for Rhodesian educational questions, returning to Frankfurt in 1969. E.G.L.

FRANZ OLLENDORFF

Dr. Franz Ollendorff, the distinguished electrical and electronics engineer and mathematician, has died in Haifa at the age of 81. From 1955 he was professor at the Haifa Technion. He was well known as a technical writer and teacher and received the Israel Prize in 1954, was made an Honorary Citizen of Haifa in 1960 and received an honorary doctorate from the Technical University of Berlin. He taught at the Berlin-Charlottenburg Technische Hochschule from 1929-33, and had previously taught in Danzig and worked for Siemens-Schuckert. After having emigrated to Palestine he returned to Berlin in 1934 to work at the Theodor Herzl School there for child and youth aliyah. His widow is the daughter of the Danzig Liberal Rabbi Dr. Robert Kaelter (1876-1926) who wrote the history of the Jewish community of Potsdam (1903). E.G.L.

RICHARD BROH

Richard Broh, who was associated with the labour and trade union movement throughout his life, recently died in his 86th year. Before he came to this country in 1938 he worked as a journalist in Berlin, his native city. During the Second World War, he served with the Pioneer Corps. After the war, he was appointed representative of the Deutsche Gewerkschaftsbund (DGB) for Great Britain. He also took a responsible part in the re-establishment of the German trade union system and acted as adviser to the Social Department of the German Embassy. Until his retirement he was correspondent for the *Welt der Arbeit*. The promotion of Anglo-German understanding was always near to his heart. An unassuming, loyal and reliable man, he will be gratefully remembered by all who knew him.

CECIL P. TAYLOR

Only a few weeks after the successful London production of his play "Good", Cecil P. Taylor has died at the early age of 53. Of Scottish-Jewish origin, Mr. Taylor was a prolific playwright often inspired by the Tyneside environment where he lived, and also using Jewish themes. The plot of "Good", which is about to have a second run, is based on the gradual drawing of a decent man into an active part in the Nazi regime and ultimately into the administration of the Auschwitz death camp.

HUGO ERDOHAZI

Hugo Erdohazi, who had a highly cultivated mind, was a fervent Jew and active supporter of Israel has died, leaving numerous friends and admirers. He was a teacher in Czechoslovakia, a headmaster in Hungary and a journalist in Great Britain and had experienced the bitterness and tragedies of East European Jews. Surviving the Holocaust, he decided to dedicate his life to those Jews of Hungarian origin who were in need of moral or financial help. He was an enthusiastic initiator and supporter of all cultural activities of the Federation of Hungarian Jews in Great Britain, of which he was the Chairman of the Executive Committee and the editor of its periodical "Hirado".

He is mourned by his wife, Dr. Magda Erdohazi, by the members and beneficiaries of the Federation of Hungarian Jews in Great Britain and by many personal friends.

LESLIE BONATH

Jews of Hungarian origin all over Great Britain and beyond have suffered a great loss with the death of Leslie Donath. Until his recent retirement he was a successful businessman, well known and respected internationally. But he will be missed most by the members and beneficiaries of the Federation of Hungarian Jews in Great Britain, of which he was the President for many years until his death. His charismatic and warm personality gained many friends and supporters for the cause of old and needy Jews living in Hungary, Israel and in this country. He was an affectionate husband, father and grandfather and his many personal friends share the sorrow of his family.

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MISCELLANEOUS

BRITISH HELP FOR ISRAELI LIBRARIES

Acquisition of Judaica and Hebraica is the ultimate aim of the newly-founded British Committee of the Jewish National and University Library at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The committee will seek to provide funds for library purchases, including textbooks and learned journals for the use of the University's students.

The British group of former members of the K.-C. fraternity of Jewish students in Germany, has donated £300 to the library of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba.

AUTOMATION GROWS IN ISRAEL

With the increased political influence of Orthodoxy in Israel, hundreds of small firms have rearranged their work programme so that they can be closed on Shabbat. Others, backed by research in Israeli scientific institutes, are seeking ways of automation which can enable major industries to continue working without staff for one day a week. Trades unionists are uneasy, since this development might lead to a considerable reduction in the workforce if automation proves successful.

VILLAGE FOR THE HOMELESS YOUNG

The organisation "SOS-Kinderdorf" has set up a children's village at Arad near the Dead Sea, where Israeli youngsters who have no home of their own can live among family surroundings. They will be individually sponsored by families living in West Germany, Austria, Holland and elsewhere. This is the first project of its kind in Israel and it is hoped that the children will accept their new homes as truly theirs. "SOS-Kinderdorf" was founded by the Austrian Hermann Gmeiner, who attended the opening of the new project and handed over a "golden key" with the words, "This is a living monument to love".

ETHNIC GROUPS ASSIMILATING

The gap between Oriental and Western Jewry in Israel is closing ever more rapidly because of intermarriage between the two communities. This is the conclusion of Professor Ernest Krausz, an eminent sociologist of Bar-Ilan University. Over the past 20 years, the percentage of marriages across ethnic group boundaries has doubled.

SCHOOLBOOK IMAGES DISCUSSED

The Hebrew University in Jerusalem was recently the setting for the first German-Israeli schoolbook conference. Papers given at the five-day conference looked forward to a more objective picture of each country in the school textbooks of the other.

PLO PRAISES EXTREME ORTHODOX

Neturei Karta, the extreme Orthodox organisation, has received the personal congratulations of Yasser Arafat, head of the PLO, for its stand against Zionism. This was revealed in Jerusalem recently by a spokesman for the sect; to avoid infringing Israeli law, he added, Neturei Karta's letters to the PLO had been despatched from London. Its original message comprised a denunciation of Zionism and a disclaimer of the Israeli bombing in the Lebanon last summer.

SOLAR ENERGY EXPORT SUCCESS

Solar energy installations made in Israel are to be imported by Greece to alleviate its severe energy problems. The Israeli system allies scientific ingenuity to serviceable and solid manufacture, and this combination won for it the first prize at the Paris International Solar Exhibition.

MILLION-POUND BOUNTY FOR TERRORISTS

Israeli army reports say that Palestinian workers in Libya pay a tax of 6 per cent which is taken by Colonel Gaddafi for investment in a fund to finance terrorist activity. Millions of pounds sterling are alleged to have been paid to terrorist groups: £2.5 million was paid to the Black September gang after the murder of Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympic Games, and a similar amount has been paid over the past 10 years to a single Palestinian group with only 30 members or fewer. The army command said that bounties were paid out for every attack directed against Israel anywhere in the world.

SPD BARS "PRISONERS' FRIEND"

Josefine Jürgens, who was awarded a Federal Cross of Merit for her charitable work with prisoners, has been suspended from the West German Social Democratic Party for her anti-semitism. In a television programme last summer, she declared that the Maidanek trial had nothing to do with the rights of German citizens but was set up on behalf of Communists and Jews; that the court was under Jewish pressure and acted under Jewish influence; and, finally, that all the witnesses were perjured. Some time ago, the Prime Minister of Nordrhein-Westfalen suggested to the West German President that Frau Jürgens' award should be withdrawn, but the matter is still under discussion.

Another SDP decision has been to bar members of HIAG, the Waffen-SS veterans' association, from its ranks.

WAS THIS YOUR SCHOOL?

The Grunewald-Grundschule (formerly the Gemeindegrundschule, 7. Volksschule) will shortly celebrate its 75th anniversary and is anxious to obtain information about its past history. Former pupils and others who knew the school in the years 1925-1933 are asked to contact the headmaster, Herr Eberhard Welz, at the school address, Delbrückstr. 20a, Berlin 33.

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SUICIDE OF NEO-NAZI MILITANT

After disclosing locations of a number of arms caches, neo-Nazi Heinz Lembke committed suicide while in prison at Lüneburg. Police found 40 anti-tank guns, over 100 kilos of explosives and many other weapons at the places he had designated. Lembke was suspected of implication in the Munich October Festival bombing, and had been unsuccessfully interrogated about the activities of Manfred Roeder, now on trial for inciting hatred against Jews. A 44-year-old forester, Lembke was deeply involved in neo-Nazi militancy in West Germany. The Minister of the Interior in Lower Saxony has declared that there are fewer than 1,000 neo-Nazis in his state and of these only about 30 could be regarded as activists.

THREATS IN CAMP ARCHIVE BUILDING

A teacher taking pupils to see the new archive building set up as a record of Neuengamme concentration camp was threatened by three young men. After saying that they would beat the teacher up, the men added, "We had to gas the Jews, we couldn't do anything else". Police later arrested two brothers aged 16 and 20, already known as right-wing extremists, together with another man aged 26.

QUARREL OVER LIKUD FUND

Allegations that a fund set up by Franz-Josef Strauss has been misused have led to sharp controversy in Israeli party politics. Leader of the Christian Socialist Union in Bavaria, Herr Strauss is a long-term Israeli sympathiser and has urged the West German government to follow his example. The current dispute within the Likud hinges on whether the fund was used exclusively to further the cause of the party's Liberal wing, coupled with rumours that part of it was spent for the personal benefit of some Liberal leaders.

AUSTRIAN PLO HIT LIST FOUND

Continued investigations by the Austrian police have uncovered a list of 62 institutions which Ghazi Hussain, the PLO representative in Vienna, had nominated as suitable targets for terrorism. As well as the Israeli Embassy and its officials, the list included the Jewish Welcome Service and the Organisation of Former Concentration Camp Victims. Calls were made some time ago for the expulsion of Hussain and his wife Rosi, who is believed to be connected with the East German secret service.

HITLER'S GIFT AUCTIONED

When attending an auction recently, a Surrey man was able to purchase a relic of Adolf Hitler—a decorative casket presented to the dictator on his 50th birthday by the German people. It is made of many different kinds of wood and inlaid with mother-of-pearl, while its contents include letters from Hitler promising gifts at his disposal from occupied Europe. Other mementoes sold with the casket were medals and a pay-book. The items were picked up by an RAF intelligence officer from the ruins of the Chancellery in Berlin; he was surprised to find the Russian in charge quite unconcerned at the removal of the casket and other things from Hitler's personal collection.

CONVENT BECAME TRANSIT CAMP

Among three memorial tablets in the Bonn area which have recently been set up in memory of former Jewish communities is one marking the Convent of Perpetual Adoration in Enderich. The Nazis, after evicting the nuns, turned the convent into a transit camp for Jews on their way to deportation. At the dedication ceremony, Else Waldmann spoke of a year she spent in the convent building before being sent to Theresienstadt.

Other memorials were unveiled at Heimerzheim and Oberdollendorf, where Mayor Hank, after reading the names of those who perished, declared, "We all knew them—let no one say he did not see what was happening".

CAMPS

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RETIREMENT OF SHIRLEY TAUSSIG

By the time this appreciation of her services appears in print, our general secretary will have relinquished her appointment with the AJR and Self Aid of Refugees.

The initials SRT have over the years become familiar to all who have had dealings with refugee social welfare matters. They are also proudly displayed on the number plate of her car and stand for Shirley Ruth Taussig who was born in Yorkshire and received her education at Bradford Grammar School and Leeds University. She then joined Leeds City Housing Department for training in housing management, slum clearance and other civic social responsibilities. This was followed by a variety of jobs with different northern local authorities, familiarising her with many aspects of social welfare work, including billeting evacuees in the early war years and Citizens' Advice Bureau services.

She clearly demonstrated her social commitments when, in 1944, she volunteered for relief work in liberated concentration camps in Germany and remained for three years as a welfare and administrative officer of UNRRA, the agency of the newly established United Nations created to care for the relief and rehabilitation of refugees and displaced persons. It was here, too, that she met her future husband, a Czech refugee whom she married in 1947.

Resuming social work in 1954 she joined Finchley Memorial Hospital as almoner and four years later became home work organiser for the physically handicapped with Middlesex County Council.

She returned to work for refugees when, in 1964, she became Secretary of Self Aid of Refugees. Ever since 1941 Self Aid has endeavoured to support the most needy and helpless in the community with weekly financial support and by providing extra luxuries of life and occasional holidays, easements of grey existences of a kind not included in public social welfare services. Caring for the people of Self Aid gave full rein to the practical expression of her compassionate

nature. With her interest in music she derived much pleasure from the organization of the annual concert, despite the hard work involved.

By the early seventies Self Aid's work had somewhat reduced and provided no more than a part time job. When AJR was seeking to reorganize in order to ease Dr. Rosenstock's burden it was natural for Mrs Taussig to be appointed to the position of General Secretary of AJR in 1975, while Dr. Rosenstock became Director with continued special responsibilities for editing *AJR Information*.

It was part of the arrangements of the new appointment that the offices of AJR and Self Aid should be combined. The two organizations retained their identity, but thenceforth operated from the same office in Fairfax Mansions with Mrs. Taussig responsible for the administration and social welfare work of both. Later she also became secretary to the Trustees of the AJR Charitable Trust. Her duties included liaison with CBF World Jewish Relief, who are the administrative counterpart to our activities in looking after the welfare of the residents in the homes and dealing with admissions, attendance at meetings of the Management Committee for the homes, and the several house committees formed mainly by members of AJR.

To all these tasks Mrs. Taussig brought an extensive knowledge and experience of social work, interest in the people we care for and, not least important, a sense of humour. Our work is not always easy or straightforward and those who, like her, are possessed by a desire to alleviate suffering and help the distressed, and by a heart that understands human needs, must yet temper sentiment with realism and common sense.

All these qualities she possesses in full measure and augments them with a disarming charm of personality, the display of which not infrequently overcomes difficulties in her way. She now leaves us on medical advice, and we wish her full restoration of health and happiness for many years to come, years which she will not spend idly.

C.T.M.

VISIT TO ISRAEL FOR PRIZE-WINNERS

As part of their award, 15 prizewinners of the Koerber Research Essay Competition, whose 1981 theme was "Alltag im Nationalsozialismus", spent a week in Israel. There they visited Yad Vashem and the Diaspora Museum, and their stay was climaxed by a personal interview of well over an hour with President Yizchak Navon. The participants, all students, had submitted research with such titles as "The life of Mainz Jews 1926-1945", "The Persecution of the Jews in Marburg . . .", "Karlstadt Jews under the Swastika" and "Gypsy Children in Muldingen". The latter study opened by quoting the deeply pathetic letter of a mother who wrote after the war to nuns in a children's home, thanking them for easing her own children's path to death in Auschwitz.

The young prizewinners told how they had been inspired to take up this particular form of research: in one case it was a visit to the former Ravensbruck concentration camp, in another a vicious riddle: "What's the difference between a Jew and a Turk? The Jews have already gone through what the Turks still have coming to them".

MOSHE DAYAN RELICS SOLD

Army goggles and maps formerly belonging to the late Moshe Dayan raised £260 at a Tel Aviv auction where they were bought by an American tourist. The proceeds were handed over to the Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Diaspora. Also on the market is the former General's house at Zahala, described by the agents involved as "part of the history of Israel".

NEW AIR CHARTER ARRANGEMENTS

After a long struggle with bureaucracy, the Israeli charter flight company MAOF has established itself as a fully-fledged international charter flight company with its own aircraft. Hitherto it has only operated administratively. Direct flights between the UK and Israel are scheduled for Sundays and Tuesdays, and MAOF hopes to transport 180,000 passengers in its first year.

SEA OF GALILEE MONSTER?

Around the Sea of Galilee a number of fishermen and tourists have declared that they have seen strange scaly creatures in the Sea. Hamat Gader alligator park is not far from the scene of the appearances, and it was naturally suspected at first that some of the animals had escaped from the park. However a count at Hamat Gader reveals no absentees and the sightings are continuing.

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.

Birthdays

Sussman:— Mrs. Hildegard Sussman, of 29, Yale Court, Honeybourne Road, NW6, celebrated her 85th birthday on 7th January. With love and good wishes from her family.

Deaths

Bluhm:— Mrs. Rose Bluhm died recently and will be fondly remembered by all former pupils of the Augusta Schule in Breslau.

Collins:— John Collins died on Friday, 8 January. Deeply mourned by his son Peter, daughter-in-law, grandchildren and friends.

Herschmann:— Dr. Friedrich Herschmann (formerly Rechtsanwalt Vienna), of 29, Barons Keep, Gliddon Road, London, W14, died on 11 January 1982 in his 92nd year. Deeply mourned and missed by his devoted wife Ina and sister Dora and nephew.

Kohn:— Dr. Rudolf Kohn died peacefully on 4 January 1982, aged 83. He will be greatly missed by his wife Maria, family and many friends.

Nathan:— Jack Nathan of Edgware, died on 25 December after months of suffering bravely borne. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by his devoted wife Martha, his relatives and many friends.

Willner:— Elsa Willner passed away peacefully on 28 December. Deeply mourned by her son Stuart, daughter-in-law Lesley, grandchildren, relatives and friends.

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INFORMATION REQUIRED

Personal Enquiry

Sterling:— Would Miss Valerie Sterling, who attended (Row BB) the Self Aid Concert at Queen Elizabeth Hall on November 1, please contact enquirer for an important message. Replies under Box No. 907.

Letter to the Editor

WEISS IN REICHSTAG

Sir,—I refer to your article on the late Bernhard Weiss, in your issue of November, 1981.

I well remember from my Berlin days this very courageous Police Commissioner in Berlin who, in the end, in 1932, certainly showed a lot more courage than his immediate Chief Grzesinski.

I was interested to note that in your commemorative article on Bernhard Weiss you mentioned an incident in the Berlin Reichstag building where he arrested 4 Nazi Reichstag members who had beaten up a journalist. You obviously refer to the attack on Dr. Helmut Klotz, who was Reichstag Lobby Correspondent for the Social Democratic Party of Germany. I know he was a very much hated person within the circles of the Nazi Party for his publication of the two pamphlets, Ehrenrang Liste Der NSDAP and Liebesbriefe des Hauptmann Roehm.

I knew Dr. Helmut Klotz very well for I was an active member of Reichsbanner Schwarz-Rot-Gold Jungbanner Charlottenburg and often accompanied him when he went to address meetings.

On the occasion of the attack in the Reichstag, one of the attacking MPs was the infamous Stegemann, and as their attack on Dr. Klotz was only partially successful (although he had to be taken to hospital to be checked) I was worried that he might be attacked again that night

at his house. I therefore called together a squad of "K" Section of Jungbanner Charlottenburg and we spent a good part of the night at Dr. Klotz's private residence in case an attack was mounted. Fortunately, the attack did not materialise.

I thought the above details might be of interest to you.
9 Broadwood Drive,
Glasgow.

MARTIN ANSON

MEMORIAL TO HUNGARIAN COLONEL

Former Hungarians living in Israel made a special journey to Budapest to attend the unveiling of a plaque honouring Colonel Imre Reviczky, who saved thousands of young Jews from deportation during the Second World War. A street in Safed, Israel, has also been named after Col. Reviczky.

The Hungarian Government is to inaugurate a permanent exhibition in memory of the 400,000 Hungarian Jews who perished during the Holocaust. As well as documents, a railway wagon of the type used for deportations will be on display and the names of all those who died will be recorded.

CAMBERG HISTORY

To celebrate its septicentennial year, the Nassau town of Camberg has published a commemorative volume called "Camberg—700 Jahre Stadtrechte", (Camberger Verlag Ulrich Lange, 1981), written by the 81-year-old Catholic priest Caspar Hofmann. It contains a chapter on "The Jews in Camberg in the 19th and 20th Centuries", written with sympathy and understanding by Fr. Hofmann, who also describes with dismay and disgust the destruction of the synagogues and desecration of the cemeteries. Until 1933 the Jews made up two per cent of the Camberg population, two-thirds of them were deported during the Nazi period. Before 1933, poor Jews were entitled to benefit, like the other inhabitants, from the charitable foundation set up by a Regierungsrat Lieber in 1825. Fr. Hofmann concludes from the records that the nicknames "Mehljud", "Lederjud", "Eisenjud" and "Christejud" indicated that the inhabitants were best served by these artisans and merchants. E.G.L.

TV FILM OF STUDENT RESEARCH

The television film "Zurückgeblättert—Jever: Schüler erforschen die NS-Geschichte ihrer Stadt" has won for its director Wolf Landner the prize awarded by SPD-Charlottenburg for anti-fascist media projects relating to young people. The programme followed the researches of a group of young people who were studying the life of Jews in their town during the Third Reich.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

Ladies in the News. Elizabeth Taylor, never before on a European stage, will appear at London's Victoria Palace in March, playing the Broadway success "The Little Foxes" by Lillian Hellman, an author familiar to British theatre goers since the war years when her play "Watch on the Rhine" (Aldwych Theater, 1942) starred Anton Wallbrook and Charles Goldner.—*Elisabeth Bergner* and *Lilli Palmer* are filming in Hamburg, playing two sisters in "Feine Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung", described as a "crooked story." *Astrid Varnay*, 63, the Swedish-born opera star, member of the opera house in Munich, has gained the rare fame of having spent 40 years as an active opera singer, a career that has included 15 years at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, and 13 years performing Wagner in Bayreuth. She has just sung Herodias in Richard Strauss's "Salome." The "Disease of the Thirties", *Margo Lion*, recently reminded German TV audiences of the heyday of German cabaret, as symbolised by the near-classical "Schall und Rauch" and "Die Katakombe" (Berlin) where the courageous wit of Werner Finck, mainly between 1933 and 1935, astounded and impressed listeners of very different political convictions.

Karl Kraus Renaissance. "Die Fackel" by Karl Kraus, one of the great magazines published during the first half of this century, has been reprinted in

Omnibus-edition by Profil-Trend Verlag, Vienna. Containing the 922 issues of the magazine and the original "Letzte Tage der Menschheit", it quickly became a pre-Christmas bestseller.

Birthday. One of the great stars of opera, *Maria Ivogün*, celebrated her 90th birthday last November. The Budapest-born singer was discovered by Bruno Walter, and had engagements in Munich and Berlin, but retired early from the operatic stage to devote herself to Lieder concerts, and later to teaching. Maria Ivogün now lives in Thun, Switzerland. Among her pupils who gained world-wide fame are Rita Streich and Elisabeth Schwarzkopf.

Obituary. Fred Hennings, actor and writer—equally known in both spheres—has died in Vienna at the age of 86. Hennings, a member of the "Burg" ensemble from 1923 to 1971, popularised the charm and glamour of his favourite city in books and numerous lectures on the subject. Among his works, the "Ringstrassen-symphonie" was a hymn of praise and a testimonial of undying faith in Austria's capital and its historic mission. *Rudolf Prack*, a very popular stage and film actor who played in over 130 films and was a Television favourite, has died in Vienna at the age of 76.

S.B.

FRED KORMIS

Reliefs and Portrait Medallions

An exhibition of works by our old friend Fred Kormis is being held at the Fieldbourne Galleries, 63 Queens Grove, London NW8 from 17 February to 5 March 1982. Kormis, born in Frankfurt in 1897, lived and worked there until 1933 when he came to England, after a short stay in Holland. The bulk of his early work was lost as a result of bomb damage in 1940.

The present exhibition comprises three dimensional and high relief works in which he excels. Special mention must be made of his portrait medallions which demonstrate his outstanding craftsmanship and sensitivity. A special collection of such medallions, including many portraits of famous figures of recent years, is held in the Kormis Collection at the British Museum.

During his long working career Fred Kormis has held many exhibitions and his work is included in public collections in this country, Germany, Holland, Israel, Norway and the USA. His "Prisoner of War" Memorial in Gladstone Park, Willesden is well-known; other commissioned works are to be found in Stratford-on-Avon, Corsham and in Kiryat Gan, Israel.

A major retrospective exhibition of the work of Lucie Rie is being shown from 17 February to 28 March in the Victoria and Albert Museum. Lucie Rie was born and studied in Vienna at the Kunstgewerbeschule. She came to England just before the war and has emerged as one of the most distinguished potters at work today.

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