

Eva G. Reichmann

## A CRITICAL REASSESSMENT

### Weltsch Surveys the German-Jewish Past

"The situation of the German Jews is a unique subject of historical and sociological research far beyond the individual case". With these words Robert Weltsch summarises a chapter of his studies of the Jewish problem in Germany. (*Die deutsche Judenfrage. Ein kritischer Rückblick.* Jüdischer Verlag, Koenigstein, 1981.) We owe him an immense debt of gratitude for his publication in one volume of seven of his most momentous treatises in a field to whose scrutiny he has given the best part of his endeavours. The compilation comprises prefaces and postscripts to a number of fundamental volumes on the point in question, as well as fragments and independent articles. What emerges is an exciting symposium of facts, queries, uncertainties and truths – an eloquent monument to what was once German Jewry. That he portrays it in its grandeur as well as in its perplexity makes the collection into a *non plus ultra*. There is no detail that escapes his attention, no shade of opinion of which he is not aware, no attitude, however adverse to his own, which he does not approach in generous understanding.

Robert Weltsch has been a Zionist since the days of his youth in Prague. He was the editor of the Zionist *Jüdische Rundschau* in Berlin, that is to say the spokesman of German Zionism. He was not its undisputed spokesman. His originality was too strong, his individuality too outspoken to conform smoothly with a popular movement, even though it was in its initial stages the movement of a minority.

One of the chapters of the book deals with his editorship. In it he gives a stimulating idea of the transition of what had been abusively called the "Jewish press", but what in actual fact had been the German liberal press, read by liberal German Jews in preference to the authentic Jewish press, i.e. a press written by Jews for Jews and dealing exclusively with Jewish matters. This change took place after the ascent of Nazism and the suppression of the free press. For a strange twilight span the Zionist organ then actually came into its own. It gained an astounding popularity even among non-Jewish readers. It was praised in hundreds of letters of approval and prospered with ever growing sales by street vendors and newsagents. This of course could not last for any length of time. But even after the public sales had been prohibited, an almost unbelievable number of faithful non-Jewish readers managed to obtain the paper by clandestine means.

These facts may serve to throw light on the general

mood at a time of stifled public opinion. The way in which our author regarded his editorship was characterised by two paramount questions: to find a *modus vivendi* with the Arab population of Palestine, and the evolution of a conscientious Jewish national concept as opposed to the discredited nationalisms of the warring nations. In the face of both these, to him, elementary tasks, Robert Weltsch could not count on the full agreement of his supporters. That "the majority of the Zionists refused to agree to a practical policy that included the fact of an Arab population in a Palestinian state" was one of his constant irritations.

This detail alone is proof of his political standards.

But there was more. It is necessary to mention the one by which Robert Weltsch became an historical figure. To the anti-Jewish boycott of the 1st April 1933 he reacted with a rallying headline in the *Jüdische Rundschau* with which his name will be connected for generations to come: "Bear it with pride, the yellow badge!" With this defiant watchword he gave his bewildered readers a measure of encouragement and inspiration that transcends description. He himself was at times given to doubts whether the sinister sign under whose curse Jews were later led into the gas chambers should have ever been used as a rallying cry. But in spite of temporary misgivings he realises thirty years later that his words had in fact proved a salvation. They had unified the German Jews into a community of fate, independent of partisan opinions. They enabled them to stand up for themselves in an hour of deadly peril and not to abandon themselves to paralysing despair.

When surveying the German scene as a whole, Robert Weltsch speaks repeatedly of the almost insoluble "entanglement of facts". What had been written about it, he states, was in its early stages distorted by apologetics, and later by the experience of the Holocaust. To free himself from such deviations and to reveal the contradictory phenomena in all "their perplexity and intricacy" is his desire. In his striving towards the greatest attainable objectivity he succeeds to an admirable degree. He sees the essence of the Jewish problem in Germany as the great crisis of Jewish identity in our century. The continuing existence of identifiable Jewish groups, of remnants of Jewish consciousness and Jewish separatism alongside the tendency to match the Gentile majority in all but the religious tradition, created perpetual friction.

#### Ambiguities and Insecurities

Assimilation and disintegration were counter-balanced by varying phases of a reaffirmation of Jewish values. A main cause of the strengthening of Jewish consciousness resulted from the encounter with Eastern Jewry during the First World War. While previously the massive Jewish settlements in Eastern Europe had been regarded with uneasiness and even apprehension, some thoughtful observers, mostly Zionists, discovered in them a mirror of their own past. They recognised themselves, they were shocked, they recoiled and yet they felt attracted. New doubts regarding the true nature of Judaism arose. The process of normalisation had met one of the numerous ambiguities adding to the feeling of insecurity.

In this context Robert Weltsch might perhaps have put greater emphasis on the fact that Jewish

#### The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain

reminds members and friends that it will hold its

### GENERAL MEETING

on Thursday, 1 July, at 7.45 p.m.

at Hannah Karminski House

9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3

(Side Entrance)

I

Report on AJR Activities  
Treasurer's Report  
Discussion  
Election of Executive and Board

The list of candidates submitted by the Executive is published on page 2.

II

We are fortunate in announcing that

**PROF. G. V. R. BORN,**  
FRCP, FRS

Head of the Department of Pharmacology,  
University of London, Kings College,

has kindly agreed to speak on

#### A SCIENTIST REMEMBERS

Details about the speaker and the subject are published on page 2.

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Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

## WELTSCH ON GERMAN-JEWISH PAST

insecurity was all but matched, probably exceeded, by German national insecurity. He by no means overlooks this contingency. He speaks of the growing uncertainty of the Germans' own national concerns, an insecurity which they wished "to subdue by aggression against ostensible saboteurs". He also mentions the important point of the difference between Germany, the "belated nation" and the Western democracies which had reached a far higher stage of national maturity. He goes so far as to equate "hostility against the West with hostility against the Jews", but stops short of the conclusion that the specific variety of German antisemitism was indeed decisively conditioned by Germany's political, social and economic retardation.

He neither neglects nor underestimates the Great Divide separating the two main sections of German Jewry, Zionism bent on Jewish-national regeneration, and the Central Union of German Citizens of Jewish Faith, the *Central-Verein*, based on the conviction that the German Jews were an integral part of the German nation, distinguished merely by their religious faith. In connection with the Boycott Day of 1st April 1933 the *Central-Verein* comes in for serious strictures. The leader of its paper, the *C.V.-Zeitung*, had cited a quotation from Goethe's "Wilhelm Meister" which, it claimed, had then become "almost the only salvation": "If I love you (Germany) - is it your concern?" "Not so", retorts Weltsch; "Our only salvation is our Judaism! If we love you, Germany, it is your concern. The historical connection of centuries cannot easily be severed. . . . Thousands of German Jews must now leave the country which no longer gives them the possibility of living in it. But we know that generations will remain loyal to what they have received from the German genius". Even where he differs, Weltsch shows a deep understanding of the feelings of his Jewish opponents. He appreciates the German Jews' patriotism, their devotion to the German language and culture. What motivated them was, he says - and one is tempted to sense in his words his own feelings - "above all love".

While in the 19th century the Jews had been encouraged to be totally German, in the 20th century they were told that by wishing to be totally German they corrupted Germanism. The scene of contention had changed from the ideological to the socio-political field. Ideas had shrunk into rationalisations. Judgments were coined which defied critical

examination. "The hatred was decisive". Weltsch tries to answer the question of how the unspeakable horror of the final outcome was possible. In awe of the impossibility of finding the ultimate truth he withholds an answer. Whatever is accessible to scrutiny he scrutinises. What can only be felt and not put into words he leaves to the empathy of his readers.

One more topic to which Weltsch gives special attention is the nature of German Zionism. One of the chapters is called "German Zionism in Retrospect". It was a contribution to the *Festschrift* on the 75th birthday of Siegfried Moses. It contains a wealth of information on the specific variety of German Zionism which did so much in moulding the movement. Here again, he stresses the indebtedness to the German environment. "What was needed", he avers, "was not a rejection of Europe - and 'Europe' stands here inevitably for 'Germany' - but the eager acceptance of every intellectual value Europe had to offer". What happened to those who embraced the new Zionist doctrine was not an abandonment of assimilation, which continued apace, but "the miracle of an internal rebirth".

In a feeling of high-minded resignation Weltsch suggests that the lofty ideals of German Zionism were condemned to failure by harsh reality. He even faces up to the conclusion that the road followed by the German Zionists between the two wars and in the early years of the settlement in Palestine may have been a fallacy. "But", he goes on, "this does not change the validity of moral principles. Over and over again we are faced by the painful and most consequential decision: whether to give preference to moral principles or to practical advantage. Humans as we all are, we must sometimes accept the censure of events. But this does not imply a judgment on the justification of principles and their moral value. One should beware of talking of 'victories' of one attitude over the other. Such victories are often short-lived".

Robert Weltsch's investigation, his visions and his clarification of the complex German-Jewish scene are in themselves a victory beyond doubt. His scepticism, far from diminishing his accomplishments, is only a further proof of his judicious prudence.

While acknowledging gratefully his perceptive power, we almost treasure more the alleged "fallacies" by which he has become one of the most respected and revered figures in our community.

## FILMS ON THE FAILURE TO RESCUE

Swiss director Markus Imhoof's film "The Boat is Full" has been nominated for an Academy Award as one of the five best foreign films to be shown in America. It tells how Swiss bureaucrats turned back refugees at the Swiss-German border after a 1942 decree by the Justice Minister that Jews would no longer be admitted as political refugees. A 40-year-old Protestant, Mr. Imhoof was told by his uncle, who had himself helped Jews to enter Switzerland illegally, of his country's inglorious attitude and still retains his anger and indignation at what was done to these helpless people. "The Boat is Full" has already won major awards in West Germany and France.

A film on a similar topic has been directed by a young graduate of Berkeley University. Laurence Jarvik, who made his film with private funds, has entitled his work "Who shall live and who shall die?". His theme is the failure of the heads of the

American-Jewish community to give President Roosevelt a lead, partly because they feared an increase in antisemitism if they urged the Administration to do more to save Jews. Mr Jarvik was hoping for a screening on a British TV network, but has not so far been successful, though the film has been shown in Los Angeles, Berlin and Paris, and will shortly be seen in New York and Melbourne.

## AJR INFORMATION

It is regretted that due to technical difficulties at our printers' plant the production of our May issue was delayed. We apologise to our readers for the inconvenience, resulting from causes entirely beyond our control.

## AJR GENERAL MEETING Illustrious Speaker

As readers will have seen from the announcements published in our previous and current issue, this year's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 1, at 7.45 p.m., at Hannah Karminski House, 9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage.

We are very pleased indeed that Professor Gustav V. R. Born, FRCP, FRS, has kindly agreed to give a talk under the heading "A Scientist Remembers". In a way, this theme is another aspect of last year's subject, when Mr. Herbert Loebel, OBE, spoke about the position of former refugees in industry. The integration of the Nazi victims in various spheres of British life is an issue which, like few others, comes under the terms of reference of the AJR. Like Mr. Loebel, Professor Born will not present a "Who's Who" of personalities who work in his field. His talk will, in the first place, be based on personal observations. In this respect he is particularly qualified not only on account of his own achievements but also of his background. The son of the Nobel Prize Laureate Professor Max Born, he grew up in an atmosphere of scientific research linked with a commitment to wider human issues. The autobiography which his father wrote and which was reviewed in our October 1980 issue, is full of interesting details, last not least about the roots of his family. We look forward to a stimulating talk.

Professor Born's address will be preceded by reports on the activities and finances of the AJR and the election of Executive and Board members. The following election proposals are submitted by the executive.

### Executive Candidates

**Committee of Management (Executive):** The following members of the present Executive stand for re-election. They are: Mr. A. S. Dresel (Life President), Mr. C. T. Marx (Chairman), Dr. F. E. Falk (Vice-Chairman), Mr. L. Spiro (Treasurer), Dr. W. Rosenstock (Director), Mrs. R. Anderman, Mr. C. F. Flesch, Mr. O. E. Franklyn (Trustee), Dr. A. R. Horwell (Trustee), Mrs. B. Kanter, Mr. M. Kochmann, JP (Trustee), Dr. Laura Stein.

### Board Members

**Board:** It is proposed to re-elect the following members of the present Board: Mrs. O. Albrecht, Dr. Alice Apt, Mrs. A. Berent, Mrs. R. Berlin, Dr. J. Bondi, Rabbi I. Broch, Rabbi C. E. Cassell, Mrs. M. Casson, Mr. F. Dannen, Mr. F. Durst, Dr. W. Dux, Dr. R. Elton, Dr. H. Feld, Mr. R. Fischer, Dr. A. Fleiss, Mrs. A. Fleiss, Dr. H. G. Francken, Dr. H. Freund, Mr. R. J. Friedmann, Mrs. Elisabeth Goldschmidt, Dr. Erna Goldschmidt, Mr. R. Graupner, Mr. S. F. Hallgarten, Dr. J. J. Halpern, Mrs. G. Hamburg, Mr. Herbert M. Hirsch, Mrs. Susanne Horwell, Mrs. M. Jacoby, Mr. E. C. Kent, Mrs. F. Kochmann, Mr. W. M. Lash, Miss J. Lee, Dr. Rita Lehmann, Mrs. H. Lieser, Dr. G. Leon, Dr. F. Levy, Mr. A. Lieberman, Mrs. Ilse Loewenthal, Dr. E. G. Lowenthal, Dr. E. Magnus, Mrs. M. Mautner, Mr. H. C. Mayer, Mrs. Gabriele Meyer, Mrs. L. Meyer, Dr. L. Nelken, Mrs. M. Pottlitzer, Mr. W. R. Powell, Dr. Eva Reichmann, Dr. E. Reifenberg (Gabriele Tergit), Mrs. M. Richmond, Mr. J. Sachs, Mr. W. Salinger, Mrs. Charlotte Salzberger, Mr. F. Samson, Mrs. Ruth Schneider, Mrs. A. Schwab, Mrs. D. Segall, Mr. G. Selby, Mr. P. E. Shields, OBE, Mr. Julius Strauss, Dr. U. Tietz, Mrs. Eva Trent, Mrs. H. Ury, Mr. H. Wetzler, Dr. Valerie Wills, Dr. Charlotte Wittelshoefer, Mr. F. S. Worms, Mr. H. Wreschner.

It is proposed to elect as a new member Mrs. Hannah Finburgh.

The Board also includes representatives of the Provincial groups.

## HOME NEWS

### LORD JANNER

Lord Janner, Anglo-Jewry's Grand Old Man, died on May 4, one month before his 90th birthday. His signal and devoted services to Jewish causes were linked with leading activities in the wider community of this country, and it was just the blend between responsible work in these two spheres which marked his personality. A solicitor by profession, he embarked early on a political career. He was Liberal Member of Parliament for Whitechapel from 1931-1935. Later he joined the Labour Party and represented the constituency of Leicester West from 1945 to 1970, when he was elevated to the peerage. Whenever a problem of Jewish concern was at stake in Parliament, he stood up for his fellow Jews. This gained him the respect of his colleagues. At the same time, he was an experienced sponsor of many other efforts, especially in the fields of housing, leasehold reform and workmen's compensation.

His position in Jewish communal life was unique. Among the innumerable offices he held the most important ones were the presidency of the Zionist Federation and, from 1955 to 1964, of the Board of Deputies. His association with the Board dated back to 1925 and, prior to his election as President, he was for nine years its Vice-President. He continued to serve the Board after his term as President had come to an end, first as chairman of the Eretz Israel Committee and later as member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

When the Nazis came to power, he kept on warning Parliament of the imminent danger. The plight of the Nazi victims was always near to his heart. There were many instances when the AJR called on him for his assistance and support, and he never failed us. At the same time it has been our privilege that on repeated occasions he expressed his appreciation of the work carried out by us.

We express our deepfelt sympathies to his widow, his son, Greville Janner, QC, MP, who, like his father, has been helpful to us whenever we approached him, and to the other members of his family.

### WORLDWIDE PROPAGANDA OF DENIAL

The widespread nature of Holocaust denial propaganda is evidenced by the appearance of "Holocaust News", a four-page paper published by the Centre for Historical Review and edited by Richard Harwood, a pseudonym believed to cover the identity of Richard Verrall of the National Front. Material published by this paper, says the Board of Deputies, resembles the contents of publications emanating from Saudi Arabia. At the same time, South African MPs have received booklets denying the Holocaust which have been printed in the United States and posted in Pakistan.

The Institute of Jewish Affairs in London is pressing for an Act to define denial of the Holocaust as a criminal offence. Officials of the IJA have pointed out that denial of the mass murders is today one of the most salient aspects of neo-Nazi propaganda and have referred to the example of West Germany's proposed legislation to outlaw denial or glossing over of genocide.

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### "NO MORE ZIONIST INFLUENCE IN TUC"

In an interview given to "Ad-Destour", a London-based Arab newspaper, the Lord Provost of Dundee is quoted as saying that the mass media are "in the hands of the Zionists", while another member of the Dundee council, after alleging that "Jews have a very strong influence all over Britain", declared that the Trades Union movement "has been under strong Zionist influence, but it has now shaken itself free of that influence". He looks forward to the new TUC-Palestine Organisation as specialising in "getting rid of any Zionist influence and replacing their statements with the historical truths".

Dundee has had a troubled history ever since it twinned with the West Bank town of Nablus, and the Conservative group on the council have attacked the ruling Labour authority with renewed vigour, backed by the Board of Deputies who have expressed their shock at hearing "a classical antisemitic accusation" from a man of the standing of the Lord Provost.

### MEMORIAL STONE AT FORMER POW CAMP

On April 29, a Memorial Stone, produced in Germany, was consecrated at the entrance of the former POW Camp at Featherstone Park. The text reads as follows:

"Here was the entrance to POW Camp 18 where thousands of German officers were held in the years 1945-48. The interpreter from January 1946 was Captain Herbert Sulzbach, OBE, who dedicated himself to making this Camp a seedbed of British-German reconciliation. Our two nations owe him heartfelt thanks..

The friends and members of the Featherstone-Park-Association of former inmates of Camp 18, 1982".

The ceremony took place in the presence of Mr. Sulzbach and four former German Featherstone Park POWs. It was also filmed by producers of ITV and, together with other documentary material about German Prisoners of War in England, will be shown on Channel 4 which is to be inaugurated in November.

With acknowledgement to the news service  
of the Jewish Chronicle.

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### YOUNG PEOPLE'S IMAGE OF GERMANY

A MORI poll carried out at the request of the German Embassy has shown that, notwithstanding the plethora of films, TV plays, strip cartoons and thrillers on war themes, young people aged between 15 and 20 are not generally anti-German. The Embassy, which has often deplored the media image of its country, was pleasantly surprised to find that British youth regards Germans as hard-working, efficient and well-educated, although proud and lacking a sense of humour. On a personal basis, almost two-thirds of those questioned said that they felt friendly towards Germany and its people.

### PROGRESS AT THE OXFORD CENTRE

In the nine years of its existence, the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies has proved almost too successful, if such a thing could ever be said of a prestigious institute which has aided research resulting in some 500 works of scholarship. Each place available at Yarnton Manor is vied for by five academic applicants and the library has reached saturation point, according to the Centre president, Dr. David Patterson. Desirable collections of Jewish interest have had to be refused for lack of room and 50 crates of material are being stored in outbuildings. As well as research activity, the Centre library is being catalogued and the project for an Oxford English-Hebrew Dictionary of Current Usage is continuing to make progress. With its tenth anniversary in sight, the Oxford Centre intends to appeal for £3 million in order to secure its future and enable it to respond to increasing academic demands.

### "ORT" IN MANCHESTER

The new ORT Training Centre in Manchester has currently three young Jewish refugees from Iran. Altogether, the Centre has 26 trainees in secretarial work, woodwork, painting and decorating and kosher catering. The eight members of the staff also teach individual trainees in English, Maths, Electrics and car maintenance.

### MANCUNIAN ARSON ATTACKS

Garden sheds and dustbins were set alight, sometimes while firemen were coping with fires in the same road, in nuisance raids on seven Jewish homes in Manchester recently. All the blazes were started soon after midnight and in two instances houses had to be evacuated. Fortunately, however, only the sheds and bins suffered damage.

### AWARD FOR JEWISH CHRONICLE EDITOR

Joseph Finklestone, foreign and home news editor of the "Jewish Chronicle", has been presented with the David Holden Award to mark his journalistic contribution to international understanding. The award is made each year by a panel appointed by the country's major newspapers and is named in honour of the Sunday Times correspondent murdered in Cairo in 1977. The chairman of the judging panel, Sir Edward Pickering, said of Mr. Finklestone that he has made "a significant contribution towards the understanding of events not only in Israel but also in the Arab world . . . he has been anxious to ensure that the views of Arab leaders should be put in the fairest possible way before the public".

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## NEWS FROM ABROAD

### UNITED STATES

#### Concert Cancelled After Threats

Boston Symphony Orchestra performances of Stravinsky's "Oedipus Rex" have been cancelled following threats of militant action if Vanessa Redgrave took the part of the Narrator. The opera-atorio was to have been performed in Boston and New York. Miss Redgrave, a prominent supporter of the PLO, said the orchestra had surrendered to manaces from outside and that most Americans and most Jews would deplore that fact.

#### Holocaust Memorial for San Francisco

The city of San Francisco is to have a Holocaust Memorial which will be sited in front of the Palace of the Legion of Honour in Lincoln Park, one of the most beautiful viewpoints in the region. Artists and sculptors have been invited to submit designs, and the costs of erecting the memorial, amounting to about £416,000 will be met in part by the survivors of persecution living in and near the city. The Memorial Committee also intends to raise funds for an educational programme on the Holocaust which will be used in San Francisco schools.

#### Reagan Praises Jewish Resistance

While ceremonies in commemoration of those who died in the Holocaust were being held throughout Israel and other countries, on the other side of the world President Reagan attended the annual memorial meeting at the White House. He declared that even now it was difficult to imagine the tragedy which had befallen the Jewish people during the Second World War. Later the President sent a message to a ceremony in New York marking Holocaust Day and the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The uprising, he said, had been a shining example of mankind's struggle for dignity and an inspiration to those striving for freedom.

#### CANADIAN ANTISEMITE'S APPEAL

Named in the Bundestag as the chief source of neo-Nazi material in West Germany, Ernst Zundel has appealed to the Canadian Post Office to rescind the ban on distribution of his propaganda through the Canadian mails. As well as issuing a host of marching songs, speeches by Hitler and Goebbels, and Nazis paraphernalia, Zundel, under the pseudonym of Christoff Friedrich, is the author of "The Hitler we Loved, and Why", which, among its illustrations, revives one of the more grandiose Nazi schemes, the project of driving a canal through the Alps.

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### SCHOOL NAMING ARGUMENT IN HOLLAND

When it was planned to name a new Liberal Jewish school in Amsterdam after the late Rabbi Dr. Leo Baeck, controversy flared following a letter to the "Nieuw Israelitisch Weekblad" from Dr. Eli Cohen, himself a survivor of Auschwitz. Dr. Cohen charged that Dr. Baeck had known what was happening at Auschwitz, yet had kept silent, and that he had collaborated with the Nazis. Finally, he declared that it would be dishonourable to be educated at a school named after such a man. Leaders of the Liberal community in Holland, declining to engage themselves directly in the argument, asked their British counterparts if they could clarify the matter. In consequence, letters from Dr. H. G. Adler and Rabbi Dr. Albert Friedlander were published in the "Nieuw Israelitisch Weekblad", emphasising that Leo Baeck had been maligned by the accusations which had given a quite false image of an honourable man.

### ITALY

#### Assisi's Proud Record of Rescue

The town of Assisi, known to Christians as the birthplace of St. Francis, can also claim the proud record that of the 300 Italian and foreign Jews to whom it gave shelter during the days of Fascist and Nazi persecution, not one was ever betrayed or captured. They were given forged documents and hidden in private houses or in Church buildings, and several members of the clergy were later honoured by both the Italian and Israeli governments for their part in protecting the lives of the oppressed. To mark the 800th anniversary of the birth of St. Francis, the town is holding a series of celebrations, many of which will have the theme of Christian-Jewish brotherhood. In the first week, friendship reunions were organised when rescuers once again met the people they had saved and Italian Jewish communities presented silver plaques expressing fraternal gratitude.



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### POLISH PRIEST'S SACRIFICE REMEMBERED

Father Maximilian Kolbe, the Polish priest who took the place of a condemned Pole in Auschwitz, is to be proclaimed a saint in October of this year. The man he saved, now aged 80, is expected to attend the ceremony in St. Peter's Square. Deeply touched by Fr. Kolbe's sacrifice, the Pope has speeded up the process of canonisation.

### MEETING IN BRATISLAVA

Dr. Dezider Galsky and Engineer Artur Hadvansky, President and Secretary respectively of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Bohemia-Moravia, and Fridrich Grunwald and Ludovit Klein, their opposite numbers in Slovakia, met recently for the first time in Bratislava to co-ordinate their activities in the Jewish religious, cultural and social spheres.

### GRANT TO SWISS VICTIMS

Compensation is to be made to Swiss citizens who suffered damage to their health in consequence of Nazi war crimes. Switzerland's Foreign Ministry recently stated that the West German government had agreed to recompense the victims; non-Jewish citizens will receive a once-only payment of just over £1,000.

### RUSSIAN SKINHEADS IN NAZI DRESS

Fights broke out in Moscow's Pushkin Square when a gang of youths wearing black shirts and swastika armbands gathered on Hitler's birthday, April 20. The "Fascisti" group has apparently risen to cult status among some teenagers who affect close-cropped hair and pick fights with football fans. On this occasion, estimates of the number of "Fascisti" vary from 12 to 100 and, while some reports say they were set on by football hooligans, others indicate that they were beaten up by Second World War veterans. Police made several arrests while clearing the square.

The Nazi-style gangs apparently have their strongest following in Estonia, where a previous demonstration took place at a rock concert in 1980.

### DEGRELLE ON BELGIAN TV

Controversy had been aroused in Belgium by a television series entitled "The New Order", dealing with the question of collaboration during the Nazi occupation. Particularly galling was the opportunity given to Leon Degrelle, the most prominent Belgian collaborator, sentenced to death in absentia and living in Spain since 1945, to air his views. Degrelle is still an active Fascist, having recently organised a meeting of ex-Nazis in Barcelona, and Belgian patriotic groups are demanding renewed Government action for his extradition.

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William Guttman

## PRESIDING SIMSON

The comprehensive and richly illustrated catalogue for the exhibition "Jews in Prussia" that took place last year in Berlin (see also "A Who's Who with a Difference" in the March issue of *AJR Information*) mentions twice the eminent Jurist Eduard von Simson (1810-1899): first as one of the seven Jewish members of the 1848/49 National Assembly in the Frankfurt Paulskirche; and second as the President of that assembly which led the delegation that unsuccessfully offered the German Imperial Crown to the Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm IV. Ironically, much the same space and more pictorial material in the catalogue is devoted to one humble Hermann Simson, said to be a member of Eduard von Simson's family, a Jewish combatant in the 1914 war, decorated and ultimately one of Hitler's slave labourers.

A new biography, "Eduard von Simson" by Günther Meinhardt (Habelt, Bonn 1981), while explaining that the Nazis were particularly successful in eradicating the memory of this Jewish Democrat, aims at filling this gap by presenting a scholarly, well documented and illustrated account mainly of the life of von Simson as a public figure within the framework of the Prussian-German history of his era. Born in Königsberg, son of a Jewish merchant and banker, he studied law, embarked on an academic and judicial career and then went into politics, being elected in the course of time to the Frankfurt National Assembly, the Prussian Diet and, after the foundation of the German Reich, to the Reichstag, of all of which bodies he was at one time or another President.

His last high office he attained in 1879 as the first President of the Supreme German Court in Leipzig. Thus in the long and tortuous road from the first stirrings of democracy in Germany and aspirations to German unity to the actual foundation of the Reich, von Simson played a leading role in his country's constitutional development.

He owed his meteoric rise, including his ennoblement and his appointment as an officer in the army reserve, apart from his great ability, to the fact that unlike his less fortunate kinsman, he lived before Nazism and his parents (his mother, Marianne Friedländer was Jewish and Eduard himself was later to marry Klara, a member of the

Jewish banking family, Warschauer) had, in 1823, all their children baptised, providing Eduard with what Heinrich Heine called "the ticket of admission to European civilisation". So if Mr. Meinhardt somewhat naively remarks that the old Prussia was "not antisemitic", it means that for a baptised Jew his origins were no impediment. Indeed judging by Mr. Meinhardt's book, Eduard von Simson throughout his life showed no special interest in his own roots nor in the affairs of his former co-religionists.

Yet there were a number of Jewish contemporaries who like von Simson played an eminent and very creditable role in the constitutional development of Prussia-Germany. There was Dr. Johann Jacoby from Königsberg, the man famous for having said to King Friedrich Wilhelm IV, "It is the misfortune of kings that they don't want to hear the truth." There were Eduard Lasker and Ludwig Bamberger, first as members of the National Liberal Party supporters of Bismarck, later opposing him and abandoning the Party, partly in protest against rising antisemitism. These men were essentially German politicians who refused to concentrate on the "Jewish question" but indeed hoped that that question would automatically be solved by the realisation of full freedom and democracy in Germany—and that was their paramount aim. Perhaps that was in Eduard von Simson's mind too—but he never was, it seems, very vociferous about it.

## ROBERT MICHEL AT ANNELY JUDA

Robert Michel, born at Vockenhausen/Taunus in 1897 and still living there, is an artist of great distinction whose life-long interest in modern, technical development is reflected in his pictorial compositions. A selection of his work, dating from the period 1919-1930, is on show at Annelly Juda Fine Art, 11, Tottenham Mews, W1 (until 26 June). This is by no means Michel's first show in London—in recent years Annelly Juda has devoted several exhibitions to his work and to that of his wife Ella Bergmann.

Michel was not a member of the Bauhaus although invited to join. He disagreed with the "very doctrinaire ideas and bourgeois attitude" of Gropius. Nevertheless, his work has affinities with the Bauhaus idea, but is followed through in a different form.

The present exhibition, with pictures bearing mysterious titles, such as "Anti-Stilleben" and "Plein pouvoir", combine technical forms with absorbent colour. Their significance is, perhaps, a reflection of the complicated world in which we live. The impact of these strange designs is very sharp and leaves an unforgettable feeling of the essential beauty of engineered shapes, however derived and for what purpose used.

Leinster Fine Art, Hereford Road, W2, has a good exhibition of water-colours, drawings, etchings and prints by Christine von Huetz-Davisson now living in London. The exhibition closes on 19 June. An exhibition of works by the artist (or anti-artist) Willi Parzival Schlichter was recently held at Gallery Margaret Fisher, 2 Lambolde Road, NW3. It closed on 22 May, but there will be an exhibition of works by Eva Boehm-Fraenkel and Adam Epstein in June.

ALICE SCHWAB

## CZECHOSLOVAKIAN BNAI BRITH

Until late autumn of 1938 there were 17 Bnai Brith lodges in Czechoslovakia. Of these there were 10 in Bohemia (three in Prague), five in Moravia and two in Slovakia, with 2,000 members altogether. The Prague Lodge would have been 80 years old this year, the Friendship Lodge in Teplitz 70, and the Union Lodge in Pilsen 90. E.G.L.

## EXHIBITION AT MALINES CAMP

Malines in Belgium, formerly the site of the concentration camp Mechelen (the town's Flemish name), was chosen as the site of an exhibition on the Holocaust by the Association of Jewish Concentration Camp Inmates. The City Council and the Archbishop of Malines were also involved in organising the exhibition. 26,000 Jews passed through Mechelen on their way to the death camps.

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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

### Wiener Library Appeal

Dear Members,

The story of how Dr. Wiener started to collect in Amsterdam, within a few months of Hitler's advent to power, newspapers, books and periodicals about the Nazis, how the collection was transported to London shortly before the war and became an essential source of information to the Foreign Office and Ministry of Information is not just part of the history of the Second World War, but part of the history of our emigration, part of the very story of our own lives.

The end of the war was in no way the end of the Wiener Library. On the contrary, the library expanded with the acquisition of the many new documents and books on European, especially Central European, history in the 20th century, including the Holocaust, fascism and anti-semitism and, latterly, oppression in Eastern European countries, to make it one of the finest specialist collections anywhere.

As an avid student of history, I have always been interested in, and at times have used, the Wiener Library. It was therefore a great pleasure to be invited some years ago to join the Library's Executive Committee, ostensibly to represent the refugee community. That was already after the agreement had been made with Tel Aviv University for the transfer in 1980 of the Library's books to Israel. Firmly believing in the importance of the continued presence of the Library in London, I supported my colleagues in arranging for the bulk of the Library's holdings to be microfilmed to form the nucleus of a modern library with the latest reading and copying facilities. New acquisitions are being continually added so that today the Library serves historians, politicians, journalists, students and many others and carries on as if the transfer to Israel had never taken place.

This is a wonderful achievement for a small and dedicated staff, but not maintainable for long, if an adequate financial basis cannot be secured. This is why the Appeal for an Endowment Fund of one million pounds was launched and you may have seen the letter in *The Times* from the President of the Appeals Committee, the former Prime Minister, Mr. James Callaghan, the two page spread in the *Jewish Chronicle* in April and our own report in the last issue of *AJR Information*.

The AJR has only on one previous occasion made an appeal for money to its members. That was as long ago as the early sixties when over £90,000 was successfully raised for the 'Thank you Britain' fund still administered by the British Academy. To my mind the appeal of the Wiener Library deserves the same success, calls for the same response from our community, lest it be said that the Wiener Library, the one institution that maintains the chronicles of our own experience, of the sufferings of our own families, and the trials of our people, failed through our lack of support, through our indifference.

I urge you all to support the Wiener Library Appeal generously, and for your convenience a form for this purpose is included with this issue of *AJR Information*.

Yours sincerely,

C. T. MARX

#### FILM PRIZE FOR LOTTE EISNER

Dr. Lotte Eisner has been awarded Düsseldorf's Helmut Käutner Prize for her work in promoting international appreciation of the classic German cinema. She is the author of works on Murnau and Fritz Lang as well as the standard history of the German film, "Die dämonische Leinwand".

Born in Berlin, Lotte Eisner began to write for the "Film-Kurier" in 1927, but with the coming of Hitler she emigrated to Paris. During the Second World War, she was helped to survive by French friends and in 1945 she at once began to organise exhibitions, screenings and retrospectives to publicise the German cinema of the days before the Third Reich. Some years ago, Dr. Eisner received the German Film Prize for her many years of outstanding work in the service of her chosen cause.

#### AWARD

In recognition of 41 years of meritorious Government service, Mr. Harry Eric Murrell, who is a member of the AJR, has been awarded the Imperial Service Medal by Her Majesty the Queen.

#### WESTPHALIAN SCROLL SAFE IN HARROW

In the spring of 1938, the synagogue of Anroechte, a village in Westphalia, was desecrated by Nazis. Amid the destruction, however, Mr. Simon Levi managed to rescue an 18th-century Sefer Torah, which was brought to England a year later when his cousin Kate Stern joined Mr. Levi in this country. The two cousins live in Harrow and have presented the scroll to the Middlesex New Synagogue. As a chemical engineer, qualifying in 1938 despite Third Reich regulations and a term in Buchenwald, Mr. Levi has travelled all over the world and now devotes himself to Central European Jewish history, on which he has been able to advise a number of German students.

#### FRED WORMS MACCABI PRESIDENT

At the 19th Maccabi World Congress held at the Maccabiah Village, near Tel Aviv, and attended by delegates from 36 countries representing 250,000 members, Fred Worms was unanimously elected President of the Maccabi World Union in succession to the late Mr. Pierre Gildesgame, CBE. Mr. Worms is a member of the AJR Board.

#### LITERATURE OF EXILE

Following its exhibition on the German PEN Centre in Exile (on which Egon Larsen reported in this journal in August, 1981) the West German PEN Centre has now produced a paperback containing reports by eighteen surviving refugees from Nazi Germany describing the various ways in which writers as writers reacted to Nazi persecution.\* Some of the writers returned to Germany or Austria, others remained in the countries in which they found a new home.

Perhaps the most remarkable of these short reports is that by H. G. Adler (President of the PEN Centre of German-Speaking Writers Abroad in London, a fact which the West German PEN Centre publication has omitted to mention), imprisoned in Theresienstadt, Auschwitz and other camps between 1941 and 1945, who describes that even in the extremity of the extermination camps writers continued in some way to record their thoughts in poems and otherwise, in a state which Adler calls "internal exile"—not to be confused with the "internal emigration" of the Frank Thieses. Adler himself, after initially being stunned by the effect of incarceration, started somehow to record his experiences and he recalls how this kept his morale going in the hell of the camps. His records, kept and preserved throughout his imprisonment, formed the basis of his later works on life in the camps.

Ernest Borneman, now living in Austria, describes how he, a Socialist student, smuggled himself into England as part of a group of exchange students and how he struggled as a student without money in pre-war England when it was only possible for him to survive by working "illegally", always afraid of being discovered by the authorities and being deported to Nazi Germany as a known anti-Nazi; and yet remaining active in the endeavour to unite the various groups of German anti-Nazi exiles in London.

Ernst Loewy, whose work "Exil" we recently reviewed in this journal, reports on his return to Germany from Israel in 1956 where he had emigrated in 1936, and where he first became interested in German literature including that by anti-Nazi exiles. It was only after his return to Germany that he started to study Hebrew and Jewish history more systematically. He summarises the effect of Nazism on him as "a break which left many scars. They might heal or not, they remained visible in any event". Alphons Silbermann, who returned to Germany from Australia, tried to preserve his German language in three different countries. He alleges—not quite convincingly—that the German language, "cut off from its former normal environment, stagnated and began to die" developed further in Germany.

Each of the contributors has a fascinating story to tell.

F. HELLENDALL

#### MANNHEIM HONOURS PAUL EPPSTEIN

To honour the memory of Dr. Paul Eppstein, who was head of the Mannheim "Volkshochschule" from 1928-1933, the City of Mannheim has decided to arrange a Memorial on the premises of the "Abendakademie". Documents and other material pertinent to his life and work will be exhibited and a bust modelled by the sculptress Tutti Veith will be displayed. In a lecture, Landtagsvizepräsident a.D. Walter Krause recalled the impact Eppstein's lectures had made on his students. (With regard to the fate of Paul Eppstein, see the "Letter to the Editor" published in this issue.—The Ed.)

#### ERLANGEN

The hundredth anniversary of the birth of the mathematics professor Emmy Noether (March 25) was celebrated in her city of birth, Erlangen, by renaming the Südwestgymnasium the Emmy Noether Gymnasium, and a memorial meeting was held in Bryn Mawr (Pennsylvania), where she had taught, and where she had died in 1935.

E.G.L.

C. C. Aronsfeld

## RATHENAU'S ASSASSINATION

### Road Opened to Final Solution 60 Years Ago

The Weimar Republic provides the historian with many opportunities to prove himself a prophet by hindsight, and few are more poignant than the assassination, on 24 June 1922, of Walther Rathenau, the Jew who was German Foreign Secretary. If ever a murder was not a single doom, it was this, and it now appears like a flash that lights up the road to Auschwitz. While the crime was terrible enough in itself, even worse, if anything, was the widespread indifference which let it pass and the by no means negligible sympathy, secret or undisguised, which abetted the assassins until they were, in Hitler's first year of power, hailed as national heroes.

In retrospect it may appear strange that a Jew once was Foreign Minister of Germany. Rathenau was in fact a German more than a Jew, and such are the paradoxes of history that he was not too far removed from those nationalists who killed him. He was certainly not an admirer of the democratic Republic which succeeded the Hohenzollern monarchy. He was an aristocrat in the Prussian tradition, a zealous patriot who had organised much of Germany's war economy to such an extent that the then German Chancellor complimented him on having "saved Germany" from premature disaster. Nothing so saddened him as the disability which debarred him, a Jew, from a career in the Kaiser's army, and he loved the blonde Germanic race, preferably when purged of its Judaeo-Christian veneer. His people, he once said, were "the Germans, nobody else".

The assassination of Rathenau was the almost inevitable result of an atmosphere of violence which had been developing in Germany since the end of the war. Hitler's S.A. storm troopers, then in their infancy, who had a line about "the Jews' blood spurting off the knife", also used to sing "Kill him, kill that Rathenau - The God-damn Jewish sow", or in just as plain prose, the doom was pronounced on that "raving beast of finance without a fatherland, sucking Germany dry".

Such was the tone of the Nazi meetings in those days, advertised under slogans like "The Jew as the Enemy of Man", and crowded halls resounded with screams "Hang the Jews!", "Kill the Jews!". ("Gas the Jews!" was left to the murderers' Government 20 years later.) A contemporary press report on Hitler's speeches said: "What we were told defies description. Incitement after incitement to murder the Jews, and each time a pause had to be made

because every one of these outbursts of brutality resulted in the bourgeois rabble screeching and howling its approval".

Yet many respectable nationalists never seemed to be disturbed - no more than the present "revisionist historians" who deny the holocaust as if it were a figment of our imagination and had never been forecast by years of unceasing incitement to murder. Hitler, they tell us, "never knew" - he, the instigator and bellwether of murder, the man of whom the classic historian of the Nazi movement, Konrad Heiden, wrote: "Where Hitler began to speak murder could be expected as a result".

#### "Atmosphere of Murder"

On the day after the assassination of Rathenau, the then Reich Chancellor Josef Wirth pointed an accusing finger not only at the indoctrinated murderers (who committed suicide) but also and especially at those who had "created the atmosphere of murder in Germany" and so were "injecting the poison into the wounds of our nation". The same accusing finger might well be pointed now at those distorters and debauchers of history who seek to whitewash the murderers by brazenly pretending there never was an attempt to exterminate the Jews.

The unscrupulous propaganda which incited the lawlessness of violence was denounced by the Supreme Court in its judgment on the surviving accomplices of Rathenau's murderers: "Behind the assassins (it said) there stands the principal culprit - the irresponsible fanatical antisemitism which, employing all the resources of inflammatory defamation, of which the scurrilous and libellous 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion' are one example, slanders the Jew as such, irrespective of his person, and thus plants the instincts of murder in immature and unbalanced minds". The Court added the pathetic warning: "May the sacrificial death of Rathenau, who realised only too clearly the risk he ran in taking up office... serve to lead the gravely ill Germany, fast sinking in a morass of moral corruption, back to health again".

For a moment it seemed as if the air had been cleared. People were aroused, the Reichstag passed a Law for the Defence of the Republic; even nationalists condemned the murder as "one of the most horrible, treacherous crimes that ever defiled the history of erring mankind".

But this was, on the Right wing, a solitary voice,

and such was the state of public opinion generally that the law was never conscientiously enforced; the authority of the democratic courts in fact became a laughing stock. The murderers could with impunity be extolled as men of chivalry and honour. The notorious antisemite Theodor Fritsch was allowed not only to blame the Jews (for "hoping to exploit the death of Rathenau for their own ends") but actually to threaten them with "wholesale killings".

By 1932, a few months before his appointment as Chancellor, Hitler publicly made common cause with five storm troopers who had been sentenced to death for the particularly revolting murder of a Communist. So far from claiming not to know, he went out of his way to hearten and assure them: "My comrades, I consider myself at one with you in unbounded loyalty".

The staunchly democratic *Frankfurter Zeitung* then commented: "Who will have any sympathy if the leader of a great political movement has the audacity and so little scruple as to issue to drunken killers a declaration of honour?"

A few weeks later Hitler was in power, and now the glorification of murder became official business. In July 1933 a memorial tablet to Rathenau's assassins was unveiled at a special ceremony; the "champions of the new Germany" were extolled by S.S. chief Himmler and S.A. chief Roehm who boasted, with every justification, the murderers had "set an example to the storm troopers and other comrades".

Within twelve months, Roehm himself was murdered by those "other comrades" (Hitler amongst them) and less than ten years later the Government, ever loyal to the ceaselessly incited murderers, found it safe to perpetrate the "wholesale killings" which were plainly, if incredibly, threatened in 1922, when the assassination of Walther Rathenau marked the first sheet lightning of the Final Solution.

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### FRIENDS OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem will take place on Wednesday, 30 June, at 6.00pm, in the Beveridge Hall, at Senate House, University of London, Malet Street, London WC1.

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## IN MEMORIAM

### GEORGE HIM

George Him (Himmelfarb), the artist, designer and illustrator, has died in London aged 81. Born in Lodz and educated in Warsaw, Moscow and Bonn (where he became a doctor of comparative religion), George Him went on to study at the Leipzig Academy of Art and remained there as a graphic designer until the advent of Hitler. He then returned to Warsaw and formed the design team LeWitt-Him but, amidst Europe's worsening political situation, came to England in 1937. In Britain his creative talent was recognised, not only through financial success, but also by his nomination in 1978 as Royal Designer for Industry, a title shared by only 70 people. Many amusing posters sprang from his drawing-board, as well as the Festival of Britain's Festival Clock. On more serious themes, George Him designed the Warsaw Ghetto Exhibition in London (1962), the Israeli National Pavilion at Montreal (1967) and the Masada Exhibition at the Royal Festival Hall (1966).

### FRITZ V. GRUENFELD

Dr. Fritz Vincent Gruenfeld died recently in Israel at the age of 85. He had run the well-known, long-established Berlin linen-goods enterprise F. V. Gruenfeld, which was confiscated in 1938, with Dr. Gruenfeld emigrating to Palestine the year after. Four years ago he published his autobiographical memoir "Heimgesucht - Heimgefunden" (Arani Verlag, 1 Berlin 31). A book on his firm, "Das Leinenhaus Grünfeld", was published by Verlag Duncker & Humblot in 1967 in Berlin. He was an art lover who had attended the Wilhelmgymnasium and was a pupil of Dr. Leo Baeck.

E.G.L.

### HANS FUERSTENBERG: SON OF FAMOUS FATHER

Hans Fuerstenberg died at his Chateau Beaumesnil in Normandy recently at the age of 92. Born in Berlin, he emigrated in 1936 and lived in France and Switzerland. He wrote the biography of his famous father, the wit Carl Fuerstenberg (1850-1933), who had learned banking in the house of S. Bleichröder and was the managing director of the Handels-Gesellschaft from 1885. From 1952 to 1969 Hans was again the board chairman of that firm, later called the Berliner Handels- und Frankfurter Bank, later being honorary chairman. He wrote an essay on Walther Rathenau in 1964 and published his memoirs the following year, called "Mein Weg als Bankier und Carl Fuerstenbergs Altersjahre". Hans was an art collector and bibliophile.

E.G.L.

### PROF. GERHARD LEIBHOLZ

The eminent jurist Professor Gerhard Leibholz, to whom tribute was paid in our November 1981 issue on the occasion of his 80th birthday, died recently. From 1951 until his retirement in 1971, he was a judge at the Bundesverfassungsgericht in Karlsruhe. He was also Professor at Goettingen University until 1972.

### KONRAD WOLF

The death was announced a few weeks ago of 56-year-old Konrad Wolf, son of the playwright Friedrich Wolf and President of the East Berlin Academy of Arts. As a boy, he emigrated with his family to France and then to Switzerland—where Friedrich Wolf's famous play "Professor Mamlock" was staged—and finally to Russia. During the war, Konrad Wolf served in the Red Army, afterwards returning to East Germany where he made the film "Stars", dealing with the deportation of Balkan Jews to Auschwitz, and a new version of "Professor Mamlock". He was regarded as one of East Germany's leading film directors and was the youngest ever president of the Academy of Arts.

### JOSEPH LINTON

Israel's first diplomatic representative in Britain, Joseph Linton has died in London at the age of 81. Born in Poland, Mr. Linton was brought up in Leeds and joined the London headquarters of the Jewish Agency. There he became political secretary as well as Chaim Weizmann's own secretary. At the moment of Israel's establishment, he was appointed Consul-General in London by the Provisional Government and in the following year received Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin's formal recognition of the Jewish State. He represented Israel in a number of countries in the ensuing years and in 1963, after he had left the Diplomatic Service, Mrs. Meir conferred on him the personal rank of Ambassador.

### THEODORE CUMMINGS

Theodore Cummings, President Reagan's closest Jewish friend and Ambassador to Austria, died a short time ago at the age of 73. Born in Austria, he was taken to America in 1920 by his family and while still a young man he built up a chain of supermarkets in California.

### KURT EULENBURG

Kurt Eulenburg, who has just died, had attained the great age of 103. He was born in Leipzig, the son of the music publisher Ernst Eulenburg. He took over his father's firm in 1926 and immersed himself in the production of pocket music scores. Although his father had begun this work Kurt Eulenburg sought out the services of leading musicologists, including Alfred Einstein, to help in the choice and editing of scores. In 1939, he founded the London branch of his firm and then spent the war years in Switzerland, afterwards returning to England. He did not retire until he was 90, when Eulenburg's pocket scores had achieved worldwide use and acclaim.

### HELENE DEUTSCH

One of Freud's pupils and a leading psychologist, Dr. Helene Deutsch, has died at Cambridge, Mass., at the age of 97. Appointed director of the Psychoanalytical Society of Vienna in 1923, she left Europe for America in 1935.

### MRS. MELANIE OPPENHEJM

The daughter of a Hamburg banking family, Mrs. Melanie Oppenheim (née Mathiason) has died in Copenhagen at the age of 84. She was co-founder and chairman of Youth Aliyah in Denmark. During the years of the Third Reich, she saved some 500 Jewish children by arranging for them to be hidden on farms as agricultural trainees. In 1943, she and her family tried to escape to Sweden from Denmark, but their rowing boat was captured by the Nazi occupiers and they were sent to Theresienstadt. For the rest of her life Mrs. Oppenheim suffered as a result of the inhuman conditions in the camp and she described her experiences in her biography "The Mantrap".

### MISS LORE PHILIP

Lore Philip, who died on 10th April, will be greatly missed by the many organizations with which she was connected.

She came to this country in 1933, working as a domestic, and then as a secretary/driver to a doctor. Later she joined the Manchester Jewish Refugee Committee where she worked assiduously to help bring people out of Austria and Germany and helped them settle in the Manchester area. She worked as a social worker for the Jewish Blind Society, she became a medical social worker at the Jewish Hospital, and still found time to do other voluntary work.

In her capacity as Hon. Social Worker for the Morris Feinmann Homes, a position she held for many years, she eased the work of the committee by visiting and assessing applicants for permanent residence, and she presented their cases with great vigour and skill. Her interest in people, and her compassion for them were outstanding features of her character; she was never afraid to speak her mind in the interest of her many causes. Her death is deeply felt by those of us who worked closely with her.

Morris Feinmann Homes Trust E. R. KINGSLEY  
Manchester Hon. Chairman  
Executive Committee

### MAXMILIAN HERZBERGER

A physicist, friend and student of Albert Einstein, Dr. Maximilian Herzberger died recently at the age of 83. His doctorate was obtained at the University of Berlin in 1923, but in 1934 he was obliged to emigrate to the United States, where he worked for Eastman Kodak for 30 years. Dr. Herzberger occupied an important position in the field of optical studies: it was he who developed the superachromat lens, so ending the 300-year-old problem of colour distortion in glass. He was the author of many books and papers and a founder of the Optical Institute in Zurich. As well as his scientific ability, Dr. Herzberger was a chess master who could successfully take on 30 opponents simultaneously.

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Egon Larsen

## THEOLOGY AFTER THE HOLOCAUST

"Can or should a theology which made Auschwitz possible, continue to exist after and despite Auschwitz?"—this is how a German paperback of well over 600 pages, *Auschwitz als Herausforderung für Juden und Christen* (Verlag Lambert Schneider, Heidelberg), defines its basic theme. A strange title: how can mass murder be a mere "challenge" to the victims, the bereaved, and the survivors? But then, theology is a special field with its own special terminology, and all the contributors to this book are theologians. It is a collection of the speeches and discussions at a three-day seminar, with 230 participants, held at Cologne on the fortieth anniversary of "Crystal Night", complemented by some articles and interviews on the subject of "Theology after Auschwitz". The seminar was organized jointly by the *Theologischer Ausschuss der Kölnischen Gesellschaft für christlich-jüdische Zusammenarbeit*, the Roman-Catholic Municipal Education Council, and the Evangelical *Stadtkirchenverband*—quite a formidable array of religious groups. It is all the more meretricious, not to say offputting, that the publishers are offering the volume as No. 1 of a series they call *Tachless: Zur Sache*; the whole series is edited by a theologian and radio journalist, Günther Bernd Ginzler, born in Innsbruck in 1946.

The book is very much Herr Ginzler's enterprise. He wrote the preface, the introduction, and several contributions, including interviews and discussions with various Jewish and Christian personalities. The names of the Catholic and Protestant participants at the seminar may be little known outside Central Europe, but those of the Jewish ones are interesting to us. There were two interpreters of Martin Buber's work, Ernst (Akiba) Simon from Berlin, now professor of pedagogics in Israel, and Yehoshua Amir, formerly Hermann Neumark, from Duisburg, now professor at the universities of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem; the Bohemian-born Emil Davidovic, an Auschwitz survivor, now *Landesrabbiner* of Westphalia; Israel Meir Levinger, born in Jerusalem, a Talmud expert, now rabbi in Basel; and Nathan Peter Levinson, who studied under Leo Baeck in Berlin and is now *Landesrabbiner* of Baden. But the Jew who, though not taking part at the Cologne seminar, is quoted most

frequently throughout the book is the writer Elie Wiesel, another Auschwitz survivor.

The record of the German Christian churches' resistance against the Nazi regime is documented, but it was not, as we know, very forceful; strangely enough, Martin Niemöller's name is mentioned only in passing and in a couple of footnotes in Ginzler's book.

But the problem that seems to worry most of the contributors is that of "theodicy", the vindication of God's providence—even His very existence—in view of the Holocaust. Neither the Christian nor the Jewish participants could think of a convincing explanation. However, it is a Protestant theologian, Bertold Klappert, who answers that question by quoting Elie Wiesel—with another set of questions: "Why does the Messiah, the Son of Man, not come when the world is so evil? What must still happen to lure him out of that redeeming future? Are six million Jewish victims not enough? Since the Messiah, the Son of Man, did not come in the face of that catastrophe, what should he come for at all? And suppose he would still come after Auschwitz, after the murder of six million Jews, would that not be too late for him as the representative of Israel's and the world's messianic and redeeming hope?" These questions remained unanswered; all the theologians could do was to retreat into the recesses of theology and wrestle with their faith.

None of the wrestling the New York Jewish journalist Michael Selzer may have done in connection with his recent book on the last hours at the Dachau KZ can have been with his conscience. For this paperback entitled *Deliverance Day* (Sphere Books, London, £1.25) is the slick, superficial reporting job of an outsider whose main concern is that of publicising the role of the American Army in capturing Dachau on April 29, 1945. He wrote it in the vein of an old-style Hollywood film script, with the U.S. Cavalry riding to the rescue in a Western. Selzer has managed to find and interview some of the 30,000 liberated prisoners; he invented dialogues as well as the thoughts and feelings of the murderers' and torturers' victims; in short: it is tabloid sensationalism of the crudest kind. Since quite a number of survivors have published their own accounts during the last three decades, there was really no need for Selzer to muscle in with his concoction. The book's only historical value lies in its harrowing illustrations.

### HIMMLER'S DIARIES FOR YAD VASHEM

An important cache of documents has come to light among a group of ex-Nazis living in Paraguay during the years following the end of the Second World War. Smuggled into South America by Heinrich Himmler's personal secretary, the material comprises thousands of the Reichsführer-SS's letters, some of them addressed to friends and acquaintances and others on official business, together with Himmler's diaries and those of his wife and daughter. For many years the Paraguayan Germans kept the documents from public view or sale, in case they could turn out to compromise former Nazis who were still holding important positions in East and West Germany. Now, with most of their comrades retired or dead, they have sold them to a group of non-Jewish Americans. The moving spirit behind the purchase, however, was Chaim Rosenthal, formerly an Israeli consul in New York, who intends to present the papers to Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and to Tel Aviv University.

### ARCHBISHOP RE-OPENS ATTACK

The former Greek Catholic Vicar of East Jerusalem and the West Bank has resumed his activities against Israel, notwithstanding the promise he made to the Pope not to indulge in political acts. Archbishop Hilarion Capucci has told the Swiss Communist newspaper "Voix Ouvrière" that Israel discriminated against Christians as much as against Moslems. Archbishop Capucci was sentenced to 12 years in an Israeli prison in 1974 for smuggling arms into the country for use by terrorists. He was released on the plea of Pope Paul VI three years later.

### Ancient Bible Page Found

When anti-Jewish violence broke out in Aleppo in 1948, among the valuable articles lost or destroyed were 200 pages of the Aleppo Codex, the oldest known manuscript of the complete Hebrew Bible. The remaining 600 pages were smuggled to Israel some years later and are housed in the Jewish National Library of the Hebrew University. One of the missing pages has now turned up in Syria; after authentication by scholars, a facsimile copy of the page has been lodged in the Jewish National Library. The Aleppo Codex was the work of Aaron ben Asher and Maimonides considered it authoritative.

### YAD VASHEM'S MUSEUM OF ART

Several weeks ago, Yad Vashem opened its own art gallery exhibiting paintings, drawings and sketches recording scenes from the Holocaust. Some are mere scribbles done on the spot, others are finished images of a remembered incident, for the object is not to present great works of art but expressions of real-life experience. Adolf Adler has painted a girl's hand thrust through a gap in the side of a goods wagon and holding an empty jam jar; he has entitled it "A Drop of Water". Halina Olomucki's pen and ink drawing shows another child, this time in the Warsaw Ghetto, imploring "Don't shoot my mother". Although dozens of works are on display, Yad Vashem possesses many more which will no doubt eventually be seen in the new building, a gift from members of the French Jewish Resistance.

### BERLIN'S MAYOR IN ISRAEL

On a visit to Israel, during which he met Mr. Begin, President Navon, Teddy Kollek and others, Mayor Richard von Weizsäcker of Berlin expressed the hope that the Federal Republic's Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, would shortly carry out his proposed trip to the Jewish State. The Mayor told newsmen that direct contact was better than "abstract" Middle East declarations by Europeans, which only seemed to show that they passed resolutions on other parts of the world as a way of evading difficulties nearer home.

### CENSOR'S BOOK LISTS REVEALED

After inflated foreign reports of book-banning in the Occupied Territories, journalists have been shown the Israeli Army's censorship lists. There are 1,100 titles on the "Index", contrary to press reports of two to four thousand, and they do not include Alan Moorehead's "Blue Nile and White Nile", Orwell's "1984" or even works by Nahguib Mahfouz and Tewfik El-Hakim, all of which were specifically mentioned by the "New York Times". The ban covers inflammatory anti-Israel or antisemitic works only, according to Army sources.

### CAMPS

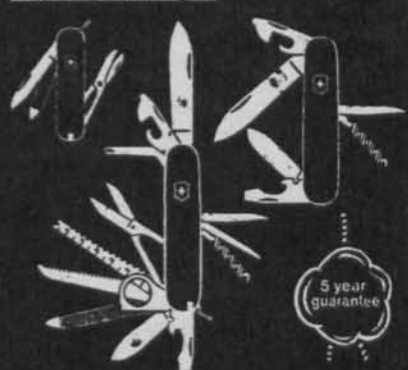
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## BIRTHDAYS

### ERNEST M. FOULKES at 80

On May 24th Ernest Foulkes celebrated his 80th birthday and none of his many friends will believe it. His youthful spirit, his attitude to life and his wit hide the fact that he is now an octogenarian.

Ernst Fuchs was born in Frankfurt in 1902. After his school finals he studied at the Technische Hochschule in Berlin, specialised in factory planning and qualified as a doctor of engineering in 1929. He left Germany first for Spain in 1933, and arrived in this country in 1936. He set up Machine Shop Equipment Ltd. together with another refugee from Germany. At the beginning of the Second World War both men were interned on the Isle of Man.

He returned to his business in 1945 and changed to medical equipment in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and started to develop centrifuges. In 1946 he set up his factory in Crawley New Town, one of the first companies to do so, and retained his head office in Victoria. His company grew, expanded and prospered exporting centrifuges to all parts of the world including Russia, China and Cuba. In 1966 he was awarded the Queen's Award to Industry for export achievements. In 1972 he sold his company to Fisons and was made Vice-Chairman of Fison's Scientific Equipment branch.

He started devoting his energies to setting up a Foundation aimed at helping graduates with medical qualifications with financial grants to continue their studies in order to obtain a scientific qualification and vice versa. The Ernest Foulkes Foundation at the Royal College of Surgeon's awards about eight fellowships each year. These are picked from country-wide applications by a panel of highly respected advisers including Professor Sir Hans Kornberg of Cambridge University, Sir Robert Bellinger, and the founder. The entire venture is

strongly backed by Sir Gordon Wolstenholme of the CIBA Foundation, who also give secretarial and administrative support.

All these advisers, trustees and other supporters give their services voluntarily as this Foundation is recognised as being unique in its concept and of inestimable value to the Fellows and ultimately to the country as a whole.

Ernest Foulkes then became a C.B.E. in the New Year's Honours list 1979. Since then he has created a similar Foundation in Israel. He is a very active member of the B'nai B'rith Jerusalem (Wembley) Lodge and a long-standing member of the A.J.R.

We wish Ernest Foulkes further decades of good health and successful socially beneficial activities.

EJM

### DR. FRANZ GUMPERT, 75

Dr. Franz Gumpert, head of the London Office of the United Restitution Organisation, will be 75 on June 29. Brought up in Breslau, he joined the F.W.V. fraternity during his student days. Shortly after having passed his legal examinations his career came to an end due to the ascent of the Nazi regime. He first emigrated to India, where he spent many years. Later he settled in this country. In 1964 he was appointed legal adviser to URO. In the course of time, he remained the only qualified lawyer on the staff. This puts a heavy burden on him. Dr. Gumpert deals with every claim with meticulous conscientiousness and, by his human approach, has obtained the trust and gratitude of all his clients. We thank him for all he has done, and is still doing, for the benefit of our fellow refugees and wish him health and undiminished vigour for the continuation of the work for which he is indispensable.

### DR. S. F. HALLGARTEN, 80

On June 6, our friend Dr. S. F. Hallgarten will celebrate his 80th birthday. A lawyer by profession, he took charge of the family's old-established wine merchant firm, which was transferred to this country. He retired a few years ago but by no means became a gentleman of leisure. He wrote several books on German wines and also became an authority on international wine law. As a student he joined the K.C. fraternity and he is closely associated with the group of former K.C. members in this country. The AJR considers it a privilege that it may count him among its Board members and joins his numerous friends in wishing him many happy returns of the day.

### TRENK-TREBITSCH REACHES 80

Born in Vienna eighty years ago, Willy Trenk-Trebitsch recently celebrated his birthday in Berlin after a career which had led him through the works of Brecht and Weill, exile in America and back to Germany, where he has established a place for himself in today's mass media. His recording of the character Mack the Knife in "Dreigroschenoper" continues to give pleasure to thousands.

### FISCHER PAPERBACK ANNIVERSARY

Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag celebrates thirty years of successful publishing this year. In 1952 Gottfried Bermann Fischer, the son-in-law of publisher S. Fischer, decided to put out a series of paperback editions which he intended to be something better than mere cheap reprints. Five thousand titles have appeared since then, with 1,500 still in print. Best-sellers of this venture are "The Diary of Anne Frank", of which nearly 2 million copies have been sold, followed by the Fischer world almanach and Kafka's "The Trial".

### 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

**Fuss:**— Ilse Fuss, of 55, Aytoun Road, Glasgow, G41, will be celebrating her 80th birthday on the 8 July.

**Schuller:**— Mrs. E. Schuller, formerly Cologne, celebrated her 90th birthday on 26 March.

#### Marriage

**Abel-Schwarz:**— The marriage took place on 4 February 1982 of Judy, daughter of Mrs. Martha Abel and the late Mr. Walter Abel and Mr. Dierik Schwarz. They are now known as "Mr. and Mrs. D. Abel-Schwarz", 41, Broom Lane, Salford M7 0FF.

#### Deaths

**Ballheimer:**— Hedwig Ballheimer died peacefully at home on 5 May in her 89th year. Loved by all who knew her.

**Klein:**— Mr. David Klein, the husband of the late Mrs. Ella Klein, died on 13 April 1982 at Morris Feinmann House, 178, Palatine Road, Manchester, M20 8UW. He will be most sadly missed by his many friends and by all at the Morris Feinmann House.

**Probstein:**— Hanna Probstein, formerly London, died suddenly on the 23 March, deeply missed by husband and friends. Via Riviera 28, CH-6976 Castagnola-Lugano.

**Reichold:**— Mr. J. Reichold passed away on the 26 April in Osmond House. Deeply mourned by his relatives and friends.

**Rosenthal-Litten:**— Dr. Kate Rosenthal-Litten, Zurich, passed away on 6 May. Greatly missed by her brother and many friends.

### CLASSIFIED

*The charge in these columns is 50p for five words plus 50p for advertisements under a Box No.*

#### Miscellaneous

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#### Family Research

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### INFORMATION REQUIRED

#### A.J.R. Enquiry

**Ogden:**— Mrs. Eva Ogden, last known address 6, Deyne Avenue, Prestwich/Lancs.

#### Personal Enquiries

**Fink:**— Franz Fink, formerly Vereeniging (South Africa) sought by Herbert Landsberg, Caixa Postal 3593, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

**Joseph:**— Mr. Walter Joseph, last known address Putney, is being sought by Mrs. M. V. Schreiber, 17, Ranelagh Drive, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 8HJ.

**Russo:**— Klara Russo née Jaffé, born 1876 Eberswalde, married 1919 Berlin, lived 1919-1939 Wernigerode (Harz), died childless in Auschwitz. Relations sought concerning compensation claim. Box 923.

## NEWS FROM GERMANY

### JEWES FROM BAD NAUHEIM DISTRICT

For a historical documentation, former residents of Bad Nauheim, Usingen, Schluechtern and surrounding places, who can give information about the former Jewish communities and the fates of individual members, are asked to get in touch with: Stephen Kolb, E.M. Arndt Strasse 38, D-6350 Bad Nauheim, W. Germany. Tel: 06032 84612.

### RECTOR'S AIMS FOR HEIDELBERG HOCHSCHULE

Professor Shemaryahu Talmon of the Hebrew University has been appointed Rector of the Heidelberg Hochschule für Jüdische Studien in succession to Professor Leon A. Feldmann. Professor Talmon, originally from Breslau, emigrated to Palestine in 1939 where he pursued a brilliant academic career and became a guest lecturer in a number of universities in Britain, America and West Germany. He envisages the Heidelberg institution both as a centre for Jewry and as a point from which Jewish culture can radiate throughout the whole country.

### FRIEND TO JEWS HONOURED

Heinz Galinski, the President of the Jewish Community, and Richard von Weizsäcker, Mayor of Berlin, were present at a recent ceremony in which Pnina Ben-Ari, wife of the Israel Ambassador to the Bundesrepublik, conferred on Baroness Maimi Celina von Mirbach the Yad Vashem Medal and the title "Righteous among the Gentiles". The award was made to mark the solidarity with persecuted Jews which the Baroness had openly shown throughout the Nazi period, even at the risk of her own life.

### STUTTGART CAMPAIGN AGAINST FOREIGNERS

Since January this year a number of firms in the Stuttgart area have received threatening letters calling for the dismissal of foreign employees. All the letters came from the so-called Aktionsgruppe Albert Leo Schlageter and bore the motto "Germany for the Germans!". In some cases money up to 100,000 DM was demanded with threats of violence if it was not forthcoming. The investigating team are taking these menaces "very seriously".

### PARCHMENT FROM HUMAN SKIN

#### Report by Dachau Prisoner

The camp book-binding shop at Dachau concentration camp also had to cater for special requests by high ranking SS-officers.

In 1943, the air-force and SS-officer Dr. Sigismund Rascher brought parchment made of human skin, as well as the score of Beethoven's 9th symphony into the book-binding shop. He proudly declared that the symphony's final movement—set to Schiller's "Ode to Joy"—was one of the most brilliant creations of GERMANY. He therefore decreed that these sheets of music should be bound in human skin, precious, unique human parchment.

Dr. Rascher also had lampshades made of the same material. For that purpose he needed choicest, most transparent parchment made from human skin. The shades had to be encrusted with paintings of precious stones, such as rubies, amethysts, sapphires, because Dr. Rascher, who had hundreds of prisoners murdered in his "medical experiments", reasoned: — "These stones are the links between living and dead tissue and therefore of greatest importance for us Germans, we who accept equally both life and death."

*This Report deposited in the Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes, was written by Alois Peter, Zwerggasse 5/14, 1020 Wien and handed to Ferdinand Hackl on 28/10/1981. Alois Peter had fought in Spain and was imprisoned in Dachau from 1941 to 1945. He worked in the camp's book-binding shop. His concentration camp number was 25113.*

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# THEATRE AND CULTURE

PAUL EPPSTEIN

**Arthur Schnitzler Memorial.** After duly remembering this "classic" Austrian dramatist 50 years after his death, revivals of the author's plays have characterized 1981/82 in many German speaking theatres, and Frankfurt arranged special shows of film versions of "Liebelei" and "Reigen." In Britain, "La Ronde" appeared in various interpretations, ranging from a "Two actors' show" at the Crucible, Sheffield, to the Aldwych Theatre's much discussed production. Schnitzler's home town, Vienna, has just honoured his memory with a newly-sculptured bust which was unveiled at a festive ceremony. A Committee to preserve the memory of this eminent writer included many actors actively connected with the author's works, among them Elisabeth Bergner, Paula Wessely and Hans Thimig.

**Der Fall Maurizius.** Jakob Wassermann, born in Fuerth in 1873, was a much respected Jewish novelist who reached the zenith of fame in the Twenties; his "Fall Maurizius" (1928) was highly praised at the time of its first publication by Thomas Mann and the American writer Henry Miller. The novel, transformed into a dramatic version in five parts, was recently serialized by German ZDF Television.

**Birthdays.** *Walter Slezak*, international stage and film star, son of Leo Slezak, the tenor and (later) film comedian, celebrated his 80th birthday. *Michael Jary*, called the "Evergreen King" who has written numerous lyrics and song hits and, in particular, many Zarah Leander songs, is 75. Mannheim-born *Carl Raddatz*, still much in the limelight as "Staatsschauspieler" in Berlin, has reached the milestone of 70.

**Obituary.** *Vera Balser-Eberle*, born in Augsburg, actress at the Vienna Burgtheater from 1931 to 1964, has died in Vienna at the age of 84. After playing prominent parts in early years (Schiller's Elisabeth, and Leonore Sanvitale in Goethe's "Tasso") she was mainly seen in smaller character rôles, and was a much appreciated elocution teacher at Vienna's Reinhardt Seminar. It has been learned belatedly that *Tatjana Sais* died in Berlin, aged 71. She was born in Frankfurt and discovered by Werner Finck for the "Katakombe" in 1934, after which she opened her own cabaret show "Der Tatzelwurm", and later became life and soul of the cabaret "Die Insulaner", founded by Guenter Neumann, her husband. S.B.

Sir, — Like many other friends and associates of the late Paul Eppstein, I have long been distressed by the criticism levelled against him by the author of the major study of the Theresienstadt concentration camp. The best way to deal with the criticism would be another study of that infamous "Altersghetto" and the ethnic tensions and power conflicts among its inmates which, in the opinion of this writer, strongly coloured the report in question. Another way of restoring this outstanding Jewish leader, socialist and sociologist to his rightful place in history would be a collection and publication of his works. One might also create a scholarship fund for Jewish sociology students in his name.

I was associated with Dr. Eppstein and his wonderful wife Hedwig in Berlin between 1936 and 1942, and I knew him as a warm-hearted friend, a clear thinker, a dedicated Zionist, and free of illusions about Nazi policies. Even then he would express his feeling that we lived on borrowed time, and that we would not come out alive in the end. Yet, following a trip by his wife to New York he rejected emigration and preferred to stay on, with Otto Hirsch and other like-minded men. His differences with Leo Baeck did not originate in matters of personal life style, as is often asserted, but in temperamental and age differences, as well as policy matters, such as priorities in Jewish policy, and plain power conflicts. If this evaluation agrees with the Hebrew book mentioned (March issue, p.11) shouldn't the book be translated, or excerpts published by you?

City College, N.Y.

(Prof.) HERBERT A. STRAUSS

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