

## INDOMITABLE CENTENARIAN

### The Margaret Jacoby Saga

Year after year, we have conveyed our congratulations to Mrs. Margaret Jacoby in this paper on the occasion of her birthday on May 22, and there were detailed articles about her personality and her achievements in many spheres whenever she reached an important date. Yet this time, a reference to her is of unique significance, not only because she becomes a centenarian but because there are few centenarians who are still as alert and active as she is. It is not easy to add much to what was written about her 15, 10 and five years ago. On those occasions we expressed to her our deepfelt love and our admiration of her activities which belied her age. Almost the only way in which we can give special weight to the most happy return of the day is the exceptional arrangement of dedicating the front page of this edition to her.

The remarkable feature of Margaret Jacoby's life is that she has always taken an active, indeed a leading part in the service of a variety of causes. The ground was already laid in her youth. Her father, Geheimer Justizrat Julius Orgler, was the first Jewish lawyer in Posen. He was chairman of the Chamber of Lawyers and of the City's Municipal Assembly. Later, he was made a Freeman of Posen. He also played a leading part in the Jewish community as chairman of its congregation. Her equally public spirited mother was Vice-Chairman of the local group of the "Vaterlaendische Frauenverein". The daughter's pride in her origin is symbolised by the fact that in the London telephone directory her name is not just entered among the numerous other "Jacobys", but separately as Mrs. M. Jacoby-Orgler.

Hers was a happy and carefree youth. Yet enjoyment was coupled from an early stage with a quest for responsible work. At a time when it was unusual and in many cases even frowned upon for middle class girls to embark on a career or to take up paid employment she trained as a kindergarten teacher and did voluntary work in a Jewish kindergarten. She also helped in a "Jugendhort" with 40, mainly Polish, children.

When she became the wife of Martin Jacoby, he was extraordinary Professor of Pharmacology at Heidelberg University. The couple settled in Berlin, where Professor Jacoby became head of the laboratory of the physiological-chemical department of the Krankenhaus Moabit. He held this position until he was dismissed by the Nazis in 1933. Margaret Jacoby became active in the "Juedische Frauenbund" and

was elected Vice-Chairman of the Berlin group of this leading Jewish women's organisation. During the First World War she represented the Frauenbund at the "Nationale Frauendienst" and in recognition of her services she was awarded the German Cross of Merit, the Red Cross Medal and the "Ehrenzeichen" of the City of Berlin.



After the war, she did not restrict her work to Jewish organisations but also took an active part in general public affairs. She was the first Jewish woman to be appointed "Bezirksvorsteher" and she was also made a Justice of the Peace. Ironically, as a matter of routine, she was notified by the District Court in February 1933 that her office would be extended for a further three years: the "Amtsschimmel" had not kept pace with political developments. She also acted as chairman of her local polling station on the occasion of elections.

Her public activities were based on political convictions. As an active member of the German Democratic Party she was elected Councillor of the Borough of Tiergarten.

These various public activities also gave her a wider approach to her Jewish work, especially as a leading figure of the "Frauenbund". It was, among other things, due to her initiative and energy that a property in Berlin-Grunewald, donated for the benefit of a Jewish cause, was set up by the Jewish Frauenbund as a home for elderly people. Named

after the donor's deceased wife, Olga Stern, it became a widely recognised modern abode for people of the same background.

Yet one of her outstanding services was rendered during the emergency years 1938/9, when Jewish lives could only be saved by emigration. There was a demand for domestic servants in England but, as Margaret Jacoby had learned from English friends, there was a reluctance among the British authorities to admit girls from Germany because it had turned out that quite a few of them were spies. Margaret Jacoby established contacts with the London Jewish refugee organisation to organise the emigration of Jewish girls. She saw to it that they were first properly trained in Germany, vouched for their proficiency and their status as genuine Nazi victims and thus obtained visas for them. This involved intense day and evening work, which she carried out single-handedly with the help of a secretary. The name of "Frau Professor Jacoby" became known to even wider circles in those days, and many in this country owe their rescue to her tireless work.

#### Earning Her Living

She and her husband left Germany for England in the nick of time. Her husband, then already a septuagenarian and ailing, was no longer able to take up any appointment. He died in 1941. Margaret Jacoby, used to a comfortable life, had to earn her living. Like many of her background she did not shirk any work, which was certainly not "an ihrer Wiege gesungen". Her adaptability was astounding. She started as Matron of a hostel for refugee boys and girls in Manchester. Later, she worked for five years as a manageress in the former Sachs Boarding House at Adamson Road. For several years, this enterprise included a house across the road, which, at Mrs. Jacoby's initiative, was later acquired by the AJR Charitable Trust. It was her splendid idea to name this house after Hannah Karminski, the leading personality of the Juedische Frauenbund who voluntarily stayed in Germany and died a martyr's death. One of the residents of the Sachs Boarding House was the famous Ophthalmologist Professor Oskar Fehr. Mrs. Jacoby looked after him with care and devotion, and the feelings of gratitude and friendship he cherished for her are reflected in the message of his daughter, published in this issue.

Yet, contrary to most others of her age group, she did not restrict her life to the circle of refugees. In 1947, when she was already 65 years old, she took up a position in the county of Hertfordshire as a warden to the Land Army Girls' Hostels. Later, she returned to London to look after the residents of the hostel of the Board of Guardians (now Jewish Welfare Board) for people in need of mental aftercare and

*Continued on page 2*

# MARGARET JACOBY SAGA

rehabilitation, which operated first in Maresfield Gardens and afterwards in Daleham Gardens. She held this position for five years and retired in 1954 at the age of 72.

At the same time, throughout the years, Margaret Jacoby has remained a "political animal" as an active member of the Liberal Party, and in recognition of her valiant services the Women's Group of the Hampstead Liberal Association has elected her a Vice-President.

Yet her greatest achievement during the past quarter of a century has been the AJR Club. Together with the late Gertrud Schachne, she brought the Club into being, and she still stands at the helm. By a rare blend of charm and energy she gives guidance to the day-to-day work, whether it concerns matters of general policy or the well-being of one of the 400 members. Together with her Vice-Chairmen, Dora Segall and Herta Gelhar, she always aims at creating a happy atmosphere at the informal gatherings during the week and organises functions of various kinds. There are bazaars supported by a great number of voluntary helpers, there are celebrations of the Club's birthdays, there are musical functions, there are the Chanukah celebrations, ably compered by her old friends Arnold and Susanne Horwell with their well chosen records, and there are, last but not least, the Seder nights, conducted by Arnold Horwell. Few of the visitors who enjoy these functions can be aware of the great amount of detailed preparation that goes into them.

Within the framework of the AJR, the AJR Club holds pride of place. It provides a "home from home" for many in our midst. Therefore, the Executive of the AJR has special reason to convey its congratulations to Margaret Jacoby and to thank her for her unflinching services to our community. May she go on with the undiminished miraculous vigour for a long time to come.

W.R.

## OUR "MUTTCHEN"

I first met Margaret Jacoby in 1943, when my father, Professor Oscar Fehr, my sister and I moved into the Boarding House Sachs-Pick in Adamson Road. She was the manageress who quickly became like a mother to us, our "Muttchen".

I was happily married for 26 years, thanks to Margaret Jacoby. She invited Dr. Leopold Samson and myself for tea in 1948, thinking that we would get on well together. She was right: we married six months later. To our sons, she became their adored adopted "Granny".

Margaret Jacoby devoted all her spare time to my father, who had become blind, reading to him and helping him in all possible ways. When my father celebrated his 87th birthday in 1958, she gave him a tape recorder, so that he might dictate his biography. On the occasion of Mrs. Jacoby's 77th birthday in the following year, he spoke a touching poem into the tape recorder, in which he praised her loving kindness, her work for the Club and all she had done for him. The last lines read: "Was ich von Dir erfahren habe ist eine reine Himmelsgabe".

INGE SAMSON (née Fehr)

## THE KEY TO LONGEVITY

The hundredth birthday of Mrs. Margaret Jacoby is the greatest event in the life of our—her—CLUB. For months on end members have been talking about it and been looking forward to its celebration. It is wonderful to see Mrs. Jacoby every Tuesday and Thursday at work in the Club, thinking of everything, her lively interest in everybody undiminished and helping where help is needed. She also brings happiness to the members with her handwritten birthday cards, sometimes the only ones they get.

Is there a secret or mystery why only comparatively few people live to be a hundred and more, remaining active and able to enjoy life? Not so long ago an American writer and journalist, fascinated by the question of longevity, analysed and published the results of some 1,200 interviews with men and women from all walks of life. When I read a summary of this in a German newspaper under the heading "Kommt es auf Zufriedenheit an" (Is contentment a dominant factor?) I was fascinated too, and I thought immediately of Mrs. Jacoby. The findings applied to her so much that they could almost have been describing her.

## Zest for Life

This is what most of the people questioned had in common: None was given to extremes. They had led what one would have called in times gone by "a virtuous life". They had close family ties, had worked hard and enjoyed working. None had been in financial difficulties for any length of time, and they were able to face the vicissitudes of life with equanimity. They did not like changing their residence, if at all avoidable. (Mrs. Jacoby has been living at the same address since 1942), and they much preferred to stay in familiar surroundings. Their basic outlook was optimistic, and they did not let difficulties get the better of them. All had a healthy self-confidence and an unfailing zest for life. Most of them were unassuming in so far as they did not expect more from life than life had to offer them. They were not hankering after material possessions, were free of self-pity and did not dwell with undue regret on things they had lost or could not attain. And they were CONTENT! It seems to follow that it is not so much physical and emotional make-up but the way people face life and go about their daily tasks, and, most importantly, contentment, which are the keys to longevity.

## Contentment and Optimism

Is all this not astonishingly true of Mrs. Jacoby who radiates contentment and optimism?

Many tributes have been paid to Margaret Jacoby over the years and many will be paid to her on the occasion of this hundredth birthday. Hardly any words, however, could be more fitting than those from tributes paid to another distinguished centenarian, Sir Robert Mayer, contained in the Centenary Edition of "My First Hundred Years". Substituting "her" for "his" they read as follows:

"Devotion and concern for others have dominated her life. Those who work for her, love

her. They admire her energy, her drive and generosity . . .

"With so much to look back upon, she can look forward still. A hundred years old, but very young at heart. And still full of hopes and ideas for the future."

We can only again express our deep gratitude and thanks. May Mrs. Jacoby continue in good health to make us happy by being our Chairman (she refuses to become a "chairperson") for many years to come. May she delight us with her charisma, inspire us with her wisdom, humour, enthusiasm and loving care. May she find happiness in the love she gives to us, her "children", and in the knowledge of our admiration and love for her.

DORA SEGALL

## AUNT GRETE JACOBY

It is indeed a pleasure and an honour to write a short tribute to the much beloved Aunt Grete from the perspective of a family member. Aunt Grete and her husband, my father's brother, had no children of their own, and the relationship with my brother and me, her nephews on the Jacoby side, has been extremely close. Even as a child I remember her as the youthful Aunt who was always full of ideas and fun and loved children, wrote plays for family anniversaries and other occasions in which we were permitted to perform and, as the youngest member of her generation, always identified with the young people. She saw to it that the youngest at the table were served dessert first, no matter how large the party. To this day, she never forgets a birthday of a niece or nephew, great-niece or nephew, or even of a generation further removed.

What Gretchen Jacoby has accomplished in her diverse activities in England and especially at the AJR Club will be extolled by others. I knew her when she was the reigning Queen in her comfortable and hospitable home in a posh Berlin apartment, idolised by her husband, a renowned scientist, a gracious hostess to her friends and many young intellectuals and aspiring artists. Even then she was actively engaged in the serious tasks of social work which prepared her well for her career in England. She has been able to cope with the hardships of her life—emigration, the need to make a living for herself and her ailing husband and the tragedy of her husband's death. She moved to London during the Blitz, and after years of struggle, she had the vision and the courage to start a new venture—the Club—at the age of 74, when retirement from work was mandatory, but not retirement from a life devoted to service to others.

## 'Parent' to Everyone

My wife and I have found our frequent trips from New York to visit Aunt Grete in London enjoyable and stimulating. As the last surviving member of her generation, she is a "parent" to all of us who are no longer young and reside all over the world. For Tante Grete's special birthdays friends and relatives come from Australia, South Africa, U.S.A., and all parts of the United Kingdom. I think that Gretchen characterised herself when she gave the Club its motto on the occasion of her opening speech: "Heiterkeit, Herzlichkeit, Hilfsbereitschaft". We have always admired Tante Grete's extreme self-discipline and excellent organisational talent which has made it possible for her to remain a great lady at all times. In some way Gretchen has managed to develop her modest London lodgings on Belsize



## FURTHER BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES

Avenue into an "ancestral home" for the entire family . . . all of her relatives as well as the friends of relatives go there when they come to London.

It is always fun to spend time with Aunt Grete, and to travel with her. Unlike most old people, this lady lives in the present; without having forgotten the past, she never laments the loss of practically all of her contemporaries and maintains a keen interest in the younger and youngest generations. She is very proud of her heritage; she was born in Posen as a member of a prominent Jewish family, the Orglers. Descendants of the Orgler family will be well represented on the occasion of the 100th birthday, and I take the liberty to speak on behalf of all of them, as well as on behalf of my brother and his family, his wife and our children and grandchildren in extending heartiest congratulations on this great occasion. We wish Aunt Grete and all of us many more happy reunions in good health and contentment.

GUSTAV JACOBY  
New York City

### GRATITUDE AND LOVE

It is rare that anyone is given the chance to thank a centenarian. When such a moment presents itself, it is a humble and grateful feeling. Thus I consider it a privilege to offer the thanks of the AJR-Club to a truly great lady. "Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them" wrote Shakespeare, and he could not have paid a finer compliment to our dear Mrs. Jacoby. I cannot presume to comment on the first part of the quotation, for I did not know her in her childhood; but I can testify to the other two. She had already achieved greatness in her constant desire to dedicate herself to the service of others, when she was invited to form the AJR-Club - which undertaking did indeed "thrust" the greatness upon her.

With her valiant helpers (like the late Mrs. Schachne), she turned an unobtrusive groundfloor location into a regular haven for many, who, in spite of monetary compensation, did not feel truly compensated, for they were lonely and alone. For these, and they are many, she ran a "home" - not in any institutional sense (though at times her benevolent discipline is very necessary!) but through sheer devotion and dedication. Mindful of heritage and tradition, she used the home to inculcate adherence to our religious obligations, and her Seder Evenings outdid those of many a congregation in their planning and suitability for those who filled the rooms to capacity downstairs. She has kept alive in our minds the sense of responsibility for the Club through Bazaars (or other fund-raising functions); and she has always been aware of the need for intellectual stimuli by organising outings to stately homes or afternoons of entertainment in ours.

So far, these words must read like a list; and, indeed, that is what they are. For how can one thank or repay? It is only by listing, in deep gratitude, the achievements initiated and maintained that one can hope to do justice to that monumental work.

And so, on behalf of every member of her and our Club, I extend to her our deepest thanks for all she has done and, we pray, will still do for us. Let me put our congratulations in the words of C. S. Lewis: "Gratitude looks to the past; and love, to the present!"

C. H. GUTTMANN

### GREETINGS FROM JERUSALEM

My wish is to convey in this way my heartiest congratulations and respect to Mrs. Margaret Jacoby on the occasion of her approaching 100th birthday.

My own work as a political journalist was always connected with a different area of activity, but as far as I could, I observed her service in the field of human relations and I do not want to miss the opportunity of expressing my admiration for her humanitarian endeavours and her lively feeling for the needs of neighbours. Unfortunately, not feeling well myself, I am not able at this moment to write a full appreciation of her work, as she would deserve. I have to confine myself to a few but deeply felt words. All who know Mrs. Jacoby are familiar with her goodwill and her great gift of expressing real human feelings articulately with words of wit and sensitivity, which evoke the appropriate response in the heart of her listeners. Mrs. Jacoby has also been fortunate in finding a skilled and like-minded assistant in Mrs. Dora Segall, who has helped her to turn the AJR Club into a centre of meaningful social life, making its influence felt on all the people concerned. In this way, the intentions and achievements of Mrs. Jacoby have become part of the social awareness of a much wider circle, which remains grateful to her for what she has done during her fruitful life.

For all these achievements I want to congratulate Mrs. Jacoby and I believe I am speaking for many observers in expressing gratitude for her work of humanity which we hope will continue for a long time to come.

ROBERT WELTSCH  
Jerusalem

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### FOUNDER MEMBER OF SYNAGOGUE

I consider it a special privilege to join many other wellwishers in paying tribute to Mrs. Margaret Jacoby on the occasion of her hundredth birthday.

Mrs. Jacoby is a founder member of the Belsize Square Synagogue (New Liberal Jewish Congregation, as it was in earlier days). Her family traditions guided her towards our community, combining the best of conservative continental tradition with a cheerful outlook towards a progressive future.

A warm relationship was established between her and the religious and lay leaders of our synagogue and with individual members who also were — and are — members of the AJR Club; Rabbi Georg Salzberger was considered its chaplain and spiritual guide, and many of its functions were enhanced by the synagogue's cantors and choir, particularly the youth choir.

We wish her many more years in intellectual and physical freshness, attending our services and social functions, and enjoying a close relationship with synagogue and community.

ERNEST NATHAN  
Chairman  
Belsize Square Synagogue

### WORK FOR LIBERAL PARTY

To our very dear friend Mrs. Jacoby, congratulations and best wishes on reaching the great age of 100 years. This is indeed a wonderful occasion for all Liberals who know Mrs. Jacoby and the very good work she has done for the Liberal Party, in particular for the Hampstead Women's Liberal Association which she founded in the late '50s and has supported ever since. We now value her help and advice as Vice-President.

It is always the greatest pleasure to meet Mrs. Jacoby at many of our functions, her lively presence graces the occasion. Long may her valuable contribution continue.

Each year Mrs. Jacoby invites us to a most delightful coffee morning, at which one of our members provides some entertainment, either music or poetry reading. We extend our grateful thanks for this annual invitation which is very much appreciated.

We wish you all the very best from the Women's Liberal Association.

ELISABETH KAY,  
Chairman

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## COUNCIL OF JEWS FROM GERMANY

### Tel Aviv Meeting Held in March

The Council was formed in 1945 as an umbrella body comprising or to comprise the various organisations formed in all main centres of German-Jewish emigration of Nazi victims. Its purpose was to represent them on a global basis and to protect their rights and interests. It participated in the Hague negotiations in 1952 between the German Government and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany concerning restitution.

The Council did very good work in influencing and improving restitution and compensation legislation, in particular through the late Dr. Siegfried Moses, who followed the late Dr. Baeck as President, the late Dr. Walter Breslauer and Dr. Fritz Goldschmidt. The Council is a member of the Claims Conference.

It is interesting that as Dr. Capell, one of the three joint Chairmen, in his opening remarks stated, so far 63½ Milliards (now called 'billions') DM had been paid as compensation, and that until the year 2000 the total is anticipated to reach 86 Milliard (or billion) DM.

The legislative work in restitution and compensation is largely completed and it was one of the principal items on the Agenda of the Meeting to consider the Council's future tasks and if there was still a "raison d'être".

We first heard detailed *Activities of Constituents* reports of the various constituent bodies of the Council on their activities. Prof. Herbert Strauss reported on the work of the *American Federation of Jews from Central Europe*, the constituent body of the Council in the U.S.A., itself an umbrella organisation of various charitable and other bodies of the refugees from Central Europe. They have an annual budget of the Self Help for Nazi victims of \$900,000, approximately £500,000. They have established three large residential homes for a total of 700 residents and a Nursing Home. There is a Homehelp service and many other activities.

The constituent body in *Israel* is the Irgun Oley Merkaz Europa on whose work Mr. R. Golan reported. Their homes are 'Old Age Homes', very nicely called 'Elternheime', in which they accommodate 700 persons. 100 additional places were created in the last two years. The Council meeting was held in one of the 'Elternheime'. The organisation works in close co-operation with the Ministry of Health. Their "Solidaritaetswerk" raised 15 million Shekalim last year, according to the more recent rate of exchange ½ million £ Sterling. They established a Sanatorium on Mount Carmel, and provide individual assistance and advice. A most impressive picture emerged.

Our friend Rosenstock reported about our work in *Britain*.

Mrs. Fabian runs the *French* constituent body, *Solidarité*, which has provided accommodation in four houses in Paris, gives advice and individual assistance and issues a Bulletin appearing at irregular intervals. It also maintains a flatlet home for the elderly in Limours near Paris.

In *Belgium*, on which Mr. Schoemann reported, the organisation Coref was founded 37 years ago. It has given individual help, but the Social Work seems now to be approaching its end. However, at the request of the general Jewish Organisations, Coref still maintains a small office. Mr. Schoemann, who

is a person of standing in Belgium, supplied material for an important war crimes trial in Kiel. The judgment of the Court was particularly important because it put on record certain significant historical facts.

The Council had in the past a major constituent organisation in *South America*, but this has ceased to operate or to keep contact.

The impressive Reports indicated that the various constituent bodies could and would continue individually, but it was recognised in the later discussion on the future of Council that it was valuable and desirable that they be represented internationally and especially on the Claims Conference by a strong overall organisation and that a "central address" should be available.

#### Hardship Fund

As a final gesture of compensation by the German Government a Hardship Fund has been established, to which Federal Germany makes annual allocations, so far of DM 50 m. for 1980 and DM 100 m. for 1981, the total to reach DM 400 m. Individual Nazi victims, especially those who missed the time limits, can receive out of this fund DM 5,000—as a once and for all payment. Five percent of each year's total is reserved for institutions providing shelter for Nazi victims. The operation of this Fund and possible improvements in the guidelines set by the Government were discussed.

#### History of Immigration

The idea of carrying out research work and launching publications on the history of the immigration of the Jews from Central Europe to their countries of resettlement was first raised by Professor Dr. Herbert Strauss of the College of the City of New York in 1971. At the Meeting, speakers of the constituent organisations reported about the present position in their countries.

In the *United States* a six volume work on "Jewish Immigrants of the Nazi Period" is planned, of which two volumes, "Archival Resources", a "Classified

Bibliography" and the first part of the third volume, "Guide to Oral History", have been completed. The work is carried out under the auspices of the Research Foundation of Jewish Immigration, specially founded by our American friends for this purpose. In conjunction with the Munich Institute for Contemporary History the first volume of an "International Biographical Dictionary of Central European Emigrés, 1933-1945", has been published and the second volume is to follow shortly.

#### Major Historic Work

In *Israel* a first class young historian has been commissioned to write a major historic work on the Central European Immigration, its organisation and integration, but it will take 5-6 years until publication. The major financial responsibility will rest with the Leo Baeck Institute, but the Council, at its meeting, granted a further subsidy.

In *Great Britain* Mrs. Margot Pottlitzer has painstakingly assembled the material, including taped records with a large number of immigrants. She is now beginning to write the work.

In *France*, Mrs. Ruth Fabian has written a book carrying the most essential facts and figures. The Council has contributed to the research and production costs. Mrs. Fabian reported that since the book was published much new material has been detected and that a thorough study on the second generation would also be desirable. Unfortunately, however, so far, the necessary funds could not be made available.

As regards *Belgium* (and also Holland) efforts were going on to enlist the co-operation of suitable organisations and scholars. This work was very essential, as there were 100,000 immigrants in these countries.

#### Future of the Council

In the debate on the future tasks of the Council it was recognised that a great amount of work has still to be done in the various countries and that there is a major responsibility of the Council still to fulfil. It was also realised that, although restitution legislation has been substantially completed, there are occasional "Einbrueche", say restrictions or violations in practice or implementary regulations of

*Continued on page 5*

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## WIENER LIBRARY APPEAL

An individual's memory is an essential part of his personality, and without it his character, his whole existence in time, vanishes (as we sometimes see to our distress in cases of senility). Just as the individual person has a memory, so does a people have a memory, in the records of its history, its past, both distant and more recent, which no one individual can hold in his head. For the Jewish refugee community, the Wiener Library is just such a repository of memory and history, even though it has wider significance as well. The Wiener Library records and documents one of the most extraordinary upheavals of this or any century, the intimate and direct experience of our members. The very fact that events and experiences our members have lived through can be denied and disputed, whether by an individual crackpot, an 'historian' with axes to grind, or political movements with brazen demagogic aims, should alert us to the importance of keeping the record clear and easily available, for the ordinary inquirer as well as the scholar. It is also the least we can do for the memory of those who perished.

It all started with the acute political insight of Dr. Alfred Wiener that he was living through a period of great menace and significance, and that it was essential to document what those people were actually saying and writing, if one were to alert the world to what was in store for it. In a back room of the Park Hotel in Amsterdam in the autumn of 1933 he started to collect and to collate newspapers, periodicals, books, brochures and leaflets. By 1938 there were over 8,000 books, valuable sets of newspapers and periodicals, and some ten thousand classified press cuttings. Dr. Wiener succeeded in transferring the collection to London as the Nazi threat moved westward, and the Library was opened in Manchester Square on the very day war broke out.

Its unique value was quickly understood, and it was soon taken over, to all intents and purposes, by the Ministry of Information. Its important wartime work was acknowledged by the then Foreign Minister shortly after the war's end, and it reverted to independent status. It was then given more than 40,000 prosecution documents donated by the International War Crimes Tribunal and much other material so that it became an indispensable research centre for studying Nazism, Fascism and other totalitarian movements. It acquired many eye-witness accounts by concentration camp survivors and escapees. New sections were added on Central and Western Europe after 1945, on Israel and the Middle East, on conformity and dissent in the Soviet bloc, on modern Jewish history and anti-democratic

movements and ideologies in various parts of the world. Over two hundred published books and innumerable articles have been researched and based on the material in the Wiener Library.

When at one stage the transfer of the library to Israel was agreed, all the essential material for use in London was microfilmed, thus giving permanence to wartime publications printed on fast-deteriorating paper. Subsequently, there has been an upsurge of growth in the library, many of its original holdings have been replaced, and the demand for its services are as great as ever. When Robert Weltsch went to settle in Israel, his large collection was acquired by the Wiener Library, for example.

The Wiener Library has never had an endowment and has been supported pragmatically in the past from various sources. In current conditions it can only continue to do its valuable work and provide the essential research facilities required in London if such an endowment can be provided. Thus the Wiener Library Appeal was launched in April with a two-page advertisement in *The Jewish Chronicle*, headed by a letter from the former Prime Minister, The Right Hon. James Callaghan, President of the Appeal, followed by a letter in *The Times*, who put the matter succinctly:

*In the 1930s we failed to prevent the rise to power of the Nazis, with devastating consequences for millions of men, women and children. Now it is our duty, Jew and non-Jew alike, to preserve in London, where it is readily accessible to researchers from all parts of the world, the unique Wiener Library record of this catastrophe. I appeal to the Jewish community to give a lead while there is still time. An endowment fund of £1 million will enable the Wiener Library to remain a living memorial to those who died.*

Among the Vice-Presidents of the Appeal are Sir Isaiah Berlin, O.M., C.B.E., F.B.A., M.A., The Right Hon. Hugh Fraser, M.B.E., M.P., Lord Goodman, C.H., M.A., LL.M., The Right Hon. Sir Keith Joseph, Bt., M.P., The Right Hon. Lord Lever, The Right Hon. Sir Harold Wilson, K.G., O.B.E., F.R.S., M.P. The Chairman is Alan Montefiore, Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford, and the Treasurer, Lewis Golden, O.B.E., J.P., F.C.A.

To preserve the Library in London, to maintain it properly and to ensure its growth requires an annual expense budget of £100,000, and that in turn calls for an endowment fund of £1,000,000. One hopes that Anglo-Jewry will meet the challenge, and that the members of the AJR will play their part.

Continued from page 4

## COUNCIL MEETING

this legislation. Although the Claims Conference, through its legal adviser, Dr. E. Katzenstein, a man of outstanding ability, and URO, usually take up these matters, the Council was considered to be essential as a "Watchdog". Other reasons for continued existence were our representation at the Claims Conference and the exchange of views and experiences between the constituents.

In consideration of all these matters, after a searching discussion, there was a unanimous view that the Council's tasks and *raison d'être* were by no means completed.

In the realisation of this, certain *financial re-arrangements* were made. In the past, funds were allocated to the Council by the successor organisations for heirless property. These sources have ceased. The Council decided to husband the available resources by reducing the annual contributions made to its constituents. It was also recognised that the raising of new funds was essential and our friends undertook to make such efforts.

At the beginning of the meeting, tributes were paid to the memory of Professor Gershom Scholem (by Mr. H. Gerling) and to Dr. Walter Breslauer (by Dr. F. E. Falk). Our Israeli friends, who took great trouble in preparing the meeting, also arranged a Reception at the Dan Hotel, the guests of which included the Ambassadors of the German Federal Republic and of Austria.

F.E.F.

### The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain

invites members and friends to the

## 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 will be published in the next issue. Members who wish to propose candidates for the Board should write to the AJR Office by the end of May.

### II

We are fortunate in announcing that

**PROFESSOR G. V. BORN, FRCP, FRS**

Head of the Department of Pharmacology,

University of London, Kings College,

has kindly agreed to speak on

#### A SCIENTIST REMEMBERS

His talk will cover the history of the Born family and refer to the work and experience of his father, Max Born, the Nobel Laureate, including the family's emigration from Germany to Great Britain and will provide a personal insight into the world of science and professional achievements of great interest to us all.

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## LIVELY AJR BOARD MEETING

On the sunny Sunday afternoon of March 28 the AJR Board met in Hannah Karminski House for a well-attended and lively survey of the state of the Association. The Chairman, Mr. C. T. Marx, opened with a reminder of the recent passing of a distinguished member of the AJR, Rabbi J. J. Kokotek, and the audience stood in respectful silent remembrance of the former spiritual leader of the Belsize Square Synagogue. The Chairman then introduced respectively, Mr. Ludwig Spiro, Dr. F. E. Falk, Dr. W. Rosenstock, Mrs. Anderman and Mrs. Margaret Jacoby, each of whom reported on his or her area of responsibility.

Mr. Spiro, the Hon. Treasurer, concentrated on the social work of the AJR on this occasion rather than on the financial aspects. From his recent close involvement with the AJR office and the Homes, he expressed his deep appreciation of the work and devotion of both the employed staff and the voluntary helpers. In the Social Services department under the care of Mrs. S. Matus, there have been no fewer than 2,900 requests for individual help during the year, usually domestic help. In over 120 cases a continuing home help was provided. Self Aid, run by Ruth Neuschul, was still in demand, and it provided financial aid. There were 48 new applicants. Self Aid is financed by the annual concert, and the last one netted £5,200. The funds could provide anything from a desperately needed winter coat to a holiday. 117 people were being helped by Self Aid. The 1982 concert has been scheduled, again on a Sunday afternoon since the last one had been so successful, for October 17, in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, and Carl Flesch was again helping to organise it.

In the Homes Department, Mrs. Margot Williams was assiduously trying to place applicants. It was important to realise that people were living longer now, and new admissions below the age of 79 were unusual. The average age in the Homes was now 83. Rising costs present a continuing problem, and expenditure on maintenance alone was £250,000. The local authorities have been contributing 19-20% towards the running costs. The AJR Charitable Trust contributed £50,000.

Though the Homes have been tending to take people over 75, the particularly frail are given precedence in all the Homes. Osmond House takes those needing most physical assistance. Margot Williams and Maurice Ross, the Director of the Homes Administration at the CBF, to whose excellent work the speaker paid special tribute, were doing their best to make admissions as fair and efficient as possible.

The provision of sheltered accommodation for 23 people in three Homes owned by the AJR Charitable Trust cost between £500 and £700 per person per annum. The speaker reminded his listeners of how helpful wills and legacies were for supporting this work.

The AJR would have to make its activities secure for the next ten to fifteen years, so that its aged and ageing members could be maintained at an appropriate standard of living and care. Mr. Spiro appealed for more people to join the House

Committees, and altogether to volunteer to help. And new members were needed too, though to some extent they were coming forward. The AJR had seen 210 members go, mainly through natural losses, but there had been 280 new enrolments of members and "Friends", resulting in a net gain of 70 new supporters. The younger generation, Mr. Spiro emphasized, was interested and must be recruited for the tasks ahead. There might be chances to find the money—but money without care and commitment was useless.

Dr. Falk spoke on taxation and rent and rate rebates. Readers will meanwhile have seen his detailed explanation of the rent and rate rebate situation on page one of our April issue. On taxation, Dr. Falk spoke of the representations again made to the Treasury in connection with the Finance Bill to grant complete U.K. tax exemption to those pensions—mainly Public Service Pensions and Social Insurance Pensions paid to former residents of West Germany—which are one-half tax-exempt under the Finance Act 1974. There was a friendly reply from the Minister of State, stating that the present treatment was considered fair, but promising further consideration. It is therefore possible though unlikely that the Finance Bill may provide some further relief. The Government has apparently decided that the present financial climate is not propitious to our claim.

However, we pursued one special point, that is, the taxation of social insurance pensions or pension increases secured by voluntary "Nachentrichtungen"—lump sum payments made by the pensioners. These are 50% taxable. There is a provision in our Taxation Acts under which the capital element of an annuity purchased from an insurance company is not liable to tax. A pension acquired from the B.f.A. is essentially the same. This point has been made forcefully and treatment similar to that of a purchased annuity claimed. The Treasury has so far not accepted this, but they are clearly not in the right on this point, and perhaps we shall still succeed in having the capital element of these pensions exempt from tax. Dr. Falk's report on the Meeting of the Council of Jews from Germany appears separately in this issue.

Dr. Werner Rosenstock reported on the progress of *AJR Information*, which continued to serve as the vital link binding the members of the Association together. He compared it with the very different function of the weekly German-language *Mitteilungsblatt* in Israel, which was more like a newspaper, and was involved in local political issues in a way we were not, nor wanted to be in our very different conditions. We provided general information about events here, in Germany, in Israel, and elsewhere abroad. We have features, articles and book reviews in the fields of interest and relevance to us. To some readers who have remarked about the attention devoted to the subject of the Holocaust and the Nazi period, Dr. Rosenstock pointed out that this was by no means a matter of our particular fixation on the subjects, but rather an accurate reflection of the tremendous interest in the

world at large and in the press and the other media, where a torrent of books, articles and programmes have focussed attention on what is now clearly recognised to be a central phenomenon of our century—and the members of the AJR just happen to have been directly involved in the eye of the hurricane. Another important aspect was the desire and need for the younger generation to know more about what happened and how we and others acted and felt about it.

It would also be a function of the journal to keep the members informed about the developments in regard to Restitution and all the relevant details concerning their rights and to anticipate their problems and questions about taxation in view of their special position. Members must also be kept abreast of events and developments in the Association. Everybody was interested in Personalia, and this interest should be satisfied, but one must tread a careful line between doing justice to individuals and avoiding the aura of an inward-looking parochial paper. Though Dr. Rosenstock looked forward to his retirement toward the end of the year, he would continue his close association with the journal and be ready to advise his successor.

Mrs. Anderman reported on Meals on Wheels, which has now been running for ten years. Meals which cost 38p in 1972 (51p in 1977), now cost £1 each. The charge is actually 75p, with the rest being subsidised by the AJR Charitable Trust. There have been 7,000 recipients of the meals, and Mrs. Anderman was justly proud of the fact that during the fiercely cold and icy weather this last winter, *not one delivery was lost* at a time when many councils gave up in despair, and she singled out Mr. Nash and Mrs. Linda Fisher for praise for their devotion in the worst weather conditions.

### AJR Club

Mrs. Margaret Jacoby was asked to tell about the AJR Club and gave a sparkling account of the 25th Anniversary last year, to which the musical members contributed delightfully, and she also told of the recent Bring and Buy Sale, which produced donations of £1,730. She pointed out that they were still getting new members, and younger ones as well.

The Chairman, Mr. Marx, wound up with heartfelt thanks to Mr. Spiro for his energetic and intensive work for the Homes and in the AJR office, and for having given a second wind to the Management Committee, to Dr. Falk for his excellent efforts on behalf of members' interests, and for having brought us up to date on taxation and the Council of Jews from Germany, to Dr. Rosenstock for his invaluable work and guidance stretching over the whole span of the AJR's existence, to Mrs. Anderman for her sterling service—and he remarked that there could be very few organisations which could boast of being privileged to hear such a lively and amusing impromptu speech from a near-centenarian member like Mrs. Jacoby! He reported that a successor to Mrs. Taussig would soon be appointed. The speakers had shown that the AJR was in good shape, that there was plenty of work to be done, and that it was being done. To continue with the work the AJR needed more members and more Friends of the AJR, and it was up to the current members to bring them in. The Annual General Meeting would be on July 1, and members should also note in their diaries the concert on October 17.

The Meeting was concluded by a vote of thanks to the Chairman, moved by Dr. F. E. Falk.



F. L. Carsten

## 1848 AND ALL THAT

From the 11 essays published in this volume XI—No. 39 in the "Schriftenreihe wissenschaftlicher Abhandlungen des Leo Baeck Instituts"—it seems that the Revolution of 1848 was a non-event in German-Jewish history. Only two of the essays, by Professors Mosse and Rürup, discuss the revolution and its influence, while the others deal with population changes, economic history, the position of women, religious history, social thought and literature in the 19th century and hardly mention the Revolution at all. In all these fields, it clearly exercised no influence on the position of the German Jews or on the slow process of their emancipation which had begun in the 18th century. It thus seems very doubtful whether the title of the volume is justified.

In the introductory essay, Professor Rürup points out that in Prussia it was the constitution imposed by the king in December 1848 which granted the Jews equality of status, a right confirmed by the revised constitution of 1850; but the same constitution proclaimed Christianity as the state religion, and in Austria the Jews "were left in a state of legal insecurity" by the repeal of the imposed constitution of 1849. Their full emancipation had to wait until the 1860s and 1870s. In the concluding essay Professor Mosse stresses that the year 1848 "played no significant part" in Jewish emancipation and considers that the outcome was on the whole negative for the Jews. They were emancipated for reasons of "economic utility" by the bureaucracy of Prussia and other German states, and their integration into German society remained very limited, affecting above all a small part of the Jewish élite of the large cities, such as Berlin and Vienna.

Werner Mosse goes further and claims that "emancipation under the Black, Red and Golden banner might differ but little from that under the Black, White and Red" and that Jewish social integration "was no more likely to be achieved under an ideological system than under a bureaucratic one" (p. 401).

Here I would beg to differ, for the Parliament of the Paulskirche had adopted the Basic Rights which stipulated Jewish emancipation without any qualification. If the Liberals had succeeded in uniting Germany under the black, red and gold flag their scale of values and their spirit of tolerance surely would have triumphed, at least for the time being. The very prominent part played by many Jews on the liberal and democratic side in 1848 would also have been a powerful influence.

Two papers—by Monica Richarz and Avraham Barkai—deal with the role of the Jews in the rural economy and in industrialization respectively; both are stimulating and contain rich and valuable material. Dr. Richarz emphasizes that large numbers of Jews, especially in the south-west of Germany, continued to live in villages and very small towns. Their principal occupation remained trade and money lending, above all dealing in horses (a well-to-do minority) and in cattle (the large majority). They had close ties with the peasants, and their assimilation remained a very limited one. It was the governments of the states which aimed at moving the Jews out of these traditional occupations and at advancing their education, but this policy too had only a limited success.

As Dr. Barkai shows, the rural Jews were "on the move", geographically as well as socially, in search of betterment and education. Many moved into the cities; within 12 years, from 1840 to 1852, the Jewish population of Berlin increased by 78 per cent, from

5,600 to 9,950. In 1861 57 per cent of the Prussian Jews were still working in trade, and only 2.9 per cent in the professions. In his opinion, the real Jewish bourgeoisie came from trade and partly moved into manufacturing, principally of textiles.

In the first half of the 19th century 102 Jewish factories were established in Berlin, the majority in textiles; but the Jewish share in the coal, iron and steel industries remained negligible. Dr. Barkai considers that the very few wealthy Jewish banking families of Berlin were an exception: he seems to underestimate their importance as providers of investment and credit during the slow process of industrialization.

Equally interesting is the contribution by Julius Carlebach on the position of Jewish women, a very much neglected subject. They were above all active in the economic sphere and, with the men often trading from town to town and village to village, women were "the active 'head' of the house"; but in the course of the 19th century their managerial duties and social responsibilities declined. This was due to the growing urbanization of the Jews, to their move into other occupations, and to technological changes. Dr. Carlebach compares the original function of Jewish women to that of peasant women, which seems a little doubtful to me.

### Rights and Privileges

More dubious is his statement that "peasants, Jews and women had no rights" (p. 164), for among the peasantry there were many very different groups with different legal rights. The free peasants enjoyed well defined rights and privileges, and even among the serfs very different legal conditions obtained in the various parts of Germany. As for the non-existing rights of Jews and women, the claim is probably justified for the period before the 19th century. Dr. Carlebach points out that in the 19th century Jewish girls, after attending school, could do nothing but wait for a suitable marriage to be concluded: the position of Christian girls above the working-class level was apparently not all that different.

Hermann Greive's paper on Religious Dissent and Tolerance describes the *freireligiöse* and *deutschkatholische* movements of the mid-19th century, their attempts at building a bridge between Christians and Jews. This went so far that Christian clergymen participated in Jewish services and that a scheme for the foundation of a German National Church was discussed in which all denominations were to join. But the defeat of the Revolution marked the end of these endeavours.

Steven Lowenstein writes on the German-Jewish Religious Reform Movement which was gathering strength not only in the large cities, but also in many small and medium-sized towns. It received its impetus from several rabbinical conferences of the 1840s and was particularly strong in the west and south of Germany. It aimed at the use of German in the religious services, at the introduction of choirs and organs in the synagogues, and that of confirmation instead of the *bar mitzvah*; but it led to bitter conflicts with the orthodox Jews and met with strong opposition on the side of some German governments. In spite of this, the movement grew rapidly during the following decades, especially in the large cities. The defeat of the Revolution exercised no influence on the growth of the movement for reform.

Ismar Schorsch writes on the emergence of the Modern Rabbinate, and Uriel Tal on German-Jewish Social Thought. Finally, Professor Prawer contributes an essay on Heine's Portraits of French and German Jews. In short, there is an enormous variety of topics, only that the link between them seems rather tenuous. The volume also proves how much work has been done in recent years on the history of the German Jews—a very large part of it sponsored and published by the Leo Baeck Institute, and for this anyone interested in the subject must be grateful.

Werner E. Mosse, Arnold Paucker and Reinhard Rürup (Editors): *Revolution and Emancipation—1848 in German-Jewish History*. J.C.B. Mohr, Tübingen, 1981, 431 pp. DM 120.

The author is Professor of History emeritus at the University of London.

### JEWISH BOOK WEEK

This year's Jewish Book Week will be held from May 16 to 19 at Adolph Tuck Hall, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1. The Exhibition of books opens on Sunday, May 16 at 10.30 a.m. The first lecture will be given on Sunday evening at 7.30 by Mr. David Kessler on "Forgotten Jews—the Falashas of Ethiopia"; the AJR is one of the sponsoring organisations of the function. On Monday, at 8 p.m., Rabbi Dow Marmur will give a challenging talk under the heading "Beyond Survival—Towards Jewish Unity". Two functions on Wednesday, May 19, will be of special importance. At 6.30 p.m. Professor Julius Gould will speak on "Contemporary Jewish Research—Trends and challenges", and at 8.30 a lecture will be given by Mr. George Clare, author of "Last Waltz in Vienna" on the subject "Our European Past—Nostalgia or Heritage?".

A full programme of the Book Week may be obtained from the AJR Office, 8 Fairfax Mansions, NW3 6LA (Tel: 01-624 9096).

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## HOME NEWS

### HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MEETING

May 9 at Savoy Theatre

This year's Holocaust Memorial Meeting, which was already announced in our April issue, will be held on Sunday, May 9th, at 3 p.m., at the Savoy Theatre, Strand, W.C.2. It is hoped that this important function in memory of our nearest ones will be attended by many members and friends.

For reserved seats, orders (with stamped and addressed envelopes enclosed) should be sent to: The Secretary, AJEX, 5a East Bank, London N16 5RT.

### NAZI BOARD GAME ON SHOW

For the first time in North-West England, a Holocaust Exhibition has been mounted at the Bnei Akiva premises in Salford. Among the exhibits is a Nazi children's game, where the object is for the players to make Germany "Judenrein".

### BAN ON WRP PRO-ARAB FILM

Complaints to the police were made in Nottingham when it was learned that the Workers' Revolutionary Party planned to screen a film entitled "Occupied Palestine" at Trent Polytechnic. The polytechnic's Jewish Society warned the Students' Union that the film was antisemitic and, after police had cautioned that it was probably unsuitable for public viewing, the Union banned the performance. However, the WRP managed to collect an audience of about 30 at a Nottingham community centre, but after the showing the city council was asked to investigate why the film had been screened on the council's premises.

### TAXATION

#### Social Insurance and Public Service Pensions

As readers will have seen in this issue's Report on the Board Meeting, the AJR again submitted representations to the Treasury at the highest level, in good time before the Chancellor's 1982 Budget and the Finance Bill, that those pensions which are at present liable to U.K. tax of 50% should be fully exempted. We claimed especially that the capital element of any pensions or pension increases secured by "Nachentrichtungen" should be wholly exempt. This latter claim was particularly based, apart from other considerations, on a provision in the Taxation Acts that the capital element of an annuity purchased from an insurance company is tax-exempt. This appeared to us to provide a strong argument for similar treatment for pensions secured by a lump sum "Nachentrichtung". However, the Government felt unable to give effect to our claim. The Minister of State (Lords) at the Treasury has advised us as follows:—

"I have considered your further comments but I am afraid that the Government's view remains unchanged. As I have said before, it does sympathise with the victims of Nazi persecution but, nevertheless, it considers that the existing relief adequately reflects the special position of these pensioners."

F.E.F.

### RE-WRITING HISTORY

"Labour Herald", a weekly paper jointly edited by Ken Livingstone, Ted Knight of Lambeth and Matthew Warburton, recently carried a review article relating to books on "Nazi-Zionist collaboration". Apparently in total acceptance of the legend that Zionists prevented the rescue of European Jews from the Holocaust, the reviewer, H. C. Mullins, writes that Israel is a state "entirely built on the blood of Europe's Jews, whom the Zionists deserted in their hour of greatest need." The Zionist, he says, is "a greedy and selfish upholder of capitalism, with its love of property, namely . . . Palestine, rather than humanity".

In a rather better-known weekly, "The Listener", John Grigg writes in his review of Günther Deschner's "Heydrich":

"[Deschner] also shows—and this is perhaps the most important part of the book—that Heydrich did not, until a late stage, intend the Final Solution to take the supremely horrible form it did. He was not a crude anti-Semite and Jew-baiter of the Streicher type; indeed, he despised such people and had no responsibility, for instance, for the Kristallnacht outrages in 1938."

It seems difficult to square this remark with Heydrich's own order to all German State Police, timed at 1.20 a.m. on 10 November 1938. The barest quotations from this document run:—

"Only such measures should be taken which do not involve danger to German life or property. (For instance synagogues are to be burned down only when there is no danger of fire to the surroundings). . . . The demonstrations which are going to take place should not be hindered by the police . . ."

As many Jews, especially rich ones, are to be arrested as can be accommodated in the existing prisons . . . Upon their arrest, the appropriate concentration camps should be contacted immediately, in order to confine them in these camps as soon as possible."

### KOESTLER DOCUMENT DESTROYED

Severe disappointment lay in store for Dr. Martin Gilbert at the Public Record Office, Kew, when he called up the computer number of a certain document. The paper in question contained the proof of Winston Churchill's personal intervention on behalf of the writer Arthur Koestler, who was at the time imprisoned in Spain. Unfortunately, the computer answer was that the document had been destroyed in a "weeding-out operation".

### CBF HELP FOR IRAN'S REFUGEES

Among the charitable assistance provided by the Jewish Refugees Committee of the Central British Fund for World Jewish Relief, the largest single item for the year 1980/81 was the support for Iranian refugees. Two thousand of them have been helped since 1979, and their needs have been all the greater because of the stringent control over money taken out of Iran. Many students were stranded and others who had left the country were too frightened by the Iranian situation to return to their homes: without the possibility of money being sent to them from their families, they were in desperate need of assistance.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

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## NEWS FROM GERMANY

### TIT-FOR-TAT IN OSNABRUECK CASE

In the course of sentencing a neo-Nazi for illegal possession of weapons, an Osnabrück magistrate referred to him as a "narrow-minded personality suffering from political megalomania". For this insult he was himself taken to court by the convicted man and a fine was imposed on him. The magistrate's appeal against the lower court's findings has been dismissed by the High Court of Oldenburg and he has been ordered to pay the fine.

### THRONGS VISIT DACHAU MEMORIAL

In her report for 1981, the head of the Dachau Memorial, Barbara Distel, gives the number of visitors to the former concentration camp as 850,000 last year, an increase of 40,000 over the visits in 1980. The Bavarian authorities have provided four lecturers who can give lessons to the numerous school groups who come, and debating rooms are in the process of building.

Dachau is the only active concentration camp memorial in West Germany which gives some idea of life in the camps. At Bergen-Belsen, not even an information sheet is provided and only recently has an archive centre been inaugurated in Neuengamme. However, the Dachau archives still lack important documents which are at present only to be found in America and Israel, and Frau Distel appeals to anyone holding relevant material to help fill the gaps in the Dachau record.

### IDA EHRE'S HAMBURG THEATRE

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt called Ida Ehre "an incredible woman" in his speech at the Matthae Banquet in the Hamburg Town Hall, when he urged the citizens of the Hanseatic city to help the finances of the Hamburg Chamber Theatre founded and run by Mrs. Ehre for the last 37 years. She is as active as ever, despite her 81 years. Prof. Walter Jens has pledged all the royalties from his forthcoming play, "Der Untergang" (based on Euripides' "Trojan Women") to the Hamburg Chamber Theatre.

E.G.L.

### CHURCH CO-OPERATION IN EAST AND WEST

For the past year, the Evangelische Jugendwerk in Münsingen (Schwäbische Alb) has made a special point of presenting Christian-Jewish relationships and co-operation to the children and young people visiting the Jugendwerk's summer camps, seminars and leisure-time courses. In the spring of 1981, tours to Israel were organised for young adults, with preliminary weekend courses, and in the summer camps stress was laid on Biblical history and geography. At the end of the season, young people from the surrounding districts were taken on a visit to Dachau where a former concentration camp inmate explained to them the background to the Holocaust. This year has seen a seminar on the former Jewish communities in the neighbourhood of Münsingen and a visit to the synagogue in Stuttgart.

In Dresden, the Evangelical Church has recently initiated a new committee, Begegnung mit dem Judentum, in order to establish closer relationships between Germans and Jews. Over 500 visitors attended the committee's first organised event, a gathering to commemorate victims of the Holocaust and of Dresden's mediaeval pogroms.

### AWARD OF GOETHE PLAQUETTE

Professor Leo Loewenthal, who delivered the main address at the Memorial Celebration in the Paulskirche on the 150th anniversary of Goethe's death, was awarded the Goethe Plaque. He is the last surviving representative of the "Frankfurter Schule". Born in Frankfurt, where he taught at the "Institut fuer Sozialforschung", Professor Loewenthal emigrated in the 'Thirties and is now Professor of Sociology at the University of Berkeley.

### SWASTIKA DAUBING IN ARGENTINA

An outbreak of swastika daubing occurred at the Jewish Cemetery in Mar del Plata in February of this year. Argentine politicians, including the President, have condemned the attacks.

### CLUB 1943

Meetings on Monday at 8 p.m.  
in Hannah Karminski House,  
9 Adamson Road, N.W.3

- 10 May. Ada Crown: An Adventure in Jordan.
- 17 May. Gerald Holm: Sigrid Undset - Her Life and Work.
- 24 May. Martha I ausz: China - 20 Years On.
- 31 May. No Meeting, Bank Holiday.
- 7 June. Annual General Meeting.

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(624 7632)

### HEINRICH HEINE - STILL UNHONOURED

In the April issue of AJR Information a short note appeared on the rejection of the proposal to name Düsseldorf University after Heinrich Heine. This plan for which citizens of Düsseldorf - where Heine was born "by accident" as he stated in the "Book Le Grand" - had campaigned since the establishment of the University in 1965, had received the unanimous support of Düsseldorf's city council, the Parliament of North Rhine Westphalia, the Land Minister of Education and the mayor of the city.

However, the final decision on the proposal rested with an obscure body of the university, the Satzungskonvent (Constitutional Committee), consisting of professors, students and academic and non-academic staff of the university. How this body was selected remains a mystery to the public, but what is not a mystery is the fact that it voted down the motion for a Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf by a secret vote of 44 to 41. 38 of those who voted "no" are said to have been professors of the university whereas the representatives of the students on the committee are reported to have voted "yes" unanimously.

A clue to the rejection of the motion was given by Sebastian Haffner, once upon a time on the staff of the London "Observer" and author of a recent book on Hitler in which he described the Nuremberg Trial of Nazi criminals as "an unfortunate arrangement which nobody nowadays likes to remember", a book for which the city of Düsseldorf gave him the Heine prize of DM25,000. Recalling the hat of the tyrant Gessler in Schiller's "Wilhelm Tell", before which citizens had to prostrate themselves, Haffner stated in a letter addressed to opponents of the Heine University that he was against hanging up a "new Gessler hat".

The West German press reacted strongly. Thus the "Düsseldorf Nachrichten" described the vote as the "greatest disgrace in the history of the University". The "Frankfurter Rundschau" commented: "It is clear to the supporters (of the proposal) that to the opponents this poet is too democratic, too outspoken and too Jewish, too heretical and too rebellious." The Students' Union, which for many years had already used the name "General Students Union of the Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf" and intends to continue to do so, stated: "The outcome of the fight about the name will be regarded by many people as a symptom of the way once-ostracised Jews are now being treated in Germany, and to what extent Germans are now prepared to draw conclusions from the crimes against the Jews and consciously to pave the way for a better chapter of German-Jewish history . . ."

F. HELLENDALL

### LEGACIES

The AJR Charitable Trust received a legacy of £500 from the estate of the late Mrs. Grete Helfer, an interim payment of £4,000 from the estate of the late Mrs. Vera Rose Gans, and final balances from the estates of Mrs. M. Winterburgh (£200) and Mrs. E. Auerhann (£190).

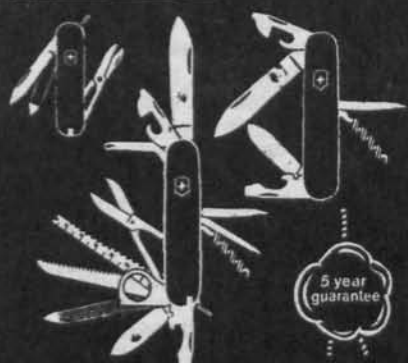
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## OBITUARIES

### KURT FRANKENSCHWERTH

Kurt Frankenschwerth has passed away at the age of eighty, and our world is the poorer for his loss. He represented the best in the community of those who found refuge and a new home in this country. He combined love and a vast knowledge of the culture of his background with admiration for the human, political and literary values of England. He was a philosopher, an inventor, a gardener, a sculptor and a poet, and had two volumes of poems written in his mother tongue published in Germany. These reflected his sensitiveness, his joy of living but also sadness, contemplating the way our society was going. He was gentle and deeply understanding and Young and Old were attracted to him for the benefit of his wisdom. Though he did not care much for institutional religion he recognised the divine spark in each of us and he was conscious and proud of the values which our peculiar amalgam of culture contributes to the world.

After almost fifty years of an immensely happy and fulfilling marriage, his wife Erri (Henriette Hardenberg) survives and bravely grapples with her loneliness.

HANS WETZLER

### YAACOV DRORI

Formerly a citizen of Berlin, Yaacov Drori has died in Israel at the age of 60. Emigrating to Palestine from Germany, he became a leader of the religious kibbutz movement and held a number of important posts in the National Religious Party.

### LOUIS KISSINGER

Mr. Louis Kissinger, the father of the former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, died in New York at the age of 95. His last appearance in public was the Jubilee Dinner of the Leo Baeck (B'nai B'rith) Lodge, at which his son Henry gave the main address. Before he and his family emigrated, Louis Kissinger was a teacher at the Jewish school in Fuerth. They settled in the Washington Heights district of New York and stayed there throughout the years. Louis first worked as a bookkeeper and his wife, Paula, as a caterer.

### KURT GLASER

Dr. Kurt Glaser died recently in Hamburg in his 90th year. From 1952 to 1957 he was the head of the Hamburg Health Services, after having headed the Health Services of Schleswig-Holstein from 1949. Governing Mayor Max Brauer had brought Dr. Glaser, a well-known dermatologist and outstanding public health official, back from emigration in the United States. He was a veteran Social Democrat from Zittau in Saxony, had been a skin specialist in Chemnitz, and was the German delegate to the World Health Organisation.

E.G.L.

### SAM GORDON

Veteran socialist Sam Gordon died recently, aged 72. Settling in England in 1952, he worked as a translator and writer; unusually, he obtained an honours degree at the age of 68 in the subjects of history and the German language.

### IMMANUEL BIRNBAUM

Immanuel Birnbaum, the distinguished journalist, died recently at the age of 87. He was the son of the Königsberg cantor and composer Eduard Birnbaum (1855-1920). From 1953 to 1976 Immanuel Birnbaum was the foreign affairs commentator of the "Süddeutschen Zeitung" of Munich, and also a member of the editorial board. He was a very experienced political journalist, with a specialised knowledge of Eastern Europe, which he had observed at first hand. Before the Second World War he reported from Warsaw for the "Vossische Zeitung" of Berlin and the "Frankfurter Zeitung". He spent the war in Finland and Sweden. He wrote books about Russia, Poland and Czechoslovakia, and was awarded the Theodor Wolff Prize in 1970.

E.G.L.

### ANATOL GOLDBERG

Anatol Goldberg, whose voice was known to millions in Eastern Europe for his commentaries relayed on the BBC World Service, died recently in London. Born in the then St. Petersburg, he was eight years old when his family left Russia to escape the Revolution of 1917. They moved to Berlin, where Anatol was educated, first at a French school and then at the Berlin School of Oriental Studies. When the Nazis came to power, he emigrated to Britain and joined the BBC's External Services one week before the outbreak of war. Although aged 71, he was still working until shortly before his death.

### YOEL SUSSMAN

A controversial critic of bureaucracy, Justice Yoel Sussman has died in Israel at the age of 72. Born in Poland, he attended the universities of Frankfurt a.M., Heidelberg, Berlin and Cambridge, before entering into his law practice. For five years he presided over the Supreme Court of Israel.

### 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.*

#### Birthday

**Reimann:**—Mrs. Elly Reimann, of 11, Hillcrest Avenue, London, N.W.11, widow of the late Prof. Albert Reimann, will celebrate her 90th birthday on 8 May 1982. With love and good wishes from all her family.

#### Thanks for Congratulations

**MRS. JANNETTE BASSON** wishes to thank all her friends for their good wishes and congratulations, too numerous to acknowledge personally, received on her 95th birthday.

#### Deaths

**Frankenschwerth:**—Ploetzlich stehe ich in Einsamkeit. Kurt Frankenschwerth, mein innigster Freund, mein Mann, starb unerwartet am 6. März 1982. Alle, die ihn kannten, trauern um ihn mit mir. Erri.

**Heimann:**—Barbara Heimann, Wokingham (formerly Berlin, Lessingstrasse) died recently, nearly 97. Sadly missed by her daughter, son-in-law, granddaughter, family and friends.

**Kenley:**—Mr. Bruno Kenley (formerly Katzky) passed away on 9th April at the age of 85 years.

**Tebrich:**—Grete Tebrich, 79, of 7, Digswell Court, Vine Close, Welwyn Garden City, dearly loved wife of Walter and sister of Max Hirsch, Israel, passed away peacefully on 21 March 1982 after a stroke.

**Weiss:**—Karl Weiss, the beloved husband of Lisel and adored father of Mina has left them forever in his 76th year on the 21 March after a short illness. His charming personality brought joy and happiness to all who knew him and he will never be forgotten by his relatives and friends.

### CLASSIFIED

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

#### Miscellaneous

**ARNOLD ZWEIG'S** "De Vriendt kehrt heim" wanted to buy. Offers to 01-624 2883 (evenings).

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**WIDOW,** 56, living in N.W. London, independent, would like to meet for friendship sincere educated gentleman, car driver. Interests music, travel, art, bridge. Box 919.

#### INFORMATION REQUIRED

**Beer:**—Would anyone who knew the late Max Beer in Lauenburg, Pomerania, between 1933 and 1938 please contact his daughter Mrs. Muriel Abt at St. Albans 64616 (daytime) or 01-954 4305 (evenings).

**Flesch:**—Hanns Flesch, half-Jewish, born 4 May 1925, in Frankfurt a.M., son of the Frankfurt "Intendant". He lived in Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Wuertembergische Str. 23/24, and is supposed to have left Germany for England after the war, probably in 1945. He went to the Fichte-Gymnasium. Box 918.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## JEWS FROM THE STOMMELN DISTRICT

Sir,—Our "Arbeitskreis Synagoge und ehemalige Gemeinden zu Stommeln und Fliesteden" has seen to it that the Synagogue of Stommeln, the only spared synagogue in the Rhineland, was restored by the city of Pulheim, to which Stommeln now belongs. We are preparing a work on the history of the former Jewish communities in Stommeln and Fliesteden. Whilst we have been able to establish contacts with all survivors of the Holocaust from the former "Kehilla of Stommeln" we have, so far not been able to trace former Jewish citizens from the other villages. Any information would be greatly appreciated.

Fasanenweg 7

5024 Pulheim-Sinthern

MANFRED BACKHAUSEN

## NEW RABBI FOR DUESSELDORF

After several years without a rabbi, the Düsseldorf community has appointed Abraham Hochwald to the office as from December 1981. He was ceremonially installed at the end of January.

## COLOGNE OPERA IN TEL AVIV

For the first time, the Cologne Opera Company has visited Tel Aviv where they presented Mozart's "Cosi fan tutte". The principal singers and choristers travelled from Cologne, but the orchestra was the Israel Philharmonic, conducted by John Pritchard. The performance was acclaimed in the press and hailed as "the cultural event of the year".

## WOLF PRIZE FOR CHAGALL

Marc Chagall, the nonagenarian artist, has been awarded the Wolf Prize, it is learned from Jerusalem. In past years, only scientists have received the award, which has been described as the Israeli equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

## PLO REPRESENTATION IN GERMANY

In East Berlin, following a two-day visit by PLO leader Yasir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Office in the city has been upgraded to the status of an Embassy.

Meanwhile, the Jewish community in West Germany have put pressure on Länder governments after it was noted that PLO representatives might conceivably be included in official invitations issued to ambassadors of Arab League states.

## LOTTE BLUMENFELD 75

Mrs. Lotte Blumenfeld, secretary of the London URO office almost since its inception, recently celebrated her 75th birthday. Having commenced her work for URO in 1948, she is by far the longest serving member of the staff. Her own life during the past 34 years therefore encompasses all stages of this unique organisation. She saw the small beginnings on the premises of the AJR, and she experienced the peak time, when URO occupied the whole building of 183 Finchley Road. There the work is still going on albeit on a smaller scale but will be indispensable for quite some time to come. Throughout the years, Lotte Blumenfeld has devoted her proficiency, energy and experience to the cause of URO, which has greatly benefited from her loyalty. Her present and former colleagues as well as her numerous friends wish her many happy returns of the day.

## RECORD FOR GLASGOW FREEMASON

The Guinness Book of Records might well welcome a claim by Mr. Nickey Grossman of Glasgow. Aged 97, Mr. Grossman has just completed his 75th year as a Freemason.

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# THEATRE AND CULTURE

**50 Years ago.** When the romantic story of Franz Joseph of Austria and his marriage to the daughter of Max of Bavaria was combined with Fritz Kreisler's beautiful tunes, the melodious musical "Sissy" came into being, and Vienna had its great operetta event of 1932. Paula Wessely was Sissy, Hans Jaray the young emperor and Hubert Marischka Herzog Max. Sadly, Marischka died in 1959, but the other two protagonists are as popular and successful in 1982 as they were then.

**Tit-Bits.** A revival of Verdi's "Aida" at the Berlin State Opera in which Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau sang Amonasro, was conducted by Daniel Barenboim. For London's "Strauss in Vienna" concerts at the South Bank planned for May 29th to 31st, the Royal Festival Hall will issue combined Concert/Mean tickets (with Viennese flavour) to achieve a complete "Evening Out" on Saturday 29th and Monday 31st May. (Restaurant closed on the 30th.)

**Birthdays.** German film actor *Gustav Froehlich*, whose activities were reported in this column recently, has reached the milestone of 80. The Berlin actress *Berta Drews*, widow of Heinrich George (he died in 1945), is also 80; she started her career in the Twenties partnering Hans Albers in Molnar's

"Liliom" and has played important roles, mainly the "courageous" ones from Shakespeare and Hebbel to Bertolt Brecht. Singer and one-time cinema favourite *Martha Eggerth* (widow of Jan Kiepura) celebrated her 75th birthday. Also 75 is *Professor Dr. Rolf Badenhouse* (who lives in Muenchen-Schwabing). He is about to edit unpublished Gründgens letters under the title "Lasst mich ausschlafen". The professor's wife was the late but unforgotten prominent German actress Elisabeth Flickenschmidt.

**Obituary.** *Hans Fidesser*, much praised operatic tenor who sang at most German opera houses during his distinguished career, has died at the age of 82.

**Alfred Kerr, the Critic** Henschel-Verlag, East Berlin, provides a special treat: a collection of reviews by Alfred Kerr under the heading "Mit Schleuder und Harfe", edited by Hugo Fetting. This publication deals with Kerr's reviews of the period 1917 to 1933 and proves his admirable knowledge of happenings in front and back stage which, although in part very sarcastic is nevertheless always interesting and amusing, and is a burning confession of his love for the live theatre.

S.B.

## MARK GERTLER AT THE BEN URI

The Ben Uri Art Gallery, 21 Dean Street, W.1, is holding a major exhibition of the works of one of the most distinguished Anglo-Jewish painters, including "The Merry-go-round", his most important work, which is in the gallery's ownership and has been exhibited all over the world. The exhibition is open until 27 May (opening hours: Mon.-Wed. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Thursdays 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Fridays 11 a.m.-4 p.m.).

At Anthony d'Offay, 23 Dering Street, New Bond Street, W.1, there is an exhibition (until 12 May) called "dernier espace avec introspecteur" by Joseph Beuys, one of Germany's best known artists. It is built around his first exhibition "Irgend ein Strang" held in 1964.

ALICE SCHWAB

## WILLY TIRR EXHIBITION

Last month, a one-man exhibition of shaped paintings, watercolours and films by Willy TIRR was held at the Elizabethan Exhibition Gallery in Wakefield. Dr. TIRR, a member of the AJR, was born in Stettin in 1915, served with the British Army and settled in Leeds after the war. Until his recent retirement, he was Head of Fine Art at Leeds Polytechnic. He has 33 one-man exhibitions in London and the Provinces to his credit, and works of his are included in several collections, among them the Bezalel National Gallery in Israel.

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