

Martin Stern

VARIATIONS ON A THEME

Two Controversial Holocaust Novels

Of the making of books there is no end, nor of their capacity to stir and disturb us, despite the claims of the false prophets of the computer age that the book is already an artefact of the past. We have here* two fictional treatments of the subject of the Holocaust, each of which has aroused controversy, for different reasons, each with the inevitable power to upset us: one with its sympathetic insight, the other with its wilful wrongheadedness.

Initially, the reception of D. M. Thomas's "White Hotel" was quite muted in this country. The excitement arose in America, where there was a reader awareness and acceptance of the Freudian framework of the book. There it had soon sold 100,000 copies in hardback, to a mere 5,000 here, and the American reviewers were enthusiastic about its experimental dimension and the largeness of the theme, while here it encountered puzzlement and hedged bets. Thomas was known as a good poet and as a translator of Russian verse, and he had written a fine fantasy novel a few years ago. Perhaps this background coloured our reviewers' expectations, or they just did not read very carefully. Only when the backwash of the American success had reached these shores did Penguin undertake its own large-scale, booming promotion. There will be a film as well, though it is hard to imagine how it can work in that medium.

"The White Hotel" is presented as a Freudian case history of hysteria, but with the widest implications, with the social and cultural ramifications that preoccupied Freud in his later years ("Civilisation and its Discontents", etc.). It is the story of a half-Jewish Russian opera singer, Elisabeth Erdman, "Lisa", not quite in the top class, from her Odessa childhood to twenty long years in Vienna, then back to Russia in the thirties through a late marriage, in Kiev, to end horribly at Babi Yar. The narrative is teased out of the text, which is a fractured mirror presented piece by piece, until we have the whole image. Freud is a major character, and a perfectly realised one, appearing first in the Prologue, chatting in letters to his colleagues about the case, and in the most perfect chapter of the book, "Frau Anna G.", presenting her case (disguising the real name, as he always did) with the brilliance and insight we know in the real Freud as a writer.

This is preceded by two sections which present the patient's hysterical fantasies, with a strong sexual and violent content, in the form first of a doggerel

poem called "Don Giovanni", and then a "Gastein Journal". Though obsessive repetition would be an authentic symptom of the malady, the material would perhaps have been more effective if somewhat pruned. Lisa is much helped by her analysis by Freud, and brought to considerable self-knowledge. The following two chapters are straight narrative, presented with great skill. Throughout there have been clairvoyant prefigurations of the catastrophe to come.

When it does come, we experience it through a Lisa we have come to know intimately, from the inside, so that it is unbearably harrowing, but searing in its truth. It is seen and felt through an individual soul with whom we identify. The concluding chapter is enigmatic, as if Lisa had reached Palestine/Israel as an alternative fate, to find her loved and lost ones and final personal integration and peace. In the terms of the preceding harsh

realism, one can assume that this is the terminal flash of fantasy before death at Babi Yar.

The controversy about the book arose in connection with the section about Babi Yar. Thomas was accused, in a series of acrimonious letters in *The Times Literary Supplement*, of having plagiarised the eye-witness account of the survivor Dina Pronicheva, as reported by Anatoly Kuznetsov in his "Babi Yar". This is a ludicrous accusation. Kuznetsov himself used the material in his novel, and Thomas makes a full acknowledgement of his source on the copyright page of his book. He has said that he would have felt it to be presumptuous and superfluous to try to "write up" the stark horror and reality reported by Dina Pronicheva. He has no need to flaunt his talent, which pervades the book. He also makes amply clear in a note the mixture of fact and fiction in the presentation of Freud. For Thomas, Freud, with his profound insight into man's internal conflicts and his destructive impulses straining against the necessary constraints of civilisation, provides the key, or his key, to the cataclysm he has taken as his subject, "the landscape of hysteria - the terrain of the novel".

With Steiner we are on a different terrain altogether. He is not interested in people but in ideas, and this is a novel of ideas. The characters are, with an exception to be mentioned later, cardboard cut-

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*The White Hotel. D. M. Thomas. Penguin, £2.25. 240 pp.
The Portage to San Cristobal of A. H. George Steiner. Faber. £2.95. 126 pp.

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VARIATIONS ON A THEME

outs, mechanisms to crank the story forward to the *coup de théâtre* at the very end. By now the story is well known: a group of dedicated Israelis track down a nonagenarian Hitler who has been hiding in the deepest recesses of the Amazonian jungle in Brazil, and on the verge of the tropical morass they stage an impromptu trial ending in Hitler's self-justificatory oration.

Throughout the novella the Israelis' radio traffic has been monitored by the secret services of the various nations considering themselves interested parties, in Moscow, Washington, Paris, somewhere in (West) Germany, framing the arduous and exhausting jungle episodes with scenes of curiosity, concern and cynicism, contrasting the obsessional dedication of the Israelis to their mission with the effete or sophisticated indifference of the Gentile intelligence observers. These vignettes are as authentic or fabricated as in any common-or-garden thriller, with the exception of the German scene, chapter 11, which is the one chunk of genuine literature in the book.

This vignette presents a highly cultivated senior civil servant of the Justice Ministry, first listening to his daughter playing the piano and meditating on the power of music (though the pieces being played are not first-rate) and then discussing with a younger colleague the legal implications of a returned Hitler. A convincing rounded character is created in this short chapter, a man who remembers the war as the most exciting period of his life, when the intensity of existence had been enhanced by danger, by the pleasure of conquest, by the opportunities to savour the cultural offerings of the vanquished lands. "God how we lived!", he reminisces, "each terrible year like a hundred ordinary years, like a thousand. He was true to his word. A thousand-year Reich inside each of us, a millenium of remembered life". In the end he asks himself whether "This whole Hitler business, perhaps one exaggerates its importance. . . I can't help wondering whether it was very important. . . Things haven't changed all that much, have they?"

So much for the literary aspect. What about the ideas? Some are implicit in the Euro-American vignettes, as in the passage quoted above, and in others from which we learn that Frenchmen have mistresses and Americans enjoy the intricacies of publicity and the media. In the jungle episodes we hear the litany of Jewish suffering through the ages, but above all during the great cataclysm of Nazism. It is this traumatic litany which fuels the quest in the jungle. But the climax of the book comes in chapter 17, at the very end, the cause of the controversy. The

essence of A.H.'s argument is that the Jews, by abstracting God from Nature (Moses), imposing impossible ethical demands (Jesus) and setting a hopelessly utopian goal of social and economic egalitarianism (Marx) have imposed intolerable demands upon mankind, a burrowing and festering bad conscience, and therefore merit the destruction he pursued. Put another way, as Steiner has contended elsewhere, the Jews have created or are responsible for civilisation and its discontents, and antisemitism is a reaction to it and a rejection of it. Hyam Maccoby puts it this way in a recent issue of 'Encounter' in which he discusses Steiner and his book: "Antisemitism has been reduced to a manifestation of the crisis of culture itself. It is not so much a rebellion against its progress and rich achievements, as a reflection of its innate cruelty. The more cultured a society becomes, the more antisemitic it is liable to become - because culture itself is unnatural to mankind, which longs continually to return to the silence of the jungle. The Jews, as the supreme representatives of culture, must therefore be its chief victims".

Maccoby goes on to show that Steiner has misread and misunderstood Judaism and the Jewish tradition, and though there may be a smidgin of truth in his notion of antisemitism, he has ignored its deep religious roots. The essence of Maccoby's assumption is that the central ritual event of Christianity, the Crucifixion, which redeemed the believer from sin, also required a scapegoat to take the guilt of the Crucifixion, and the Jews were needed for that role. Thus, though cruelly persecuted and humiliated, they were not exterminated.

"Why", Maccoby asks, "did Hitler conceive the idea of finally wiping out the Jews altogether? Hitler was not a Christian, but he inherited from the past the whole pathological scheme by which the Jews were the earthly representatives of cosmic Evil. When this scheme survives in a *post*-Christian form, it is even more deadly than in classical Christendom, for the Jews then become a 'virus' that can be socially destroyed, rather than the necessary technological representatives of the Devil".

Scholarly debate is one thing, and it can be dull or illuminating. To put a powerful antisemitic speech into the mouth of your Devil's Advocate, *der Geist, der stets verneint*, in a novel and in a publicly performed play, as Steiner has done, without refuting it, is another matter altogether. At best, it confuses people of good will; at worst it provides material ready-made for the devil's disciples. There is a kind of cleverness (or refinement) which, when pushed to extremes, turns into its opposite.

THE DORICE AFFAIR

The Observer Colour Supplement recently printed an article about the Dorice Restaurant by someone called Ian Buruma. It contained unpleasant remarks and observations about the German Jewish customers of the restaurant. The owner was quoted as saying that it was like an "elephants' burial ground . . . all these old people, dreaming of the good old days which weren't so good really - they keep away the young customers".

We asked the owner, Mr. Romano Unterhofer, to comment on the article, and he has written to us, telling what happened. He said the reporter had presented himself as someone just doing research on

the Jewish community in Swiss Cottage. It was an unfortunate day, Mr. Unterhofer says, and some regular customers had been arguing among themselves, refused to make room for others, had moved from table to table. He had made the remark reported, but in a moment of exasperation, and had never dreamt that anyone would be so stupid as to actually put it into an article. He says that "Never, at any time, did I intend to say anything against my customers, old or young. As a matter of fact I have always liked the atmosphere as it was and is, otherwise it would not be the Dorice and I would not be there. If I disliked the customers, the restaurant or the area of Swiss Cottage, as so many people said

REMARKABLE HISTORIAN

George Peabody Gooch who died in 1968 at the ripe old age of 95, was remarkable not only for his vast output of weighty historical works but equally for his active participation in politics, first as a Liberal M.P. between 1906 and 1909, and later as the editor of the influential *Contemporary Review*. His historical works ranged from the *History of English Democratic Ideas in the 17th Century*, which he published at the age of 25, to *Frederick the Great and History and Historians in the 19th Century*; but his principal interest was British diplomatic history, and perhaps his most lasting monument is the many volumes of the *British Documents on the Origins of the War, 1898-1914*, which he edited together with Professor Harold Temperley.

To this long and important life Frank Eyck has done full justice in a detailed study,* based to a large extent on Gooch's own papers: indeed if there is one criticism it would be that the volume is somewhat overloaded with detail so that it is at times difficult to see the wood for the trees. One of Gooch's main topics was Germany, which he deeply loved and to which he used to refer as "my second country". He belonged to the generation of English academics who studied in Germany in the years before the First World War and was strongly influenced by German scholarship and German culture. This love even survived the Nazi period; he hated Hitler and the Nazis but distinguished carefully between them and the other Germans. In 1938 he wrote; "The Nazis are savages. Perhaps devils would be a truer description, for savages do not know better".

During the war, he rejected Sir Robert Vansittart's *Black Record*, which identified Nazis and Germans and attempted to trace back the 'evil' side of German history to the Middle Ages and beyond. Gooch was also an extraordinarily kind man who helped and befriended many German refugees and sold his precious *Fantini-Latour* for their benefit. This reviewer remembers with affection that, when he was appointed to a chair of history in London, Gooch then aged 88, telephoned him from Chalfont St. Peter to congratulate him. It is most welcome to have this full-length study of a man who was not only a historian of very high calibre, but also a man of very considerable influence beyond the mere academic world.

F. L. CARSTEN

*G. P. Gooch—*A Study in History and Politics by Frank Eyck*, Macmillan Press, London and Basingstoke, 1982. 498 pp. £8.95

WHO CAN HELP?

Is anyone willing to donate a piano in good condition to Eleanor Rathbone House for their social activities?

A sewing machine is urgently needed for the Arts and Crafts Centre which is being used by all Homes for occupational therapy.

For discussing details, readers who can offer their help should kindly contact Mrs. Freedman, 340 1052.

after reading the article, what in the world would make me come back four times since 1967 to run and manage a restaurant and to work so many hours to keep it open?"

"Of course", he said, "I am disappointed about this article and the degrading and depressing way it was written, compared with what I said, but there is nothing I can do to repair the damage except to apologise to all my friends and customers, and to say that my intention was only for the good of all. I hope this explanation clears up the matter and I am pleased that the AJR wanted to hear my side of the story".

HOME NEWS

OPEN DAY AT LEO BAECK HOUSE

In brilliant afternoon sunshine well over a hundred visitors and friends attended the Open Day and Bazaar at Leo Baeck House on 11 July, 1982, in support of the House Amenity Fund. Invitations had been sent to relatives and friends of present and former residents of the Home, occupied by refugees from Nazi persecution, and to others likely to be interested in the welfare of the elderly residents. The response was most gratifying, and the occasion proved very successful in every way.

There were stalls selling groceries and other foodstuffs, toiletries, jewellery, bric-a-brac, home-made cakes and home-grown plants. Many voluntary helpers, and indeed one resident, Mrs. Wallace, took charge of the 'commercial' activities, all under the watchful eyes of the chairman of the house committee, Mr. F. Durst, a house committee member, Mr. Lieberman, and, of course, Mrs. G. Dick, the Matron, who received and welcomed all guests on arrival. Teas and home-made cakes were served by the Home's staff and all staff members were in attendance.

Thanks to the fine weather guests were able to stroll through the gardens mixing with the residents, and take in the delightful atmosphere of the House. A raffle draw with attractive prizes, and a cake weight-guessing competition were highlights of this successful afternoon which could not have been achieved without the many generous contributions and gifts of all kinds, and the numerous voluntary helpers, and sincere thanks are due to them all.

LACKS BEQUEST OF PORCELAIN

Manchester City Art Galleries have recently received a highly important and valuable bequest of 103 pieces of porcelain from Doctors Frederick and Erna Lacks. The collection includes 18th century German, French and English porcelain and German and English enamels.

Frederick and Erna Lacks came to England from Germany in 1936 as refugees from Nazi oppression. Erna Lacks, a dentist, was able to practise immediately, but Frederick Lacks, a neurologist, had to retrain in England to become a General Practitioner. The couple settled in Whalley Range, Manchester, and soon began collecting porcelain. They purchased pieces from dealers in London and on their travels abroad.

The highlights of the collection are the pieces of German porcelain, including 27 pieces of Meissen, many from the first 30 years of the factory's production. The pieces made at other German factories include examples from Berlin, Nymphenburg, Fulda and Würzburg (Erna Lacks' place of birth), and enamels made at Berlin and Augsburg. The remaining pieces of the collection include 18th century English porcelain from Chelsea, Bow, Worcester, Derby, Liverpool and Bristol.

Frederick Lacks died in 1960 and few pieces were added to the collection after his death. Erna survived him until 1981. They had both found a friendly refuge in Manchester and by bequeathing their porcelain to the City, Frederick and Erna Lacks hoped in some small way to repay this hospitality.

BALFOUR PRESENTATION SOLD

A recent sale at Sotheby's included such items as an eighteenth-century Havdala candlestick made in Nuremberg and a Torah breastplate of the same period from Austria. Perhaps the most interesting item was a silver case containing a scroll with Biblical texts, originally presented to Lord Balfour at the inauguration of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The filigree case with the scroll and a presentation leather box depicting the return of Jews to the Holy Land was sold for £5,500.

RACISM FROM JEWISH NF-MAN

Jewish National Front member Albert Elder could face prosecution under the Race Relations Act following a report by the Board of Deputies to the Attorney-General. Complaint is specifically made about a leaflet issued and signed by Mr. Elder, recommending a halt to immigration and massive repatriation of Blacks. On the theme of Judaism, the pamphlet, while asserting that Orthodox Jews are far superior to the rest of the nation, declares that they do not regard themselves as British citizens.

HOLOCAUST TEACHING DISCUSSED

Dr. Jacob Gewirtz and Dr. Michael Billig were among those who addressed a seminar on the teaching of the Holocaust, organised by the Yad Vashem Committee of the Board of Deputies. Other speakers included Holocaust survivors. Dr. Billig, a psychology lecturer of Birmingham University and an expert on right-wing extremism, mentioned that expressions of prejudice and antisemitism were commonplace today, while a few years ago they would have been unthinkable. On the question of education on the Holocaust for non-Jews, Dr. Gewirtz declared that the campaign to deny the facts of the persecution in Europe resulted from an unholy alliance of neo-Nazis, Arabs and sections of left-wing supporters.

BRIGHTON OFFICIAL RETIRES

After 31 years as shochet and mohel to the Brighton and Hove community, the Reverend Shlomo Josephs has retired at the age of 70. A Czechoslovak by birth, Mr. Josephs is the sole survivor of his family, all of whom died in the Austrian concentration camp of Sigendorf. He and Mrs. Josephs, herself a former inmate of Auschwitz, have five children and 16 grandchildren.

SCOTTISH GIFT TO MAGEN DAVID ADOM

In a gesture of Christian-Jewish fellowship, the group SUCOT (Scottish United Christian Outreach "Theodotian") has presented an ambulance to Magen David Adom (the Israeli equivalent of the Red Cross) for the use of any resident of Israel regardless of race or religious belief. Those attending the presentation were addressed by the authoress Johanna Ruth Dobshiner, a leading member of SUCOT, who herself experienced persecution under the Nazis in occupied Holland.

CONCERN OVER "LABOUR HERALD"

Several articles in "Labour Herald" alleging Zionist collaboration with the Nazis, together with a cartoon showing Mr. Begin dressed as a Nazi giving the Hitler salute over a pile of corpses, have led the Board of Deputies to refer the paper to the Attorney-General for consideration of proceedings under the Race Relations Act. Concern has also been expressed in Brent, where Ken Livingstone, Labour Leader of the GLC, a joint editor of "Labour Herald", has been adopted as prospective Labour candidate for Brent East. It is felt that his candidature would make it very difficult for Jewish voters to give unqualified support to the Labour Party there.

PROFESSOR APPOINTED

The new Professor of Organic Chemistry at London University is Dr. G. V. Boyd, who came to this country as a boy in 1939. He is the son of Helene and Dr. Martin Biberstein, formerly of Breslau.

RICHARD TAUBER'S LEGACY FOR COVENT GARDEN

The complete musical estate of Richard Tauber, the opera singer who died in 1948, has been acquired by the Royal Covent Garden Opera which will also receive the royalties of Tauber's record and film productions. Provisions to this effect were contained in the will of his widow, Diana Napier who died, aged 75, last March. Miss Napier had married the Polish painter Stanislaw Wolkowicki five years after Tauber's death.

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of the Jewish Chronicle.

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AMADEUS AT SELF AID CONCERT

Queen Elizabeth Hall on 17th October

Self Aid have been fortunate indeed to find a date for their next concert which happens to fit into the busy international schedule of this world-famous quartet. Or rather the three of its members who will obviously perform string trios. "What - only three, not four?" some misguided reader may be asking. This reminds one of the well-worn skit on journalists with little musical knowledge who are sometimes sent by newspapers to cover concerts. Readers familiar with musical in-jokes are advised to skip the next paragraph.

The story concerns the Rosé Quartet, probably the best-known chamber music ensemble of the 1920s and 30s. After a successful concert in a small German town, the local rag published a very flattering notice, ending with the sentence: "We wish this small orchestra every success for the future and may it soon be able to increase the number of its members".

The Amadeus string trio concert will be a rare treat because they are hardly ever heard in this capacity. The items chosen - by Beethoven and Mozart - are without question amongst the most beautiful works in the whole repertoire.

As some readers may remember, the Amadeus have performed in Self Aid concerts before, though many years ago. Already famous then, they have continued to go from strength to strength. Honours have been heaped upon them - all four are OBEs; they have been the subject of a book; a TV documentary; even several newspaper cartoons - the ultimate accolade.

Their last Self Aid appearance led to some unintentional publicity. They had mislaid the score for the cello part of Mozart's "Hunt" quartet and the order of the programme had to be changed until a replacement could be secured. Next day's inevitable newspaper headline was "Hunt for the Hunt Quartet".

KEEPING SCORE

Some ensembles, of course, perform without the music before them - a fairly unusual and difficult feat in chamber music. Most quartets, however, the Amadeus amongst them, consider that this adds to the difficulties of a performance without heightening its artistic quality. To be sure, it aids concentration. Once, during a concert in Australia, there was so much coughing in the audience that Norbert Brainin, the leader, actually stopped and said severely - "No more coughing!" Interestingly, for the rest of the concert one could have heard a pin drop. The Amadeus think that if they had been playing from memory, they would probably have been concentrating so hard that they would not even have noticed the noise made by the audience. On the other hand, playing by heart of necessity restricts the repertoire. This in turn, may lead to tiredness or at least staleness. In fact, it is being rumoured that one (non-British) ensemble may consider dissolution for this very reason.

Music lovers frequently debate the merits of their particular favourites, trying to determine the best violinist, pianist, singer, or, for that matter, ensemble. This reminds one of another age-old musical story, this time directed against the parents of child prodigies whose aims and conduct do not always match the high artistic standards of their offspring. For some reason, the father of the famous violinist Mischa Elman, who started as a "Wunderkind" around the turn of the century, was the butt of many of these jokes. Asked whether his son was going to tour Europe, he is said to have replied, disparagingly - "I rather doubt it. After all, who is

there for him to play against?" Leaving aside the present proliferation of music competitions, the fact is, of course, that in art there is no absolute "best". You cannot rank musicians like tennis stars. On the other hand, there are in every branch of music 4-6 top performers who represent the ultimate in artistic achievement. There can be no doubt that the Amadeus are amongst them.

In one respect, however, they are unique: The members are still exactly the same as they were about 35 years ago when, at the start of their career, they gave their first Wigmore Hall concert. And what is more, they are still the best of friends. Heated arguments on musical interpretation - yes, of course. This is what gives them their freshness and "eternal youthfulness". But in everything else, they agree or at least settle differences of opinion with friendliness, tolerance and loyalty (they would not, for instance, ever play with a substitute even during prolonged illness of a member).

LEARNING SOME GERMAN

Three of them are Austrian refugees, one is British-born. Some time ago, a newspaper article got this right, but it went on to say that the British-born member was Norbert Brainin! Wrong - it is Martin Lovett, their cellist. In the course of 35 years he can't help having learnt *some* German but his incomplete command of the language can on occasions still afford his colleagues some amusement. As when on a German tour he decided, for no good reason, to buy a starting pistol. He greatly enjoyed firing it but in order to avoid any noise, he did so into the typical German feather bed in his room. Until he noticed to his horror, that with every "shot" he had burnt a neat little hole. Honesty personified, he hurried to report the damage to the management and somewhat startled the girl at the desk by saying "Ich habe in mein Bett geschossen". Her reply is not recorded.

Sometimes hoteliers try to take advantage of his lack of linguistic knowledge, as, for instance, when he asked for "a quiet room" only to discover that trams passing every 3 minutes made any practising impossible. His complaint was met with the words "Das Zimmer ist ruhig, der Laerm ist draussen".



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The Amadeus have, of course, recorded most works in the chamber music field. Some of their recordings have sold almost like pop records, so much so, that a number of years ago their recording company awarded them the "Golden Gramophone" in the shape of a miniature replica of the famous HMV trademark albeit without the listening dog. The members of the quartet insist that they are all of the same artistic standard - their leader simply being *primus inter pares*. True to their principles they managed to get not one but four such replicas. Their innate modesty can be gleaned from the fact that they first made sure that the "gold" was in reality gold plating. Real gold would obviously have made any such request impossible.

They all possess, of course, beautiful and valuable instruments. The fact that Martin Lovett always buys an extra ticket for his cello - he would never permit it to be placed in the baggage hold - is well known. Less well known perhaps is the fact that they also own a large number of bows, some of them individually worth many thousands of pounds. When a friend remarked to one of the Amadeus members that he could not understand how anybody could risk using such a valuable and delicate bow for fear of damaging it, the almost indignant reply was, "But I don't use it. I just sit and look at it. It is a work of art". There is no answer to that.

C.F.F.

ERWIN ROSENTHAL - 75 PLUS

Recently, but somewhat belatedly, a distinguished gathering was held in Cambridge to mark the publication of a *Festschrift* in honour of E. I. J. Rosenthal, Emeritus Reader of Oriental Studies in the University of Cambridge and Emeritus Fellow of Pembroke College. The volume is entitled "Interpreting the Hebrew Bible" and has been edited by J. A. Emerton and Stefan C. Reif. This is a field of scholarship in which Erwin Rosenthal has made his mark and was intended to mark his 75th birthday, but took rather longer to produce.

Erwin Rosenthal, born in Heilbronn in 1904, came to England in 1933. Initially a lecturer at University College, London, he later transferred to Manchester and, after a distinguished and highly specialised war career, joined the Faculty of Oriental Languages in Cambridge.

Apart from his academic activities and international reputation, Erwin has always been active in communal affairs, as a member of the Association of Jewish Refugees, on the Board of the Leo Baeck Institute and in fostering Jewish-Christian relations. We wish him and his wife, Elizabeth, many happy years of retirement. W.M.S.

COLLAGES AND RELIEFS 1910-1945

Abstract art is not everybody's cup of tea, but that is no excuse for missing the extensive and important display of classics in this field which are now being shown at Annely Juda Fine Art, 11 Tottenham Mews, London W1, until 2 October 1982. The catalogue itself, with essays by Jane Beckett and Andree Nakov, is itself outstanding and well worth the price (£7).

Works displayed include significant wood reliefs by Jean Arp (1887-1966), collages by Ella Bergmann-Michel (1896-1971) and by her husband Robert Michel (born 1897 and now living in Eppstein/Taunus), an abstract by Carl Buchheister and a wood relief by Erich Buchholz (both these artists considered "degenerate" by the Nazis and forbidden to paint), an abstract by Laszlo Moholy-Nagy (1895-1946), well-known for his activities in the Bauhaus; he emigrated in 1934 and eventually founded the "New Bauhaus" in Chicago, and collages by Kurt Schwitters (1887-1948) who was born in Hanover and came to England in 1940.

Works by such masters as Pablo Picasso and Max Ernst are also to be seen, as well as a number of constructions, collages and photo-montages by Friedrich Vordenberge-Gildewart (1899-1962) who was associated with many of the advanced groups of his time and had the honour of being included in the "Entartete Kunst" exhibition in Berlin in 1936. He finished his life as head of the department of visual arts in the Hochschule Für Gestaltung in Ulm.

ALICE SCHWAB

NEWS FROM ABROAD

MOSCOW JEWISH STUDENT DROP

According to figures published recently in Moscow, the number of Jewish students in Moscow's institutions of higher education is roughly half what it was ten years ago. Analysing these figures in a Research Report recently published by the Institute of Jewish Affairs, Dr. L. Hirszowicz says that although demographic decline and the age structure of Soviet Jewry partly explain the fall, the figures certainly provide statistical evidence that discrimination is also a cause.

The fall in numbers, which was not uniform during the 1970s, parallels the decline of the Soviet Jewish student population as a whole. Using the published figures and other analyses of the Soviet Jewish student population, Dr. Hirszowicz estimates the 1980-81 figure for all USSR Jewish students at 50-55,000, compared with almost 112,000 in 1968-69.

The overall decline in the Soviet Jewish population must have been an important factor - "Jews declined by 15.89% in the USSR as a whole and by 13.2% in the RSFSR in the period between the two last censuses" (1970 and 1979). But in a roughly comparable period Moscow Jewish students declined by 40.8% - "about three times the decline of the general Soviet Jewish population".

SYRIAN REFUGEE FOR WAR CRIMINAL

Alois Brunner, having collaborated with Eichmann in the implementation of Hitler's Final Solution, was tried in absentia by a Paris military court in 1954 and sentenced to death. Today, according to evidence uncovered by Beate and Serge Klarsfeld, he is living in Damascus under the name of Georg Fischer. The Klarsfelds are well-known for their efforts to bring Nazi war criminals to justice, but their attempt to initiate extradition proceedings against Brunner was foiled by the Syrian authorities, who refused Serge Klarsfeld entry to Damascus.

PLO MEN TRAINED IN HUNGARY

Although Hungary has shown itself cooler than other Eastern Bloc countries towards the Palestine Liberation Organisation (it was not until 1979 that the Hungarian leader Janos Kadar was prevailed upon to meet Yasser Arafat), documents seized in Lebanon reveal that PLO training camps have been established within the country. Letters to Palestinians attending courses in Hungary and certificates signed by Hungarian military authorities are among the papers found by Israeli soldiers in Lebanon.

FRANCE

"Exodus" and "Vel d'Hiv" Recalled

"Illegal immigrants" to Palestine were remembered after 35 years at Sète on the French Mediterranean coast, when Frenchmen and Israelis gathered at the spot where the ship "Exodus" left for Palestine in 1947. The French authorities, at the request of Britain, had unsuccessfully tried to prevent the ship sailing with her complement of 3,700 would-be immigrants. Shortly before reaching Palestine, however, she was intercepted by the Royal Navy and her passengers were forced to return to Germany and life as "displaced persons".

Another anniversary marked in France was that of the Velodrome d'Hiver round-up, when the Jews of Paris were herded into a sports stadium in 1942 and kept there for five days before deportation. The City of Paris has set up a monument on the Boulevard de Grenelle near the place where the victims were collected.

Yiddish-French Project Completed

For the first time, a Yiddish-French dictionary is available. A team of linguists has been working on the project over the past few years and the book has now been published in France.

RECOGNITION OF BELGIAN RESISTANCE

The brothers Lifschutz, who managed to stop a train from Mechelen to the East, thereby saving 231 Jewish deportees at the cost of their own lives, were among the 242 Jews of the Belgian resistance killed in the struggle against the occupying Nazis. A memorial bearing the names of all those who fell has now been unveiled at Anderlecht beside the monument to Belgium's Jewish martyrs. Another 18,000 Jews, including 4,000 children, were hidden by Belgian Gentiles during the war and it has been announced that a demonstration of gratitude to those who helped their Jewish fellow-citizens will take place in the near future. The names of 20,000 rescuers have already been recorded, but the list is by no means complete. Especially remembered is a group of postmen who held back letters of denunciation addressed to the Gestapo, so saving many lives.

ITALIAN WORKERS MOCKED JEWS

Following a mass march of workers protesting against unemployment and the end of index-linked wages, the Chief Rabbi of Rome has issued a strong protest to the United Confederation of Labour. He complained that, on reaching Rome's most important synagogue, some marchers shouted anti-Israel and antisemitic slogans in phrases "typical of Neo-Nazi movements". At the memorial to Jews of the Resistance and to those who died in the Ardeatine Caves massacre, a coffin was deposited. Rabbi Roaff described this act as "incredible and sinister" and voiced the deep concern of Jews who had witnessed the demonstration, "bringing us back to times which we considered—at least in Italy—to be definitely over".

US CULT SAYS "JESUS NO JEW"

Recalling some of Dr. Goebbels' more convoluted propaganda, a religious cult in America is claiming that Jesus was not a Jew, "he was a Judaeon". The Ohio-based "Way International", according to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, entices converts with rock music and then subjects them to antisemitic propaganda and paramilitary training. It backs the groups and individuals denying the Holocaust and its magazine carries articles describing Jews as "seeking... to kill Jesus". The Way International is said to have a world membership of anything between forty and a hundred thousand. Founded 40 years ago by its current president Victor Paul Wierwille, it has enough influence to organise a course at the University of Ohio, where students were advised to read "The Myth of the Six Million" and Arthur Butz's "The Hoax of the Twentieth Century".

CHINESE NAZI SENTENCED

Eight years' imprisonment was the sentence passed on a Chinese student who, according to Sichuan radio, praised Adolf Hitler and favoured "a new Gestapo-style organisation to reduce the universe to total chaos".

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Egon Larsen

FAREWELL TO TWO BERLINERS

Gabriele Tergit and Ludwig Wronkow

Within a few days in July, two old friends and colleagues, both Berliners of the pre-Hitler journalistic community, died: Gabriele Tergit at the age of nearly 88½, Ludwig Wronkow at 81½. We mourn this great loss not only because two people, each of whom was "somebody" in the Weimar era, have gone forever; but even more because both had been living examples that emigration did not mean despair, that some amongst us found the strength of pulling themselves up by their own bootstraps, thanks to their personalities that refused to give up the hope of building a new life in a new homeland.

Saying farewell to Gabriele Tergit is not an easy task, for the last memory of her is that of a brain still as sharp, an imagination still as fertile as that of the Jewish girl who made her way in Berlin's "Fleet Street" – yet in a frail body of nearly nine decades, hardly able to read and walk. She had preserved her admirable *naïveté*, her interest in what goes on in the world, throughout the vicissitudes and tragedies of a long life.

Growing up as the daughter of a businessman in the early years of our century, she took advantage of the new attitude to women at the universities, studying history under Friedrich Meinecke and Erich Marcks. Her training in historical research proved most valuable in her writing career which began in topical journalism, first for the *Berliner Börsen-Kurier* and, from 1925, for the *Berliner Tageblatt* under Theodor Wolff. She specialized in law-court reporting, which until then had been a dry-as-dust affair for elderly legal gentlemen, but which she revolutionised by looking at its human side, at the people involved – and writing about them in the everyday language of her Berlin readers. Her court reports, and her feuilleton pieces, made her famous in Berlin; and they were the training-ground for her first book, published in 1931: *Käsebier erobert den Kurfürstendamm*. It was extremely successful, for it satirised the silly, corrupt cultural whirl of Berlin W., describing the snobbish adoration of an East End working-class comic (Eric Carow, in fact). This success gave her the courage to embark on a much more ambitious work, *Effingers*, which the critics called the "Jewish *Buddenbrooks*". Sebastian Haffner wrote about it:

"It has a great theme: the rise and fall of German Jewry, which is so curiously intertwined with the rise and fall of Germany herself. . . . The dangers of self-pity and propaganda are entirely avoided. . . . The book has an extraordinary, almost photographic period truthfulness".

THIRTY FURNISHED ROOMS

Effingers was, of course, not completed before history itself contributed the final chapter. It was written, recalled Tergit, "in thirty furnished rooms in Spindlermühle, Prague, Karlsbad, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and London"; she had emigrated (after an attempt by the SA to break into her Berlin flat) together with her husband, the architect Heinz Reifenberg whom she had married in 1928 – a partnership that was to last until his death forty years later.

Palestine was not much of a success for the Reifengerts as their new homestead. The couple as well as their small son were struck by various illnesses. But what disappointed them most of all was the resentment against certain immigrants from Germany among the old-established Jewish settlers. When a revisionist said at a public meeting, "Da sitzen sie so pöbelhaft und gemein wie in den Berliner

Cafés", Gabriele Tergit, all five foot of her, stormed on the platform and (in her own words) *knallte ihm eine*. They left in 1938 for a summer holiday in Europe, and decided to stay in London, from where they could help their relatives to get out of Germany.

After the war Tergit began to write for the new press which the Allies had set up in occupied Berlin, and also returned to book writing. Cultural history was the field she liked to tackle: *Das Büchlein vom Bett*, then *Kaiserkrone und Pannonien Rot*, and later *Das Tulpenbüchlein*. These books were very successful and appeared in German, English, Italian, Swedish, and even behind the Iron Curtain in Hungarian and Bulgarian. During the last decade or so, there sprang up a proper Tergit cult in Germany – *Käsebier* and *Effingers* were reprinted, radio and TV programmes were made about her and her work, and on her visits to Berlin she was fêted as the grand old lady of Weimar literature. But tragedy came in the midst of her success – her only son perished in a mountaineering accident, and her husband died a few years later.

SECRETARY OF PEN

Since 1957, Gabriele Tergit had been Secretary of the P.E.N. Centre of German-speaking Writers Abroad, the true successor of the pre-Hitler German P.E.N. Due to her devoted work, the Centre became much more than an international club of has-beens. In fact, the diminishing numbers of the original exiled authors have been more than replenished by new members: German-writing academics, younger men and women among the German exiled generation, and others interested in the history of what was once Europe's leading literature. Tergit kept up a vast correspondence with her innumerable friends among the writers all over the world, and the membership of the Centre rose to about 90. Her last months were a race against time; she would have loved to see her memoirs published while she was still alive; but she lost the race; they will appear early next year in Germany.

Ludwig Wronkow, after spending his first emigration years in Prague, had settled in New York. Born in 1900 in Berlin he tried to find work as a technical draughtsman, spent the last months of the First World War in the Kaiser's army and was after it, "like him, looking for a new job", as he wrote with the imperturbable sense of humour that characterized his personality. That new job turned out to be political cartoons, essays, reportages, reviews, mainly for the *Mosse* papers. In his first period of emigration he produced crossword puzzles for the *Prager Tagblatt*; in New York, where he arrived in 1938, he started to work for the newly-founded *Aufbau* as a cartoonist, sales manager, sub-editor, columnist and eventually assistant chief editor. His drawings and articles – altogether 35,000, according to his estimate – were also published in many American and European newspapers and magazines; in short, he was a splendid all-round newspaperman, one of the most successful of German-Jewish refugees, the very embodiment of the never-say-die philosophy.

His old-age hobby was travelling; and it was on a voyage, much too strenuous for an octogenarian, that his life came to an end. With his wife, also a Jewish refugee from Germany, he travelled to Rio and then set out to fly to Switzerland. Over the Atlantic he suffered a heart attack, the airliner had to land at Lisbon, and there he died in a hospital. We who knew him well have lost a sincere friend.

SOUTINE AT HAYWARD

This large retrospective exhibition at the Hayward Gallery comes to London after having been seen in the Westfälisches Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte in Münster, the Kunsthalle in Tübingen, and will then go on to the Kunstmuseum in Lucerne. Thus art lovers who missed this experience in England, may still have a chance to see the works in Switzerland.

The London exhibition was open until 22 August, the one in Lucerne will be on view from 31 August to 31 October.

The show is indeed a memorable one. Soutine's images are introspective and vivid and convey emotion and expression, without losing an underlying sense of realism. These tormented faces, agitated landscapes and representations of dead animals in simple colours reveal a haunted personality and a man of great painterly talents. He was indeed an artist's artist, greatly admired by his friend and colleague Modigliani.

The School of Paris was enriched when three Jewish painters worked there: Chagall, who is fortunately still with us, and narrates his Biblical stories; Modigliani, whose serene figures are greatly admired, and Soutine himself. Soutine never directly reflected his childhood in Smilovitchi, in the district of Minsk. When he settled in Paris in an artists' community nicknamed *La Ruche* (the beehive) between 1912 and 1918 his creative powers were unleashed, and despite abject poverty, his work was a fulfilment. His critical sense was however, fully alert, and he destroyed much of his own work in order to paint improved versions.

It cannot be mere chance that he venerated Rembrandt, the friend of the Jews, who had chosen to live in the Jewish quarter of Amsterdam, although he never copied the master. This is well exemplified by the studies of a beef carcass in the exhibition. On the other hand, he did not attempt to emulate his favourite painting, Rembrandt's so-called *Jewish Bride*, because this work achieved a positive serenity which for Soutine was a Utopian ideal.

When looking at Soutine in a wider context, his inner relationship with the German Expressionists is apparent, an example of the German-Jewish symbiosis so much discussed in recent years. Indeed, Soutine's art is deeply related, uninfluenced, but parallel to, numerous tendencies in German painting, in the past as well as in the present. His realistic renderings, which underline the expressionist tendencies, makes him acceptable now, when young artists are groping for a new realism. So it is deeply significant that this great exhibition was assembled in Germany.

Furthermore, Soutine's obsessional painting somehow relates to the Biblical prohibition of representational images. This prohibition is an indirect acknowledgement of the demonic quality of the arts, of the *tremendum* as analysed by Rudolf Otto. Soutine's is not an art for art's sake, it is for him an obligation, similar to the one experienced by the Prophets, a revelation of the dark side of life. It is in this sense that Soutine must be considered decisively Jewish, regardless of subject matter. It is his intensity which transforms the given world, and makes it obscurely divine. In this context one has to appreciate Soutine's search for the "right" landscape in France, thus transcending the miseries of his childhood. Finally it should be stated that the exhibition had been assembled by Ernst-Gerhard Güse with the collaboration of Maurice Tuchmann. Ernst-Gerhard Güse is also the author of the catalogue (to which several others have contributed) and has established the chronology of the works in collaboration with Esti Dunow. The English translation can be obtained from the Arts Council, the German version from Gerd Hatje Verlag in Stuttgart.

HELEN ROSENAU

NEWS FROM GERMANY

JEWES AND CHRISTIANS IN GERMANY - WEST AND EAST

Relations between Christians and Jews will be prominently featured at this year's annual rally of West German Roman Catholics at Düsseldorf between 1 and 5 September. Christian and Jewish theologians will debate such topics as the Ten Commandments, the story of the Creation, the Lord's Prayer and Repentance, and also the significance of the message of Leo Baeck. Jewish authorities taking part are Dr. Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich (Basle); Pnina, the wife of the Heidelberg rabbi Nathan Peter Levinson, and the chairman of the Central Committee of Jews in Germany, Werner Nachmann. Israel will be represented by the Ambassador in Bonn, Yitzhak Ben-Ari. A joint Christian-Jewish religious celebration is to be conducted by Rabbi Levinson and the Auxiliary Bishop of Regensburg, Mgr Karl Flügel.

*

Meetings between Christians and Jews in East Berlin were arranged by the International Council of Christians and Jews at its annual conference which was held in West Berlin last month under the motto "Meeting Point Berlin: Jews and Christians - Between the Past and the Future". The keynote address was given by the East German Jewish author Stefan Heym, whose latest novel "Ahasver" was published in 1981. After a visit to the synagogue "Friedenstempel", the chairman of the East German Jewish community, Dr. Peter Kirchner, organised a tour of East Berlin's various places of Jewish interest. The East German Government was represented at these occasions.

*

In Dresden local Christians have formed a group called "Encounter with Judaism". A meeting at the Evangelical St. Anne's Church was attended by about 600 people and addressed by the Professor of Church History at Erfurt University, Dr. Franz Peter Sonntag, on the subject of "2,000 years of Christian Antisemitism".

*

The Oberammergauers, whose next Passion Play is not due till 1990, will fill in time with a special jubilee performance in 1984, to mark the 350th anniversary of the Play. By way of introduction they already staged a "Pestival" (*Pestspiel*) on 31 July and 4, 14 and 21 August, recalling the plague from which their ancestors were saved.

JEWISH RECORDS DISPLAYED IN FRANKFURT

During a visit some weeks ago by former Jewish citizens at the invitation of Frankfurt a.M. civic authorities, an exhibition of Jewish life in Frankfurt was opened in the Philanthropin, Hebelstrasse. Manuscripts, original and in reproduction, paintings and photographs traced the history of the community from its earliest beginnings about 1160 until its destruction by the Nazis. Mediaeval ghetto life, emancipation, Jews in the city's economy and cultural life, portraits and many other aspects of Frankfurt Jewry are to be seen in the exhibition, which is a greatly extended version of that mounted in 1975 at the Paulskirche. Even so, it represents only a small part of the material collected by the Frankfurter Stadtarchiv and eventually it is hoped to create a Jewish Museum in the city.

LEGAL FIGHT AGAINST GHETTO LIES

When Jürgen Rieger, the lawyer defending former SS officer Arpad Wigand, declared last November that the Warsaw Ghetto was established simply as a means of combatting a typhus epidemic, energetic protests were raised by Heinz Galinski, leader of the Jewish Community in Berlin. He approached the Federal Ministries of Justice and the Interior, demanding that they take note of the lawyer's flouting of attested facts and the court's failure to refute such a monstrous statement. However, no legal decisions were taken till May of this year, when the Hamburg Landgericht declared "This argument may be historically questionable, but in our view it is not in itself a ground of offence". This judgement allowed Rieger and his allies to disseminate their views: even before the Hamburg hearings, "Stern" magazine had been obliged to publish a correction to an article about Rieger and to include the report that the Warsaw Ghetto had been meant to isolate an infected area.

Heinz Galinski did not remain idle: he continued to carry the matter through the courts and to complain of the judges' bias. His efforts are now beginning to bear some fruit: in a recent decision by the civil division of the Hanseatisches Oberlandesgericht, Rieger was forbidden to give publicity to his argument. The matter is, however, far from settled.

NEO-NAZI KILLED FOREIGNERS

Visitors to the "25 Club" in Nuremberg fell victim to a vicious attack by a young neo-Nazi. Helmut Oxner walked into the club and shot dead two black Americans and an Egyptian. Three other foreigners were wounded before Oxner committed suicide with his own gun. He was later found to be carrying neo-Nazi propaganda as well as three pistols. Black American servicemen had made the club one of their favourite meeting-places in Nuremberg.

JAMES SIMON REMEMBERED

On the fiftieth anniversary of the death of James Simon (1851-1932), the cotton wholesaler and "Royal Berlin Merchant", who was an art connoisseur as well as a public-spirited figure in the German and Jewish worlds, the West Berlin Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz held a memorial celebration in the Ethnographical Museum. Simon was a founder and sometime chairman of the Hilfsverein der deutschen Juden. E.G.L.

JULIUS BAB CRITIC'S PRIZE

The Julius Bab Critic's Prize, established at the end of 1980 by the Federation of West German Volksbühne Societies, has just been awarded for the first time. It went to Georg Hensel, a leading theatre critic and author who has been writing for the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung since 1975. Mr. Hensel, 58, fulfills the requirements of the award, the announcement said, "as an excellent bridge between the theatre and the public". In his role as a populariser of the theatre, Julius Bab (Berlin 1880-New York 1955) was a first-rate critic and Dramaturg in the German press until 1933 ("Freie Volksbühne", Humboldt Hochschule and "Berliner Volkszeitung") and from 1933 to 1938 in the service of the Jüdischen Kulturbund. In the first hard years in New York, he and his wife bred poodles to eke out their living, until matters improved. E.G.L.

FAMILY PROTEST AGAINST PLAY

Mathilde Ludendorff, the second wife of the First World War general and supporter of Hitler, has been presented on stage in Braunschweig despite protests and legal proceedings instigated by her son and son-in-law. Part of their campaign involved the sending of thousands of letters complaining that Berndt W. Wessling, the author, had twisted his subject's words in order to blacken her memory. The playwright even received death threats and plain-clothes police were among the audience at the première of "Mathilde L. Eine deutsche Legende". However, the production passed off without incident.

Mathilde Ludendorff, backed by her husband until his death in 1937, devoted her life to antisemitic, anti-Freemasonry, anti-Jesuit and anti-Marxist polemics. She continued writing after the war, although condemned by a West German court, until her death in 1966. Wessling sees her as "an extra-ordinary, dangerous, deluded, power-mad woman" who embodied "the grotesque, the infantile, the pseudo-emotion of National Socialism's active period, as well as its danger and menace".

COMMISSAR RODE OLD MAN DOWN

Direct evidence of the massacres in the autumn of 1942 has been given by two women who managed to survive Nazi "actions" in Vladimir-Volynsk in the Ukraine. At the trial of former District Commissar Westerheide and his secretary Hanna Zelle, the witnesses, now in their sixties and living in Israel, told how they had seen Westerheide deliberately shoot Jews, in one case after riding down an old man. Each of them gave eyewitness evidence of the two phases of the massacre, one in September 1942 lasting a fortnight and a later action in November. Both women had lost all their relatives in those weeks of terror, but they themselves had hidden in the lofts of various houses and so managed to escape the full fury of the murders.

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HOMAGE TO RABBI SCHONFELD

During the years immediately before the Second World War more and more individuals in this country, Jewish as well as non-Jewish, became aware of the growing threat to the Jews remaining in Germany and Austria and through their own efforts succeeded in helping people and sometimes groups with no other chance of leaving their countries, to find refuge in Britain. One of these individuals was a young orthodox rabbi, 27 years old at the outbreak of war, whose single-minded determination achieved the seemingly impossible: he managed to save thousands.

Rabbi Dr. Solomon Schonfeld was convinced that strictly orthodox Jews, and in particular their children, had fewer chances to emigrate than other Jewish groups. There may have been a grain of truth in this suspicion: in Germany and Austria orthodox Jews led very secluded lives and were not conspicuously represented on the organisations and committees which were mainly responsible for advice and assistance to would-be emigrants.

He was the son of a Hungarian-born rabbi, a disciple of Samson Raphael Hirsch, the philosopher of German ultra-orthodoxy. When he came to Britain, he attempted to establish an independent vigorous orthodox community which would goad the rest of Anglo-Jewry into renewed life. After his father's premature death in 1930, Solomon, the second son of a family of seven children, abandoned his plans to become a lawyer in order to continue the work which his father had begun. He studied at three leading yeshivahs in Czechoslovakia and Lithuania whilst also obtaining a doctorate in philosophy from Koenigsberg university. He then returned to Britain and became the rabbi of his late father's congregation in North London. He also took over the day-

school movement founded by his father and added primary schools for boys and girls to the existing secondary schools. From the very beginning he proved to be a determined man of great charisma who achieved most of his goals because he always refused to take no for an answer.

This determination was put to the test, when, especially after the Anschluss, he received desperate calls for help from the leaders of the Agudath Israel in Germany and Austria and from many friends he had made during his yeshiva days. His first rescue efforts were concentrated on rabbis, religious teachers and functionaries. Subsequently he managed to obtain Home Office immigration permits for hundreds of Jewish children stranded in Austria. Asked for proof that he could feed and house them, he emptied all the school buildings as well as the house he shared with his mother and filled them with cots, retaining only an attic for himself.

SAVING CHILDREN

By February 1939, he had brought over 750 children and adolescents from Vienna alone, and as the danger of war increased, many more were to follow. He managed to find foster-homes for all of them, but continued to take a personal interest in their schooling and personal well-being. When war broke out, he arranged for the evacuation of the children attending his schools to Shefford in Bedfordshire with Judith Grunfeld as their dedicated headmistress. In her moving book "Shefford", reviewed in *AJR Information June 1981*, Judith Grunfeld has described this particular part of his work. When internment started in 1940 and many of the older boys (and a few of the girls) were sent to the Isle of Man, Rabbi Schonfeld visited

the camps and arranged for the provision of kosher food and spiritual guidance for them and for other orthodox internees.

After the war, he continued his rescue work by repeatedly visiting post-war Poland and Czechoslovakia in order to bring over surviving Jewish orphans. Most of them had been sheltered by non-Jewish families and had lost all contact with Jewish life. Once more he took an interest in each and every one of them and helped them to become useful members of the Jewish community.

A few months ago, Rabbi Schonfeld celebrated his seventieth birthday, and a number of those who had found new lives in many lands published a small volume of reminiscences: "Solomon Schonfeld, His Page in History" (edited and with a biographical essay by David Kranzler and Gertrude Hirschler, Judaica Press, New York, 1982). It contains the memories of a number of his erstwhile wards, many of whom have become successful in establishing careers which were made possible by the help he gave them in their hour of need. They all express their admiration and gratitude and remember his many personal acts of kindness, such as providing pocket-money for a young girl (who happens to be Felicia Selton née Druckman, the secretary of the editor of *AJR Information*), or comforting two homesick little girls by driving them round London in his car. Even now, after so many years, he seems to remember the names and particulars of all of them wherever and whenever he meets them.

The booklet is a fitting homage to a man who throughout his life has been involved in many controversies with the authorities and with Jewish institutions. He has not always won, but he did win the fight against officialdom and defeatism when Jewish lives were at stake, and for this he will always be gratefully remembered. It has indeed secured his page in history. M.P.

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OBITUARIES

HEINRICH SCHNITZLER

Heinrich Schnitzler, son of the playwright Arthur Schnitzler, has died in Vienna at the age of 79 after a long career in the American and Austrian theatre. Emigrating to the United States in 1938, he became Professor of Theatre Arts at the University of California. No mere academician, he directed a number of plays in North America before returning to Austria in 1957 as the deputy director of Vienna's Josefstadt Theater. He was also invited as guest producer by many drama centres elsewhere in Europe.

PROF. ALBERT NORDEN

Professor Albert Norden, one of East Germany's leading propagandists, who held the rank of State Secretary, has died aged 77. He was born in Myslowitz, the son of Rabbi Joseph Norden, who in 1907 became Rabbi in Elberfeld and, a few years after his retirement, perished in Theresienstadt. Albert Norden joined the Communist Party in 1920. In 1921 he edited "Rundbriefe der radikalsozialistischen juedischen Jugend". He served an apprenticeship as a carpenter but gave it up for a career in journalism and ultimately held senior posts on Communist newspapers, including, for a short period, the chief editorship of the "Rote Fahne". He left Germany in March 1933 for Copenhagen. From there he went first to Czechoslovakia and then to France. In 1941 he was admitted to the United States. Shortly after the war he returned to Berlin, resumed his journalistic career and was subsequently appointed Professor of Modern History at the (East) Berlin Humboldt University. His numerous offices included the Secretariat for Propaganda and until 1981, membership of the Politbüro.

J. C. GILBERT

The death of Joe Gilbert on 8 August at the age of 82 has left a great gap in the Anglo-Jewish community. A great-grandson of Samson Raphael Hirsch, he was born in London and, by the early nineteen thirties, had already made his mark as *Bakoach* (executive head) of Habonim, the Jewish youth movement. His interest in young people and, especially, in retaining their connections with Judaism, was later continued in the B'nai Hillel movement. His determined efforts have ensured that there is now a Hillel House or representation in practically every British university. Joe was a modest man, but determined that his projects succeed. He would never take no for an answer. Men of his calibre are rare and he will be sorely missed. W.M.S.

DAVID FRANKFURTER

David Frankfurter, who in 1936 shot the Swiss Nazi leader Wilhelm Gustloff, has died in Tel Aviv at the age of 71. Yugoslav in origin, Frankfurter witnessed at first hand the persecution of the Jews in the Third Reich and felt impelled to revenge his co-religionists. He made no secret of his guilt to the Swiss authorities and at his subsequent trial was sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment. However, this was commuted in 1945 and he emigrated to Palestine, eventually obtaining a post in the Israeli Ministry of Defence. His book "Nakam" (Vengeance) was not perhaps as widely-known as might be expected, but a few years ago a Swiss company made a film about the Gustloff shooting entitled "Assassination in Davos".

Wilhelm Gustloff became one of the "saints" of the Nazi movement; the *Strength Through Joy* ship named after him was sunk in the Baltic at the end of the war with the loss of thousands of lives. At the time she was carrying German refugees from the east, as well as a number of the survivors from eastern concentration camps.

RUTH CALE

Ruth Cale, who had been *The Sunday Times* correspondent in Israel for five years and was one of Israel's internationally known journalists - contributing also to the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* and the *Baltimore Sun* - died in Jerusalem last Monday, aged 65.

In her twenties, under British rule, she worked as a reporter for the *Palestine Post* (now the *Jerusalem Post*). She was a supporter of Haganah.

She was born in Freiburg, Germany, in 1917. She spent a year in England to learn the language. In 1933, with Adolf Hitler in power, the family fled to Italy. Two years later she settled in Palestine.

HANS HERZFELD

Prof. Hans Herzfeld died in Berlin shortly before his 90th birthday. He was dismissed from his post at the University of Halle/Saale in 1938 because he had a Jewish grandfather, and was arrested by the Gestapo in 1943. After the war he taught at Freiburg and at the Free University in Berlin. As Chairman of HIKO (Historische Kommission), which he had founded in 1959, he sponsored the series on German-Jewish themes which included studies by Dr. Jacob Jacobson, former director of the German-Jewish Archives in Berlin, Dr. Stefi Jersch-Wenzel, Dr. Herrmann Z. M. Meyer, the bibliographer of Moses Mendelssohn who died in Jerusalem in 1972, and Prof. Guido Kisch, his colleague from his Halle days, who now lives in Basel. E.G.L.

ALEXANDER MITSCHERLICH

Alexander Mitscherlich, author of "Medizin ohne Menschlichkeit" and "Die Unfähigkeit zu trauern" among many other works, died a few weeks ago in Frankfurt a.M. At one time a follower of Ernst Niekisch's National Bolshevism, he was more than once imprisoned by the Nazis, but survived to give evidence of criminal medical experiments at the Doctors' Trial in Nuremberg after the war. As a research psychologist, Professor Mitscherlich did much to restore the state of psychology and psychotherapy in post-war Germany after the 12-year rejection of psychoanalysis as "immoral and Jewish" during the Hitler regime.

LEGACIES

The AJR Charitable Trust has received legacies of £2,050 from the estate of the late Mrs. Frieda Epstein, £670 from the estate of the late Mrs. Margaret Frank and £3,000 from the estate of the late Mr. Rudolf Berlowitz.

ALBERT ISAAC POLACK

A teacher by profession, Albert Isaac Polack, who has died at the age of 90, was an indefatigable worker in the cause of Christian-Jewish relations. After his 26 years of teaching at Clifton College, Bristol, came to an end, he was appointed Education Officer of the Council of Christians and Jews in 1950. He had long been involved with the organisation and held this post until his retirement in 1968.

ANDRÉ TCHAIKOWSKY

The pianist and composer André Tchaikowsky has died in Oxford at the early age of 46. Born in Warsaw, he was as a small boy smuggled to Paris and survived the Second World War there, although his father and mother were murdered in Poland. Shortly before his death he had completed an opera based on "The Merchant of Venice", but no date of performance has so far been announced.

EVA KOBRAK

Eva Kobrak, born in Breslau and formerly headmistress of Surbiton High School, died recently aged 60. Brought to England by Bishop Bell's rescue organisation, Miss Kobrak made strenuous efforts to complete her education in her new country and succeeded so well that she was appointed head of English at Wallington Girls' School. As a headmistress, a post she had to relinquish in 1964 for health reasons, she made her mark by her ecumenical approach to religious matters and in this field her ideas were in advance of their time. Miss Kobrak was also noted for her talent as a painter and gave a number of one-woman exhibitions.

ROMAN JAKOBSON

The "father of modern phonology", with a working knowledge of over 20 languages, the linguistics expert Dr. Roman Jakobson has died at Cambridge, Mass., aged 85. In 1920, he fled from revolutionary Russia to Czechoslovakia where he made his home until 1938. Once again forced onward, this time by Nazi occupation, he made his way to the United States and became Professor of Slavic Languages and Linguistics, first at Harvard and then at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

HENRY SANDERS

The death of the Dresden-born artist Henry Sanders, aged 64, was announced recently. He came to Britain in 1936 and studied at the Hornsey College of Art before developing a close association with the Ben Uri Art Gallery. Many of Mr. Sanders' works have been publicly shown, sometimes in one-man exhibitions and he established his own gallery in Highgate in order to encourage and publicise the work of lesser-known artists. He fervently supported attempts to free political prisoners and to bring about world peace.

ISAAC MICHAELSON

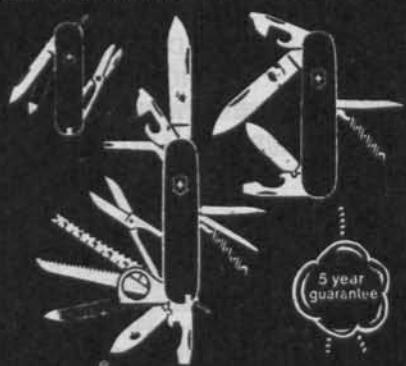
Scottish-born Professor Isaac Michaelson has died in Jerusalem at the age of 79. He was one of Israel's most eminent eye specialists. During the Second World War, Professor Michaelson spent long periods in Palestine and often worked with refugee Jewish doctors, whom he encouraged to join the British army.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE LEBANON WAR

Sir,—The absence of any reference, in your August issue, to the war in the Lebanon is noticeable and remarkable at a time when world attention is focused on this event.

Whilst recognising the political independence of the AJR I believe that an association of former refugees who are survivors of the holocaust should not close its eyes to the humanitarian aspects of the conflict but express its abhorrence and grief at the terrible destruction and suffering of thousands of civilians, women and children in whose land this war is fought with the utmost ferocity.

Lord Sieff, by his recent substantial donation to the Red Cross, has shewn a measure of compassion and goodwill which, at the end of the day, must prevail if any hopes for a meaningful peace are not to be buried in the ruins of Beirut.

13 Birkdale Road,
London W5

H. C. MAYER

It has always been the policy of the AJR to refrain from commenting on general political events which might often also be overtaken by new developments as a result of the lengthy production cycle of a monthly journal. We publish the above letter, which may express the views of quite a few in our midst, but not necessarily the opinion of this non-political journal.

PROF. JACOB WOLFF

Sir,—In connection with a research project at this university, I am very keen to acquire a copy of "Die Lehre von der Krebskrankheit" by Sanitätsrat Professor Doctor Jacob Wolff (1861-1938). This was published in five volumes in Jena by Gustav Fischer Verlag, 1907-1928. A second edition was published in 1929. I would be glad to hear from any of your readers who might be able to help.

(Dr.) JULIUS CARLEBACH

University of Sussex
School of African and Asian Studies,
Arts Building C,
Falmer,
Brighton, Sussex BN1 9QN

UNESCO APPOINTMENT

Prof. Dr. Herbert Lewin of Wiesbaden has again been elected to the West German UNESCO Commission as the representative of the Central Council of German Jews. The chairman of the board, which has held its 42nd plenum in Bonn, remains the 70-year-old art historian of the Free University of Berlin, Professor Dr. Otto von Simson, the great-grandson of Eduard von Simson (1810-1899), the jurist of Jewish origin who was president of the Frankfurt National Assembly in 1848. A biography of Eduard was reviewed at length in a recent issue of *AJR Information*.

E.G.L.

DECORATION FOR WORK ON SWABIAN JEWRY

Author of a recently-published documentation on the life and fate of Swabian Jewry ("Lebens-

zeichen", Bleicher: Gerlingen b. Stuttgart), Dr. Walter Strauss of New York has been presented with Baden-Württemberg's Medal of Merit. Baden-Württemberg Ministerpräsident Dr. Lothar Späth declared at the award ceremony that the book would be presented to all school libraries in the Land. A few days later Mayor Manfred Rommel of Stuttgart gave a reception for Dr. Strauss at which an old friend, ex-Chancellor Kiesinger, was also present.

FRANKFURT-TEL AVIV KINDERGARTEN

In the course of a year the Frankfurt Friends of Tel Aviv have raised DM 100,000 for the building of a Tel Aviv kindergarten which will accommodate 120 Jewish and Arab children together. A cheque for this sum was handed over to Dr. Walter Wallmann, Governing Mayor of Frankfurt, co-sponsor (with Shlomo Lahat, Mayor of Tel Aviv) of the project, by Liesel Christ, founder of the Frankfurt Friends, who is manager of the Volkstheater in the city. E.G.L.

CANAANITE GERMAN-AMERICAN STAMP

A Berlin-born German Jew, Gershon Canaan of Dallas, Texas, son of the bank director Ernst Korther, and as architect and town planner a former pupil of Erich Mendelsohn in Palestine, where Canaan spent 14 years, has successfully initiated the project for a German-American double stamp to appear in October 1983. The stamp will commemorate the arrival of the ship Concord at Philadelphia in 1683 with Mennonite immigrants from Krefeld, who later founded Germantown. Canaan is Honorary German Consul in Dallas.

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

Guttman:— Mrs. Sidonie Guttman, née Bett, formerly of Berlin, will celebrate her 90th birthday on 15 September. Family and friends offer sincere congratulations and best wishes.

Jaekel:— Mrs. Else Jaekel of 6, Adys Lawn, St. Pauls Avenue, Willesden, London, NW2 5UE, from Gelsenkirchen, Germany, will celebrate her 75th birthday on 9 September. With love and good wishes from her sisters Rosa and Fanny, nieces and nephews and their children.

Golden Wedding

Schaul:— Congratulations to Martin and Ruth on the occasion of their Golden Wedding. Our fondest love to them both. Edith, Barbara, Salvador, Daniel and Jonathan.

Deaths

Baruch:— Betty (Britta) Baruch, Norwich, died peacefully on 22 July in her 97th year. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Geiger:— Mr. Paul Geiger died at Leo Baeck House on 10 July 1982. Deeply mourned by his friends.

Gumprich:— Eugenie Gumprich of 21 Grosvenor Court, Christchurch Avenue, London N.W.6, passed away on August 17 in her 86th year. Deeply mourned by her children Andrew and Hazel Kingsley, Rolf and Susi Oppenheimer, grandchildren Peter and Lynn and great-grandchild James.

Hunter:— Anthony Hunter (Toni Hundsorfer), born 1 May 1902 (Munich) passed away. Deeply mourned and loved by his wife, family, sons Peter and Ernest, daughter-in-law Vivienne, grandchildren Jonathan and Rachel; daughter Sonja Klingel and husband Fritz and two grandsons Fritz and Rudi in Munich and many dear friends both in this country and in Bavaria.

Kohn:— Mrs. Marta Kohn, beloved wife of Robert Kohn and mother of Elizabeth, died on 25 July 1982. Private cremation took place on 28 July.

Lewin:— Betty Lewin of Rise Park, Nottingham, dearly loved sister of Kathe (Nottingham). Hermann (Brussels), Walter, Leo (Buenos Aires) and all her family in North and South America, Canada and Israel passed peacefully away on 15 August after a stroke.

Nelke:— Mr. Kurt Nelke died peacefully on 4 August. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by his wife Dina.

Osterman:— Mr. Alfred Osterman (formerly Cologne) died on 7 August after a short illness. He was an active member of the B'nai B'rith Lodge and will be sadly missed by his great number of close friends.

Reifenberg:— Dr. Elise Reifenberg née Hirschmann (Gabriele Tergit) for many years Secretary of the PEN Centre of German Speaking Writers Abroad and Board Member of the AJR passed away after a short illness on the 25 July, 1982, aged 88; sadly mourned by her family and her many friends all over the world. — The Hermitage, Middle Mayfield, Ashbourne DE6 2JU.

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BIRTHDAYS

JOSEPH LEFTWICH 90

Joseph Leftwich, the doyen of Anglo-Jewish writers, will be 90 on 20 September. Born in Zutphen (Holland) he came to this country at an early age, and the East End of London, for whose Jewish past he has retained his affection throughout his life, shaped his personality. He is at home both in Yiddish and English literature. His works include a biography of Israel Zangwill, the anthologies "Yisroel", "The Golden Peacock" and "The Way We Think". When Jewish writers and other intellectuals came to this country as refugees, he established bonds of friendship with many of them and also translated works of theirs into English. The AJR considers it as a particular privilege that he follows this journal with great diligence and appreciation. His vigour belies his age. This was borne out only a few months ago, when he spoke on the occasion of the presentation of George Clare's "Last Waltz in Vienna" under the auspices of the Balfour Diamond Jubilee Trust. We extend our cordial birthday wishes to our friend Joseph Leftwich.

JOHN H. KAHAN 85

The film author and producer John H. Kahan will celebrate his 85th birthday on 9 September. He wrote the first film about the Habsburgs with Leni Riefenstahl in the cast and he was also the author and producer of most of the Siegfried Arno films. In 1930 he wrote "Dramaturgie des Tonfilms", with

an introduction by Eric Pommer. From 1933-35 he was Professor at the Film Seminar in Vienna. Since 1935, Mr Kahan has been living in London. He wrote the most successful George Formby Film "I SEE I CE" and was Professor at the Film Class at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. He also lectured at R.A.D.A., the British Film Institute and the National Film Theatre. In 1977 he was awarded the Austrian Cross of Honour 1st Class for Art and Science.

RABBI WERNER VAN DER ZYL 80

It may be a truism to say "once a rabbi, always a rabbi", but it is amply borne out in the career of Dr. Werner Van der Zyl, who celebrates his eightieth birthday on 11 September. Born in Schwerte, his first job was with the Berlin Jewish community. He came to England a few months before the outbreak of war and was appointed rabbi of Richborough Camp, the transit camp for refugees. Later, he became Minister of the North Western Reform Synagogue, where he stayed until 1958. Then he attained the position of Senior Minister of the West London Synagogue, where he stayed until 1968 when he "retired". He moved to Majorca, but was not satisfied until he had organised a community there to which he ministered, as well as taking services in Nice. Even then his energy was not

exhausted, for he took over for a time as Minister of the Zurich community. We congratulate him on his birthday - and wonder what he will be up to next.
W.M.S.

MISS EMMA WEIL 90

On 26 September, Miss Emma Weil will celebrate her 90th birthday. She was born into an old established family in Stuttgart, where her father was a well known doctor. Both her parents and she received awards in recognition of their outstanding services during the First World War. Miss Weil studied economics and also received an education as a social worker. She attained diplomas as "Kinder-gaertnerin" and as "staatlich anerkannte Wohlfahrtspflegerin". She held positions with the Office of Jewish Welfare Work and the "Hilfsverein fuer juedische Wohlfahrtspflege in Wuerttemberg-Hohenzollern".

Miss Weil came to this country a few days before the outbreak of war, together with her father, who was then 80 years old. As she could not get a permit as a social worker, she took a job as a domestic. Later, she became a staff member of the Boarding House Sachs as telephone operator and receptionist. She visited Stuttgart several times and, on the occasion of her 80th birthday, was honoured by congratulations and presents of the municipal authorities and by detailed articles in the local press. Miss Weil now lives at Heinrich Stahl House. She is an old standing member of the AJR. We extend our sincerest congratulations to her.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

A Future for Operetta in London. After promising beginnings with works from the Golden and Silver era of operetta, London's Sadler's Wells Theatre in Rosebery Avenue may become a permanent home for operetta revivals, and Kalman's "Countess Maritza" is promised for a series of performances in February 1983.

Tit Bits. Vienna's famous auction house, the Dorotheum, celebrated its 275 year jubilee. British playwright *Edward Bond* has completed the libretto for an opera which Hans Werner Henze is setting to music; it is called "The English Cat".

Birthdays. One of the great painters of our time, *Marc Chagall* who was born near Vitebsk, who painted the ceiling of the Paris Opera House, and who, among other cities, has worked and lived in Zürich and New York, has reached the milestone of 95. Actress *Kaethe Haack*, a grand old lady of German films, is 85.

Obituary. *Maria Jeritza*, the soprano, has died in Orange, New Jersey, at the age of 94. Olmütz-born, she started a long career at the Vienna State Opera in 1912, and, with every major opera house clamouring for her, soon became known as "primadonna assoluta". Admired by Puccini, applauded by Richard Strauss, she made some operatic roles her very own, and, on returning from the United States where she had sung since 1921, seemed to deserve the title "The Girl from the Golden West" quite literally. She enthralled audiences as Elsa, was radiant as Ariadne, and was a glorious Turandot.

Even after World War II, she returned for a short while to Vienna, to repeat her successes as Tosca and Salome before a wildly applauding audience to whom she was the Duse of opera. The death in Vienna is announced of *Herman Thimig*. He was 92 and had left the stage in 1967. Thimig, together with other members of his family, was instrumental in establishing the ensemble with which Max Reinhardt began the "Schauspieler in der Josefstadt" in 1924. Ten years later he joined the Burgtheater where he became a permanent member, excelling in Raimund and Nestroy parts. During the thirties and forties he was also a prominent film actor. The death of *Heinrich Schnitzler* took place in Vienna; his impending 80th birthday was announced in this column recently. Son of the great Austrian dramatist and true executor of his father's literary will, he was himself a stage director in Zürich, Berlin, Munich and Rotterdam, and - of course - Vienna, where, for a time, he was co-director of the "Josefstadt" theatre.

Another book by *Sir Rudolf Bing*, called "A Knight at the opera" (which appeared in German under the title "Gala Abend", published by Kindler Verlag, Munich) could be called a sequel to the author's more substantial work "5000 evenings at the Opera House". Sir Rudolf deals with his 22-year activity as General Manager of the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, and in this volume, which will be of great interest to opera lovers who like to read about happenings on stage as well as behind the

scene, he mentions in particular artistic and organisational problems, and negotiations with "difficult" personalities like Maria Callas. It is also an operatic calendar from 1950 to 1972, from early experiences to the farewell referred to in the title.

S.B.

ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTES TO PROFESSOR SCHOLEM

At the first anniversary of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, which is modelled on the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, tributes were paid to the great scholar of Jewish Mysticism Gershom Scholem who died earlier this year. He had been one of the founder members of the college and had delivered the opening address at its formal opening, his subject being the Kabbala in European thought throughout the ages. Gershom Scholem, the Rector declared, had been the most eminent of the scholars involved in the new college, whilst another speaker maintained that, despite the six decades he had spent in Jerusalem, Professor Scholem had always at heart been an unmistakable Berliner.

LITERARY CONFERENCE AT OXFORD CENTRE

Many tributes were paid to Dr. David Patterson, founder and director of the Oxford Centre for Post-Graduate Hebrew Studies, on the occasion of his 60th birthday. An international conference held at the same time heard a discussion on the lost centres of Hebrew literature, such as Vilna, Vienna, Odessa and elsewhere throughout Central and Eastern Europe. The theme of the conference was modern Hebrew Literature.

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