

C. C. Aronsfeld

BOYCOTT DAY FIFTY YEARS AGO

Nazis' First Shot in the Coming War

The Nazi boycott of German Jewry on 1 April 1933 was the first move in the Second World War. The immediate target was Jews who were to be pilloried as outcasts of the national community but the implications were world-wide. The official organiser of the boycott, Julius Streicher, the arch-Jewbaiter, was not far wrong when he boasted that "in this hour the greatest war of all time is being declared". Dr. Goebbels, the Minister of Propaganda, with his usual self-assurance then confessed, as yet off the record: "We are out to launch a spiritual campaign of conquest which must be carried out in the whole world exactly as we have carried it out in Germany". Antisemitism was to be the tool of revolution, a weapon of Nazi imperialism, and Hitler proved remarkably realistic when he told his then friend Hermann Rauschning: "You will see how little time we shall need to confuse the ideas of the whole world simply by attacking the Jews".

The first to be confused were the Germans. They were made to believe that by challenging the bogey called "Jewish World Power" they had shown themselves stronger than all the rest, stronger even than those then protesting in the West who once claimed to have defeated them. The blows inflicted on helpless people inside Germany were in fact aimed at powerful people outside who could be exposed as impotent to restrain the formidable Nazis. Dr. Goebbels later admitted as much: "We never talked about foreign policy but it was on our minds all the time".

The boycott began when, at the stroke of 10 a.m., access to all shops and businesses considered Jewish was barred by storm trooper bullies while posters everywhere and well-drilled shouting choruses broadcast the slogan: "Germans, defend yourselves! Don't buy from Jews!" The "defence" was directed against a rising tide of world-wide indignation for which foreign Jews were blamed and German Jews must pay. Actually boycotts had been part of the Nazi campaign long before 1933, part even of the

antisemitic campaign generally before the Nazis were thought of, and boycott threats were frequently subjects of legal action by Jews. But bigger issues were now at stake and when the boycott was called off after 24 hours because it could not be maintained much longer, a famous victory was claimed to have been won. "The foreign atrocity propaganda has distinctly abated", Dr. Goebbels noted, and "Jewish world power is in full retreat", ranted Hitler's own newspaper the *Völkischer Beobachter*.

PROPAGANDA TRICKS

These propaganda tricks were to cover the boycotters' own embarrassment, for many Germans failed to see the victory. "Many are despondent", Dr. Goebbels wrote in his diary, "they fear the boycott will lead to war". In fact the British Ambassador in Berlin reported a "fear of foreign intervention greater than the Nazi leaders could dare to admit"; he found, judging by the people he met, that "even in Nazi circles the Jewish persecution is not universally approved, while in all other circles it is severely condemned". The distinguished German author, Hans Carossa, who himself kept quiet then, confessed after the war: "To every mind unclouded by prejudice, the day the Jews were outlawed in April 1933 revealed at one stroke how widely the German masses had lost the sense of the dignity of man".

The *Frankfurter Zeitung*, which then still retained a measure of independence, warned against "antisemitic actions whose beginnings were plain enough but whose ends and ultimate effects were far beyond

anything men could foresee"; the "millions of people willing to support the Government", "refused to admit that the voices of humanity, justice and reason must be stilled".

However, such voices were not heard, not even among those who might have been expected to raise them. None of the Christian Churches made a public protest. The Evangelical Church had long been corrupted by a militant German nationalism, and the Catholics were still sufficiently cooped up in their anti-Judaic tradition to find any intercession "inopportune".

The German Jews bore themselves with fortitude and dignity. Their representative body (*Reichsvertretung*) issued a statement which said: "For the sake of truth and for the sake of our honour, we here lodge a solemn protest against these charges. . . . Because of the shortcomings of a very few for whom we can on no account be held responsible, we German Jews are to be doomed to economic death". It was not of course economic death alone. The boycott was the first stage on the road to physical death in that it isolated the victims inside Germany before eventually killing them off outside.

In the Zionist paper *Jüdische Rundschau*, Robert Weltsch published the memorable injunction "Be proud to wear the Yellow Badge!"; he is deservedly remembered for this famous article which gave courage and comfort to the persecuted. Later he thought the article was "based on a mistake" in that it underestimated the enemy's intentions, and certainly he could not foresee that within less than ten years the Yellow Badge would be turned from an historical allegory into a murderous reality.

Outside Germany, Jews tried to organise an anti-Nazi boycott but it had little effect—in part because counsels were divided. In Britain the Board of Deputies called for restraint and opposed public demonstrations under Jewish auspices, while individual initiative, under the guidance of Sir Robert Mond, the chemical scientist, launched the Jewish Representative Council for the Boycott of German Goods and Services, an organisation which drew support from a large number of local boycott committees, synagogues and friendly societies. In the United States the American Jewish Congress, directed by relatively recent (East European) immigrants, urged strong action, in defiance of (Nazi-instigated) warnings received from German Jews, while the "establishment" of the American Jewish Committee frowned severely on the agitation.

Few then appreciated the perceptive foresight of the *Manchester Guardian*: "The Jews in Germany have suffered but, even if the boycott is abandoned, they will not have suffered enough. They have expiated

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BOYCOTT DAY 50 YEARS AGO

the supposed offences of foreign Jews and foreign critics. They have yet to expiate the crime of being Jews".

Certainly the British Government did not appreciate what was at stake. They did feel a "special concern" at the events. The Foreign Secretary (Sir John Simon) described this concern as "the inevitable expression of the attachment which we all feel to the principle of racial toleration" which was not a Jewish but rather "the Anglo-Saxon outlook". But principles were one thing, action a very different matter. They would not hear of any "unwarrantable interference" which would do more harm than good and not be in the interests of the Jews themselves. Besides, they were glad to have received "satisfactory assurances" from Germany. Much the same attitude was adopted by the US Government.

Thus, on the balance of *Realpolitik*, the Nazis may be said to have scored on Boycott Day. Inasmuch as they met no tangible resistance, their first act of international aggression succeeded. They had staged a trial of strength not between themselves and the Jews but between Germany and the world, and it proved, from their point of view, a most encouraging experience. Not long afterwards, the British Ambassador in Berlin reported that Germany was

"flouting the opinion of Europe" because "she believes she can now safely pursue this course".

The first consequences of Boycott Day soon became apparent. All public positions were purged of "alien race influences" and Jewish professors, lecturers, teachers, lawyers, doctors, and artists were sacked wholesale. On 7 April the violence was consolidated in the "law for the restoration of the civil service". This was the first instance of anti-semitic slogans being given the force of law. More were to follow, always accompanied by the official lawlessness of insults, humiliations, degradation and incitement to violence, until two years later the second stage on the road to extermination was reached, the Nuremberg Laws.

Meanwhile German Jews were struggling on as best they could, resigning themselves to a position where (as they put it) "Goethe's saying, 'If I love you what's that to do with you?', is almost the only hope of the German Jew who wants neither to lose his self-respect nor forsake the purpose of his labour which is labour for Germany". Alas, the Germany they laboured for had ceased to exist.

This is the third article in our series assessing the events of 1933. The first and second appeared in our January and February issues.

ON THE TRACK OF TYRANNY 1933-1983

Wiener Library Exhibition

An exhibition called "On the Track of Tyranny" to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Wiener Library will open on 19 April at 4 Devonshire Street, London, W.1, continuing to 13 May. The Wiener Library, London, is Europe's most important collection of materials on the rise of Nazism, totalitarian movements, racism, antisemitism, and also on resistance movements and post-war reconstruction. Among the exhibits are many items never shown before. These include rare posters, leaflets, documents, yellow stars from various parts of Europe, leaflets prepared in English by the German High Command for the occupation of Britain, menus of a Gestapo H.Q. restaurant, leaflets dropped by the belligerents behind enemy lines, black propaganda material smuggled into occupied Europe, etc.

NEW PLAY ON EICHMANN

Amidst much media excitement, the Bavarian State Theatre recently premiered "Brother Eichmann" by the late Heinar Kipphardt. Previous plays by this author had included "In der Sache J. Robert Oppenheimer" and "Joel Brand", in which Eichmann had appeared as a Satanic figure sadiistically tricking Brand into believing that some kind of deal for Jewish lives could be made. The latest production relied heavily upon the 1961 trial of Eichmann in Jerusalem, some parts following the court record word for word. However, the playwright also brought in what he called "analogous scenes", drawing parallels with terrorists in many parts of the world. Originally included was a scene based on Ariel Sharon's interview with an Italian journalist, but this was cut in the stage production.

The work had a mixed reception: it was felt that Kipphardt had weakened in his attitude to Eichmann and that the piece dragged in the later scenes. Probably the dramatist, had he lived, would have revised his work, a task which was carried out by the director.

BERLIN'S JEWISH MUSEUM REMEMBERED

At the end of January, an exhibition of "Synagogues in Berlin" was opened in West Berlin. But this was not, like so many other exhibitions and functions held about that time, related to the 50th anniversary of Hitler's *Machtergreifung*: it commemorated the 50 years which had passed since the opening of the first Jewish Museum in Germany on 24 January 1933. Despite all the obstacles it faced, all the oppression and abrogation of rights, the Jewish Museum managed to stay in being until 1938 and even in those years attracted thousands of visitors. Many of the paintings, sculptures, archaeological exhibits and examples of Jewish craftsmanship which it housed were irretrievably lost, but some, after a very odyssey of wandering, are once more to be seen in West Berlin.

"TOOL KIT" FOR OLD AGE

Professor Heinz Wolff is to join the Brunel University Institute of Bioengineering. The aim of the Institute is to develop technology to be put at the service of old or disabled people. Professor Wolff intends, he told a meeting of Age Concern, to spend his time in developing "tool kits for the elderly". Whilst children and young adults have such "tools" as baby walkers, roller skates or computers, old people were told that they needed "aids".

Currently head of the Medical Research Council's bioengineering division, Heinz Wolff will continue to spend some time at the MRC for the next twelve months.

PRINCESS AT OLD AGE HOME

The Princess of Wales was a welcome visitor to Nightingale House, the Home for Aged Jews in Wimbledon, a short time ago. She met residents, permanent staff and volunteers, and accepted a toy for Prince William made by one of the elderly inmates.

AUSCHWITZ EXHIBITION

The Auschwitz Exhibition in St. George's in the East, Stepney, has attracted at least 8,000 young people, for whom it was specially devised. Only school-children aged at least 13 years were admitted, since it was felt that younger pupils might find the experience too disturbing. The organisers tried to avoid the crudely sensational, although whips and other instruments of torture were on display, supplemented by a length of cloth woven from human hair and a show-case containing pairs of children's shoes. Over the next two years, London secondary schools are to use the special teachers' packs produced in connection with the event. The exhibition will later be seen in Manchester and Newcastle.

Associated lectures were also given, including one by Dr. Martin Gilbert and another by Bishop Hugh Montefiore addressed to the clergy of Stepney. The Bishop dealt with the anti-Jewish theme in the Christian scriptures and writings and called upon the churches to acknowledge their own guilt in the Holocaust. He also condemned the virulent anti-semitic propaganda which sought to deny the facts and denigrate people of other races: "The Christian Church has a particular duty to expose antisemitism, to rebut it and to see that it makes no progress in our land".

Organisers of the Auschwitz Exhibition also received letters accusing them of exploiting the concentration camps as a political ploy, of being "Jew-lovers" and pointing to the Stern Gang as an example of Jewish villainy.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MEETING

The Holocaust Memorial Meeting this year will take place on 10 April at the Savoy Theatre, Strand, at 2.45 p.m. The Chief Rabbi will officiate and there will be readings by Robert Rietty. Reserved tickets are available from Ajex, 5a East Bank, London, N.16. Please enclose a stamped envelope.

'THEY CAME TO LONDON'

The PEN Centre of German-speaking Writers Abroad accepted an invitation by the Goethe-Institut, London, to hold a two-day symposium on the history of the Centre. The event will take place on the 6th and 7th of May, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the burning of the books by the Nazis.

Lectures and presentations will focus on the history of German-language literature in exile in Britain and will bear witness to the great variety of cultural activities by the refugee community, shedding light on the role of the Kulturbund and the Club 43, recalling war time programmes in the BBC German Service. Egon Larsen's TV documentary "Sie kamen nach London" will also be shown.

DOLBIN DRAWINGS

An exhibition of drawings by the eminent cartoonist B. F. Dolbin will be opened by former PEN president Will Schaber, New York, on the eve of the symposium. Dolbin's portraits of famous personalities will be on view in Britain for the first time. Admission is free.

TEACHER-RESCUER IN BUCHENWALD

Friends of the late Wilhelm Hamman are seeking survivors of the Children's Block in Buchenwald in order to put forward his claim to be regarded as one of the "Righteous among the Gentiles". Hamman, a teacher in Germany, was himself imprisoned in Buchenwald from 1935 onward. Nevertheless, at the risk of his own life, in 1944/45 he managed to rescue 158 children who would undoubtedly otherwise have been murdered. He survived the camp and died in 1955. Anyone with information is asked to contact Frau Deborah Goldberger, c/o Press Department, Embassy of Israel, Simrockallee, Bonn.

AJR BOARD MEETING

At the AJR Board Meeting held at Hannah Karminski House on the frosty Sunday afternoon of 20 February, the Chairman, Mr. C. T. Marx opened by calling for a minute's silence in memory of those who had died since the last meeting, members who had served the Association with integrity and devotion: Rose Berlin, Martin Deutschkron, Erna Goldschmidt, Herbert Hirsch, Werner Lasch, Gabriele Tergit, George Selby and Ulrich Tietz.

Mr. Marx welcomed Mr. Peter Rosenfeld, who had come down from Manchester for the meeting, as a member of the Board. The Chairman noted the absence of Mrs. Margaret Jacoby, who was hospitalised after an accident, and wished her, from everyone, a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Anna Patterson, the new General Secretary, was introduced to the meeting. She described her background as the daughter of a refugee, and her career as a social worker and as a lecturer in a College of Further Education, and how she was coming to grips with the particular demands of her new position. She described the services offered by the organisation and how clients feel better coming to a small office where German is spoken. It was an ageing clientele, but a very lively one. The Homes and sheltered housing were much in demand and the waiting lists very long.

The editor of *AJR Information* paid tribute to his retired predecessor, Dr. Rosenstock, who had made it into a first-rate publication not only appreciated by its readers, but had assured its value as a journal now often consulted by scholars and researchers into the history of the last fifty years. He would try to continue that tradition of excellence and responsibility, and to keep up with the changing times, as his predecessor would have done. The journal would keep members informed of events and personalities in the Association and what was going on in the Homes and at meetings and functions. The journal was also concerned with the whole rich and complex web of German Jewish culture and history, and would attempt to attract the interest of the younger generation to the valuable heritage of their elders, to draw them into the circle. He welcomed the comments and letters of readers.

Dr. F. E. Falk, the Vice Chairman, reviewed what had been achieved over the years in reducing the taxation of German and Austrian pensions. His account of recent developments is published separately in this issue.

Mrs. Dora Segall, Vice Chairman of the AJR Club, reported how Mrs. Jacoby had fractured her hip, but was recovering well. Her first concern had been for the meetings at Hannah Karminski House and the Club bazaar, to which she had herself contributed £100. The bazaar had brought in £1,300. The expenses of the Club were being covered by contributions. She told of how some members went on holidays together abroad, how immobilised members were visited, and mentioned the help from Mrs. Lotte Saenger in visiting the sick. Mrs. Segall appealed for younger members to help at the Club. The outstanding events of the year were Mrs. Jacoby's 100th

birthday celebration, and Arnold Horwell's seder and musical Hannukah party. She thanked all those who had helped.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. L. Spiro, reported on the Association's finances and the future of the CBF Homes with which the Association is and must remain closely connected. The accounts would be considered in detail at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 30 June 1983. There was a modest rise in income from subscriptions and donations from £43,000 in 1981 to £47,000 in 1982. A contribution from the Trust of £25,000 was obtained in 1981 to achieve a reasonable balance in the books for that year, and the accounts for 1982 will require support from the Trust of about £40,000. He called upon members to review the level of their contributions and to do all they could to recruit new members. A year ago, when Board members were asked to provide the names of possible recruits, a few sent in one or two names, but one provided 15 names from the N.W. London area, and most of those have since joined. It was essential to reach all potential members in order to assure the future of the Association.

The AJR's offices are inundated with requests for advice and help, there is a waiting list for the Homes jointly administered by the CBF/AJR management committee of 231 persons badly needing accommodation, and a further 317 have registered in the hope of going to one of the Homes in due course. The four Homes and Eleanor Rathbone House have a total capacity of 245, with an annual rate of admission of 50. The figures speak for themselves. The funds from heirless Jewish property are dwindling. The Homes must be operated more efficiently and there must be more financial help from the community. And much more voluntary help is needed.

Mr. Spiro dwelt on the contribution of the late George Selby, who after he retired and became a widower, modestly volunteered to help in Leo Baeck House, and turned out to be a great success, playing chess with some residents, listening to others, showing slides from his travels. He was typical of the best of the voluntary helpers, but many more like him were needed. So long as there are Homes for refugees from Central Europe, the community must provide the financial help and the volunteers to ensure a decent old age for them. That is the challenge facing the AJR.

There followed lively questions from the members of the Board which enabled the speakers to clarify and expand their subjects. The Chairman, Mr. Marx, summed up the discussion and reminded members of the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 30 June.

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CBF 1933-1983

Dear Members,

By separate post you will receive a brochure on the work of the CBF together with an appeal for funds.

Many of us will remember the help received from Woburn House or Bloomsbury House during the years of emigration in the nineteen-thirties. We did not then give much thought to who was responsible for organising the ladies and gentlemen who shepherded us from room to room, interviewed us and gave practical help in the unfamiliar surroundings of a strange new country. All we knew was that we had arrived in a safe haven.

The Nazis in due course fell victim to their own evil, but the CBF, created to help Jewish refugees and whose first clients we were, is still with us and this year celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation, fifty years of service to Jews in need throughout the world.

In the years after the war the CBF was one of the three principal founders of the Jewish Trust Corporation, the instrument for the conduct of long and arduous negotiations that led to the recovery of large amounts of heirless and unclaimed property expropriated by Nazi Germany. The funds thus obtained created our old age homes and still finance much of the social welfare work of the AJR and Self Aid of Refugees, as well as many similar projects in America, Israel and other countries. This, too, explains the continued involvement of the CBF in the administration of our homes, formally vested in it, while we at the AJR apply ourselves to admission procedures and all aspects of residents' welfare.

The political upheavals since the end of the war often painfully affect not only individual Jews, but whole Jewish communities in many countries. It is on aid in these far flung areas, sometimes not easily accessible, that the CBF now concentrates, as implied in the new title of Central British Fund for World Jewish Relief adopted a few years ago.

While there is thus a clear division in the fields of activity of CBF and AJR and a corresponding separation of the funds available for refugees from Nazi oppression and others, there runs a common thread of deep interest in the welfare of Jews in need, wherever they may be.

For this reason, and bearing in mind our own past and the help we received in the hour of our need, the AJR Executive Committee has pledged its support to the appeal for new funds to invigour its extensive work, which the CBF has launched in this, its jubilee year. I am confident that you will redeem that pledge given on behalf of all our members by a generous response.

Yours sincerely,

C. T. MARX
Chairman

TAXATION OF GERMAN/AUSTRIAN PENSIONS

Extract from Report to AJR Board Meeting

From 1980 onwards, in extensive correspondence, we have made attempts to obtain the full exemption of the remaining Social Insurance and Public Service pensions, which were half exempt under the 1974 Act. The Minister of State at the Treasury, Lord Cockfield, while assuring us of his sympathy for the Nazi victims, felt that the Government could not go any further in extending the reliefs. He assured us, however, that each year our representations would receive further consideration when the Finance Bill was drafted.

No exemption was included in the Finance Bills, 1981 and 1982. The team of Ministers at the Treasury has since then changed. Mr. Leon Brittan, who is of English-Jewish background, has become Chief Secretary and Lord Cockfield has left to become Trade Secretary. We have recently submitted to the Chief Secretary strongly worded representations of which we sent copies to Mr. Greville Janner and to Mr. Peter Thomas, the MP for Hendon, who has always shown great sympathy for Jews and in particular for Jewish refugees. We stressed especially one matter: the tax treatment of the proportion of the social insurance pensions which were secured by late lump sum payments, in German "Nachentrichtungen". Such payments are made like the purchase of an annuity.

LUMP SUM PAYMENTS

Under a section included in the Finance Act, 1956, the capital element of an annuity purchased from an insurance company is exempt from tax. We have made the point very strongly that the capital element in the pensions purchased by "Nachentrichtung" should be similarly exempt. When the 1956 Finance Act was enacted, the possibility of obtaining larger German pensions by making these lump sum payments could not be envisaged and could not be especially covered by legislation which at that time could only apply to the ordinary type of annuities purchased in this country.

Although we have not been successful during the last few years in these efforts, we feel that we should continue to press these claims, in particular the last-mentioned one. We recall that when we asked for the exemption of the compensation payments we only succeeded in the fifth year and we may similarly eventually prevail with the claims of the recent three years.

We also continued to urge the total or partial disregard of any compensation payments and pensions paid to Nazi victims in calculating their income for rent and rate rebates. Unfortunately in this matter the Department of the Environment has not issued any Rules binding on the Boroughs. Their guideline, laid down a few years ago, that boroughs could disregard these payments up to 25% or £4 per week, whichever is the higher, is optional for local authorities. From recent information it appears that Camden applies this rule but only for rent, not rate, relief claims. The jurisdiction is now being transferred to the Department of Health and Social Security, which we shall approach in this matter.

Apart from the steps taken which I have just described, the AJR has always been willing to give general advice on these matters to individuals and to assist them where any difficulty or query arose. If the problem was very personal or special, professional advice was obtained for those concerned or the question was referred to specialists.

I would briefly refer to a new German law under which an overall limit is applied in all cases of German "Doppelversorgung"—where a pensioner is in receipt of both a public service pension and an Old Age Pension. The Council of Jews from Germany at its meeting in March 1982 appointed a three-man Committee (on which I serve) to co-operate in this matter with the representative of the Claims Conference in Frankfurt, Dr. Ernst Katzenstein. Dr. Katzenstein, a brilliant lawyer, after consultation with the Committee members submitted a well argued Memorandum to the Federal Minister of the Interior, resisting the application of the general rule to the Nazi persecutees, but did not succeed. It appears however, in practice, that the restrictions though unwelcome are not very material.

This concludes my report on taxation and pensions. I should also like to report briefly on the operation of the German Hardship Fund.

The Fund, envisaged eventually to reach DM 400 million, was set up by the German Government mainly due to the efforts of Dr. Nahum Goldmann, as a final gesture of goodwill in the sphere of indemnification. I must add that the monthly compensation payments to individual victims are not affected in any way. So far, DM 50 million was granted in the 1981 Budget and DM 100 million in the 1982 Budget. Further similar budget allocations to bring the total eventually up to DM 400 million are expected but not entirely certain. Of the total annual allocations,

5%, i.e. DM 2.5 million for 1981 and DM 5 million for 1982, are set aside for organisations who provide sheltered homes for elderly Jewish persecutees.

Applications under this heading were submitted by the Central British Fund, also on behalf of the AJR, in regard to the jointly administered homes and relatively substantial allocations were made for this purpose. The remaining 95% of the Hardship Fund is intended primarily to deal with applications from individual Jewish victims of Nazi persecution who left Eastern Europe after 1965, when the deadline for filing claims under the German Indemnification Laws expired. Other persecutees who for valid reasons failed to file timely indemnification claims in the past may also apply to the Hardship Fund. The deadline for individual applications expired on 31 December last and the offices of the Claims Conference, which are to deal with these applications, were flooded with them. It may be interesting to note the figures. Total applications since the start of the operations amounted to just over 119,000 and the number of payments, the maximum of which is DM 5,000, so far authorised is 32,628, which represents over DM 163 million. Priority in processing applications continues to be granted to applicants who emigrated from Eastern Europe after 1965, who are men of 65 or older and women of 60 or older, or who are totally disabled. It must be hoped that it will be possible to pay the small sum of DM 5,000 to all the genuine claimants.

COUNCIL STATEMENT

One more word about the Council of Jews from Germany.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Hitler coming to power, the Council released a statement under the heading of "Erinnerung und Mahnung", Commemoration and Warning, which, in a dignified and solemn manner, gave expression to the need to remember the events which followed the 30 January, 1933. The statement excellently drafted by our friend Dr. Rosenstock was published in the *Jewish Chronicle*, the "Aufbau", and other prominent organs of public opinion, especially in Germany. It has also appeared in the March *AJR Information* and was sent to the German Chancellor, the German Ambassador in London, and to the Ambassadors in Washington and Tel Aviv. On this occasion, the Council has fittingly spoken on behalf of all the Nazi persecutees to remind the world of the nature of the Hitler Regime and the lessons to be drawn from those events.

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MIXED REVIEWS FOR BRECHT STAGING

The Brecht-Weill "Dreigroschenoper", based on John Gay's "Beggars' Opera", has recently been staged in Cologne. Director Jürgen Flimm presented the play in the form of a revue; however, critics have condemned the lack of musicianship shown by some of the cast. Still more have they criticised the turning of Peachum, the thief-taker and receiver, into a stereotype version of an East European Jew.

RAHEL VARNHAGEN'S WRITINGS TO APPEAR

The collected works of Rahel Varnhagen will for the first time be published this year by Matthes & Seitz of Munich. Up to now, say the publishers, only anthologies of extracts from her writings have been available. 1983 marks the 150th anniversary of Rahel's death.

"NAZISM 50 YEARS AFTER"

One of the most illuminating analyses of the significance of the Nazi phenomenon was made by Professor Walter Laqueur before The 45 Aid Society in the Stern Hall on 17 February, where he delivered the Seventh Leonard G. Montefiore Lecture, "Nazism—Fifty Years After".

Prof. Laqueur, the distinguished historian who is senior director of the Wiener Library and Head of the Research Council at the Center for Strategic and International Studies of Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., examined the current theories of the origins of Nazism and Fascism, and showed how difficult it was to accommodate these theories to the growing mass of material.

Recent analysis shows that the Nazis were a party of young people, that they were much stronger among the Protestants than among the Catholics. Thus, though they started in Bavaria, they were later the party of north and east Germany. If one compares the incidence of unemployment with Nazi membership, there is no obvious correlation—religion was more important than class. They were stronger in the small towns than in the cities.

They won by ruthlessly imposing their rule in the streets, even in working-class neighbourhoods. They were masters of propaganda with talented orators, and appealed to strong nationalist feelings. The communists were always looking over their shoulder to please and obey the Soviet Union, while the Social Democrats and the middle class parties appealed to reason not emotion, and thus did not have a chance in those conditions.

He concluded by raising the question often in people's minds, whether it could happen again, and quoted the well-known remark of Schopenhauer to the effect that history is the same, but always different. However, the fact that there will not be another Hitler does not mean that other calamities could not occur, especially at times of crisis when people are confused and are looking for a saviour and magic solutions, when charlatans and demagogues take the field. Thus one must be watchful, analytical and realistic, always prepared.

MORRIS ANGEL'S WILL NOT CHANGE

The frontage of the famous theatrical costumiers, Morris Angel & Son, will be preserved under a scheme for redevelopment of Cambridge Circus in London suggested by one of the firm's present directors, Alex Angel. Morris Angel began his business in 1840 near the "Rookery" area of Seven Dials, selling secondhand clothes and rejects from better-class tailors. It was his son who began the theatrical side of the enterprise and the building in Shaftesbury Avenue now houses thousands of garments, including court and military dress made by Angel's in its earlier years.

"JAILED BY THE BRITISH"

Two sets of camps were kept on these islands during the war: those for "enemy aliens" resident in this country and those for German prisoners of war. Under the heading "Jailed in Britain" they were featured in two documentaries on Channel 4. The first film, which depicted our destiny, was wrapped up in the nostalgic journey of Renee Goddard (then Renate Scholem) with her daughter to the Isle of Man. It will have revived many memories for members of our community. There were tragedies, such as the torpedoed transport to Canada and the voyage of the *Dunera* to Australia, where suitcases of the internees were thrown overboard by the guards and valuables collected to be safeguarded by the commanding officer were never returned to their owners. There was the basic tragedy that the alleged "enemy" aliens were in fact the most ardent enemies of Nazi Germany which had persecuted them.

In addition to the refugees from Nazi oppression the internees also included Italians who had been living in the country for decades and whose mother tongue was English. Many familiar personalities were shown who later acquired fame in this country. One of them was Claus Moser, then a boy of 17, who learned the elements of statistics in the camp. The three refugee musicians who were the nucleus of the Amadeus String Quartet met each other in the camp. When the White Paper on release was promulgated they were discharged under the category of outstanding artists. In fact the only performances they had to their credit at that time were the concerts given in the camp.

The second documentary revealed the little known fact that the number of German prisoners of war kept in British camps amounted to half a million and that no less than 24,000 of them were permitted to settle here for good after the war. Those who arrived during the Blitz and a short time after it were confident that a German invasion was a matter of days or months and that soon the role between jailers and prisoners would be reversed.

After the war, efforts were made to re-educate them politically. One of those who took a leading part in this work was the German Jew Herbert Sulzbach. He impressed his "pupils" at Featherstone camp and has retained contact with them after their release by annual meetings in Duesseldorf. The film showed the unveiling of a plaque at the entrance of the former camp site. It was initiated by the former prisoners and carries a tribute to Herbert Sulzbach. His untiring work for Anglo-German understanding was recognised by the award of the German Grand Cross of Merit. When, after retiring from his service with the Federal German Embassy last year, he also became eligible for a British award, he was made an OBE.

A vivid account of internment life on the Isle of Man was written by Richard Friedenthal in the form of a documentary novel, *Die Welt in der Nusschale* (The World in a Nutshell), Piper Verlag, 1956. It is still worth translating.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Council of Christians and Jews

Sir,—You might care to know that copies of your bulletin are now being sent to the International Council of Christians and Jews for the documentation centre being established at the ICCJ headquarters, the Martin Buberhaus in Heppenheim.

Although the DKR, the German equivalent to CCJ, does not have a local base—it is fortunately quite strong in nearby Frankfurt—the ICCJ staff at the Buberhaus are doing an excellent job of promoting understanding between Christians and Jews, and educating young people in regard to the Holocaust.

The ICCJ is growing and now has 17 national organisations, but support is urgently required, especially for the educational work which is vital. The CCJ in this country is still looking for members and donors, and it is good to be able to report that people with comparatively little money have been kind enough to leave contributions to us in their wills. I believe that AJR members, because of their sad first-hand knowledge of the tragedies of the past, could do much to persuade younger people to support CCJ and thus ensure that priests and other Christian clergy and ministers play their role in educating future generations about Christian-Jewish relations.

48 Onslow Gardens,
London SW7 3PX

LEONARD C. GOSS,
General Secretary, CCJ

Conan Doyle's Deed

Sir,—On page 3 of the February issue you write about Crime novels and antisemitism.

I think that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (of Sherlock Holmes fame) should be mentioned here for his consistent and strenuous efforts to obtain a pardon, the release and compensation for Oscar Slater, a German Jew sentenced to death for murder in Glasgow in 1907. He was released only after 20 years.

43 Nightingale Lane,
London, S.W.12.

W. NELKI

FURTHER VOLUNTEERS MEETING

Another meeting of voluntary helpers was held on 22 February at Hannah Karminski House. Most of those attending were members of the House Committee and visitors to the Homes. Among the problems discussed were the need for more helpers to accompany residents on outings, arranging birthday parties, taking residents home for tea, etc. It was a stimulating and useful afternoon.

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WERNER ROSENSTOCK AT 75

On 10 April, Dr. Werner Rosenstock will celebrate his 75th birthday. On his retirement as Director of the AJR in December last, *AJR Information* under the heading of "End of a Momentous Era" (December 1982 issue) published a full appreciation of the man, his personality, life history and his signal services to the former German Jews. This contribution makes no attempt to repeat what has been said so well and comprehensively, but is intended to add a few personal touches on this special occasion.

I first met Werner Rosenstock when, shortly after the outbreak of War in 1939, he visited the Kitchener Camp, Richborough, near Sandwich, Kent, as a representative of "Bloomsbury House". I was one of the inmates—all admitted as transmigrants only until further emigration. We were rather unhappy. Conditions were most primitive, the weekly wage for hard work amounted to 6d, and permission was needed to leave the camp, even for a few hours. We feared that as "enemy aliens" we would soon be interned (which, in fact, happened to those who had not joined H.M. Forces at the time of the German invasion of the Low Countries in May 1940). In this situation, Werner Rosenstock gave us encouragement and sympathy which did much to set our minds at rest.

From spring 1952 onwards, I was able to observe the working of Dr. Rosenstock's mind and the manifestations of his personality and character on the AJR Executive. He brought to all problems a balanced and conciliatory approach which greatly helped to guide the Executive in its decisions and to find right and sensible answers. He showed himself to be a most humane, fair and courteous person, with a full and sympathetic understanding of the difficulties of the individual refugee and the problems of those with whom he worked. The welfare of the AJR staff was always among his primary considerations. Significantly, in my recollection, his one disagreement with the Honorary Officers arose after the introduction of a statutory incomes policy by the Heath Government when he felt—and fought strongly

for his view—that decisions taken prior to that introduction should, in fairness to staff members still be implemented. His integrity and candour became at once apparent. These qualities inspired deep affection in his colleagues, friends and members of the staff. In the Anglo-Jewish community he is regarded with great respect and as the foremost representative of the immigrant Jews from Central Europe.

On his 75th birthday, Werner Rosenstock will be able to look back with justified satisfaction on a life well lived and of unique value to our community. His life was also one of personal happiness, in his marriage to Susanne, his good companion always at his side, and in his relationship to his son Michael, senior librarian at the University Library of Toronto, who is himself an erudite scholar, deeply steeped in Jewish history, and to his grandchildren. We all who have worked with Werner Rosenstock, express to him our sincere gratitude. Our warmest wishes go out to him and his wife, above all for good health, enabling them to enjoy an active and happy retirement for many years to come.

FRANK E. FALK

SON'S TRIBUTE

It hardly seems possible that a whole lustrum has passed since I wrote a birthday tribute to my father on his seventieth birthday, not only because five years is such a short time but also because what I wrote then could just as easily have been written yesterday. Nothing has changed, except that *AJR Information* has now left the parental home too, so to speak, twenty years after its older brother. Well, it happens to all of us sooner or later, and there is no reason why distance and independence should make the relationship any less intimate. If the AJR and its Director Emeritus are able to establish this type of bond too, they will enjoy one of the most rewarding relationships imaginable.

MICHAEL ROSENSTOCK

NORBERT WOLLHEIM 70

On 26 April Norbert Wollheim (New York) will celebrate his 70th birthday. His personality has been shaped by two sets of experiences: his formative years in the German-Jewish youth movement (Deutsch-Juedische Jugend-Gemeinschaft) and his fate as a slave labourer in Auschwitz. As a survivor of the Holocaust, in which he lost his first wife and his infant son, he played a leading role in the work for the Displaced Persons stranded in Germany, and the remnants of the depleted Jewish communities during the first post-war years. At that time, the intense pressure for the admission of DPs to Palestine, then under the British Mandate, and the recognition of the members of the German-Jewish communities who had decided to resettle in their country of birth as a legitimate section of world Jewry, stood in the foreground. A skilled negotiator, Norbert Wollheim was one of the leading spokesmen for both sections. In 1950, when the problems had lost their momentum, he emigrated to the U.S. together with his second wife, who was also a survivor of the Holocaust, and

their young children. Norbert studied accountancy and now works as a successful member of that profession. Recent years were marred by the death of his wife after a long and serious illness. This resulted in a period of stress, to which the memories of the Holocaust were certainly a contributory factor. But he has regained his old strength, and he has also had the good fortune of finding a new partner who shares her life with him.

In his public work, one of the outstanding events of the last years was his participation in the organisation of the 1981 Meeting in Israel of the survivors of the concentration camps.

The experience of Auschwitz and co-operation with the Holocaust survivors has resulted in his forging many personal bonds with the remnants of Eastern Jewry, marked by their own culture and language and mentality—a world formerly entirely alien to him. Yet at the same time he has retained his loyalty to "the old guard" of his comrades in pre-war Germany.

W.R.

DR. HANS CAPELL 75

Dr. Hans Capell (Ramat Gan) recently celebrated his 75th birthday. In Germany, he was active in the Jewish youth movement and in the Zionist fraternity K.J.V., which he joined when he became a student in 1926. After his dismissal from the judiciary, he made work for Jewry his professional vocation as group secretary of the Zionist Organisation for Germany. When he had to leave Germany, he first emigrated to England and joined the British Army after the outbreak of war. Later he held various positions with Jewish organisations. At the same time he was a member of the Executive of the AJR to which he rendered signal services.

After the war, he settled in Israel where he worked for various public enterprises, among them the Weizmann Institute and the Rasco Housing Society. He also became a member of the Presidium of the Irgun Oley Merkaz Europa, the sister organisation of the AJR. Contacts between him and the officers of the organisations of emigré Jews in other countries became closer when, a few years ago, he was elected Joint Chairman of the Council of Jews from Germany. At the latest meeting of the Council, held in 1982 in Tel Aviv, he excelled by his programmatic opening speech and his address at the reception, held in the presence of the Federal Ambassador. While firm in his convictions, he is not dogmatic but has an open mind for the assessment of historical facts and current events. No appraisal of Hans Capell's qualities would be complete without referring to his loyalty to his friends, and last but not least, his Rhenish sense of humour.

W.R.

BIRTHDAY FOR ZIONIST ARCHIVIST

Dr. Alex Bein, who has lived in Jerusalem since 1933, celebrated his 80th birthday a few weeks ago. Dr. Bein, biographer of Theodor Herzl and editor of his works, has among his many other books most recently published "Die Judenfrage—Biographie einer Weltprobleme" (reviewed in *AJR Information* July 1982). Born in Bavaria, Alex Bein studied under Friedrich Meinecke at Berlin University and gained his doctorate in 1926. Until 1933 he worked in the Potsdam Reichsarchiv and, following his emigration to Palestine, he took a post with the Zionist Central Archive, where he rose to become Director in 1955. In 1971 he was named as the Israeli State Archivist emeritus.

CELEBRATION FOR EUGEN KOGON

Professor Eugen Kogon, who survived seven years in Buchenwald, has just attained his 80th birthday. His most famous work, now in its 12th German edition and translated into many languages, is "Der SS-Staat", which first appeared in 1947. The English title is "The Theory and Practice of Hell", published by Secker & Warburg. The book is regarded as a standard work.

Although born in Munich, Eugen Kogon also studied in Florence and Vienna, and it was in Austria that he was most active against the Nazis. Following the Anschluss in the spring of 1938, he was arrested and sent to Buchenwald. After 1945, he worked for the European movement and at the same time taught in the Technical University of Darmstadt. Three years ago, Professor Kogon received the Buber-Rosenzweig Medal presented by the German organisation for Christian-Jewish co-operation.

ISRAELI AND BRITON SHARE PRIZE

Professor Shaul Friedlander of Tel Aviv University is this year's joint winner of the Israel Prize for History. He shares the award with Professor Avrom Saltman, born in Whitley Bay, and now rector of Bar-Ilan University and head of the general history department.

LOGISTICS OF GENOCIDE

The second map in Martin Gilbert's *Atlas of the Holocaust**, the author tells us, "shows the birth-places, places of work, and places of execution of 17 Jews who were murdered during the war years. . . . If a similarly short reference were made to each Jew murdered between 1939 and 1945, 335,000 such maps would be needed. To draw these maps at the author's and cartographer's fastest rate of a map a day, would take more than 967 years".

Given the impossibility of such a task, how can the scale of the Holocaust possibly be conveyed in maps? One method used by Mr. Gilbert is to juxtapose what one might call the macrocosm of the Holocaust and the microcosm. On one side of a page, there might be a map showing the deportations or massacres of a particular month. On the other, a magnifying glass might be held over a small group involved in the events of the period, perhaps the communities of a single district or a few named deportees about whom biographical details are known, such as the elderly lady whose strange fate it was to be born in Auschwitz and to die in Gurs. Ironically, the documentation at the historian's disposal lends itself particularly well to this sort of treatment, since it is so often characterised by an obscenely scrupulous attention to bureaucratic detail at the time of deportation and an equally obscene lack of anything but the broadest estimates of numbers at the time of mass extermination.

BEYOND COMPREHENSION

In printed texts, these numbers often almost pass us by because they are beyond our comprehension. If they have a far greater effect when they are seen on maps, it is at least partly because, in this context, they provide us with an insight into the logistics of the Final Solution, logistics whose scale and complexity must surely exceed those of any war in history. It was a particularly thoughtful touch on the author's part to draw in the railway lines actually used in the deportations. In fact, these railway lines, with their uncanny resemblance to barbed wire or thorns, provide the work with a quasi-symbolic leitmotif.

Naturally enough, the maps reflect the increasing momentum of the Holocaust in a particularly telling way. Thus, the first 70 take us from 1933 up to the German invasion of Russia in June 1941. The next 140, by way of contrast, cover little more than two years. Over 40 of them are devoted to the four months of August to November 1942 alone. This density is not approached again until the Hungarian deportations of the middle of 1944. By the beginning of 1945, the maps must deal with a particularly confusing situation: deportations from Germany to the East continue into February, long after death marches in the opposite direction have begun, all within rapidly shrinking borders.

Inevitably, with such a mass of information taken from such a variety of sources, minor errors are almost bound to occur, but this reviewer (a general

reader with no special knowledge of the subject) was only able to detect one, and that of little consequence: on an early map, Konitz is moved from West Prussia to Silesia. Apart from this, in view of the fact that no two authorities seem to agree on the number of victims and the number of survivors in each country, it would have helped if the author had explained why he regards the figures he chose as the most plausible and exactly what they represent.

Why, for example, is the number of survivors given as 330,000 for Germany and only 7,000 for Austria? Were there so many DPs in Germany and so few in Austria? Or (as seems more likely) does the figure for Germany include those who escaped before the outbreak of war? If so, why does the number for Austria so obviously exclude them? This, however, is a minor complaint. It does not detract from the value of the work, which adds an entire dimension to our record of the Holocaust. If the crime itself is still beyond our understanding, that is hardly the author's fault.

MICHAEL ROSENSTOCK

AN ARTIST SAVED FROM OBLIVION Felix Nussbaum Exhibition in Brussels

"If I perish, don't let my paintings die." This was the last wish of Felix Nussbaum before he was deported from Belgium to Auschwitz. Born in 1904 in Osnabrueck, he was on the verge of a successful career when the Nazis came to power. In 1932 he was awarded the German State Prize which entitled him to hospitality in the Villa Massimo in Rome, but he was evicted a year later because of his Jewish origin. Then the life of a refugee began for him. In 1935 he settled in Belgium, but when the country was occupied by the Germans he was deported by the Belgian authorities to a camp in South France as an "enemy alien". He escaped and returned to Belgium, where he lived underground. One month before the Allies liberated Brussels, on 31 July, 1944, he was arrested during a round-up in Brussels and deported to Auschwitz with the last transport.

Under great difficulties some of his paintings were retrieved after the war, and 85 of them were exhibited at the Goethe Institut in Brussels in November and December 1982. The exhibition was attended by more than 5,000 visitors. Many of his works reflect the cruel fate of the Jewish persecutees.

One of the main initiators of the exhibition, the preparation of which took two years, was Mr. Hans Schoemann, Chairman of "Coref", the AJR's sister organisation in Belgium. He was also one of the speakers at the opening ceremony, where he referred to the fate of Felix Nussbaum as a German Jew, who, like all German Jews in occupied countries, had to endure the cruelties of persecution twice, first in Germany and then in their country of refuge.

W.R.

A book about the artist has just been published in Germany: *Felix Nussbaum, Leben und Werk*. By Peter Junk & Wendelin Zimmer. Dumont/Rasch, Cologne.

In April a Felix Nussbaum Room was opened in the municipal museum of Osnabrück, and later in the same month officially consecrated by the President of the Federal Republic.

DISCOVERING NEW ZEALAND

This is a very attractive and interesting book* produced by our contributor and would make a very nice gift for readers of German. Abel Tasman (Tasmania is named after him) was one of the great explorers, but is an unknown Dutchman outside Holland and New Zealand. Partly this is because his employers were only interested in opening new trade routes for spices, and in gold and silver, while Tasman (1603-1659) was chiefly interested in filling in the blank spaces on the map, which he did with great courage and enterprise.

The centre piece of this book, here presented for the first time to German-speaking readers, is Tasman's log-book, whose original is in the State Archives of the Netherlands. There are also many fascinating sidelights on the natives with whom, as the first European, he came into contact, and the sometimes quite nasty encounters with them. Another point which emerges is the surprisingly democratic relationship between captain, officers and crew on Dutch ships in the seventeenth century.

The book is lavishly illustrated with contemporary drawings and maps. The editor and translator, Egon Larsen, prefaces Tasman's story with a survey of the changes of the world's image from ancient to modern times, and the development of nautical technology that made these voyages into the unknown possible. The end chapter of the book tells of Tasman's later life and outlines the history of the lands he discovered right up to the present day.

M.S.

**Entdeckung Neuseelands, Tasmaniens und der Tonga- und der Fidschi-Inseln 1642-1644*. Translated into German, with an Introduction and Afterword by Egon Larsen. Edition Erdmann Verlag, Tübingen, 1982.

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**Atlas of the Holocaust*. By Martin Gilbert. Michael Joseph, London, £9.95 (hardback). A paperback, published in association with the Board of Deputies, is available at £3. (plus £1 p. & p.) from Balfour Diamond Jubilee Trust, 741 High Road, Finchley, N12, and from the Board of Deputies.

OBITUARIES

ARTHUR KOESTLER

The death of Arthur Koestler, CBE, novelist, philosopher and historian of science, essayist, journalist and general man of letters, at the age of 77, attracted world-wide press attention. Born in Budapest in 1905, his first language was Hungarian, but he wrote in German until 1940, and from then on in English. He was science editor of the "Vossische Zeitung" and a member of the Graf Zeppelin arctic expedition of 1931 as the only journalist aboard. He spent a year in the Soviet Union in 1932-33, and broke with communism in 1938, because of the fake show trials. His finest novel, "Darkness at Noon", now considered a classic, was an analysis of the communist mentality which made former party leaders and functionaries confess to crimes they had never committed. In his latter years he was mostly concerned with the history and process of scientific discovery.

In his "Thank You Britain" Fund Lecture in June 1973, as the archetypal Briton of continental origin, he spoke of the two pairs of spectacles with which the ex-European saw his adopted country. He observes from within events in this country, but also has a second pair of "continental" glasses with which he evaluates things with a yardstick acquired in his country of birth. In this country he may sometimes feel himself a "foreigner", but when abroad feels more British than ever. After analysing the contradictory strains in the British character (the Lion and the Ostrich), he remarked that Britain was "a Davos for the veterans among the victims of Hitler's and Stalin's persecution."

George Steiner reports a conversation towards the end of Koestler's life, when Koestler told him that he had met a friendly official from Budapest, and had wondered aloud whether he could one day revisit his native city. The official said that no one would be more welcome to the Hungarians themselves, but that Koestler's name was on a very short list the Russians kept of those they regarded as persons to be eliminated at the first opportunity. Steiner and Koestler had been talking of the prospects of certain British and other honours. To be on that list, Steiner observed, was a greater distinction than any OM or Nobel Prize.

DR. HILDE MAAS

Dr. Hilde Maas, who died recently aged 90, will be remembered by many of the older refugee generation. She was more than just an outstanding psychoanalyst, trained by Freud's pupil Dr. Hanns Sachs. She was a real healer and friend to all who came to her for advice and help. She was one of those rare people who regard it as their mission in life to make their skill and common sense freely available. Whether and when she would be paid for her professional services was not important to her. Indeed, she frequently lent or even gave money in order to help someone over a bad patch or to give that person a new start. She earned the gratitude and affection of scores of people. For her, the cliché so often abused, is really true—the world is a poorer place without her.

C.F.F.

DAVID FISCH

The death of David Fisch at the age of 79 was recently announced. Born in Poland, he moved to Berlin where he worked actively for his fellow Eastern European Jews and helped in the building of a synagogue for them. On coming to Britain he engaged in the fur trade, but maintained his community activities. David Fisch formed the first Zionist Society in Edgware and was active in the building of Edgware Synagogue.

JOSEF COHEN

Josef Cohen, an industrialist in Germany who managed to build up another successful industrial career in Britain, died recently aged 91. After imprisonment in Dachau, he came to this country just before the outbreak of war and became life president of the Sutton and District Synagogue, which he helped to found. He moved to Israel to join his family there at the age of 90.

HOW JEWISH CHILDREN WERE SAVED

During the occupation of Holland, about 1,000 Jewish children were rescued after they had been sent to "The Crèche" immediately opposite the Hollandse Schouwburg, where Dutch Jews were assembled to await deportation. "The Crèche" lay beside a Protestant training school and Jewish rescuers combined with the teachers and students there to bring the children through gardens into the school. From there they were sent to be hidden all over the Netherlands, fair ones going to northern districts and dark-haired children to the southern area. Although the resistance group carrying on this work was never discovered by the Nazis, most of the Jewish organisers were murdered later and only a proportion of the children sent to "The Crèche" could be rescued in this way. The Mayor of Amsterdam has recently unveiled a memorial stone near the building, listing the names of Dutch men and women who helped to save these children.

HERZL'S OTHER DREAM

Design work is progressing on the Dead Sea-Mediterranean canal intended to flow into the Dead Sea near Massada, raising its receding level by about two feet in the first year and providing a valuable electricity supply.

A Dead Sea canal has been a visionary project for over 130 years. In 1850 an English officer suggested that a link between Haifa Bay, the River Jordan, the Dead Sea and Eilat would provide a new sea route to India: at that time, of course, the Suez Canal did not exist. "Altneuland", Theodor Herzl's novel of 1902, was the next publication to suggest the joining of the two seas. His idea was based on the proposals of an engineer, Max Bourcart, and envisaged the canal as a source of hydro-electricity.

After Herzl, plans for the canal all centred upon the generation of electricity. A Norwegian engineer in 1919, in 1925 Pierre Grandillon and in 1943 James Hays, head of the Mandate's Palestine Survey Commission, all proposed that Mediterranean water should provide the country's power. Hays also wished to irrigate much of Palestine from the River Jordan and to replace the corresponding loss to the Dead Sea with the flow from the Mediterranean.

There the matter rested for many years until in 1974 the Israeli Government began to take the project more seriously. Since then studies, reports and recommendations have brought the canal to the verge of becoming a reality. Nevertheless the physical difficulties of tunnelling under the hills of Beersheba and the political obstacles of Jordan's objections must equally be overcome before the Mediterranean supplies Israel's electricity.

POLICE OFFICIAL ARRESTED

A legal assistant in Scotland Yard's solicitors' office was arrested in a public-house recently while dressed in a Nazi uniform and carrying a revolver. He has been suspended from duty.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

LAWYER SLANDERED JEWISH VICTIMS

Following Jürgen Rieger's defence of Arpad Wigand against charges of murdering Jews in Warsaw, the lawyer was fined over £2,000 in a Hamburg court. Rieger had said during the trial that the Warsaw Ghetto had been established to prevent the spread of infectious disease: that was also the reason for Jews having been shot. He went on to allege that no one in the Ghetto would have starved if the Jews had displayed more solidarity. He was convicted by the court in Hamburg of slandering Jews and Jewish victims of the Nazis in making such statements.

SIX YEARS FOR RIGA ORDERLY

Heinz Wisner, chief assistant to the SS doctor at Kaiserwald concentration camp near Riga, has been sentenced to six years' imprisonment by Düsseldorf judges for his part in the murder of five Jews. The court found some of the charges against him insufficiently proved and in the case of two alleged victims they appeared to have been seen alive by other witnesses after Wisner was said to have murdered them. As the accused had been in prison for two and a half years pending investigation, the court thought that he should now be set at liberty until the verdict was ratified.

Another current trial relating to events in the Riga district is that of Karl Tollkühn, aged 70 and a former SS-man. Brought before a Hamburg court on charges relating to the deaths of over 2,000 men, women and children, Tollkühn said that he had joined the NSDAP in Posen in 1940, having moved there from his native town of Riga. At first his activities were mainly to do with sport, but he then wished to associate himself with an elite group and had therefore joined the SS. He failed in his application to join the Waffen-SS because of his short sight and his lack of inches—he is 5' 5" tall.

Tollkühn has admitted that he headed a firing squad which went into the Riga Ghetto and says that in that action he met with "unforeseen events". Because the men who were to be shot ran away, he alleges, many ghetto inhabitants were accidentally shot in the confusion. On the charge of having led an execution unit in the nearby forest, Tollkühn "cannot exactly remember what happened", but was sure he had not taken part in the executions. He had happened to be near a death pit, where the corpses of Jews were lying, and had gone up to it out of curiosity.

CALL FOR GERMAN-JEWISH RESEARCH

The Friends and Helpers of the Leo Baeck Institute have recently set up a Kuratorium in West Germany. At the opening press conference, the Director of the Leo Baeck Institute in Jerusalem, Professor J. Walk, expressed the hope that the activities of the Institute would become more generally known to the German public. He was later interested to hear young reporters present at the conference asking why no parallel establishment to the Leo Baeck Institute, with its prestigious Year Books, libraries and Bulletin, existed in Germany. The study of antisemitism or the training of Jewish religious teachers, the journalists felt, were no substitute for a place dedicated to research into the history of German Jewry.

SEARCH FOR DEFRAUDED SWISS

Lucien Ludwig Kozminski, now in a California prison for cheating concentration camp survivors of restitution money, may have deposited £500,000 in a Swiss bank account. Swiss banking authorities have refused to give information to the US Justice Department, saying that the only way that access to a closed account can be obtained is by a successful action against Kozminski. The prosecutor would have to be a Swiss or former Swiss citizen who had actually been defrauded.

The Assistant US Attorney is searching for someone who answers this description and fears that, if no action can be brought, Kozminski may be released on parole after a few years with the possibility of laying his hands on his victims' money.

REDGRAVE DECISION BY US COURT

Pro-Palestinian actress Vanessa Redgrave has partly failed in her lawsuit, brought after the Boston Symphony Orchestra cancelled her appearance as the Narrator in Stravinsky's "Oedipus Rex" because of her anti-Israel activities. In respect of her claim for damages on the grounds of "emotional stress", the judge decided that the orchestra's conduct could not be seen as "extreme and outrageous and beyond all bounds of human decency". Although the claim for breach of contract must stand, he ruled, the orchestra was not obliged to re-schedule Miss Redgrave's appearances.

FO PAID OUT PALESTINE MONEY

MPs were surprised to find in the accounts of the Foreign Office a payment of £341 under the bare heading "Palestine". Douglas Hurd, for the Foreign Office, explained in Parliament that the payment was a left-over of the Mandate period: the sum represented the purchase of an artificial leg for a former employee of the old Palestine Government, some of whose liabilities still had to be borne by Britain today.

GESTAPO CHIEF WORKED FOR CHARITY

At the end of 1982, Ernst Gerke, former head of the Prague Gestapo, died in a German hospital. Gerke had also held high Gestapo office in Hildesheim, Elbing, Chemnitz and Breslau before being appointed to Prague. Although he was the fourth most wanted man on the Czechoslovak list of war criminals, the ex-Gestapoman managed to obtain a post with the Bodelschwingh Foundation in Bethel bei Bielefeld, where he worked until his retirement. Ironically enough, Pastor Bodelschwingh's son had been a determined opponent of Nazism, particularly as regards "euthanasia."

PARIS SYNAGOGUE BOMB SUSPECTS HELD

The French authorities requested extradition in the cases of Ulrich Tillman and Walther Kexel, arrested in Dorset on suspicion of right-wing terrorist activity, after the case came up at Bow Magistrate's Court. It is suspected that the two men were implicated in the bombing of the Liberal Synagogue in the rue Copernic in Paris nearly three years ago.

Spanish police have also arrested a number of extremists who are thought to have taken part in the outrage, as well as in the bombing of Bologna railway station in August 1980.

OBJECTION TO MUSEUM BUST

Former concentration camp inmates have protested against the display of a bust of Julius Dorpmueller in the Nuremberg Transport Museum. Dorpmueller was State Secretary in the Reichs Transport Ministry during the Second World War and, say the ex-prisoners, responsible for supplying Himmler with the rolling stock needed to transport Jews all over Europe. The Federal Railway Authority have confirmed that the bust is still to be seen in the museum, but points out that Dorpmueller was a recognised expert on transport and in any case, they say, was not himself a Nazi. The reply is regarded by the victims' associations, particularly in Austria, as quite inadequate and they refer to Himmler's correspondence regarding trains for the death camps, which clearly implicates the State Secretary as always ready to provide trains for this purpose.

ANTI-ZIONIST TEACHING IN USSR

The Soviet State Publishing House "Pedagogika" has announced the forthcoming issue of "The Poison of Zionism" by Yelena Modrzinskaya and V. S. Lapsky. The work is intended for schoolchildren between the ages of 12 and 18. A preliminary announcement says that the book "recounts the history of Zionism and... its slanderous propaganda campaign and links between Zionism and centres of imperialist subversion... The reader will become acquainted with the fate of those cheated by Zionist propaganda".

PRINTERS' REFUSAL NOT SUPPORTED

Dieter Schlichting, a printer in the small German town of Ellerbek, refused to work on advertising material which in his opinion related to books glorifying war and the National Socialists. Claiming that his objections were made on grounds of conscience and were valid under the Basic Law, Schlichting said that the books themselves were unlawful and offensive to morality. The local industrial court, however, declared that he was in the wrong, a judgment later confirmed by the Kiel industrial tribunal.

With acknowledgement to the news service
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COMMUNAL POLITICS

This is an important book* that contributes as much to the history of Zionism as to the history of Anglo-Jewry. The title "English Zionists and British Jews" is in fact slightly misleading. More accurate is the sub-title "the communal politics of Anglo-Jewry, 1895-1920". What Professor Cohen has written is primarily a study in the internal politics of Anglo-Jewry centring on the controversial issue of Zionism. He begins in 1895, the date of Herzl's first visit to England and ends with the decision of the San Remo conference to confer the Palestine Mandate on Britain. So one aim is certainly to chronicle the fluctuating fortunes of Zionism in England. But these were dependent on the Anglo-Jewish context which requires consideration of those interests and groups within the community which either opposed

or supported Zionism. Lastly, it is asked, what were the issues dividing the contending parties?

The usual picture presented in Zionist historiography concentrates on the diplomatic negotiations between Weizmann and the British government, culminating in the issue of the Balfour Declaration. Alternatively, there is the version which concentrates on the foundation and growth of the English Zionist Federation. But both these accounts are gross over-simplifications, Cohen argues. He achieves this greater degree of clarity by a meticulous and exhaustive analysis of Anglo-Jewry at the grass-roots level.

The resulting picture is much more complex than hitherto accepted. It shows that the immigrant masses were by no means enthusiastic followers of Herzl or the EZF. It shows too that the cause of anti-Zionism was not pioneered by the wealthy assimilated Jews alarmed for their position in Christian society. There were many cross-currents in both camps, to say nothing of those who belonged to neither. More-

over, the arguments in the debate were confined to a very small number of participants. By 1920, far from Anglo-Jewry having been won over to the Zionist cause, the number of partisans was not very different from what it had been in Herzl's day; and Zionism, in the elections to the Board of Deputies in 1919 and again in 1922, remained a marginal issue.

It is not only as a contribution to Anglo Jewish history that Professor Cohen's book deserves the warmest of welcomes, but also because it opens up altogether new areas of investigation by moving the focus of attention away from diplomacy and the "Establishment" and towards the London suburbs, and such provincial centres as Dublin, Manchester, Exeter and Leeds. Here is a pioneering study that triumphantly succeeds.

LIONEL KOCHAN

LEGACIES

The AJR Charitable Trust has received the following legacies:- From the estate of the late Mrs. Margot Rosenbaum £540 and from the estate of the late Mrs. Hilda Deutsch £680, both being final payments.

*English Zionists and British Jews. By Stuart Cohen. Princeton University Press, 1982. £24.30.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in this column are free of charge, but voluntary donations would be appreciated. Texts should reach us by the 15th of the preceding month.

Birthdays

Antal:—Franz Antal, of 136 Westfield Road, Birmingham 14, formerly Vienna, celebrates his 80th birthday on 27 March with his wife Berta née Insler and his daughters and grandchildren.

Rosenstock:—A special birthday greeting to Dr. W. Rosenstock for his three-quarters of a century. With affection, from the Team.

Deaths

Behmak:—Mrs. Alice Herta Behmak passed away in hospital on the 23 February. Deeply mourned by her cousin in Israel and friends.

Behrendt:—Mr. Hans Behrendt died peacefully in his sleep, aged 80, on 7 March, after a long illness. Deeply mourned by his wife, his daughters and his surviving sister, sons-in-law and grandchildren.

Freeman:—Lawrence S. Freeman passed away on 24 February. Sadly missed by his wife Margaret, son and daughter-in-law, grandchildren and very many friends.

Goldschmidt:—Leonore Goldschmidt died peacefully on 7 March, aged 85. A great teacher and headmistress. Deeply mourned by her children Gertrud and Rudi, grandchildren and many friends and pupils in Germany and the UK.

Griffen:—Gunter Griffen, F.B.O.A., on 16 March. Irreplaceable to his family and friends.

Jacob:—Lilo Jacob of 74, Barn Hill, Wembley Park, Middlesex, passed away on 26 February after a long illness so bravely borne. Dearly loved and sadly missed, she will be remembered forever by her loving husband, children, mother, brother, sister-in-law, aunts and all members of the Jacob and Livingston families.

Koenigsberger:—On 18 February, in her sleep, Martha Henriette, aged 81, widow of Dr. Arthur Koenigsberger.

Lewinnek:—Alfred Lewinnek died peacefully in his 90th year. Deeply mourned by his wife, his daughter Ruth and son-in-law.

Raab:—Adele Raab (née Flack, formerly of Vienna, later of Bury, Lancs and Reading, Berks) died on 2 March in hospital after a short illness, aged 94. Vigorous and caring to the last, sadly missed and fondly remembered by family, fellow residents at Heinrich Stahl House and many other friends.

Royce:—Fred Royce passed away 24 February in Middlesex Hospital. Deeply missed and mourned by Ruth.

Simons:—Alice Simons, née Nelki, died peacefully at the age of 91. Born in Berlin, she was one of the first women practising dentistry before the first world war.

Thorn:—Elvira Thorn, née Bork, died on 25 February after a long illness. She was 58. Deeply mourned by her husband, her sister and her many friends.

In Memoriam

Sinai:—In cherished memory of dearly loved wife "Rose", who passed away on Nisan 4 (17 March 1964). Never to be forgotten by her still grieving husband, children and grandchildren.

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INFORMATION REQUIRED

Personal Enquiry

FOR FAMILY RESEARCH. It would be appreciated if anybody who knows of descendants or relatives of Siegfried Simon, Banker in Dessau, son of Abraham Simon and Friederike Wiesenthal, would contact Dr. Lenore Hahn Podietz, 8901, Carlisle Road, Philadelphia, Penna. 19118, U.S.A.

Schindler:—Hertha Schindler, born Hamburg August 1914 (Klosterschülerin). News wanted by Liselotte Leschke, 7 Henleaze Road, Bristol 9.

Stern:—Alfred Stern. Information is sought concerning this person, who lived in Montabau in Westerwald, Germany. Box 976.

AJR Enquiries

Natzler:—Would Mrs. J. Natzler, last known address 115, Langford Court, Abbey Road, NW8. Please contact the Membership Department.

Newhouse:—Would Mr. J. H. Newhouse, last known address 54, Dunster Road, Hillside, Southport, Lancs, please contact the Membership Department.

THE ART SCENE

First, a visit to the British Museum. In Room 49 there is a magnificent collection of drawings and water-colours from the Courtauld Institute to mark the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation. Well worth seeing and open until 24 April. From there, to the Prints & Drawings Gallery, to the exhibition of works by Wenceslaus Hollar (1607-1677). Hollar was born in Prague but worked for most of his life in England. There is a wide range of subjects, including many town views, e.g. Cologne, Mainz, Cannstadt-on-the-Neckar, Augsburg and Muhlheim-on-the-Rhine. With the Hollar exhibition there is also an exhibition of Italian drawings from the Lugt collection. It includes work by Fra Bartolomeo, da Vinci, Raphael and Tiepolo. Both exhibitions are open until 15 May.

Then to the Barbican Centre. Here there are exhibitions of works by Asger Jorn (1914-1973) and Auguste Rodin (1840-1917). This is the first comprehensive Jorn exhibition to be held in this country and includes about 60 paintings and 20 prints. His work is widely known; and in 1973 the Kestner Gesellschaft in Hanover presented a select retrospec-

tive exhibition which was also shown in Berlin and Brussels. The Rodin exhibition is designed to illustrate Rodin's relationship with other French artists and includes works by Matisse, Renoir, Picasso and Brancusi. Both exhibitions are open until 10 April. These exhibitions are to be followed by a large retrospective exhibition of the work of the Austrian artist Friedrich Hundertwasser (b. 1928) which will run from 26 April to 19 June.

Finally, to the Hayward Gallery, to a marvellous exhibition of Landscapes in Britain 1850-1950 (until 17 April and then in Bristol). In and among the beautiful works by Paul Nash and his brother John, Roger Fry and Vanessa Bell, there is an interesting painting by Henryk Goltlib (1892-1967). He was born in Cracow, worked in Germany and France and finally settled in Surrey, where he died. Also represented in the exhibition are Josef Herman and Sir William Rothenstein (1872-1945), born in Bradford of parents who formed part of that interesting group of German Jewish merchants who settled in that city in the early part of the nineteenth century.

ALICE SCHWAB

BANNED MUSIC ON TV

Under the title "Das gibt's nur einmal", Hans Rosenthal had the unusual idea of producing a television programme composed entirely of works which had been banned in Nazi Germany. In this way people without any political interest could be reached, and the programme's impact was reinforced by the songs and lyrics, which retained all their original virtues.

It was later learned that members of a dance group had received threats and insults from neo-Nazis, following their appearance in the programme.

ARTIST'S GIFT TO WUPPERTAL

Greta Meyer, principal of a kindergarten in Elberfeld and writer of children's books, left her native Wuppertal in 1939 and eventually settled in Chicago. There she became an artist and sculptor. Recently, in token of her links with Wuppertal, she presented the town with two of her works: a carving of a sitting woman and a wallhanging entitled "Duett".

MUSICIAN'S BEQUEST TO JERUSALEM

Artur Rubinstein, the veteran pianist who died last December, has left a legacy of £315,000 to the city of Jerusalem for the purpose of beautification. Another bequest was to the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

A Memory of Happy Days. The jolly and cheerful atmosphere of UFA-Film days can be relived this month when the London Goethe Institute (50 Princes Gate, SW7), celebrating 25 years of its existence, brings Lilian Harvey and Willy Fritsch to the screen, showing "Der Kongress tanzt" on 18 April, "Die Drei von der Tankstelle" on the 20th, continuing with "Ein blonder Traum" on 25 April, when Paul Hörbiger and Willy Forst are also in the cast. Fans of Paul Kemp and Adele Sandrock can also enjoy "Amphitryon" on 27 April.

Birthdays. Gert Froebe, Saxony-born stage and television star who became internationally known in the title role in the James Bond film "Goldfinger" is 70. Josef Meinrad who has also turned 70, was a celebrated member of the Vienna "Burg" for several decades. Now officially retired, he still plays there on occasions, and is often seen on Austrian Television. In London he became known when he delighted audiences with his original brand of humour as Froch in Covent Garden's "Fledermaus" production for several years running.

Obituary. Melanie Horeschowsky, a well-known German actress since the Twenties, recently playing in Hamburg and Munich, has died in Munich at the age of 81. The death is announced of the charming actress Julia Janssen, who was a member of the Vienna Burgtheater from 1927 to 1957, and who

will, in particular, be remembered as a touchingly-naïve Gretchen in Goethe's "Faust". She was 76 and had lately lived in the Ruhr area of Germany. Charles Kullmann, an American singer of German parentage, one of the first leading American opera tenors, member of the Metropolitan Opera, New York from 1935 to 1962, and universally acclaimed in Florence, Salzburg and Buenos Aires, has died in his home town, New Haven, Connecticut. He was 80.

A Book for Music lovers. "Gehoertes-Ungehörtes-Memorien" is the title of a work, just published by Noack-Huebner Verlag, Munich. It is by Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, without doubt one of the remarkable sopranos of our time, using many biographical notes, letters and essays by her husband, the late Walter Legge (1906-1979.) Legge was a Briton (and not of continental descent, as many believe). For almost 40 years he was connected with EMI recordings and was famous as a musical perfectionist. The book contains his memories of conductors and singers, ranging from Sir Thomas Beecham and Otto Klemperer to Karajan, from Lotte Lehmann to Maria Callas, and quotes freely his critical opinions of the greatest artists. Legge was married to Miss Schwarzkopf for 32 years, and was called by one of his colleagues "the pope of record production". The English version of the book is called "Off the Record" (Faber).

S.B.

SURVEY SHOWS DECLINE

A demographic survey carried out by the Board of Deputies and conducted by Dr. Barry Kosmin and Caren Levy has shown a decline in Jewish population in Britain between 1965 and 1979. In the late 50s and early 60s an annual average of 5,000 children were born to Jewish families, but the corresponding figure in the present survey is only 4,500. Deaths outnumbered births by about 300 in every year. Emigration, whether to Israel or elsewhere, has been found to play a more significant part in the continuing decrease of British Jewry than has hitherto been believed.

The survey also shows that by far the majority of Jews in Britain, approximately 67 per cent, live in the London area.

EX-HEAD STILL TEACHING

Dr. Judith Grunfeld, born in Frankfurt a.M. and educated at the Samson Raphael Hirsch High School, still teaches and lectures throughout the English-speaking world. Coming to England as a refugee in 1933, she was at once asked by Dr. Solomon Schonfeld to become one of his teachers and shortly afterwards she became the first head of his Jewish secondary school and the Avigdor School in North London. Recently she published an account of the school's evacuation during the Second World War under the title "Shefford".

Dr. Grunfeld retired from her post as headmistress in 1954 because of her late husband's failing health. She has nevertheless continued to be active in the field of education in the intervening years.

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