

AJR

INFORMATION

Volume XXXVIII No. 8, August 1983

OVERFLOWING AGM

Fascinating Talk by Peter Fraenkel

Clearly, word has got around that AJR Annual General Meetings are extremely entertaining occasions, for the Hannah Karminski House hall was literally filled to overflowing for the 30 June AGM. The mellow evening crowned a glorious summer's day and members chatted and caught up on gossip as they settled down for an evening that was to pass very quickly.

The Chairman, Mr. C. T. Marx, opened with a tribute to the memory of members who had died during the past year, among them Mrs. Rose Berlin, chairman of Otto Schiff House, Dr. Martin Deutschkron of Birmingham, Mrs. Erna Goldschmidt, member of several house committees, Dr. Mac Goldsmith the well known industrialist, Dr. Herbert Hirsch, Mrs. Elise Reifenberg (the novelist Gabriele Tergit), Mr. George Selby, a visitor to the Homes, and Dr. Ulrich Tietz. Most of these had been members of the Board.

The Chairman pointed out that this year was the fiftieth anniversary of the event that had brought the German Jewish immigration to Britain. It had been one of the most successful waves of immigration to come to this country in terms of its thorough integration and its contribution to the community in industry, commerce, the arts and sciences.

We were a community committed to looking after its own people in need. Thus for the AJR, the Homes were now their main concern. Homes that will be needed till the end of the century. More active helpers were needed, more committee members too, so that the AJR can continue to take care of the old, which is best done by people from the same background.

AJR Information had just changed printers, which would be partly reflected in its appearance, but above all in considerable savings in costs.

The AJR would continue to offer advice on restitution, especially with the closing of the URO office at the end of the year. Dr. Gumpert would still be available and for questions of taxation, Dr. Falk.

The Wednesday Luncheon Club initiated by Mrs. Anderman at Hannah Karminski House had proved a great success. The AJR Club, run by Mrs. Jacoby and Mrs. Segall, went on with its good work. Self Aid continued its valuable contribution, and the Chairman reminded the audience of the Self Aid Concert scheduled for 13 November.

During the year the AJR had supported two appeals—the one for the Wiener Library, the importance of which as a unique repository of material about Nazism, Fascism, antisemitism and racism had been highlighted in the Library's exhibition "On the Track of Tyranny", and that of the CBF Jubilee Appeal. In both cases the AJR and its members had made substantial contributions.

Resourcefulness

In the course of the year Mrs. Anna Patterson, who had been General Secretary, had left, and her place has been filled by Mr. L. Spiro, the Hon. Treasurer and Chairman of the Management Committee. Mr. Marx thanked Mr. Spiro for his hard and devoted work, and expressed his gratitude to the committee members and loyal staff at Fairfax Mansions.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Spiro, was pleased to be able to report that despite a small overall loss in the number of members, income from membership had risen in 1982 from £42,339 to £46,898. Expenditure, excluding support received from the AJR Trust, rose from £53,482 in 1981 to £57,977

£1 (To non-members)

in 1982. The Balance Sheet thus showed a profit for the year of £315 compared with a loss of £453 in 1981.

Looking at direct income for future years, it seemed unlikely that we would receive from the funds of the CBF Allocations Committee a great deal more than the £12,000 per annum obtained lately as the Fund established from heirless German Jewish property continues to reduce. It was therefore imperative to maintain and above all strive to increase the AJR membership. It was foolish to dwell on the problems of doing so. Ours and earlier generations had proved so resourceful in dealing with much graver difficulties—we need only apply our minds to it and find the ways and means of doing so. He pointed out the opportunities by mentioning that he had only recently been to a dinner party where half of the eight persons present were of refugee origin, and not one of them was a member—so there was a great untapped potential of membership to be tackled and pursued energetically.

The cost of producing and distributing AJR Information absorbed a large amount of the Association's income, but it provided the principal link with the Members and Friends and its continued publication was essential for retaining and expanding the membership. The recent steps taken to print the journal in the West Country should help reduce costs considerably.

Most remaining costs incurred in 1982 arose from the continued demand and growth in our social work activities. Inflation, unemployment, and longer life expectancy continue to demand increased service. We take a very active part in the care of the elderly of the refugee community who are not in Homes or sheltered accommodation, many of whom are struggling with a multitude of problems, often living in isolation and looking to us for help. Our office in Fairfax Mansions provides an open door for many in the refugee community, and often also for their dependents who seek information on a variety of problems or who just come because they want to talk to someone in their loneliness.

The number of home help provisions made in 1982 rose to 1,339. Wherever possible, our voluntary helpers visit the housebound, or when this is not possible because of a shortage of volunteers, we maintain contact by phone. Demand on the resources of Self Aid, which is operated by the AJR, has continued and help is given within the limits of the available resources to refugees from

AN IMPORTANT DATE

Sunday, November 13

Please keep this date free for the Self Aid Concert at 3 p.m. in the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

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OVERFLOWING A G M

Nazi oppression who find themselves in particularly great difficulties. As the Chairman had reminded the audience, Self Aid relies on the annual concert for much of its income, so put 13 November at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in your diaries.

Demand for sheltered accommodation provided in the Otto Schiff, Marie Baneth and Hannah Karminski Houses remains intense and the considerable administrative work involved should not be underestimated. We collaborate closely with the CBF Allocations and Management Committees, dealing with our share of the responsibilities in connection with Eleonor Rathbone House, and the very great responsibilities we discharge in the effective and fair selection of residents for Osmond, Otto Schiff, Heinrich Stahl and Leo Baeck Houses. I stress again the need to obtain volunteers from our and other communities to ensure that the quality of life for those in the Homes is improved wherever possible. We appeal to volunteers from the older and the younger generation to come forward.

The upkeep of our activities has become very costly and could not be maintained without the

financial support which the AJR Charitable Trust has again provided and which in 1982 amounted to £49,450 compared with £9,000 in 1979, £23,000 in 1980 and £30,000 in 1981. The Trust relies principally on the receipt of legacies provided in the wills of members and Friends of the Association who have recognised the value of our work in so generous a manner. It is our responsibility to them to ensure that the activities benefiting from the Trust for support should be handled with the greatest efficiency.

He concluded by thanking the volunteers, the House Committee members and chairmen, the wardens and caretakers for their devoted and effective support, and also his colleagues in Fairfax Mansions and elsewhere who made his task so much easier and enjoyable.

This was followed by the election of the Executive and of Board Members. The Executive members of the outgoing year were re-elected and Mr. Frank Odell and Mr. Helmut Rothenberg were elected as new members. The Board members were also re-elected and Mrs. Ann Erle, Mr. Herbert Loebel OBE and Dr. Kurt Passer were elected as new members.

FROM AFRICAN BUSH TO BUSH HOUSE

The highlight of the evening was the much-anticipated talk by Peter Fraenkel, Controller of the European Services of the BBC. He had an extraordinary story to tell, ranging from the beginning of his career in broadcasting in Central Africa, what was then Northern Rhodesia and is now Zambia, to his present responsibilities at BBC Bush House in the Aldwych. He recalled that his first contribution to broadcasting was watering the aerial of his father's radio—an essential act in the African dry season in order to 'make contact'. His father had been a lawyer in Breslau, but had set up a dry-cleaning business in Northern Rhodesia.

When, as a young man Mr. Fraenkel joined the Central African Broadcasting System, he found himself involved in a new and exciting experiment in broadcasting to Africans, who had very special needs. First and foremost was a radio receiver that the Africans could afford, and this was solved by devising a battery-operated 'saucepan' radio, so-called because it was really set into a saucepan-sized circular casing. It was not easy to find a British manufacturer willing to make them, because of doubts about the size of the market, but when they finally persuaded one to make the apparatus, there emerged an insatiable demand for it. At a stroke, the African's isolation in the bush was overcome, and Mr. Fraenkel and his colleagues understood that they had at their disposal a marvellous tool for the education and advancement of the African.

They were equal to the challenge. Mr. Fraenkel went into the bush to record African singers and story-tellers from all the many tribes, with their varying dialects and traditions—the area he was serving, covering the present-day Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi, was as big as the Balkans plus Italy, and encompassed nine language groups. He devised a long-running soap opera which drama-

tised the stresses and tensions of the emerging African, pulled forward by modernisation and still determined to preserve the best of his native tradition, strongly set in his tribal loyalties, but increasingly aware of a wider African attachment and his colonial status.

Mr. Fraenkel's soap opera revolved around a family in which the father was a forward-looking man married to a wife with strong tribal attachments and a tearaway son and daughter, a traditional uncle (the uncle has the chief responsibility wielded by the father in our society), and the daughter's scoundrel boy friend, a very colourful character called 'Smart Jim', and played by an actor particularly suited to the part. Since some of the actors were illiterate, they had their parts read to them and memorised them in that way, though there was much spontaneous ad libbing.

Mr. Fraenkel remembered being naively dragged into the role of judge by one of the cast in a combined beauty and band contest, though he insisted on also having African assessors sitting with him. He soon found that he was the 'token' judge, and the prizes went to 'Smart Jim's' own band and girl friend.

Together with the fun and entertainment provided by his broadcasting service, there was of course a comprehensive programme of health and hygiene information, as well as an invaluable general educational function which reached out everywhere into the bush through the magic medium of the saucepan radio. He has recorded this period of his life in an amusing and absorbing book called 'Wayaleshi' (Wireless in African dialect), which can be found in libraries.

With the creation of the Central African Federation, he found his freedom to broadcast circumscribed, and came to England in 1957. With great persistence and after many applications—

persistence is what he counsels aspirants to have—he joined the BBC as a scriptwriter for the external services. His scripts, on innumerable subjects, were translated into 39 languages, and ranged from being the first to interview patients in Broadmoor, and interviewing Jomo Kenyatta to reporting on the World Health Organisation's fight against tuberculosis. He remembers his wife asking him, 'What are you a specialist on this week?'

Complete Fallacy

He told of his Greek experience as an example of the problems of BBC planning policy. If a particular service seemed quiescent, there was often pressure to cut it back, on the assumption that it could be restored when needed. But this was a complete fallacy, for when the listening audience had gone, you couldn't get it back. In 1967 he became Greek programme organiser, and it seemed a dormant period was in store. He learned Greek in a village. Within a few months the Greek colonels had taken over in a coup, and with their close control of the Greek media, the BBC suddenly acquired a mass audience. One of his promotional stunts was not appreciated by the colonels. As mysterious 'trailers' for forthcoming programmes, he broadcast cryptic messages the week before, such as *There is a barber at the corner* or *Seagulls are circling Samos*. The colonels were very upset, suspecting a plot, and made representations to the British Ambassador, who had embarrassedly to explain that the BBC was having fun promoting itself. There were of course broadcasts that the colonels had good reason to dislike, such as the BBC exposé of torture.

Mr. Fraenkel then became Head of the Eastern European Services, a different world entirely, with immense responsibility. His task was to bring news and information to those closed societies hungry for true facts and unbiased material. They were also anxious to learn about western culture, both high and popular. It was also their only opportunity to hear their own banned literature, and in fact only a few weeks ago, Solzhenitsyn had read for them the whole of 'One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich.'

And how did Mr. Fraenkel carry out audience research? How could he know the best time to broadcast to Romania? He sat on a park bench facing a large Bucharest housing estate and counted the lights going out in the flats so he would know when people went to sleep, and could time broadcasts to reach them when they were awake, while another friend in the Moscow underground determined when most people came back from work and were therefore likely to tune in! He also checked what he had heard of the persistence of religion by visiting a Leningrad cemetery and counting the number of recent graves with crosses and Stars of David on them, finding sixty per cent did have religious tombstones, a risk, however, to judge from the details on the stones, that party and state functionaries could not take!

In the best tradition of the BBC, Mr. Fraenkel sees his task as that of giving his listeners the facts and letting them make up their own minds. A tribute to this policy, no doubt unintended, can be found in a Soviet book, 'Aerials Directed Towards the East', by G. N. Vachnadze, which says:

'The usual tone of BBC programmes to socialist countries differs from the broadcasts of

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other imperialist stations in showing a certain restraint. It tries in every possible way to win for itself the reputation of being an objective source of information. The BBC—a subtle tool for influencing the minds of listeners—is utilised in accordance with a jesuitically refined method by the English bourgeoisie, the oldest in the world.'

As Controller of European Services, Mr. Fraenkel travels a good deal in Europe generally, and Eastern and Central Europe particularly. He told of his first trip to his native Breslau. He decided to visit the cemetery, to which he had so often been taken as a small child by his parents. Though somewhat overgrown like a veritable nature reserve, he found it walled off, but he managed to squeeze through a barbed wire fence. He found everything precisely as he remembered it, knew every path and turning. But when he came to where his grandparents' and other relatives' gravestones should have been, there was nothing, as if someone had decided to play tricks with the past, or with his memory. Ferdinand Lassalle's grave was there, and that of his distant relation, the McGonagall-type rhymster of German doggerel, Frederike Kempner, but not his grandparents.

It was Frederike, who had a pathological fear of being buried alive, who had written:

*Ihr wisst ja nicht wie weh es tut
Wenn man so wach im Grabe ruht...*

The distant tinkle of a tram made Mr. Fraenkel wonder for a startled moment whether Frederike wasn't wildly shaking the bell she had had buried with her.

Only later did he learn from a local that in the last days of the battle for Breslau, which had held out five days longer than Berlin, gravestones had been pulled out of the cemetery to build barricades, and the square shapes of his grandparents' stones had suited that purpose best.

As Controller for the last three years he has campaigned for replacement of 1941-style transmitters to beat Soviet jamming, and they have just begun operating. There were reassuring telephone calls from Moscow saying that 'The operation on Auntie had been successful'—that the BBC was being received loud and clear. Mr. Fraenkel is producing a programme on 'East-West Relations Since Yalta', with long interviews with Harriman, Kreisky, Couve de Murville, Bahr. He is still hoping to catch Gromyko in that net. In general, the BBC was the best prestige advertising Britain could have, and indeed, where the BBC was listened to and popular, British products sold well.

Dr. Falk, Vice Chairman of the AJR proposed an enthusiastic vote of thanks for the enormous pleasure given by Mr. Fraenkel's colourful picture of a remarkable scene stretching from Africa to Eastern Europe.

RARE BRANCH OF JEWISH ART

The little-known art of micrography has recently been on show at the Jewish Museum. In the fashion of some children's puzzles, but infinitely more elaborate and artistic, micrography consists of producing a picture or a significant pattern by arranging tiny script in lines. The earliest examples known date from the 9th century and the art came to its full flowering in the 14th century. The oldest micrographic portrait exhibited in the Museum was of Jonathan Eybeschütz, a famous German rabbi of the eighteenth century. The work dates from 1734 and consists of the first twenty-one Psalms. Another portrait is of Solomon Hirschell, made up of the Book of Ecclesiastes. Sir Moses Montefiore is depicted by Deuteronomy. Jeremiah mourning the destruction of the Temple and a calendar dating from 1823 were other items on display.

SALO BARON HONOURED

At 88, Professor Salo Baron recently delivered the 10th Sacks Lecture at the Oxford Centre for Post-Graduate Hebrew Studies, and the occasion was marked by the grant of an honorary fellowship of the Centre to the venerable Jewish historian. Emeritus Professor of Jewish History, Literature and Institutions at Columbia University, Salo Baron is noted for his authorship of the mammoth 17-volume "Social and Religious History of the Jews".

NEW ALPHABET FOR HEBREW?

An Israeli scientist, helped by a South African typographer, is hoping to launch a latinised script in order to fill what he considers inadequacies in the Hebrew alphabet.

Dr. Michael Avinor, who works for the Israeli defence industry, complains that the existing script does not permit scientific transcription, so that technical catalogues, computer language, algebra and even doctors' prescriptions have to be written in Latin characters or translated into English.

LECTURER AWARDED DAMAGES

In 1981 the "New Statesmen" published an article about a geneticist alleged to believe in "Nordic and Aryan superiority" and to be promoting the idea of manipulating races by artificial insemination and sperm banks. The article also mentioned the name of Dr. Stephen Haseler in this connection. Now Dr. Haseler, a lecturer in politics at the City of London Polytechnic, has accepted "substantial damages" and costs from the paper in settlement of the libel action which he had initiated. Counsel for the author and the editors told the High Court that they accepted that Dr. Haseler had never held racist views.

PIANISTS WHO GIVE DELIGHT

With a repertoire of well over 2,000 piano pieces, Barbara Jacobson is well placed to entertain those who, like herself, are blind. Her career dates back to her youth in Leipzig where she studied music. An emigrant in England, she met her future husband here and was soon eking out the family income by playing for a ballet school. During the war years, Barbara played in cabaret and then in a rumba band. She took part in many broadcasts and met famous entertainers.

On a Jewish Blind Society outing in 1953, Mrs. Jacobson realised how much she could give to her fellow disabled and since then she has carried out many entertainments at friendship clubs and old age homes. She has now been made a life governor of the Jewish Blind Society in recognition of the work she has done and the pleasure she has provided.

Another pianist who continues to delight audiences is 87-year-old Stephanie Thieberger. Of Polish extraction, Mrs. Thieberger studied at the Vienna Conservatoire and taught music in the city. She and her husband left Austria at the time of the Anschluss and emigrated to Paris. At the recent 21st anniversary of the Leicester B'nai B'rith Friendship Group, Mrs. Thieberger was chosen to give a Chopin recital.

HERZL'S WORKS REPUBLISHED

Collaboration between Duisburg University, the Martin Buber Institute in Cologne, the Institute of Zionist History in Tel Aviv and the Zionist Central Archives has produced the first of a seven-volume collection of Theodor Herzl's writings. The volumes will contain his diaries and the remaining five will be devoted to his letters.

ISRAELI ARTISTS WIN PRIZE

The actor Shmuel Rodensky and pianist Daniel Hoexter have received the Rudolf Kuestermeier Prize in Tel Aviv. Named after the first German press correspondent accredited to the state of Israel, the award marks the contribution made by the two artists to the interpretation of Israeli culture in West Germany.

*CENTENARY FOR FORMER KOELNER

A prominent member of the Köln Jewish community in the days before Hitler came to power, Dr. Eduard Isaac recently celebrated his hundredth birthday. He has been living in Israel since 1939. Dr. Isaac is the last surviving son of Isidor Isaac, a founder of the firm of Siebenborn & Co., and was a partner in the business until 1938. He held the post of President of the Rheinland B'nai B'rith Lodge and was the last chairman on the board of the Israelitisches Asyl für Kranke und Altersschwache in Köln. The memoir of his long life has not been published, but the manuscript is held in the Leo Baeck Institute in New York.

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HOME NEWS

HOLOCAUST GARDENS DEDICATED

Leaders of Anglo-Jewry joined members of the Government and Holocaust survivors at the dedication of the Holocaust Memorial Garden in Hyde Park in June. The Government, who had presented the plot to the Board of Deputies, were represented by Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment. A wreath was laid by Kitty Hart and Ben Helfgott, both of whom managed to survive the Holocaust.

Another survivor present at the ceremony was Professor Thomas Bergenthal, now dean of Washington University Law School. He has a special link with Greville Janner, MP, President of the Board of Deputies. As a young war crimes investigator in Heidelberg, Mr. Janner sought out surviving Jews and stayed for a time with a mother and her young son, who had been reunited after incarceration in different camps. The boy was Thomas Bergenthal, whose story is told in Odd Nansen's "Day after Day".

After the dedication and a fund-raising lunch, a special panel discussion on the subject of the Holocaust and education was held in Woburn House. Chaired by Martin Gilbert, the panel took the place of a visit by Simon Wiesenthal who was unfortunately unable to come because of ill-health.

IMPORTANT EVENTS AT ALYTH GARDENS

In the history of the North Western Reform Synagogue at Alyth Gardens, two current events stand out: the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Synagogue's foundation and the departure of its spiritual leader for the past 14 years, Rabbi Dow Marmur.

The initiators and first congregants included a high proportion of new arrivals from Nazi Germany, and throughout the years, the atmosphere has been influenced by the contingent of former Continentals. Under the leadership of Rabbi Marmur, the synagogue has not only intensified and expanded its own inner activities but has also taken an active part in wider issues such as Soviet Jewry and Community Relations. His dynamic personality has now been enlisted by the Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto, one of the most prestigious Reform Synagogues in North America. His successor at Alyth Gardens will be 38-year-old American born Rabbi Charles Emanuel, now rabbi of the Sinai Synagogue in Leeds.

B'NAI B'RITH CENTENARY

Just 100 years have passed since the first B'nai B'rith Lodge was opened in Germany. At a Seminar held in Berlin, Rabbi Lubliner sketched the early history of Jewish lodges from the very first founded in 1843 by Henri Jones. The century-old aims of B'nai B'rith—benevolence, brotherly love, harmony—were still relevant today, he said. For 25 years there were no German-Jewish lodges until in 1959 the Leo Baeck Tradition Lodge was the first to be re-opened.

HANS KLAUS OF PRAGUE

Professor Jürgen Born, the distinguished authority on Franz Kafka, would like to have information about the Prague writer Hans Klaus, who knew Kafka and Gustav Janouch. All that is known of Klaus is that he published a book called *Die Verklärung des Dr. Schourck. Eine Lebensgeschichte* in Prague in 1930, and that he is supposed to have lived in or near London during the Second World War and possibly some years thereafter. Persons having any knowledge of Klaus should write to AJR Information.

THE LUNCHEON CLUB

is open on Wednesdays from 12-2 p.m. serving lunch at £1 per meal at: **Hannah Karminksi House, 9 Adamson Road, London, N.W.3** (side entrance).

CLUB 1943

Club 1943 will be closed for the summer holiday during the months of August and September. Lectures will start again in October.

3 Oct. Mr. Walter Schwab, B.A., Vice President of the Jewish Historical Society will speak on: "Anglo-Jewry in Perspective".

TRAUMA OF EXILE RECALLED

The BBC series "Britain in the Thirties" included a programme entitled "Far from Home", put out a few weeks ago. Illustrated by contemporary film clips and photographs, the television presentation concentrated largely on the stories of four or five people as they recalled their youth. Among them were Max Perutz, Nicholas Kürti, Grete Burkill and Lore Braunschweig. The first two are scientists who finished up at Oxford and Cambridge respectively. It was strange to contrast the photographs of bewildered, lost-looking young people with the secure elderly men and women who told of their first impressions of England and their struggles to gain footing in a new land, time and again mentioning Hampstead, Swiss Cottage, Woburn House, the Clarendon Laboratory and Committees to help refugee scientists and the other exiles. Yet their security did not run deep—they still had to relive the doom-laden decisions of the thirties and forties.

Perhaps the most telling sequence came almost at the end when Max Perutz described his parents' sense of isolation because they could not use their mother tongue. Although fluent in English, his voice was noticeably more hesitant as he read another man's words—Shakespeare's lines

*And now my tongue's use is to me no more
Than an unstringed viol or a harp...*

Within my mouth you have engaoled my tongue...

RESISTANCE ASSEMBLY

A World Assembly to Commemorate Jewish Resistance and Combat during World War II will be held in Jerusalem on 2-6 October 1983, under the patronage of the Prime Minister. There will be ceremonies of remembrance, visits to Israeli Army camps and settlements founded by Holocaust survivors and resistance fighters, and on 6 October there will be a plenary session on "The Role of the Jews in Their Struggle Against Nazi Germany". People interested in attending should write to: The Secretariat, World Assembly to Commemorate Jewish Resistance and Combat During World War II, P.O. Box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel.

DR. EPPLER LEAVING BRITAIN

Dr. Elizabeth Eppler, London-based archivist of the World Jewish Congress and an assistant director of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, is soon to move to Israel. Almost all her family are already there. Dr. Eppler's work in London, including the many exhibitions she has organised for the WJC, has been most valuable in the past and her absence will be keenly felt. However, no one could possibly begrudge her a reunion with her brother and other relatives in Israel.

THE HISTORY OF DEFENCE

The Centre for Research into Antisemitism in Berlin recently presented its fourth lecture. The subject was "Defence Against Antisemitism, 1893-1933" and the speaker was Dr. Arnold Paucker, Director of the London Leo Baeck Institute. He told his audience that just two years after its inception, the Central-Verein deutscher Staatsbürger jüdischer Glaubens feared that the struggle against antisemitism would develop into a new Thirty Years' War. In fact it had been a Forty Years' War and one in which the Jews had been defeated.

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GABRIELE TERGIT REMEMBERS

Gabriele Tergit, known to readers of AJR Information from her numerous brilliant contributions, and who died last year at the age of 88, had one dearest wish: that she would still see her last book in print, the memoirs to which she devoted the last years of her life. Alas, the book was only published recently, some months after she had passed away.*

This book is more than a mere autobiography. It is a fascinating description of her own experiences and memories of the 1920s and 1930s, presented as vividly as if the events the author recalls had only occurred yesterday, and not fifty to sixty years ago. It makes stimulating reading not only for everybody who lived through that period, but also for the younger generation.

Before 1933 Tergit worked as a Law Courts correspondent of the "Berliner Tageblatt", Berlin's leading liberal newspaper owned by the Jewish publishing house of Rudolf Mosse. Recalling some scenes from this experience she shows how the reign of law was undermined by the Courts of the Weimar Republic. During the course of her duties Tergit met some of the "Feme" murderers of the Twenties whose criminal ideology anticipated Nazi barbarism, and some of whom, like Heines and others, were later themselves killed by their own Nazi friends.

Tergit illustrates by reference to real stories which she observed how Republican "justice" in those years was unequally administered: Jews, left-wingers and Republicans, Socialists, pacifists and Communists were dealt with most severely whereas the Nazis were treated with kid gloves.

Tergit also describes how she came across Hitler "then only a small man", accused of an offence against the press laws before a German Court (unfortunately there is no reference as to when or where this occurred). "It was not clear: Did Hitler feign hysterics, or was he really hysterical...", Tergit states, and she summarises her impressions of this encounter of which she often talked to the writer of this review:

"I have reflected about these proceedings for 40 years, and thought what I thought already at the time of the proceedings: Hitler and Goebbels were sitting three or four yards away from me. If I had had a revolver and had shot them, I would have saved 50 million people from premature death; I would have become Judith the Second..."

In those years Gabriele Tergit was practically at the centre of Berlin's cultural life. In her memoirs,

*Gabriele Tergit, *Etwas Seltenes überhaupt, Erinnerungen*. Verlag Ullstein GmbH, Frankfurt/M., Berlin, Wien, 1983. DM 9.80.

leading personalities of that epoch of whom one had felt that they already belonged to history, come alive again as if they were still amongst us: Carl von Ossietzky, who refused to leave Germany in 1933 and had to pay with his life for his courage, Theodor Wolff, the Brilliant Chief Editor of the Berliner Tageblatt, who even in his French exile refused to write a word "against Germany", and many others.

Unfortunately this lively and fascinating book suffers from a plethora of flashbacks. It jumps frequently from one decade to another in the same paragraph—making it unnecessarily difficult for the reader to follow the story. The "Lehranstalt für die Wissenschaft des Judentums" in Berlin, where the mysterious journalist Günter Stein—whom Tergit recalls—is supposed to have studied, was only created in 1872, and not in 1819 "by the Hegelian Eduard Gans, Leopold Zunz (not Zuns!), Heinrich Heine and others". There was evidently a confusion with the "Verein für die Cultur und Wissenschaft der Juden" which was dissolved in 1824 or 1825, 75 years before Stein was born.

Fascinating story

Other mistakes—mainly in the spelling of names—could have been avoided if the proof readers of the Ullstein Publishing House had been more careful, mistakes worse than mere printing errors, as they are repeated in the text and in the index: Thus it should have read: "Eleanor (not Elinor) Roosevelt", "Conrad Veidt" (not "Veith"), Bertolt (not Bertholt) Brecht" and so on.

The directness of the description of Tergit's impressions of the years before 1933 and the first years after her emigration is lacking to some considerable extent in her sketches of post-1945 Berlin where she relied too little on her own alert and critical reasoning and too much on hearsay from Berlin inhabitants of those years who felt so sorry for themselves after all that had happened before. It might also have been interesting if Tergit had written more about how other refugees from Nazi Germany and Central Europe adapted themselves to life in England where after all she spent her last 44 years.

But in spite of all these provisos: A fascinating book about a period long bygone, which is still very much alive.

F. HELLENDALL

NEW EDITION OF POLGAR'S WRITINGS

A significant indication of the increased interest in the oeuvre of Alfred Polgar, noted in the article headed "The Polgar Revival" in the March 1983 issue of *AJR Information*, is the publication of "Musterung". It comprises observations and impressions on war and militarism, on injustice and the changing times in the course of almost four decades, from 1915-1951. "Musterung" (Rowohlt, Reinbek, 1982) is the first volume of what is intended to become a representative collection of "Kleine Schriften". Three more, containing short stories, theatre and film reviews and essays on literature, are to follow.

The editors, Marcel Reich-Ranicki and Ulrich Weinzierl, have arranged the pieces in chronological order—a meaningful procedure as Polgar was often inspired by events of the day. It was his specific gift to produce highly polished small gems of prose out of such raw material. In an introduction, Mr. Reich-Ranicki states correctly: "One would have to be able to write like Polgar in order to show how he was able to write". Actually, Polgar's succinct, ironical and elegant style is inimitable. Attempts to translate some of his pieces have failed to convey their charm and lightness of touch, beneath which depth and seriousness are masterfully hidden. Contemporaries of stature recognized the unique qualities of this eminent colleague, among them Kurt Tucholsky, who, in an enthusiastic "declaration of love", affirmed Polgar's superiority.

F. L. BRASSLOFF

JUDICIAL MURDER VERDICT QUASHED

Dr. Robert W. Kempner has scored a success in his campaign for annulment of unjust verdicts passed by courts in the Third Reich. Forty years after the judicial murder of Leo Katzenberger, the Nuremberg state attorney has confirmed that the record of the death sentence carried out in 1942 has been annulled.

Leo Katzenberger, the last Chairman of the Nuremberg Jewish Community, was accused of *Rassenschande*, 'illegal' sexual relations with an "Aryan". Notwithstanding an almost total lack of evidence, he was found guilty. But the injustice ran even deeper: at the time, *Rassenschande* was not a capital offence, and the court twisted an existing law against looting by night—which did carry the death penalty—in order to justify Katzenberger's execution. His so-called crime, it was stated, had taken place at night: even the notorious Roland Freisler, while hearing the subsequent plea for clemency, characterised the court's application of the looting law as "audacious". However, he did not regard this as a reason to commute the death sentence and Leo Katzenberger was executed in due course.

AUSTRIAN GENERAL'S ILLEGAL PAST

The second highest officer of Austria's defence establishment, Head of Land Forces General Ernst Bernadiner, revealed in an interview given to a weekly magazine that up to the Nazi Anschluss he had been a member of the illegal National Socialist Soldiers' Union. The group was set up by the Nazis with the specific intention of subverting independent Austria's military personnel. During the Second World War, General Bernadiner served in the German Army; he was denazified under the Allied occupation. Since his name had been misspelt in the NS Soldiers' Union records, the general's membership had previously been overlooked.

BREMERHAVEN MEMORIAL UNVEILED

The site of Bremerhaven's synagogue is now marked by a memorial stone, recently unveiled. The synagogue was destroyed in the November Pogrom of 1938.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Return to Essen

Sir,—This was the third invitation to former citizens of Essen to visit their home town.

The first two visits were for Israelis only but this time the invitation was also extended to residents of the U.S., France and England. My wife and I were the only ones from Britain.

As expected, we were invited to receptions, excursions, dinners and theatres.

We found enormous friendliness and goodwill which expressed genuine feeling by all from the Oberbürgermeister down to all the officials involved in our visit.

It was a trip into the past, which naturally brought back painful emotions and memories. Nobody tried to conceal the terrible things that had happened in the past.

We had discussions with schoolchildren and with members of the Christian-Jewish Society. The local press also gave ample coverage to the occasion, inviting former friends and acquaintances to contact members of our group.

The most impressive incident occurred, I think, when it was mentioned at a large concert that former Jewish citizens of the town were present. There was overwhelming applause from the audience.

105 Chatsworth Road,
London, NW2 MANFRED STEINBERG

Medal for Righteous Gentile

Sir,—May I ask, by courtesy of your columns, whether any other readers share my unease about the expression "Righteous Gentile".

Like many survivors, I owe my life to courageous deeds and to suffering borne by both Jews and Gentiles, men and women. My feeling of gratitude and, inevitably, of kinship with them supports any act honouring their memory. It also prevents me from sitting or appearing to sit in moral, even if laudatory, judgement on their persons and it denies, in this context alone, any selective national, racial or religious restriction which their generous humanity has transcended.

Despite its intention to honour them, on close examination the expression thus seems to me not to match their selfless human compassion. The most dignified praise in my view would be the simplest statement of facts, leaving it to the reader to draw his or her own respectful conclusion free of any extraneously imposed appellation.

89 Alleyn Road,
London, S.E. 21

M. L. MEYER

Mr. Meyer is right in thinking that there is a difficulty with the expression 'Righteous Gentile', which sounds patronising, as there is even greater difficulty with the inappropriate word 'Holocaust' (literally 'burnt offering') for the Nazi mass murder of the Jews. The original Hebrew of 'Righteous Gentile' (Hasidei umot ha'olam) has no patronising connotation at all: it just means the 'virtuous/pious people of the world'. Nevertheless, when one recalls and reconstructs the actual conditions of the Thirties and the Forties, when most European communities were at best indifferent to the fate of the Jews, there is some justice in singling out those who helped, often at the risk of their lives. Ed.



Return to Essen: In the centre, AJR member Manfred Steinberg, on the left Helmut Kerklies, who lives in Israel, and on the right the German teacher in charge of the 'Jews in Essen' project, during the discussion with secondary school children.

Anna Seghers

Sir,—None of your readers could have realised from the short obituary in your July issue that "the German Communist writer Anna Seghers" was "one of us". According to her entry in "Current Biography", 1942, she was born in Mayence into an old-established Jewish family. Her name at birth was Netty Reiling, the one under which she made her mark as a writer being her pen name. From her father, a prominent and prosperous antique dealer, she inherited an interest in art. She studied history of art at Cologne and at Heidelberg, where she obtained her doctorate with a thesis on "Jews and Jewry in the Work of Rembrandt". She emigrated in 1933. Her father had died "several years ago", but her mother "is believed to have been deported to a ghetto or camp in Poland".

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OBITUARIES

Children's Paintings

Sir,—In your June issue there is an item about the Heine House in Düsseldorf which ends: "The first exhibition in the new centre includes works by the painter Franz Monjau who perished in Buchenwald."

No paintings by Franz Monjau were exhibited. Forty children's drawings from the estate of my brother, the painter Julo Levin, were shown at the inauguration of the Heine House. Julo Levin was an art teacher at the Düsseldorf Jüdische Volksschule from 1936 to 1938. He perished in Auschwitz.

2 Lanark Road,
London, W.9

ELSE LEVIN

In a letter to Miss Levin, Mrs. Mieke Monjau, Franz Monjau's widow, described how she had been present in Haifa when the children's pictures had been shown there, and the moving encounters with several former pupils of Julo Levin (whose estate she administers), when they were confronted with their own childhood drawings. Ed.

GOOD FORTUNE FOR SCIENTIST

Dr. Herbert Freundlich of Payhembury in East Devon had a piece of good fortune when he found himself among five major winners of a prize offered by the wine dealers Grants of St. James's. Sixty thousand competitors had entered the lists. Dr. Freundlich had his choice of £10,000 or a 1934 Lancia Astura Cabriolet car. He viewed the car, but felt that the money would be more useful.

Dr. Freundlich is the son of a Berlin University professor. When his Jewish colleagues faced dismissal soon after the Nazi seizure of power, Professor Freundlich at once resigned and came to England on an ICI scholarship. His son, who is now a medical physicist, says, "Emigration was a blessing in disguise. The science of medical physics scarcely exists even today in Germany—but here I had the chance to make it my chosen profession".

LEGACY

The AJR Charitable Trust has received a legacy of £18,430 from the estate of the late Miss Ludmilla Freund.

DONATION

The AJR Charitable Trust has received a donation from Mr. E. Simonsohn in memory of Erna Valk, who lived in Leo Baeck House.

BERLIN SYNAGOGUES BOOK

The very reasonable price of the two-volume "Synagogen in Berlin", published by Willmuth Arenhövel in Berlin and reviewed in our June issue, is DM39.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

JEWS IN STOMMELN

The first volume of the history of the Jews in Stommeln near Cologne, where Jews can be traced back to the year 1300, was recently published. Material was collected with the help of former Jewish residents of the village. The book (19.80 DM) may be ordered from the Verein fuer Geschichte und Heimatkunde e.V., Adamstr. 9, 5024 Pulheim-Brauweiler.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE IN GELDERN

A plaque "in memory of the Jewish children, women and men who during the years 1933-1945 were persecuted, expelled and murdered" was unveiled on the wall of the Anne-Frank-Hauptschule in Geldern. The speakers at the ceremony, which was attended by more than one hundred citizens and representatives of the political parties and the churches, included the Protestant vicar, Pfarrer Schumann and the Catholic priest, Pfarrer Schumann criticised the lack of effective resistance to the Nazi regime and the silence of the churches. The Catholic priest, Pfarrer Ludger, remembered those Geldern citizens who had raised their voices against the terror regime.

WAPNIARKA HELPER HONOURED

Charlotte Petersen, the joint foundress of "Hilfswerk Wapniarka", is to be this year's Hedwig Burgheim medallist. It was in 1959 that she and the widow of Gustav Heinemann together decided to help the victims, mostly Romanians, who were still experiencing the effects of medical experiments in Wapniarka concentration camp. For technical reasons, the Federal Republic does not grant these sufferers any restitution, even though their health has been permanently broken by the poisonous seeds they were forced to eat. Earlier this year, the Hilfswerk received a grant of 10,000 DM from a Dillenburg charity.

The city of Giessen founded the Hedwig Burgheim Medal award in memory of a Froebel College head who was murdered in Auschwitz.

UNQUENCHED EMBERS OF REICHSTAG FIRE

Despite the attempts of Dr. Robert Kempner and the brother of Marinus van der Lubbe, the Federal Court in Karlsruhe has declined to order a rehearing of the proceedings against van der Lubbe for his alleged part in the Reichstag Fire in 1933. The young Dutchman was executed the following year.

It was hoped that a full pardon could be obtained, but post-war proceedings had already decided that the sentence of execution was unjustly harsh and the verdict had been retrospectively modified. The Karlsruhe court felt that nothing more could be done at this stage: having regard to the continuing controversy amongst historians, it would not now be possible to decide to what degree Goering and Goebbels had perjured themselves in the matter.

PASSION PLAY OUT OF SERIES

Next year will see an extra performance of the Oberammergau Passion Play. Usually it appears every decade but 1984 marks the 350th anniversary of the first appearance in 1634. An ecumenical commission in Munich is discussing the text with representatives of the Oberammergau Passion Play Committee and it is hoped that various suggestions which have been put forward to amend the text will be taken up. Offensive passages were already removed before the 1980 production and the local people have declared that they are willing to accept the Munich commission's proposals.

"JEW'S LUDO" FOR SCHOOLS

Someone is sending "Jew's Ludo" to West German schools and Jewish institutions. On a board representing the Shield of David, bearing the names of six concentration camps, pink, yellow and red counters are moved around. The handwritten instructions also supplied say that yellow counters represent Jews, pink homosexuals and reds are for political Jews. The last sentence runs "Anyone who is too stupid to gas six million Jews will have to go on watching 'Holocaust' ". Some teachers are using the "game" to illustrate the dangers of racial hatred.

"LILI MARLENE" MAN DIES

Author, painter, swimming instructor, journalist Hans Leip won the Thomas Mann Novel Prize in 1929 and later became Professor of Art and Science in Hamburg. Now he has died at the age of 89 in Switzerland. But despite all his lifetime successes, he is known to history for just one achievement: he wrote the lyric of "Lili Marlene". Beginning the verses in 1914 in Berlin, he did not finish them until 1937. The music came from the pen of Norbert Schultze, but the song did not find popular favour until the war, when Allied soldiers picked it up from German propaganda broadcasts and it spread throughout both armies. "Lili Marlene" still arouses deep feelings: while Eighth Army veterans accept it as "their" tune, in Yugoslavia not long ago an unsuspecting group of British tourists were set upon because they had sung a "German song".

MUSEUM WELCOMES JEWISH COLLECTION

Hardly had the exhibition "Synagogues in Berlin" closed its doors, when the Berlin Museum announced its acquisition of the John F. and Hertha Oppenheimer Collection. Hans Oppenheimer (today John F. Oppenheimer of Santa Barbara, Cal.) was a co-editor of the Philo-Lexikon published in Berlin in 1934, was responsible for the contemporary biography section of the Universal Jewish Encyclopaedia (New York, 1940-43) and produced the Lexikon des Judentums (Gutersloh, 1967, 1975). He was also prominent in the Central-Verein and an editor of the "C.-V. Zeitung."

The collection consists of books, periodicals, documents and other items and will go far to enrich the Berlin Museum's Jewish holdings.

OBITUARIES

DR. ALFRED ALEXANDER

Many singers have cause to thank Dr. Alfred Alexander, who has died at the age of 74. Dr. Alexander was an ear, nose and throat surgeon and a prominent laryngologist: in this capacity he was a consultant to the Royal Academy of Music and honorary laryngologist to the Royal College of Music. Born in Vienna, he arrived in this country in 1938 and was for many years a consultant at St. James' Hospital, Balham.

As well as following his career in medicine and music, Dr. Alexander was a translator from Italian into English with a particular interest in Sicilian literature.

MARGARITA VON KUDRIAVTZEFF

The death has been announced in Berlin of Margarita von Kudriavtzeff, nee Borchard. Honoured by the Senate of Berlin as an "unsung heroine", she spent her years in seclusion and comparative poverty. But during the Third Reich, Margarita, despite her difficult life as a stateless person, used her employment in the American and Swiss Embassies to help many Jews to escape, often literally at the last possible moment.

ERNA STEIN-BLUMENTHAL

Principal of the Jewish Museum in Berlin from 1933 to 1935, Erna Stein-Blumenthal has died in Israel. She was 79 years old. Only a few months ago, she was invited to the opening of the Berlin Museum exhibition "Synagogues in Berlin". On that occasion, she welcomed as a hopeful sign the opportunity to see once more the evidences of the Jewish culture which she had known in the past.

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SCIENCE AND CONSCIENCE

In 1982, the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz in West Berlin honoured the centenary of the birth of two eminent Jewish physicists from Germany by an exhibition called "Max Born, James Franck, der Luxus des Gewissens. Physiker in ihrer Zeit". It is now being shown at the Science Museum, South Kensington, London and will continue till January 1984.

To visit it is a great experience, as great pains have been taken to show not only the life and work of these scientists, their colleagues and pupils, but to fill in the background of political and cultural history against which it is reflected. I can think of no better opportunity for the children and grandchildren of our particular group to learn about the great contribution Jewish scientists made first to research and development in Germany, but beyond that to the evolution of modern scientific concepts worldwide.

The excellent catalogue, translated into English by Julia V. Rosenthal, Oxford, and by Dr. Alan Q. Morton of the Science Museum, no longer refers to the "luxury" of conscience, but is simply called "Science and Conscience, The World of Two Atomic Scientists." It contains much that is new and of great interest to the non-specialist as well as to the researcher. Archives from the U.S., from Germany and from Britain have lent interesting documents and illustrations and provide extensive information on the exciting developments in the field of atomic science, centered on the private and



Max Born (right) and James Franck in Göttingen in 1925.

public life of the two great men and their influence on colleagues and students everywhere, both Jewish and non-Jewish.

It is only possible to mention some of the various categories of exhibits. Born and Franck, friends since their student days, made the university of Göttingen the foremost physics research centre in Imperial and Weimar Germany, at the same time establishing relations with fellow scientists in many countries. We learn a great deal about the family life, the friendships and the student-teacher relationships of the two friends, we are shown a number of scientific instruments and reconstructed experiments as well as photographs of their actual laboratories and offices, newspaper reports and comments, documents about antisemitism and a great number of interesting letters from and to well-known people all over the world.

Where then does "conscience" come into it? The obvious example of course is the atomic bomb. When Franck agreed to collaborate on its development in Chicago during the war, he did so on condition that he would withdraw if it became known that the Germans had ceased to work on their own bomb. Even before the first experimental explosion of the bomb, Franck headed a group of scientists who submitted a document which has become known as the "Franck Report" to the U.S. Secretary of War, warning against the release of this "new means of indiscriminate destruction upon mankind" and suggesting a demonstration in an uninhabited area to show the world its killing potential on order to come to an international agreement on the control of such weapons. After the war, Franck arranged for food parcels to be sent to starving Germans, and both Franck and Born took part in various endeavours to stem the spread of nuclear weapons.

In April 1933, after the promulgation of the Nazi "Law for the Reform of the Professional Civil Service", many eminent scientists and scholars were dismissed. Max Born was among them. Franck would have been able to remain in office, as he had seen active service and received the Iron Cross First Class, in the First World War but, following his conscience, he resigned. As he was a Nobel Laureate, he was attacked for this decision by a number of Nazi professors who accused him of contributing to the difficulties of the Nazi government at home and abroad. He explained in an article in the "Vossische Zeitung" that he could not continue in office because Jews were being treated as aliens and enemies and his children would never be allowed to prove themselves. Amongst the many letters of admiration and support he received from friends and even from strangers, was one from Frau Hahn, wife of the physicist Professor Otto Hahn, in which she said she envied the Francks because as Jews they had justice on their side, whilst Germans would have to live with the disgrace and the irreparable shame until the end of time. This letter, too, is among the many shown.

Both Born and Hahn left Germany soon, taking with them their families and quite a few of their assistants, among them some non-Jewish ones. Erwin Schrödinger, the world-famous discoverer of wave mechanics, emigrated in protest against Nazi barbarism. He first returned to his native Austria, but when the Nazis marched in, he packed his rucksack and fled over the Dolomites to Italy. During the war, he worked at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Dublin.

continued on page 9

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SCIENCE AND CONSCIENCE

James Franck found refuge and the opportunity for further research in America. The Borns came to Britain, first to Cambridge, then—after an interlude in India—to Edinburgh where Max Born was appointed to the Tait Chair of Natural Philosophy. He stayed there until 1953. Members of the AJR who attended last year's A.G.M. will remember the delightful reminiscences of his son, Professor Gustav Born, FRS, Professor of Pharmacology at King's College London. In 1954 Born received the Nobel Prize. A year earlier both he and Franck had been appointed honorary citizens of Göttingen, their old university town. In his letter of acceptance, Franck wrote "I do not deserve this as an individual, but I believe that I may understand from your letter that the essential intention that led to our selection, was to honour symbolically the memory of the millions of people who became victims of the racial madness of National Socialism."

Correspondence with Einstein

Franck remained in America, but he visited Germany and met old friends on many occasions. The Borns decided to return to Germany. Mrs. Born had become a member of the Quakers in Edinburgh, and they now settled in Bad Pyrmont, the headquarters of the German Society of Friends.

Together the Borns published their voluminous correspondence with Albert Einstein, the friend of many years who had written to them in 1933: "You know that I never had a particularly favourable opinion of the Germans (Morally and politically speaking) but I must confess that the degree of their brutality and cowardice came as something of a surprise to me." He never relented in his feelings for the land of his birth. The book, with the comments and explanations added by the Borns, was translated into English by their eldest daughter Irene who now lives in Melbourne. They also wrote a collection of essays "Der Luxus des Gewissens" which gave its name to the exhibition in Germany.

James Franck died in 1964, Max Born in 1970.

The exhibition will remain open on the ground floor of the Science Museum until January 1984. When one leaves it reluctantly, one tends to agree with a remark of Bertrand Russell's, who said, referring to Einstein and Born, "In an age of moral pygmies, their lives shine with an intense beauty."

The illustrated catalogue (£2.50) does justice to its great subject, and like the exhibition itself, it throws new light on many familiar events.

MARGOT POTTLITZER

ERIC GOODMAN

On September 2, our friend Eric Goodman will celebrate his 75th birthday, and we welcome the opportunity to express the congratulations and good wishes of his many friends and admirers. Eric is known as a teacher and youth-leader. In the former two capacities, his greatest assets are knowledge and sincerity. No one is touchier about pretence than young people: none who came into contact with him ever doubted both these qualities. He was a devoted teacher and friend to very many, who, now often parents themselves, will not forget his efforts and achievements. He built from nothing, made bricks—as it were—without straw. His great gift of humour, his amazing literary qualities with which he enriched many a cabaret evening for the depressed and, at that time, homeless refugees will remain as unforgettable as his now almost "national" parody (at least in the Swiss Cottage area!) of

"Finchley, Finchley, Finchley Road,

Gossip auf der Gassen"

sung to the tune of "Roeslein Rot"!

To Eric, many happy returns, and many happy Thank Yous! Long may his humour and contentment continue and may he have many more years of happiness with his devoted Franz. *Forsan et haec olim meminisse iuvabit* (Virgil)! Perhaps even this will help remind us what once was!

C. H. GUTTMANN

KAFKA EXPERT AT 70

A leading expert on Franz Kafka, Professor Eduard Goldstücker has this year celebrated his 70th birthday. But his life has not been that of a peaceful academic: born into a Slovak-Jewish family, Eduard Goldstücker became a Communist and a leader in Prague of radical students. Even after the Nazi occupation, he worked underground against the regime until Party leaders felt that he stood in imminent danger and enabled him to escape. He went first to Poland and then came to Britain, where he was active in wartime propaganda.

Returning to Prague after the war, Eduard Goldstücker was nominated as his country's first (and so far only) Ambassador to the new State of Israel. But he was accused in the notorious Slansky Affair and suffered imprisonment until Stalin's death. At that time he wished to return to academic life, but he was destined to become a cultural leader of the "Prague Spring": with its downfall, he had "once again to go on his travels". Professor Goldstücker chose exile in this country and is currently Emeritus Professor at Sussex University, where he has immersed himself in his researches on Kafka.

BARBIE'S POST-WAR CAREER

Klaus Barbie, the Gestapo 'Butcher of Lyons' now being held in France pending a war crimes trial, has been revealed to have been employed by the U.S. Counter Intelligence Corps immediately after the war to report on Soviet intelligence activity in post-war Germany. Surviving American agents who employed him claimed on a BBC Panorama programme on 4 July that they had not known of Barbie's record of atrocities in war-time France, and had resisted French attempts to interrogate and extradite him because French intelligence had been infiltrated by French communists serving Soviet controllers who were anxious to extract from Barbie information about the anti-Soviet network in Germany. When French pressure became too strong, Barbie's American employers arranged for him to be sent by the so-called 'Rat Line' route, through Austria and the Italian port of Genoa, to Latin America, whence he was extradited to France only 32 years later.

His Lawyers Retire

Two of Klaus Barbie's lawyers have now withdrawn from his defence. Father Robert Boyer announced his retirement from the case after the Archbishop of Lyons had expressed disquiet. The Archbishop declared that the Church should have no part in the un-Christian but powerful contemporary tendency to trivialise Nazism, saying that the principal concern of Christianity must be to respect the victims. Following the withdrawal of Maître Alain de la Servette, Barbie's only defence lawyer is Maître Jacques Vergès, a virulently anti-Zionist member of the French bar. It was in response to a demand by Maître Vergès that the former Gestapo man should be released that B'nai B'rith members from all over France met in a silent demonstration outside the St. Joseph prison in Lyons.

FORMER NF-MAN CLAIMS A FOUL

Mr. Thomas Finnegan, the former National Front official who stood as a Conservative candidate for a Stockton constituency, is blaming Board of Deputies leaflets for his defeat. The seat was retained by Social Democrat Ian Wigglesworth by a mere 102 votes.

In the course of the election campaign, Mr. Finnegan stated that he had renounced his nationalist past, but Sir Keith Joseph refused to share a platform with him. The erstwhile candidate believes it worth his while to seek a High Court ruling on the possibility of a new election in Stockton South. The leaflets complained of comprise extracts from the "Daily Mirror" and "Birmingham Post", which disclosed Mr. Finnegan's National Front and National Party past during the election.

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PETER C. RICKENBACK

THAT'S SHELL—THAT IS

I can think of many good reasons for visiting the Shell exhibition at the Barbican Centre (open until 4 September 1983).

The exhibition includes original paintings, posters, postcards, advertisements and much else dating from about 1907 until the present day. These are all connected with Shell advertising and include works by many leading British artists, such as Paul Nash, Ben Nicholson, John Piper, Graham Sutherland and Rex Whistler. Indeed, Shell gave Graham Sutherland his first commercial job.

The pictures themselves are stunning, whether produced for a commercial purpose or not and they depict all aspects of the English scene and way of life. But it is not only the pictures and advertisements that give this exhibition such a special flavour. There is also a feeling of nostalgia, a yearning after quieter times, when we see Paul Nash's picture of Romney Marshes with the familiar inscription "Everywhere you go you can be sure of Shell." Or the 1930 two-headed man drawn by John Reynolds and inscribed "That's Shell, that was!" And, finally, the Rex Whistler drawings of the Royal Academy and Wimbledon Tennis with the caption "Shell petrol is different!"

What an amusing exhibition and of such high artistic level. And all praise to Shell for their support of the arts and artists.

Alice Schwab

FILLING THE STALLS

Cakes, bottles, bric-a-brac, toys, etc. welcome for the Heinrich Stahl House bazaar on August 28. Send offerings one week before to The Matron, Heinrich Stahl House, The Bishop's Avenue, N.2.

ARTISTS PORTRAY THE HOLOCAUST

Two survivors of the concentration camps, the artist Roman Halter and the poet Michael Etkind, have recently published a small book of poems, window designs and personal testimony, all relating to the Holocaust. Roman Halter's son Ardyn, also an artist, has been showing his paintings at Ein Harod Museum of Art. The theme chosen is the Holocaust, not through its direct horrors, but as reflected in those who suffered.

"WHITE ROSE" INSTITUTE GROWS

The Geschwister-Scholl Institut at Munich University recently celebrated its quarter century. Set up by Professor Eric Voegell in 1958 as a tribute to the students who resisted the Hitler regime, it has grown from a one-man foundation into a major centre of political science with 14 professors and 22 scholarly associates on its staff.

SOVIET ATTACK ON "JEWISH PRESS"

The Institute of Jewish Affairs in London has given details of a booklet published in the Soviet Union by Lev Korneyev. The Russian antisemite asserts that the British press is controlled by Zionists, the "Guardian" collaborates with Zionist organisations and that the "Observer" was under the chairmanship of the "fervent Zionist" Lord Goodman, before it was sold in 1977. The purchaser, says Korneyev, was the president of the American "military industrial concern Rockwell International, which is controlled by the pro-Zionist Kuhn, Loeb & Co. Bank . . .".

Although Korneyev's pamphlet is published by the Truth Publishing House and is entitled "On the path of aggression and racism", it can scarcely fail to recall the many Nazi propagandists who took the Kuhn, Loeb firm as a favourite target.

DANISH RESCUE ON TV

Israeli and Danish state televisions are to collaborate in a film of Leni Yahil's "The Rescue of Danish Jewry—Test of a Democracy". The programme will have a simultaneous screening later this year in both countries.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

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.

Birthday

Hofheimer:—Erna Hofheimer celebrated her 75th birthday on 15 July. Congratulations and best wishes from Marion, Fred and Michael Durst.

Deaths

Adler:—Hermine Adler died in her daughter's home at the age of 103 on 25 June. Deeply mourned by her daughter Erna Glass and her family.

Bogner:—Sophie Bogner née Schalit, of Osmond House, The Bishops Avenue, London, N.2, died on the 27 June, aged 82. She will be deeply mourned by her family in Israel, U.S.A. and England.

Elkan:—Dr. Edward R. Elkan, of Pinner, Middlesex, died on 4 July after a long career as G.P. His outstanding contributions to the study of Lower Vertebrates brought him world-wide renown.

Joseph:—Selma, née Forst, died on 7 June, aged 99. Deeply mourned by her daughters Feodore, Hildegard, Ruth and their families.

Pfeffermann:—Melitta Pfeffermann, née Fried, of Givat Ada, Israel, passed away in her 73rd year after a long illness bravely borne. Deeply mourned by her husband Martin, children Ruth and Daniel, grandchildren, her sisters Irene, Cornelia, Hannah and her brother Ludwig Fried, Im Ettingerhof 8, CH4055 Basle, Switzerland, and all their families.

Vesely:—Gustav Vesely passed away on 24 June. Dearly loved and sadly missed by his loving wife Ilse and son Leslie.

Weiner:—Hildegard Weiner (née Bernstein) died on 9 June aged 94. Deeply mourned by her family and many friends.

Weiss:—Mrs. Charlotte Weiss, formerly of Vienna, died in London on the 22 June, aged 84. A sad loss to many friends.

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Miscellaneous

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INFORMATION REQUIRED

Personal Enquiries

IF YOU KNOW anyone who lived in Shanghai between 1935 and 1950, please contact B. Shindler, 64 Crown Walk, Wembley Park, Middlesex, 908 0447.

RUDI SABOR would like to hear from colleagues and former pupils of Berlin Auguststrasse 6, Kedleston Drive, Pettswood, Kent.

ANYONE KNOWING the whereabouts of Emmy Kahn, formerly of Veitshöchheim, please contact Mrs. Kate Kramer, née Gutman, at 346 0606.

THE DIARIES OF SIR MOSES AND LADY MONTEFIORE

On his journey back from Russia in 1872 (at the age of 88) after having been received by Czar Alexander II, Sir Moses Montefiore was enthusiastically welcomed by the Jews of Germany. At about 4 a.m. on 29 July he was informed that Chief Rabbi Dr. Hildesheimer had come to welcome him in the name of the community and to conduct him in his carriage to Berlin. The next day he visited Hanover.

These details, and thousands of others, are recorded in the Diaries, which were originally published in 1890 under the editorship of Dr. Louis Loewe. They have now been re-issued in facsimile with an introduction by Professor Raphael Loewe, great-grandson of Dr. Louis and Professor of Hebrew at University College London, and with a detailed index (which the original edition lacked).

As the centenary approaches of the death of the greatest Jew of the 19th century, it is fitting that this record should again be made available. It gives a full account of Montefiore's humanitarian and

charitable endeavours, as well as his efforts to promote the well-being of the Jewish inhabitants of Palestine. He visited that country nine times, his last visit being in 1875 at the age of 91. But more than that, this volume is a valuable source-book for material about social and political life in England in the 19th century.

The Diaries are published at £15, but subscribers to the Jewish Museum and members of the Jewish Historical Society of England can obtain copies at the nominal price of £5.

WALTER SCHWAB

FLEMISH GROUP DISBANDS

The Flemish nationalist group Vlaamse Militante Orde is to be disbanded. Last year an Antwerp court decided that the organisation was neither neo-fascist nor paramilitary and that therefore it was not affected by the law banning private militias. However, an appeal to a higher court has successfully overturned that finding and the VMO leader has announced the demise of the group.

FLOSSENBUERG DAUBED

The memorial at the site of Flossenbuerg concentration camp has been daubed with "Juda verreckt" and SS-runes. Wreaths were burnt and other damage inflicted. Flossenbuerg was the scene of the execution of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Admiral Canaris and others accused of plotting against Hitler.

The quiet village, lying in the present district of Neustadt an der Waldnaab, Oberpfalz, was chosen by Himmler as the site of the fourth major concentration camp in Germany, preceded only by Dachau, Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen. Established in 1938, Flossenbuerg camp lay close to a granite quarry, where prisoners were forced to work. Nearly 25,000 inmates met their deaths at Flossenbuerg, whose capacity was increased from the original 1,600 to nearly 20,000 shortly before the end of the war. A "death march" column was sent out of the camp only a few days before it was overrun by the American army. About 4,000 of those despatched to walk to Dachau perished on the way. The camp-site memorial, which was rapidly cleaned up after the daubing incident, receives about 20,000 visitors each year. Many of them come from Western Europe and America.

The Federal Justice Minister has expressed disgust at the defacing of the memorial and has indicated that he would like tougher measures to deal with right-wing extremists and Nazi apologists.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

The American Musical 40 years ago. It was the American musical that succeeded continental operetta. When Lehar was old, Kalman, Oscar Straus and Paul Abraham had emigrated and Robert Stolz had left Europe to join his friends in the United States, Europe's cupboards were bare and the new "light music" appeared in the Western hemisphere from where it spread quickly to other parts of the globe. Whilst the greatest number of performances was reached by Rodgers' and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" (2,248 on Broadway), followed by the same team's "South Pacific" (1,925) and "The King and I" (1,264), it was Irving Berlin's melancholic song "White Christmas" that set the record of selling the largest number of records. It became a most popular Christmas song, second only to "Silent night, Holy night."

Tit-Bits. Leonard Bernstein, whose contribution to the musical scene was appraised in this column last month, had his latest work, the opera "A Quiet Place," performed at Houston during this summer. The Royal Festival Hall will show the spectacular French/German produced opera film "Parsifal" on August 30th at 6 p.m.

Birthdays. Soprano *Maria Reining*, who for many years was a much-honoured protagonist at the Vienna State Opera, unforgotten as the Mar-

schallin in "Rosenkavalier", spent her 80th birthday in retirement in Bavaria. *Rudolf Steinböck*, who started his theatrical career in 1934 at Vienna's legendary "Literatur am Naschmarkt", who was director/manager at the Josefstadt theatre from 1946 to 1953 before being engaged to direct plays at Vienna's "Burg" (which he still does), is 75.

Obituary. The doyen of Austrian architects, Professor *Clemens Holzmeister* has died in Hallein at the age of 97. Born in the Austrian Tyrol, he was a designer of international reputation whose activities stretched as far as Ankara where he built for the Turkish Government. In his homeland, he became best known as creator of the Festspielhaus in Salzburg. His actress daughter Judith, member of the Burgtheater since 1947, was the first wife of the late *Curd Jürgens*.

Where are they now? It is many years since a very loyal and faithful audience enjoyed the weekend shows at the "Blue Danube Club" in the little theatre at 153, Finchley Road, demolished a long time ago. Of the surviving club-actors Professor *Peter Herz*, now 88, who went back to Austria in 1954 (only returning a few times as an occasional visitor) is still active as a writer, and spends his summers at Baden near Vienna, fresh and full of humour. *Fritz Becker* and *Hilde Lederer*, both in

their eighties, are retired and in indifferent health, *Michael Ritterman* a member of the Zürich Schauspielhaus. *Edith List*, brimming with show business ideas, gives occasional recitals, whilst *Agnes Bernelle* is an actress in Dublin. *Hilde Lergens* is a London Tourist Board Guide (and married to the writer of this column.) S.B.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

In the Queen's Birthday Honours, the fine realist painter *Lucian Freud*, grandson of Sigmund Freud, was made a Companion of Honour, and *Berthold Wolpe*, the graphic designer widely known for the distinctive style of his Faber book jackets was made OBE.

Meanwhile, on the political scene, two of the principle offices of state, the Home Office (Mr. Leon Brittan) and the Chancellorship of the Exchequer (Mr. Nigel Lawson) were filled by Jews.

With the election of Sir Claus Moser as Warden of Wadham College, there are now two AJR members who are heads of Oxbridge colleges: Prof. Hans Kornberg, Master of Christ's, Cambridge, and Sir Claus at Oxford.

Dr. E. Vekdon, of Highgate, was made OBE.

SALZBURG REMEMBERS ZWEIG

Salzburg, where Stefan Zweig lived from 1919 to 1934, is to put up a plaque in his memory. It will be sited near his home on the Kapuzinerberg.

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