

C. C. Aronfeld

HOW IT HAPPENED THERE

50 years ago Hitler came to power

The Nazi experience, in its present perspective of 30 years, is one of those paradoxes that seem near, at least to those who survived it, and yet so remote as to seem increasingly incredible. We all have suffered; the scars on body and mind will never disappear, and indeed the whole world has been transformed by the events of those twelve years. But when it is asked (as it increasingly is) how did it all happen? the answers are much like the voices in *The Wizard of Oz*, pointing this way and that way and making for all round confusion. Of course various explanations are possible, for many, even contradictory forces combined to bring about the disaster. But it seems to me that our destiny is not in our stars, even our star historians, but in ourselves, so an important consideration must be the contemporary understanding of the times.

The generation of 50 years ago was brought up in the traditions of the 19th century which embodied a great faith in human progress, a faith hallowed by the emancipation of man as well as by science and world thought. The ideals of the French Revolution had essentially been vindicated and occasional disappointments were thought to be no more than acceptable setbacks. We had advanced, we were advancing and so far as could be foreseen, there was nothing to stop us advancing.

WARNING VOICES

There were of course voices of warning. Heine had a vision of the time, exactly 100 years before it happened, when "the insane Bernerk rage" of the German Teutons would "break the fasting tablets, the Cross" and "a crash would occur as nothing ever crashed in world history"; the *Flap-Flap* anti-antisemites seemed to him simply "the little dogs that bark about the empty arena barking and snapping at each other before the hour strikes and the host of gladiators arrives", etc.

In a vision no less uncanny if more universal, Nietzsche foretold the rise of an anti-semitic who would exploit the fears of the masses, manufacturing them by elaborate myths, not least the "Aryan" myth. And finally Dostoyevsky foresaw the appearance of

men into "the slaves of leaders, of political parties, of fraudulent ideologies" sworn to deny all value to human life and drench the earth in blood.

But these prophets counted for little, least perhaps among Jews. The bold flights into poetic speculation and inspired essays in pessimism were duly admired but life was rational and one had to be optimistic. Twenty-five years before the pogroms, Jews lauded "the spirit of humanity in every edict of the Tsar" promising "a glorious future for the Russian Jews". A generation later there was still antisemitism but the demons seemed to have been banished, even Stöcker got nowhere and Dreyfus after all was reinstated.

MISLEADING INITIAL FAILURE

Things were bad after the First World War but when Hitler failed in 1923 he was thought to have "proved himself impotent to withstand ridicule". This was precisely what should have happened according to the textbooks of enlightened progress. He didn't flourish like: "You laugh, my friend? So laugh no more for him who laughs", came fittingly from a Jew. Even years later German Jews were not neglecting to warn, were not unduly shocked. Leo Baeck thought German antisemitism was "a literary and 'spiritual' one", and though inevitable "so epidemic now raging in the land", it was "not exaggerated by friend and foe alike". Jewish political leaders too had learnt from the past that neo-fascist movements have a way of coming that being the Nazis were unlikely to be an exception to the rule.

But the anti-semitic party ever polled six million votes as the Nazis did in 1930, and the great conning label of tongue that now cringed was well described by Arthur Koestler: "There were those who said, They cannot be as bad as all that. And those who said, They are too weak, they can't start anything. And those who said, They are too strong, we must appease them. And those who said, You are mistaken of a bogey, you've got a persecution mania, you are hysterical. And those who said,

Hatred doesn't lead anywhere, one must meet them with sympathy and understanding. And those who said simply, I refuse to believe it".

Many Jews took comfort in the thought that not every Nazi voter was necessarily an anti-semitic but rather, because of the widespread unemployment, "desperately desperate". Others were sceptical. They believed that those who had shown themselves in favour of power being entrusted to avowed, radical Jew-baiters, would have no objection to a persecution of the Jews and that even those who did not vote Nazi were least averse to the anti-semitism in the Nazi programme.

This was a sensible reaction but those who felt like that failed in the courage of their convictions, which is a reproach only in idle hindsight. Three months before the final election of the elections in September 1930, Jews were warned by a then unknown voice with the weirdly prophetic words: "What are you waiting for? For the year 1940 when the young generation that is now being led to a veritably insane degree will be in of God?"

SITUATION MISJUDGED

But who would, could look ahead as far as 1940? For the time being, Jews were assured by their leaders that things would not themselves out: a little more stamina, a little more pride, a little less fear would work wonders. The run of trained observers found it impossible to assume that Jews were going to be treated as Hitler threatened, "seeing they had become too interwoven in the German social fabric".

Zionists, usually wont to pride themselves on their realism, equally misjudged the situation. "Of course (they said) the Nazis will try to practice a cold pogrom by way of legislation, and no doubt they will succeed with the wretched existences of the little Jews. But with the big and wealthy Jews they will sooner or later, one way or another, have to come to terms. This unfortunately is an ancient chapter of Jewish history". So much for the lessons men draw from history.

The widely read author Emil Ludwig refused to believe that Hitler could ever become a German dictator, and he offered the highly sophisticated argument that "the democratic idea is not yet strong enough among Germans to make them believe in a man who come from the people". He meant they would follow only a figure of tradition such as a member of the Hohenzollern family. To such a degree were even men of Ludwig's stature still committed to just thinking that they had not yet begun to catch up with the new revolutionary forces then furiously forging ahead.

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INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

C. C. Aronsfeld

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But then no antisemitic party ever polled six million votes as the Nazis did in 1930, and the great confusing Babel of tongues that now ensued was well described by Arthur Koestler: "There were those who said, They cannot be as bad as all that. And those who said, They are too weak, they can't start anything. And those who said, They are too strong, we must appease them. And those who said, You are frightened of a bogey, you've got a persecution mania, you are hysterical. And those who said,

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Outside Germany people were not much wiser. So seasoned and perceptive a student of events as the *Manchester Guardian* which later consistently exposed the Nazi regime, considered the "charlatan" Hitler to be "no revolutionary leader" though his "blood-sodden grandiloquence" could not be ignored, and (in 1930) there seemed to be "not the slightest doubt that Jews in Germany will be defended by the law exactly as other German citizens". Some trust was also apparently put in such big lies as Hitler practised when he told *The Times* that he "had nothing against decent Jews, but if Jews associated themselves with Bolshevism, as many unfortunately did, they must be regarded as enemies".

These lies went down well among the champions of the "bulwark against Bolshevism" who came to see great possibilities there and readily discounted the unrelenting incitement to murder though the "unscrupulous leaders" were sufficiently known to be "advocating irresponsible policies". In 1931, German Jews could hear future historians ask "how did the artificially whipped-up fury break into violence?", for "that the poisonous seed would bear its fruit one day, was made all but inevitable by the manner, design and extent of the campaign".

How true—yet such are the impish workings of our minds that even while we know the worst we shrink from it. In Büchner's *Danton*, the hero is well aware that Robespierre is after him. Half his mind knows what is in store for him but the other half wavers and doubts. "Whatever reason tells us", he reflects, "deep down in us there is a small smiling voice which says that tomorrow will be like yesterday".

The internationally respected (Jewish) editor of the *Berliner Tageblatt*, Theodor Wolff, pooh-pooed the idea of the Nazis coming to power—three weeks before it happened. Early in January 1933, he published an article entitled *Das Land des Beinahe* in which he said Germany had always been a Land of the Almost, Very Nearly: she had almost reached the top (in World War I), she had almost sunk to the bottom (in 1918), and therefore people who feared that Germany would fall into the bottomless pit of Nazism could rest assured: this too would happen only "very nearly". (The article, sent home by the British Ambassador, was carefully filed in the Foreign Office.)

NAZI SETBACK

This idea was not quite as absurd as it might now appear. For the Nazis were by no means the formidable, almost unchallengeable force they were thought to be. Not only had their strength in Parliament just been reduced, from 230 to 196 seats, with portents of further decline, but Hitler's continuing failure to advance his ambition of defeating democracy by exploiting democracy produced within the Party widespread doubt and despondency. Dr. Goebbels (later Minister of Propaganda) noted in his diary everyone was "very depressed", so much so that he saw a "danger of the Party falling to pieces" and Hitler actually hit on the happy thought of "putting an end to it all in three minutes with a pistol". Konrad Heiden, the classic historian of Nazism,

writes: "The National Socialist movement was evidently in full physical and moral disintegration".

Alas it was not so evident at the time and those who saw grounds for optimism had very different reasons. Even those, perhaps especially those who had conscientiously investigated Hitler's history of organised crime would not rate his prospects very high. Professor E. J. Gumbel, who authoritatively exposed the terrorist (*Vehme*) murders in Weimar Germany, later confessed: "I did not believe that a man without a name, with an obscure past and with an extremely vague programme, really had a chance". Which again applied outside Germany as much as inside. Today it can be read in G. M. Trevelyan's *History of England*: "The Nazi form of government, based on wholesale torture and massacre, was so immeasurably worse than anything in the experience of modern Europe, that its reality and implications were not believed in England until in 1940 it had extended its frightful operations over almost the whole Continent". And even then . . .

JEWISH ILLUSIONS

The current debate on what was known and believed about the crimes, the last stage of Nazism, would perhaps gain in perspective when compared with the knowledge and belief about the first stage. Jewish leaders have not been slow in admitting their failure of foresight and imagination. "How could one expect (a German Jewish leader exclaimed later) that a Government could even think of abrogating the idea of the equality of all men?"—no more, just that—and Dr. Nahum Goldman has recorded, with "deep sadness and despondency"—the Jews' "naive illusion that the Nazi regime would never dare to carry out its threats".

This illusion was at the back of many desperate calculations by otherwise responsible minds that such was the absurdity of the Nazis' programme that perhaps they might be given the chance of demonstrating it and so destroy themselves. Even if (the pious assumption ran) a majority supported them—which seemed by no means certain after the last election results in 1932—even then there was still "the world" to be reckoned with, and they—*Das Ausland*—surely would not stand for it.

And yet it was (or should have been) surprising to see who did stand for it. Not only those who could be suspected of sympathy, however secret. Hitler drew support from very different quarters too. It was (says Alan Bullock in his Hitler biography *A Study in Tyranny*) the Communists who "openly announced that they would prefer to see the Nazis in power rather than lift a finger to save the Republic. Despite the violence of the clashes on the streets, the Communist leaders followed a policy approved by Moscow which gave priority to the elimination of the Social Democrats as the rival working class party".

Others were simply deaf to the voice of conscience. They knew of the crimes that had been perpetrated even before 1933. They might have spoken up effectively and without great risk but they shamefully kept their peace. They had no use for Rabbi Baeck's

warning (in 1932): "Wherever crime could extend its writ, it nearly always happened because those consciences stayed dumb and those lips mute which ought to have been open to utter words of righteousness and moral appeal".

In the final phase of the Weimar Republic when the avowed enemies of Hitler had been largely reduced to impotence, this was particularly true of the one non-Nazi force left, those bourgeois nationalists who helped the Nazis into power by joining the Government in such offices as they hoped would enable them to keep Hitler in check. Their leader, Alfred Hugenberg, head of the far-flung press and film empire which aided and abetted aggressive nationalism, was under no illusion about the character of his associates. The old-fashioned, dyed-in-the-wool capitalist despised the Nazi "Socialist" upstarts; with his allies of the Evangelical Church, degenerate though it was, he had no time for the new pagans. But he reckoned that he would so dominate them as to carry his own cause forward. His party, he claimed, was the only one able to deal with the Nazis "constructively", a delusion later to be shared by those who joined the force of evil in the hope of "preventing worse".

They all fancied they could play with the Nazi fire without burning their fingers. Hugenberg was certainly effectively outmanoeuvred within a few months, even with indecent ostentation, and had burnt out the whole of his political career.

These human inadequacies displayed in dealing with Hitler seem to me among the most potent forces to account for the rise of the abomination which went by the name of The Third Reich. Admittedly Hitler owed much to his own prowess, his determination and demonic charisma, much also to the indecision of his enemies, but the staunchest of his allies were, in their varying ways, the widespread refusal to face the worst, the callous contempt for moral principle and—saddest of all—the hallowed belief in irreversible progress. They between them did more to advance the onrush of evil than any sinister conspiracy or scheming intrigue. Such manoeuvres were not absent; they eventually, technically, engineered the theatrical "seizure of power", but they could never have succeeded, could never have made the course of history inevitable, if the stage had not been set by the much more humdrum agents which either would not believe a Hitler Government possible or refused to fight it.

This is the first of a series of articles recalling and assessing the events of 1933.

ANOTHER REFERENCE BOOK

Another AJR member, Albert Lester, has just had a reference guide published. It is called "Project Planning and Control", published by Butterworth at £12, and will be of interest to engineers and managers using critical path methods and man hour cost control with or without computers.

David Kut's "Dictionary of Applied Energy Conservation", mentioned in our November issue, is published by Kogan Page.

EDWIN ROSENSTIEL, B.SC.

Fifty years ago AJR member Edwin Rosenstiel had to give up his studies because of Nazi persecution. Undaunted, and determined to finish what was then begun, he has just been awarded a B.Sc. degree in Mathematics by Birkbeck College of the University of London.

WERNER ROSENSTOCK HON. MEMBER OF THE AJR

At their meeting on 1 November the Executive Committee of the AJR resolved that upon his retirement Dr. Werner Rosenstock be designated an Honorary Member of the AJR "in recognition of his devotion to its interests and the exemplary manner in which he served as its General Secretary and latterly as Director over a period of many years." The document was presented to Dr. Rosenstock by Mr. C. T. Marx, Chairman of the AJR, at a reception on 4 December at Hannah Karminski House which was attended by members of the Executive and a number of fellow-workers and friends of the AJR.

In his address, Mr. Marx recalled the early history of the AJR and observed that its development into a strong organisation was to a great extent due to the energy and unreserved identification of Dr. Rosenstock with the objectives of the organisation throughout the 41 years of its existence.

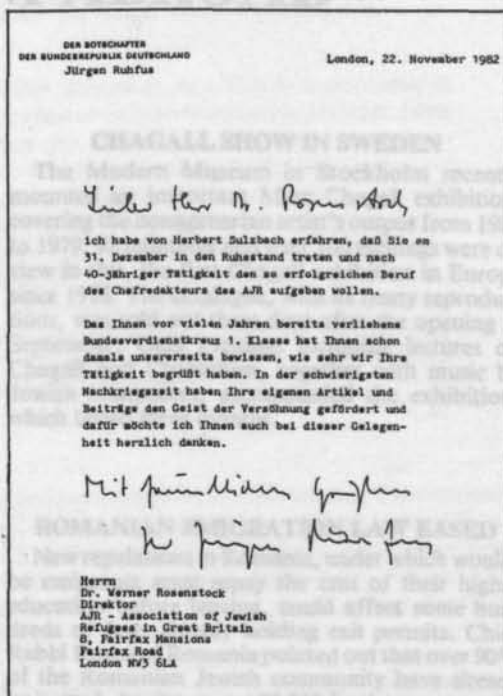
Dr. Rosenstock expressed his deepfelt thanks for the honour and for the numerous tokens of appreciation he had received upon his retirement, not least the presentation of an electric typewriter. His whole working life, he declared, had been devoted to the German Jews, first in Germany, and later in this country. In the course of his activities he had met many outstanding personalities, three of whom had made a particular impact: Rabbi Dr. Leo Baeck, Professor Norman Bentwich and Dr. Robert Weltsch. He also referred to the close relationship which, after initial difficulties, had developed between the Central British Fund and the AJR in the joint administration of the Homes. As far as *AJR Information* was concerned, the continuity of the journal was secured by the appointment of the successor editor, who had become a friend as well as a colleague in the past year-and-a-half.

At the end of the formal part of the function, Dr. F. E. Falk, Vice-Chairman of the AJR, said that in the course of several decades of co-operation, particularly close bonds had developed between him and Dr. Rosenstock. He recalled several occasions which came to mind, among them their first meeting, when Dr. Rosenstock paid a visit to Kitchener Camp at the beginning of the war, and another when he energetically took up the interests of the staff *vis-à-vis* the Executive.

All those present enjoyed the happy atmosphere of the reception. It served as a social gathering for those who regularly work together and, at the same time, as a reunion of many members who had not met for some time.

On 8 December Dr. Rosenstock's AJR staff colleagues from Fairfax Mansions entertained him—and were entertained by him—at a jolly and enjoyable lunch at a nearby restaurant, each side assuring the other that their relationship and collaboration would continue.

The following letter was received from the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany on the occasion of Dr. Rosenstock's retirement.



Among many other expressions of appreciation were letters from Prof. S. S. Praver of The Queen's College, Oxford and from Geoffrey Finsberg, M.P. of Hampstead.

BBC BROADCAST ON 30 JANUARY

An assessment of the impact of 30 January, 1933, will be broadcast by BBC Radio 4 on 30 January, the 50th anniversary of the event. The speakers will include former refugees, among them Dr. Eva Reichmann, Dr. Werner Rosenstock, Dr. Hans Feld and Dr. Arnold Paucker. The broadcast will start at 10.15 p.m. on Radio 4 and will end at 11 p.m.

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of the Jewish Chronicle.

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MEMORIAL TO B'NAI B'RITH LEADERS

The memories of Werner Lash and J. C. Gilbert, both prominent in B'nai B'rith and both of whom died in 1982, will be perpetuated in a fund to further Jewish education. The establishment of the Fund was announced at a memorial meeting for Mr. Lash.

AJR MEALS-ON-WHEELS PARTY

The Meals-on-Wheels Service gave a party for all their volunteers and customers on Sunday afternoon, 28 November. It was a great success, with lively entertainment by the Bushey Show Group, who gave their services free.

JCA'S CAPITAL DWINDLING

The Jewish Colonisation Association, founded by Baron Maurice de Hirsch in 1891, is facing a future of dwindling resources and fears have been expressed for its continuing effectiveness in helping poor Jews. In its early days, backed by an £8 million endowment (worth about £200 million today), the Association bought large tracts of land in North and South America for the use of colonists. The land has been sold over the years and JCA's capital is now put at £9 million, with inflation cutting into its value. In 1981, grants by the Association to settlements in Israel and to charitable organisations such as ORT and the Alliance Israélite Universelle amounted in all to £900,000.

OFFENSIVE CARDS SENT TO PALACE

Robert Relf, who has often been in trouble for his racist actions, has been fined by a Leamington court for sending offensive postcards to the Queen, the Prince of Wales and to a Sikh leader. The Post Office prosecutor said that the cards sent to Buckingham Palace referred to "parasites" and included obscene antisemitic phrases. Relf said that he had sent the cards after learning that royal boy-babies had been circumcised by rabbis for the past 40 years.

KOELN COUPLE'S ANNIVERSARY

A couple who met and married in Köln, Hanna and Arthur Kracko, have recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. They came to England in 1936 and have lived in Streatham for the last 30 years. Mr. Kracko is vice-president of South London Ajax.

LARGE FAMILY FOR JDA SECRETARY

After 32 years, Mrs. Dora Margulies has retired as secretary of the Jewish Deaf Association. Before taking on that post, Mrs. Margulies and her late husband Sigmund ran a hostel for girl refugees from Nazi Germany. Although the hostel was started as long ago as 1939, Mrs. Margulies is still in touch with many of the girls whom she befriended at that time. She regards them as members of her family spread throughout the world, living in Israel, America, Canada and Australia.

LEGACIES

The AJR Charitable Trust has received the following legacies: £500 from the estate of the late Mr. E. M. Wagner; £1,000 from the estate of the late Dr. K. A. Jacobi, an interim payment of £1,565 from the estate of the late Mr. W. Oelsner; final payments of £1,050 from the estate of the late Mrs. Ruth Faulkner and £475 from the estate of the late Mrs. Vera Rose Gans; also an anonymous donation of £1,000.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

SOVIET WOULD-BE EMIGRANT LOSES DEGREE

A recent *samizdat* (underground press) report describes a closed discussion at Moscow State University, where 17 geography professors met to decide whether to revoke the doctorate of V. G. Melamed, until recently head of a research project on permafrost. Dr. Melamed was unable to attend because of illness and asked for an adjournment of the meeting. This was refused and a number of reports were read out to show that he had requested emigration to Israel, a "capitalist country" and "enemy of the USSR". Such unpatriotic conduct, it was said, should lead to the annulment of his higher degree. Only one professor, Yuri Medvekov, affirmed that as Melamed wished to be reunited with his family in Israel, his rights should not be in any way affected, according to the Helsinki Declaration published in the official newspaper "Izvestia" in 1975. Mrs. Melamed spoke out at the meeting, calling the proceedings "ludicrous" and pointing to her husband's service to the State during his career. But such protests were to no avail—by 16 votes to one, Dr. Melamed's degree was revoked.

SYMBOLIC SOIL FROM USSR

A small quantity of soil was handed over recently by a Soviet emigrant to former inhabitants of Diatlovo now living in Israel. Before leaving the Soviet Union, Anatoly Funt of Minsk visited the mass grave in Diatlovo, Soviet Byelorussia, where Nazis murdered 3,000 Jews in August 1942. Unusually, the memorial stone records that the victims were Jews; most memorials in Russia refer to the victims only as "Soviet citizens". Mr. Funt obtained permission to take earth from the grave to Israel, where it has been deposited in a Tel Aviv cemetery.

SOVIET GERMANS SEEK VISAS

The Institute of Jewish Affairs in London has disclosed that, as well as Soviet Jews, Soviet Germans have been applying for exit visas. After these have been refused, the applicants have suffered in exactly the same way as Jewish refuseniks: they have lost jobs, homes and pension rights. More than 100,000 Soviet citizens of German origin have protested publicly about the government's attitude towards those who wish to leave the country. Many of the protesters have been arrested as "parasites" or "hooligans" and punished by Soviet courts.

CZECH CEMETERY IN RUINS

Although the Jewish cemetery at Boskovice is classified by the Czech authorities as an important historical monument, it has been allowed to fall into disrepair and the outer stone walls have been neglected since 1945. Suggestions that the wall should be rebuilt have met with a refusal by the town authorities on grounds of cost, but the Jewish community of Brno have obtained consent to the erection of a wire fence round the cemetery.

POPE MEETS SPANISH JEWS

During his visit to Spain in November last, the Pope met representatives of the Madrid Jewish community. He also expressly condemned the persecution and burning of Jews and others by the Spanish Inquisition, which put to death thousands of non-Catholics.

CHAGALL SHOW IN SWEDEN

The Modern Museum in Stockholm recently mounted an important Marc Chagall exhibition, covering the nonagenarian artist's output from 1907 to 1979. 92 paintings and over 100 etchings were on view in this, the first Chagall exhibition in Europe since 1976. The catalogue, with its many reproductions, was sold out three days after the opening in September. Gala evenings including lectures on Chagall and Chassidism, together with music by Jewish composers, accompanied the exhibition, which lasted three months.

ROMANIAN EMIGRATION LAW EASED

New regulations in Romania, under which would-be emigrants must repay the cost of their higher education before leaving, could affect some hundreds of Jews already holding exit permits. Chief Rabbi Rosen of Romania pointed out that over 90% of the Romanian Jewish community have already emigrated, leaving some 30,000 in the country. Of these, he said, two-thirds were over 60 and so not affected by the new laws and many of the remainder did not wish to leave or had not received higher education. Rabbi Rosen was hopeful that a solution would be found and pointed out that the Romanian Government had always recognised that the Jewish people needed a state of their own. In 1982, some 1,200 Jews had left for Israel and those remaining in Romania were able to lead an active communal and religious life.

In a further statement, Rabbi Rosen said that the Romanian Government had decided that Jews who wished to emigrate to Israel would not be affected by the new regulations and that a group of 124 Jews would shortly be leaving the country. Although more than 40 of these people had enjoyed higher education, the State would not be calling on them to repay the cost.

ETHIOPIAN JEWS HELD IN CAMPS

Many of the 1,500 Falashas residing in Israel began a protest fast because, they say, Israel is doing nothing to help their compatriots. The Falashas, Black Jews, come from Ethiopia where nearly 30,000 are still living. In recent months there have been many disquieting reports about the conditions of Ethiopian Jews and calls for action have been made by Knesset members. The latest information comes from a Canadian TV team, who say that many Falashas are confined in four camps on the Ethiopian-Sudanese border. They are guarded by troops in the pay of Colonel Gaddafi, receive no help from outside and are suffering harassment and terror.

The Falasha Rabbi in Israel described those left in Ethiopia as the last Zionists: "Many Jews around the world could come to Israel but do not; the Falashas want to come but cannot", he said.

The fast ended after assurances on behalf of the Jewish Agency's immigration department that the Government and the Agency were endeavouring to bring the Jews of Ethiopia to Israel.

VIRGINIANS OBJECT TO ANNE FRANK

When children in a rural school in Virginia were given "The Diary of Anne Frank" as a set book, parents protested, saying that the diary was offensive and indecent. They particularly mentioned passages in which Anne tells of her awakening sexual feelings. The local school board is to decide on the question.

HITLER'S CAR IN BELGIUM

The Brussels Car Museum has announced that it recently paid £60,000 for Hitler's car, a Mercedes specially made for the dictator in 1940. It is to appear in a touring exhibition, alongside cars used by Presidents Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy.

KORNBERG MASTER OF CHRIST'S

In a traditional ceremony in the College Chapel, the Fellows of Christ's College, Cambridge elected Professor Sir Hans Kornberg, FRS to be the 34th Master since the College's foundation in 1504.

Sir Hans Kornberg is 54 years old and came to Britain in 1939 as a refugee from Nazi Germany. He was educated at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield and the University of Sheffield, where he received his Ph.D degree in 1953. After two years of research in the USA, he held posts at the Universities of Oxford, Leicester and (currently) Cambridge, where, since 1975, he has been Head of the Biochemistry Department. Sir Hans' research, which he began as a student of Nobel Laureate Sir Hans Krebs, is mainly concerned with the manner in which living cells maintain themselves in changing environments; it has been recognised by his election to the Royal Society, the German Academy of Sciences, to Honorary Membership of American and Japanese scientific societies, and by the award to him of several Honorary Degrees and scientific medals. He was knighted in 1978.

Besides his scientific work, Sir Hans was for five years Chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and a member of the Science Research Council. He is currently a member of the Advisory Council on Applied Research and Development (ACARD) and the Agricultural Research Council; he is also a Managing Trustee of the Nuffield Foundation and serves on the Boards of the Council on Science and Society, the European Institute for Environmental Policy, and the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra. Sir Hans is married, with four children. He is a very interested member of the AJR.



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IN MEMORY OF DR. PAUL GOLDSCHIEDER

When the news of the death of Dr. Paul Goldscheider reached us, an article to be published in our December issue on the occasion of his 80th birthday had already been sent to the printers. Little did we then know that he would not live to see that day. Instead of conveying our birthday greetings to him we now have to mourn the passing of a widely beloved personality. His name was a household word in Hampstead, and great is the number of patients who have lost their trusted medical adviser. The AJR has added reason for remembering him with deep feelings of gratitude, because for more than two decades he rendered his services to the residents of Otto Schiff House and, during a period of nine years, also to Osmond House. Sharing the background of the residents and excelling by an extraordinary human understanding, his work was invaluable. We express our sincerest sympathy to his widow, Dr. Gertrude Goldscheider, who, as a partner in his practice also took care of the Homes. The following obituary, written by his friend Dr. Wolfgang Fischer, reflects the life and character of his outstanding personality.

W.R.

Dr. Paul Goldscheider, GP in West Hampstead, died at the bedside of a patient on 5 November 1982. He was born in Vienna on 12 December 1902 and orphaned in early childhood. While a medical student he had to work for his livelihood and subsequently became manager of an industrial firm. In the early 30's he foresaw that political and economic developments in Central Europe would make it difficult for him to carry on his industrial and medical activities and might even become intolerable.

He succeeded in transferring the firm to England in 1937, also took an English degree in medicine and at the outbreak of war gave up his commercial activities, worked in a hospital and eventually joined up as a Captain in the RAMC. He served with the RAMC in West Africa, Belgium and Germany.

It was there that Goldscheider's humanity perhaps found its most remarkable symbolic expression in an example of loyalty to the oath of Hippocrates and even going beyond. As a Captain in the RAMC he was responsible among other things for the medical care of German PoWs, including a large number of former SS men who were treated by him without discrimination. The newly discovered penicillin was then still in such short supply that by order it could not be administered to PoWs. When he found out that one of his SS patients would only survive with the new drug, he personally administered a shot in order to prevent his orderly from being court martialled. Predictably, this action reached the attention of his commanding officer, who threatened to report him. He replied that he was fully aware of the order but according to his oath and his

conscience he could not act otherwise. The case was not reported. This story, showing the true qualities of a modest but great man, gains in importance when one knows that his brother had died in a German concentration camp and one of his sisters survived Auschwitz.

After demobilisation he set up in practice in Hampstead. He had an enormous variety of patients, ranging from the most influential and famous people to the most ordinary citizen in need, whom he treated with equal care and love.

The scope of his wide range of interests and talents is reflected in his great love for painting and music, in both of which his achievements as an amateur were above average. In the circle of his artistic friends two famous names stand out: the painter Oskar Kokoschka, who was also a patient of his during his refugee years in England and then became a life-long and devoted friend. The second great friendship of historical interest started in 1927 with Else Lasker-Schüler, the German Jewish poet. He gave his correspondence with Else Lasker-Schüler to the Else Lasker-Schüler archives and his small art collection to the University of Jerusalem. A portrait of her painted by him is on permanent exhibition in the Van der Heydt Museum, Wuppertal.

He continued in practice until his last day and often told his friends about the fate of a doctor friend who died while he was visiting a patient and thought that this would be the most perfect way to go. Fate has granted him his wish.

He is survived by his wife Dr. Gertrude Goldscheider and his two sisters.

W. G. FISCHER

MRS. BEATE SULZBACH

Mrs. Beate Sulzbach, née Scherk, the wife of our friend Herbert Sulzbach, recently died at the age of 86 after a long illness. Born in Posen, she and her family moved to Berlin in 1900. She was the niece of Otto Klemperer. During the First World War, she did voluntary war service as a nurse. An actress by profession, she appeared in Max Reinhardt's Kammerspiele, Professor Robert's Residenztheater and in the Tribüne, where she acted in plays by Wedekind and Hasenclever. She also had gifts as a writer, having adapted Julian Green's novel "Léviathan" as a play, and was also a sculptor. She met Herbert Sulzbach in a circle of actors and writers, among them Ernst Deutsch and Walter Hasenclever. They married in 1922 and shared their lives for 60 years. Throughout this time, she took a deep interest in all his activities and was an inspiration to him. We express our sincerest sympathy to Herbert Sulzbach on the very sad loss inflicted on him.

MICHAEL WALLACH

Michael Wallach has died at the age of 64. He was born in Frankfurt-am-Main, the son of Rabbi B. L. Wallach, and was educated at the Jewish Secondary School there, and after his emigration, continued his studies at University College London in Economics and Politics. He served in the Army and Military Government during and shortly after the war, then worked at the BBC and as secretary to the Chief Rabbi's office. For the last twenty years he was editor of the Jewish Chronicle Colour Magazine, and of The Jewish Year Book. He was an excellent Hebraist and Jewish scholar generally, was on the executive committee of the Council of Christians and Jews, and had translated the works of Samson Raphael Hirsch. He was a valued contributor to AJR Information.

DR. IMMANUEL BIERER

Dr. Immanuel Bierer, a life-long Zionist and supporter of the kibbutz movement, died recently in London at the age of 81. Born into a Romanian family with close links with Zionism (his father was a friend of Theodor Herzl), Immanuel Bierer first emigrated to Palestine in 1920, but returned to Europe to study dairy farming with a view to improving agriculture in his kibbutz. Following an illness, he studied medicine at the University of Vienna and then took up medical practice in Austria. Overtaken by the Anschluss, Dr. Bierer was thrown into a concentration camp, but obtained his release and came to Britain. His first wife and son, however, remained in Europe, where they later perished in the Holocaust. After service in the Pioneer Corps, Dr. Bierer practised gynaecology and obstetrics in both Bethnal Green and Harley Street. For many years he was chairman of the Friends of the Kibbutz organisation.

P.A./SECRETARY

General Secretary of AJR urgently needs P.A./Secretary with shorthand for 30 hours per week (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.) from mid-January 1983.

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H. W. Freyhan

GERMAN CITIES MUSIC IN THE NAZI PERIOD

Like other aspects of the Third Reich, its cultural life has been the subject of a good deal of research, facilitated by the abundance of documentation. In the field of music, pioneer work had been done by Joseph Wulf in his *Musik im Dritten Reich* (1963). His findings have now been substantially enlarged and supplemented in Fred K. Prieberg's *Musik im NS-Staat* (Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag; 1982; DM 19.80). The author, born in Berlin in 1928, had already published studies on *Musik in der Sowjet Union* and *Musik in anderen Deutschland*, which may be considered a useful preparation for the task he has now undertaken. His preparatory research has extended over several years and has included correspondence and interviews with surviving musicians—Nazis and non-Nazis—of the 1933-45 period. All this material has been carefully documented and will thus become a valuable source for future studies.

The author's approach is not always consequential. He tends to mete out harsh judgment of minor offences, oblivious, perhaps, of the fact that nationalism in music is not necessarily to be condemned. It is not limited to Nazis but exists in most countries such as Russia, France and Britain. His views are to some extent determined by his keen interest in modern trends, and this leads him to be tolerant of a few Nazi composers.

The overall picture reveals that the Nazis' chief priority was the complete and uncompromising elimination of Jewish composers and performers from German musical life. The Nazi attitude was more oscillating with regard to modernism which found some support among the Hitler Youth, in opposition to reactionaries like Rosenberg. Apart from its racial policy the NS regime was not as totalitarian as is often assumed. Even so, there was an appalling number of converts to Nazism in and after 1933. Anyone familiar with the prevailing mental climate during the years of the Weimar Republic will hardly be surprised when registering the general response to January 1933. Many simply jumped on the bandwagon to further their career, but much of the shocking reaction by people who, until then, had hardly shown any Nazi leanings, was due to the state of intoxication which gripped the nation in spring 1933 and accounts for the surrender of many who had played an honourable part in the Republic and now became turncoats, to the distress of former friends and admirers. It took an uncommon degree of courage and inner steadfastness to resist temptation and retain a balanced mind amid the general wave of enthusiasm. Later events, such as the blood-bath of June, 1934, failed to act as eye openers, and the regime's subsequent successes in foreign policy prevented any growth of critical insight and forebodings of what the future might hold.

One of the book's chief assets is the chapter *Musik unterm Davidstern* which surveys the work of the Jewish *Kulturbuende* and similar organisations that catered for Jewish musicians and their public.

We know little about the motives which caused Goebbels to permit and encourage these activities. Hans Hinkel, an SS Officer, was put in charge and played a part which was not altogether negative.

At the beginning it suited the Nazis to claim that

although they had excluded the Jews from German cultural life they did offer them the opportunity to pursue their own cultural life. This policy was intended to improve the regime's image abroad but it hardly agreed with the basic intent to promote Jewish emigration as much as possible. As is well known, the *Kulturbund* was forced to continue its performances even after the November pogrom in 1938, and artists who were required were released from the camps.

It is one of those cases where there was no unanimity among the Nazi leadership, and with hindsight it seems strange that the ultimate murderous intent did not exclude this less barbaric episode from playing its part, probably chiefly for reasons of propaganda.

The Jewish response to these opportunities was a credit to the hard-pressed community. Many of our readers will have lively memories of these musical events and will appreciate Prieberg's highly sympathetic survey of the scene, extending even to the private concerts (*Hauskonzerte*) which supplemented the work of the larger organisations.

Programme-building was controversial and the rivalling claims for Jewish content and for traditional European fare were passionately debated. What emerged was a reasonable balance which proved acceptable to the Jewish public.

FILM IN EXILE

We survivors from the Weimar era often feel like statistical figures used in historical dissertations on the subject of exile and emigration, which has become fashionable among students writing their theses, professors lecturing, authors looking for an intriguing topic. A good many of these works have dealt with exilic literature and exilic theatre, and now we have one entitled *Kino im Exil* by Maria Hilchenbach, a volume published in a series called Communication and Politics (K. G. Saur, Munich, DM 42).

Its subtitle "The Emigration of German Film Artists 1933-45", implies that it is meant mainly for readers at universities and other cultural institutions, not for the film-loving public. However, the publishers have carried their academic attitude slightly too far. It is a book about film and film-makers without any pictures at all—probably the first and only one in literary history trying to get away without the visual element while dealing with a visual branch of the arts. Another characteristic of academic aloofness which puzzles the reader is that the chapters do not carry headlines indicating their contents, but some kind of code signs. Thus, the pages about film-workers who emigrated to Britain are headed "F. I.", while those discussing the reaction of the refugees to Germany's capitulation in 1945 bear the mysterious title "M XIV.4".

Still, the intentions of the book are laudable, and Ms. Hilchenbach is well aware of its shortcomings: "Someone who has neither lived through those times nor known the people personally does not find it easy to describe that emigration without falling into the trap of painting a sentimental picture or, on the other hand, producing an all-too sober collection of figures and dates", she writes. "The difficulties of a work on the emigration of German film-artists from the Third Reich are infinitely greater than, say, a study of exilic literature; one has to focus on what

one may call the living and working conditions of actors, directors and writers . . . Film-making has its own basic rules in each country. The supreme one, however, is the same everywhere—command of the respective language . . . An actor is rooted in his own language, and therefore in his country, almost like a peasant. His language is the soil on which he has to toil". Another major difficulty for exiled film people was the enormous difference they found in the structure of the film business in their country of exile, especially in the USA and the Soviet Union. Both structures were rather alien to a newcomer from Central Europe.

There were, for the author, many questions. For instance: when did that exile begin? Were people like Ernst Lubitsch, William Dieterle, Erich von Stroheim, F. W. Murnau or Marlene Dietrich, who all left before Hitler came to power, exiles? Then, after 1945, a good many emigrants refused to return to Germany, some for professional and others for emotional reasons. And what about those film-workers for whom Germany had already been the first land of emigration because they saw too little hope of a career in their own? Among them were quite a number of people from Poland and Russia, Czechoslovakia and even Bulgaria. Ms. Hilchenbach quotes the story of Theodor Bikel who emigrated as a child with his parents from Vienna to Palestine in 1938, then went in adulthood to America and returned after 1945 to Europe but not to Austria whose people he dislikes because they "pretend not to have been accomplices but victims of Nazism".

In this sense, the book touches upon politics within the framework of the series Communication and Politics, but otherwise it is obvious that the political attitude of the German refugees, the overwhelming majority of them Jews, does not need much scholarly research. And there is nothing new in the observation that antisemitism added to the great problems of the refugees in a number of countries. England, as we all know, was not among them, but the book quotes a post-war German author who said that the internment of refugees "was understood as an over-hasty and much too general action which, however, was taken in the interest of the refugees themselves". Well, well . . .

The book's most interesting appendix consists of the short biographies of exiled film artists, many of them unknown to your reviewer. On the other hand, there are conspicuous gaps. Poor Carola Neher, who—after her great success in the "Threepenny Opera"—emigrated to the Soviet Union and disappeared there without a trace, is not mentioned. Nor is Ophüls credited with his most famous film, "La Ronde". On the other hand, artists who never starred in a film, or directed one, in all their lives—such as Annemarie Hase, whose career was that of a well-known cabaretist—have been included. For many, the dates of birth and death were "not available", though they could have been easily ascertained. Fritz Gottfurt from Berlin, who rose to be head of the script department of a major British film company, was not included.

There are, however, some pieces of information which sadden us deeply. Jolly fat Otto Wallburg, one of Berlin's darlings, never made his way into exile; he was gassed in Auschwitz. Conrad Veidt, famous since "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" (1919) who arrived in England in 1933, died in Hollywood at the age of only 50. Nora Gregor from Graz, the star of Renoir's "La règle du jeu"—which is now a cult film—took her own life in Chile, aged 49.

This is a book without anecdotes. They would have been out of place in an academic work. My own favourite about film exiles concerns the great Albert Bassermann, himself an "Aryan" who emigrated because of his Jewish wife, Else Schiff. At last he succeeded in getting a screen test in Hollywood. The big boss of the company saw it and was highly surprised. "I say", he exclaimed, "that guy's got talent!"

EGON LARSEN

GERMAN CITIES

AACHEN

The recently published issue of the "Heimatblaetter des Kreises Aachen" (obtainable at the Kreisverwaltung Aachen, Zollernstr. 10, D-5100 Aachen, DM 6.—plus postage) includes an article by Eric Lucas, who was born in Aachen in 1915 and now lives in Israel. It is called "Die Herrschaft"—Geschichte einer juedischen Grossfamilie in Aachen" and comprises the history of the Elkan, Keller and Lucas families. The chronicle is enhanced by numerous documents which provide an insight into the life of the Jews in the district. A list of the deported Jews, described as incomplete, is attached to the publication.

TRIER

For the centenary of Karl Marx's death on 14 March 1883, the house in Trier in which he was born will be refurbished and modernised and the exhibition areas extended. The house belongs to the Rheinland-Pfalz Land authority and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation has provided DM 600,000 for the building work.

HOMBURG

Based on a lecture given in the Volkshochschule on the 40th anniversary of the November 1938 pogroms, Dr. Yitzhak Sophoni Herz (Rehovot) has produced a 300 page anthology under the heading "Meine Erinnerung an Bad Homburg und seine 600-jaehrige Gemeinde, 1335-1942" (Selbstverlag des Volksbildungskreises Homburg). The work is divided into two sections. The first part deals with documents, statistics, excerpts from books and press publications, mainly of the 18th and 19th centuries. In the second part, the author describes his own life and the history of his family. His father, Moses Herz, was for several decades, from 1898 onwards, cantor, teacher and shochev of the Homburg community and, from 1934 onwards also in charge of Rabbinical functions. The author is critical of those Jews who consider themselves as belonging to the "deutsch-juedischen Kulturkreis". His very subjective judgments, sometimes even based on factual mistakes, impair the value of a work which actually should provide objectively correct information.

ASCHAFFENBURG

When the Wolfsthalplatz in Aschaffenburg, the site where the former synagogue stood, is remodeled in about two years' time, former Jewish citizens of the city will again be invited to visit it. The documentary account of the city's Jewish community between 1933 and 1945, in preparation by the city's archive office since 1979, should also be ready at that time. The square is named after Otto Wolfsthal, a respected banker who, together with his wife Maria, née Schrag, committed suicide in September 1942 under the threat of deportation.

GOEPPINGEN AND JEBENHAUSEN

As a supplement to the 1981 exhibition of the same name, a brochure entitled "Jews in Jebenhausen and Göppingen 1777-1945", by the Göppingen museum director Dr. Dieter Kaus, has just been published by the Stadtarchiv Göppingen. It is handsomely illustrated. Of the 400 Jewish inhabitants in early 1933, more than 300 survived by emigrating. Among the distinguished native sons was the Kammersänger Heinrich Sontheim (Jebenhausen 1820-Stuttgart 1912) who was a long-serving performer with the Stuttgart Hoftheater.

E.G.L.

LANGEN

When in August 1983 Langen/Hessen, which lies between Frankfurt-am-Main and Darmstadt, celebrates the centenary of its attaining the status of a city, nine former Jewish citizens who have been living in Britain, the United States and Israel since their forced emigration will be invited for the festivities. The Council will send out the invitations as soon as the city assembly authorises the proposal.

AURICH'S JEWS FROM 1592-1940

The East Friesland Cultural and Educational Centre in Aurich has just published a 300-page book documenting the Jewish community between 1592 and 1940. It is intended for school use in history and social studies and will be made available to school heads in the whole of the Federal Republic. The book is based chiefly on material collected by Aurich pupils under the direction of the Rector Johannes Dieshoff. As the then Mayor Hippen of Aurich remarked to the collectors of the material in 1974, 'On 1 March 1933, Aurich had 6,538 inhabitants, of whom 39 were Jews. From 1941 there were no more Jews in Aurich'. Many emigrated Aurich Jews have regained contact with their former native town through the book.

WUERZBURG SHOWS JEWISH TREASURES

Before the Second World War the Fränkisches Luitpold museum in Würzburg possessed an important collection illustrating Jewish culture, including a complete Baroque synagogue from Kirchheim. In the closing stages of the war, however, Würzburg was heavily bombed and the museum lost many of its treasures. Damaged articles were put into store and almost forgotten, until the director of the museum, now known as the Mainfränkisches Museum, decided to restore the damaged manuscripts, pieces of silver, gravestones and stained-glass windows still existing. The museum has already begun by setting up a display area where some relics of Jewish culture have been put on show.

MUNICH YOUTH EXCHANGE VISITS

Two Israeli youth groups have recently visited Munich under international exchange schemes. By arrangement with the Deutsch-Israelitischer Freundenskreis Neuwied a.Rh., a party organised by the Moshavim Movement in Israel went to Munich in the course of a tour through the Federal Republic. In another exchange, 19 young people from Rechavia Gymnasium, Jerusalem, stayed in Bavaria for a fortnight. They were welcomed on arrival by Munich pupils, who then flew to Jerusalem for a reciprocal visit.

JEWISH BOOKSHOP OPENS

A specialised bookshop dealing with literature on Jewish affairs has recently been opened in Munich under the management of Dr. Rachel Salamander, who recognised the need for a centre of this kind while studying at Munich University. The bookshop will offer new and secondhand works covering all aspects of Judaism and Jewry, including antisemitism and the situation in the Middle East.

MAYOR BACK IN FRANKFURT

Tel Aviv's Mayor Griffel has recently paid a visit to Frankfurt a.M., where he was cordially received by his German counterparts. Mayor Griffel emigrated with his family in 1933 to Palestine, where he supported the independence movement and was imprisoned three times by the Mandate authorities.

AUSTRIA

Two Life Sentences for Terrorist

A double sentence of life imprisonment has been passed in Vienna on Bahij Younis, who was convicted for masterminding the assassination of Heinz Nittel, president of the Austria-Israel Friendship Association, and the armed attack on the Seitengasse synagogue in which two people died and a number were injured. Two Palestinian associates, who declared that Younis armed and incited them to carry out the killings, have also received life sentences. Defending advocate Peter Stern, himself the son of a prominent Jewish lawyer, said that Younis would lodge an appeal.

New Austrian Anti-Anti Group

The name of Rabbi Joseph Samuel Bloch, a famous 19th-century fighter against the antisemitic pronouncements of Vienna's Karl Lueger and Georg von Schoenerer, has been given to a new organisation in Austria. The group of academics, headed by Dr. Klaus Lohrmann of Vienna University, is called "Rabbi Bloch Action" and is pledged to combat the resurgence of antisemitism in Austria which has been exacerbated by the war in Lebanon.

Austria to Tighten Anti-Terror Laws

At an Austrian press conference, Minister of the Interior Erwin Lanc told journalists that the government was about to present a bill which, if passed, would make it possible to order the dissolution of groups operating against the law. Norbert Burger's National Democratic Party would be affected, said the Minister; the party is suspected of organising terror attacks against Jewish businesses in Salzburg and Vienna.

In their search for the perpetrators of these outrages, the Austrian police have taken in a third man in the Steiermark, in addition to their earlier arrests of Ekkehard Weil and Attila Istvan Bajtsy. A former Foreign Legionary, the new prisoner is suspected of having helped Weil in the theft of 300 kilos of gunpowder.

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OBITUARIES

Fritz Ruhemann

Fritz Ruhemann, who died recently at the age of 91, and his twin brother Helmut were born in Berlin. They were educated at the Wilhelms-Gymnasium, and later studied in Munich. Fritz took a diploma in Architecture and Engineering. He first married Marianne Perlmutter. They had two children, a son and a daughter. Fritz became a very well known modern architect. Among other buildings, he built a very beautiful villa in the Grunewald and won awards for furniture design. He became artistic adviser to the famous Ullstein Verlag.

After emigrating to England in 1935, Fritz Ruhemann took an English diploma and became an F.R.I.B.A. He built a house in Chiswick which was then considered the most modern house in England. In a book published by the Open University it was called the best house of the year.

In 1967 Fritz Ruhemann lost his first wife, and a few years later his son. He married Ellen Kessel, who supported him lovingly and faithfully during his last difficult years.

Fritz Ruhemann was a member of the Club 43 for many years. The Club had been founded to give Jewish Refugees a Centre for their cultural and intellectual activities. He gave many interesting talks on architecture and also on three-dimensional photography, which was his special hobby, and also read his own poems and stories.

B. St.

Gustave Wilczek

Gustave Wilczek, who has died at the age of 81, was the first life president of the Friends of Boys' Town. He was held in high regard within the St. John's Wood community in London for his piety and works of charity. A Pole by origin, he escaped from Nazi-held Warsaw and worked his way across the Soviet Union along the Trans-Siberian Railway. From the terminus at Vladivostok, he journeyed on to Japan and Shanghai and thence to New Zealand, where he became a farmer.

PROFESSOR HERBERT LEWIN

Professor Dr. Herbert Lewin, the gynaecologist, died near Offenbach at the age of 83. After the war he held leading positions in Jewish organisations, among them membership of the Direktorium of the Zentralrat of the Jews in Germany and the chairmanship of the regional organisation of the Jewish communities in Hesse. Before his deportation in 1941 he was deputy director of the Cologne Jewish Hospital. A survivor of Auschwitz and other concentration camps, he returned to Cologne, where he became a lecturer at the university. Later he was appointed head of the Municipal Women's Hospital in Offenbach and from 1951 until his retirement in 1965 he was also Professor at Frankfurt University.

E.G.L.

JOACHIM MARCH

Joachim March, 74-year-old librarian and writer, died recently in Zehlendorf. A "Mischling" in Nazi terms, in 1938 he married Charlotte Bach who herself personally helped many Jewish friends to flee from the Third Reich. Captured by the Americans following his war service, Joachim March was asked by the occupation authorities to care for military and national socialist libraries in their zone. Later he became head of the RIAS newspaper archive and then worked in the Sender Freies Berlin department of youth and adult education. He was responsible for a number of programmes on the war crimes trials, Berlin's Jewish community and anti-Nazi resistance, among others, which were eagerly taken up by other radio stations. He was instrumental in the naming of a Berlin street after Martin Buber and in mounting an exhibition on the Warsaw Ghetto.

PROFESSOR ARYEH TARTAKOWER

The distinguished sociologist Professor Aryeh Tartakower has died in Israel, aged 85. Born in Galicia, he studied law at the University of Vienna and became an associate editor of the "Jüdisches Lexikon". Once again in Poland, he held the chair of Jewish sociology in the Warsaw Institute of Jewish Sciences in the years 1929-1939. In his public life, Professor Tartakower was a founder and chairman of Hitachdut in Poland and from 1927 onward a member of the Zionist Action Committee. Shortly before the Second World War, he was serving as an alderman in Lodz, but emigrated to the United States in 1939. There he became director of relief and rehabilitation of the World Jewish Congress and until 1971 he held several other important posts in the WJC.

Emigrating to Palestine in 1946, Professor Tartakower was appointed Professor of Jewish Sociology at the Hebrew University. Among his many interests, he also found time for the chairmanship of the Joint Committee for the Rescue of Ethiopian Jews (the Falashas) and was extremely active on their behalf. His numerous writings on history and sociology, in Polish, Yiddish, Hebrew and English, include "The Tribes of Israel" and he also helped to edit Adam Czerniakow's diary of the Warsaw Ghetto.

CANON PETER SCHNEIDER

A Christian expert on Judaism, Canon Peter Schneider died recently at the age of 54. The child of German-Jewish parents, he was brought to this country in 1939 and read theology at Cambridge. Among posts he held in the 60s and early 70s were the chaplaincy of St. Luke's, Haifa, and as adviser on Jewish affairs to the Archbishop of Jerusalem. Since 1976, Canon Schneider had been secretary of the Consultants to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York on Inter-Faith Relationships.

Peter Schneider was a follower of the late Dr. James Parkes and was deeply interested in the cause of Christian-Jewish understanding.

HELPING THE UNEMPLOYED

A group of people concerned with the growing problem of unemployment in the Jewish community have agreed to co-operate in a serious investigation of the situation. It is an endeavour to find a means of helping Jewish jobless, whether young people leaving school or college, persons facing redundancy after years in a secure job, or those whose businesses have collapsed as a result of the recession. Orthodox Jews face additional problems of job-seeking by reason of their religious observances.

A meeting of interested parties was recently convened under the aegis of the Trades Advisory Council.

It was agreed that the first task would be to identify the size and extent of the problem, to enlist voluntary aid and resources of people with special expertise in re-training the unemployed of all ages and eventually to formulate schemes with the assistance of the Manpower Services Commission. Mr. H. Farbey has offered to co-ordinate the venture jointly with Mr. N. Grizzard of Bradford Council and would welcome offers of assistance from people who can help them launch the scheme. Mr. Farbey can be reached at: Trades Advisory Council, 315/317 Ballards Lane, N.12.

British ORT were unable to attend the meeting but have offered their full co-operation in any future schemes which might be devised.

YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE OVER CEMETERY

A group of young trade unionists in Hamm have taken over the duty of tidying and maintaining the Jewish cemetery in the town. The Jewish community of Gross-Dortmund have gratefully accepted the youngsters' offer to clean the tombstones and keep the area free from weeds.

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GERMAN JEWISH SPORTSMEN

MACCABI CONGRESS

The following is an extract from a speech delivered by the President of the German Sports Association, Staatsminister Dr. Willi Weyer, on the occasion of the 11th Maccabi Congress, held on the 13th November 1982 in Düsseldorf.

It is an honour and at the same time a pleasure to address you on the subject of Maccabi in Germany, and to sketch its history in a few words. One only has to read the memoirs of Nahum Goldmann or Gershom Scholem to learn what high intellectual standing the German Jewish community once had in the eyes of world Jewry. How difficult it was after the war to find understanding within the Jewish world that the German Jewish community stood in the middle. On the one side a burdened, beaten and divided Germany which, in spite of the terror regime of the Nazis, remained their home, and on the other side the Jews in the rest of the world. We are grateful to the European Maccabi Confederation which, in 1976, held its Executive Committee Meeting in Berlin where once upon a time, (from 1921) resided the General Headquarters of the Maccabi World Union. Today, I welcome as World President, Fred Worms, the Chairman of European Maccabi, Joel Haskell and the delegates from the different countries in Europe.

Just as the German Jewish community has a long history of cultural achievement, so their history of physical activities in the gymnastic and general sports reach back into the last century. This history is closely connected with the World Zionist Movement. We have the records of the organisational structure from 1898 until 1938 due to the dedicated efforts of the native Berliner, Dr. Robert Atlasz, who later became the Sports Director of Maccabi World Union in Israel.

For the majority of German Jews there was no contradiction prior to 1933 between being a German and a Jew. In the First World War, untold numbers of Jews fought as German soldiers. Over 12,000 of them fell for Germany.

Originally, sport served many Jewish citizens as a particularly welcome medium for social integration and this is why the Jewish clubs remained relatively small in the first place. However, the terror began with the exclusion of the Jews from the General Gymnastic and Sports Association and all of a sudden even the German Tennis Association no longer fielded its top player, Daniel Prenn. Relative calm reigned prior to the Olympic Games of 1936 but this was a deceptive calm, as we now know. Top German Jewish sportsmen and women, who by all criteria would have qualified for inclusion in the German team, were pushed sideways by devilish tricks. The 64 year old Alfred Flatow, previously celebrated as the triple Olympic winner in Athens in 1896, was ignored. When his club in Hamburg demanded his resignation in 1933 he wrote: "I resign, but I refrain from giving expression to my thoughts and feelings." He was not an honoured guest at the 1936 Olympics. He sat somewhere hidden in the stadium. He found his end in the concentration camp of Theresienstadt, as the victim of racial lunacy. He was a symbol of many other Jewish sportsmen and women of world class. Maccabi became the successor organisation during the Hitler period for all the integrated and assimilated Jews who were no longer able to belong to their original clubs. And so it was that as late as 1938 there were still 105 Maccabi clubs with over 25,000 members, apart from the 20,000 who were members of Schild, the sports organisation of Jewish ex-servicemen.

Jewish Sport prior to 1933 was a respected part of the general sports movement in Germany, and it was all the more despicable therefore that it should have been selected for special defamation. It is with recognition of this memory that the German Sportsbund was very keen already in the early 1950s to rebuild Maccabi Clubs in Germany. I was happy to participate in the re-establishment of Maccabi in 1965. My predecessor, Willi Daume, was particularly active in that field.

Since then there have been frequent exchanges of German and Israeli sports teams; we have helped where we could, particularly with the building of the Maccabiah Village, the Wingate Institute and the athletic track of the stadium in Tel Aviv. The horror of the murders at the Black September Olympics in 1972 served merely to tighten and reinforce the close bonds between the German and Israeli sports organisations.

MACCABI GAMES FOR GERMANY

At the annual conference of the European Maccabi Confederation in Düsseldorf delegates from over 16 countries attended and agreed that the venue for the 1987 Maccabi European Games should be in West Germany, Köln being named as the most likely site. The 1983 Games, the fifth to be held, are to take place in Antwerp.

MILITARY PARADE TOO EXPENSIVE

The 35th Israel Independence Day next April will not be marked by a military parade. Public and ministerial opposition on the grounds of cost overruled Mr. Begin's strong support for the idea. It was estimated that the parade would have cost some £10 million. The Cabinet may decide to hold civilian parades, to include contingents from the Diaspora.

GERMAN EX-WAR PRISONERS MEET

More than 80 persons attended the 23rd annual meeting of the "Arbeitskreis Featherstone", held in Duesseldorf on 30 October last. Its members are former prisoners of war who had been held at Featherstone Park camp in Northumberland, and its Hon. President is Mr. Herbert Sulzbach, OBE, the education officer of the Camp. It was at Featherstone Park that he began his signal services for the promotion of Anglo-German understanding. The impact he has left on his former charges is reflected in the close personal relationship they have retained with him. The guests at the reunion included the headmaster of the school in Ryton (Northumberland) on whose initiative a plaque was affixed at the entrance of the former camp. The main speaker at the gathering was Dr. J. Nimtz, chief editor of the "Frankfurter Neue Presse" who gave an address on "Das deutsch-britisch-amerikanische Dreieck".

EXILE RETURNS TO BERLIN

The writer Hilde Rubinstein has returned to Berlin after many years of Swedish exile. Now aged 78, she appeared in the literary world in 1931 when her first play was put on by the Junge Volksbühne in Berlin. She was arrested after the Nazi take-over, but escaped to Sweden in 1935. But even there her life was adventurous: in 1937, on a visit to the Soviet Union, she was imprisoned for her suspected Trotskyist activities and spent nearly a year in a Russian prison before getting back to Sweden. She has written novels, poetry and essays and a new volume of her poems is expected to appear in 1983.

WARZAGER EXHIBITION IN KOELN

Ber Warzager, a Polish-born painter who has lived in Köln for the last 25 years, has recently held a retrospective exhibition in Hürth, marking his 70th birthday. Warzager, once a prisoner in Buchenwald concentration camp, resumed his artistic studies in 1946 and then moved to Israel. When he came to live in Germany, he was commissioned to undertake the decoration of synagogues in Köln and Bamberg.

MAHLER WORKS AT BERLIN FESTIVAL

In this year's Berlin Festival, the music of Gustav Mahler took pride of place. Orchestras and singers from all parts of the world performed in Berlin and 53 concerts were given in honour of the composer, of which 30 were completely sold out.

NEW CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN BERLIN

Some weeks ago, on the anniversary of the November Pogrom of 1938, the new Institute for Research into Antisemitism at the Technical University of Berlin was formally opened with speeches from the University president and from Professor Herbert Strauss, recently appointed head of the new foundation. The idea of the Institute was first mooted four years ago and it has received support from the Hebrew University Jerusalem and the City University of New York. A library and archive, together with a conference centre, will help to further Professor Strauss's hopes for an interdisciplinary focus-point where historians, sociologists and scholars in other fields can research deeply into the causes and manifestations of antisemitism throughout the centuries.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GRÜNEBERG AND WEISS

Sir,—Further to the obituary notice of the late Professor Grüneberg (on page 5 AJR Information December 1982) your readers may be interested in an additional small item connected with him. Grüneberg's major work on genetics and his use of mice as experimental models was already behind him by 1961 but he was at that time revising some of the material for further publication and, with the help of a Medical Research Council grant, he had a project planned involving collecting mice specimens from South India. A research assistant was needed to join the project team and the place was filled by Robin A. Weiss, then a recent graduate with the highest honours in Zoology from University College, London. The project duly went ahead and Weiss's experience thus gained in this field and under Grüneberg's guidance was instrumental in leading him to his later studies of viruses and their role in the causation of many forms of mammalian and avian malignant disease.

Robin Weiss, now himself a Professor and the present Director of the Institute of Cancer Research, was born in London the youngest son of the late Hans Weiss who until his death in 1980 was for many years, like Professor Grüneberg, a member of the AJR. Hans Weiss was amongst the most foresighted of German Jews. He resolved to leave Germany at the earliest opportunity after Hitler came to power and there must have been regrettably only too few Jewish citizens who foresaw so clearly the likely tragedy for German Jewry and who acted so promptly and wisely for themselves. My own association with the Weiss family, dating from 1948, gave me many insights into inter-War German Jewish life and perhaps some understanding of the life traumas for such people—not always an easy concept to grasp for those of us lucky enough to have been born Jewish in England. It was my longstanding and

affectionate admiration for Hans Weiss and his family that set finally my resolve to become a positive supporting member of the AJR.

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DR. A. P. JOSEPH

AUSTRIAN JEWISH MUSEUM

Sir,—This summer I quite by chance came across the Oesterreichisches Juedisches Museum recently opened in Eisenstadt.

As a Friend of the Manchester Jewish Museum this was of interest to me although I found the Museum very empty of both objects and artefacts. The interesting things were the copies of old acts and laws passed against the Jewish population. The chain cutting off the ghetto is still there and hanging on the street corner. Behind is a small section of a field with some tumbled headstones all printed in Hebrew and obviously quite old but I could not find any information about this.

I thought some of your readers might be interested to know about this Museum particularly as Eisenstadt had such a good sized Jewish population before their dispersal.

The poster advertising the Museum, which I bought, is printed as an old Ktubah and states: 1000 Jahre Oesterreichisches Judentum, Wertheimerhaus—Eisenstadt.

I feel sure that this will be a permanent exhibition. It was opened in June of this year, and I thought I should bring it to the notice of your readers.

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Urmston, Manchester M31 3HX

R. J. (RUDI) FRIEDMANN 70

Mr. R. J. (Rudi) Friedmann recently celebrated his 70th birthday. He started his Jewish activities in Berlin, where he was circulation manager of the "Juedische Rundschau" from 1933 onwards. In this country, which he reached shortly before the outbreak of war, he became assistant director of the Jewish National Fund and director of its Functions Department from its inception in 1946. He organised the "Blue and White Balls", engaging well-known artistes, enlisting the patronage of leading Jewish personalities, preparing souvenir brochures and securing further proceeds by the sale of tickets. He also created the JNF Youth commissions and promoted Golf and Bridge Tournaments and Film, Theatre and Sport galas. By his enthusiasm and administrative ability he raised large funds for the Zionist cause. In 1970 he retired to live in Switzerland. Rudi Friedmann joined the AJR immediately after its foundation and has been a member of its Board for many years. We extend our cordial birthday greetings to him.

ALFRED WEICHELBAUM AT 60

Director of the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der Juden in Deutschland, Alfred Weichselbaum has attained the age of 60. A native of Frankfurt a.M., he managed for a time to live in illegality under the Nazi regime, but was captured and sent to Auschwitz. Returning to Frankfurt after the war, he busied himself in reinstating the former Jewish community of the city and in providing assistance for the survivors of the concentration camps. For the last seven years Alfred Weichselbaum has been a council member of the Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN HELPED

The Immanuel Children's Choir from Berlin has been giving performances in Israel in aid of handicapped Israeli children. The Immanuel Choir is unique in Germany, because it actually includes mentally handicapped children among its members.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge: any voluntary donations would, however, be appreciated. Texts should be sent in by 15th of the month.

Birthdays

Tobert:—Mr. A. Tobert (Tobinski), of 8 Honister Close, Stanmore, Middlesex, celebrated his 80th birthday on 30 December.

Thanks for Congratulations

Salzberger:—I am so overwhelmed by all the letters, flowers and kindness I have received on the occasion of my 90th birthday, that I find it impossible to thank everyone personally, as I would have loved to do. So I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all who have contributed to give me such an enjoyable time. Charlotte N. Salzberger.

Deaths

Seidler:—David Seidler, of 5 Yorath Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff, died suddenly on 22 November. Dearly loved and sadly missed by his loving wife, daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Tilsiter:—Kathe Tilsiter passed away 6 December. Deeply mourned by Johnny, Trixy, Simon and Andrew.

Travers:—John W. Travers, aged 83, died 8 December 1982. Retired Skirt Manufacturer. Sadly missed by his wife Lily Travers.

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ARNOLD ZWEIG BIOGRAPHIE. Ich arbeite an einer Biographie von Arnold Zweig und bin an Briefen des Dichters, persoenlichen Erinnerungen an ihn und unveroeffentlichten Angaben ueber seinen Lebens- und Schaffungsweg interessiert. Bitte Mitteilungen an das Leo Baeck Institut, P.O.B. 8298, 91082 Jerusalem, fuer Dr. Arie Wolf zu senden.

Situations Vacant

WE WOULD WELCOME hearing from more ladies who would be willing to shop and cook for an elderly person in their neighbourhood on a temporary or permanent basis. Current rate of pay £2.20 per hour. Please ring Mrs. Matus 01-624 4449, AJR Employment, for Appointment.

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MAX BORN AND JAMES FRANCK HONOURED

To mark the centenaries of the birth of the physicists Max Born and James Franck, an exhibition was held in the West Berlin State Library. In her opening address Dr. Hildegard Hamm-Bruecher, until recently Minister of State in the Bonn Foreign Office and herself a scientist, recalled that both men were originally entirely non-political. Yet, after having realised the danger of nuclear physics, they came to the conclusion that science and politics were two spheres which could not be separated. Born and Franck, who were close personal friends, had much in common. They descended from Jewish families, were laureates of the Nobel Prize for physics, taught in Berlin and Goettingen and were forced to emigrate when the Nazis came to power. Both died in Goettingen, Born in 1970 after his final return to Germany and Franck in 1964 on a visit to that town. The exhibits include books, periodicals, articles, paintings and photos. In the name of the Born and Franck families Professor Gustav Born (London) who at last year's General Meeting gave an illuminating address to the AJR members, spoke at the opening function.

The exhibition will later be shown in other German towns and, from June to September 1983, in the London Science Museum. E.G.L.

WEHRMACHT OFFICER SAVED JEWS

Amongst four people honoured by the State of Israel for their bravery in rescuing Jews from Nazi oppression, Dr. Alfred Battel had already died in 1952. His story, however, did not come to light until a war crimes trial in 1963. During the war, in 1942, Dr. Battel was a lieutenant in the Wehrmacht in Przemysl and acting as adjutant to the garrison commander. Hearing that an SS unit was about to scour the local ghetto for Jews and send them to the extermination camps, Lt. Battel stationed men on the only road to the ghetto with orders to turn back the SS men, if necessary by threatening to fire on them. That same day he sent an army lorry to remove 80 or 100 Jews from the ghetto and bring them to the relative safety of the army barracks. This action, taken solely on the junior officer's own responsibility, did not escape punishment, even though he had been a Nazi Party member since 1933. The SS reported him and he was sent to the Eastern front, discharged from the Wehrmacht on the pretext of ill-health and finally forced to join the Volkssturm, where he was eventually captured by the Russians. Dr. Battel's son Peter received the Yad Vashem medal on behalf of his late father from the Israeli ambassador to West Germany.

FOREIGN COMPENSATION (CZECHOSLOVAKIA) ORDER 1982

Under (1) of the brief outline of the above-mentioned Order, published in the December 1982 issue of *AJR Information*, it is pointed out that claims may be made by persons who at the time of the deprivation of property by Czechoslovak measures were owners of that property. It should be borne in mind here that according to the Order any transfer of property in a part of Czechoslovakia under German occupation between 1 October 1938 and 9 May 1945 shall be deemed for the purposes of the Order to have been null and void if it was effected under fraud or duress or without the consent of the person to whom the property belonged at the date of such transfer. The same applies to transfers of this nature in a part of Czechoslovakia under Hungarian occupation between 6 November 1938 and 9 May 1945.

Therefore, if a Jew was forced to sell property situated in Czechoslovakia and if that property, consequently, at the time when it was affected by Czechoslovak measures of deprivation, was held in the name of the purchaser, this does not invalidate the original Jewish owner's right to pursue a claim under the above-mentioned Order.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

Israel. The problem of playing music by certain German composers on Israeli Radio remains largely unresolved. Whilst Wagner operas can still not be publicly performed, there had been many voices in favour of including Richard Strauss's works in musical programmes as it had been proved that the composer's relations with the Nazi authorities had been far from cordial. However, after renewed protests by a section of the public, Richard Strauss's operas and symphonic tone poems remain banned for the time being.

Vienna. A matinee honouring the centenary of the birth of *Max Mell*, the Austrian author, was held in Vienna; readings from his works were given by Paula Wessely and Hans Thimig. In a revue show, starring Catarina Valente and networked by Austrian Television, a solo performance by 83 year old Rudolf Carl, earned a justified ovation. Carl, a most popular comedian, became the successor to Hans Moser in many operettas as the so-called "saviour of the third act", and still makes an occasional appearance. A return by Wolfgang Liebeneiner to Vienna's "Josefstadt" reminded the older generation that this artist was first seen in the "Liebele" film of 1932; he later switched to directing and producing films. Married to actress Hilde Krahl, Liebeneiner, at 76, is still in the business. One of his latest films, a Munich Television production, is "The Garden", in

which Elisabeth Bergner and Gert Froebe took part.

Jud Suess. Feuchtwanger's book, made into a film by notorious Veit Harlan in 1940, starring Kristine Soederbaum and Ferdinand Marian, was approved by the Nazi propaganda ministry to foster Jew-baiting, hate and atrocities. Feuchtwanger's widow has now given permission for a remake for the small screen in collaboration with British and French Television.

Birthday. *Valerie von Martens*, Lienz-born daughter of an Austrian admiral, widow of author and playwright Kurt Goetz, was the subject of 80th birthday congratulations. Although mainly acting in her husband's plays ("Hokuspokus", "Ingeborg", "Dr. Med. Hiob Praetorius") Valerie von Martens, who now lives in Switzerland, is an excellent actress in her own right. This was recently proved on German Television when a playlet, recorded some five years ago, "Herbst", earned her universal acclaim once again. In this lively production she was partnered by the late and unforgotten Theo Lingens. S.B.

INFLATION AFFECTS STAMPS

Inflation rates in Israel are so high, and the postage rates change so often in consequence, that the Government has issued special stamps which do not show any price-mark. Instead the stamps are marked "Valid for a normal letter".

CITY'S PICTURES AT THE BARBICAN

It is only fitting that the Barbican Art Gallery should now be able to show the City's art treasures (exhibition open until 23 January 1983). It is 42 years since the Guildhall Art Gallery was destroyed by enemy action and it has not yet been replaced, although designs have been prepared, because of restrictions on local government expenditure.

The City's collection of works of art has a long history, its first works having been commissioned as long ago as 1670. Over the years it has been built up into a very important collection by gift and purchase, mainly comprising portraits and scenes of London. Amongst its benefactors an important role was played by Sir David Salomons, the first Jewish Lord Mayor of London, who presented 69 drawings by E. W. Cooke in 1870. The Joseph family with their City connections were also important benefactors. On 30 June 1943 Sir Winston Churchill received the Freedom of the City in the presence of Sir Samuel Joseph, then Lord Mayor. This historic occasion is recorded in a fine picture by O. Salisbury which was presented to the Corporation by Lady Joseph and Sir Keith Joseph.

The exhibition covers many periods, styles and media. It includes works by Dürer and Rembrandt, Turner and the great Victorians, as well as a representative collection of works by the Pre-Raphaelites and their followers. There are more than 200 pictures on show, including a watercolour by Feliks Topolski and a magnificent oil "Lady with a Rose" by Sir Matthew Smith. ALICE SCHWAB

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