

AJR INFORMATION

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C. C. Aronsfeld

COMING TO LONDON

First Impressions Recollected

For me, the half-century turning point brings back memories of my first encounter with what was to become my new homeland. I came early, lost nothing more than a claim to Restitution, and I certainly did not foresee what that might mean. Nor did I care. I simply found it, quite literally, impossible to breathe the air of Germany—everything seemed unclean, untouchable, I felt positively choked as if about to be asphyxiated, and I knew I would not live if I stayed on—though how literally true this was did not then even dawn on me.

I had been warned not to mention politics when I landed. So when asked, somewhat gruffly, what I had come for, I said I wanted to improve my English (which was also true and has remained unfinished business). Strangely enough (or so I thought) the answer did not satisfy the Immigration Officer. He looked at me sternly and as if he had at last debunked a typically undesirable alien, he asked: What did I mean? Did I think they did not know what was going on in Germany?

I was vaguely glad to hear he knew but if he did (it occurred to me later), might he not have been a little less forbidding? After grave deliberations with colleagues, he kindly admitted me on one month's probation and of course without the right to enter "any employment paid or unpaid".

I arrived at Liverpool Street Station, and I still see the dreary, ill-lit platform lined by sturdy young men all wearing a white armlet with the Magen David, ready to take care of the homeless. It was a pathetic sight that profoundly stirred me, even to tears. It was like an eagerly longed-for balm, and hope, however faint, seemed to be rising over the cruelties and infamies that were fiercely burning in my mind.

I registered with the Jewish Refugees Committee (No. 562). Here was a stage on which many a drama was played out, tragedy and farce, and the décor was a map of the world such as once inspired a caller to enquire: Is this all you have to offer?

The Committee was to provide advice and assistance. Its top priority, due to widespread unemployment, was an urgent concern that we should be no charge on the economy. The best advice therefore that they could offer was to prepare for further travel, and no effort was spared to assist those who might wish to see the attractions of other parts of the world.

One morning eight of us were summoned to

received the news that the Hebrew congregation of Nairobi had asked for young people to serve as overseers of black labour on some coffee plantations about 54 miles outside the city. We were urged to accept the unusual, challenging, indeed, we were assured, "ideal" offer, and some at least began, if only for lack of other occupation, to tackle basic Swahili. Eventually only one took the plunge, and after a few weeks he reported the very friendly welcome he had found, praising the public spirit of Nairobi's Jewry, whom he had quite wrongly suspected of searching for eligible sons-in-law.

Gradually we endeavoured to organise ourselves. We met regularly in the atmosphere of a spiritual doss-house, hatching more or less naive ideas which we hoped the Committee would take note of. Since the recently launched Central British Fund for German Jewry had already raised as much as £150,000, it occurred to us that some of the money might be used to buy from H.M.

(continued overleaf)

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COMING TO LONDON

Government a small territory, anywhere in the British Empire, where we could form something like a workers' settlement. It was an absurd idea and must appear so not only in retrospect, though to us, at the time, it seemed perfectly within reason. We might have pondered the remark of an Arab leader that had then been reported about the Jews buying land in Palestine. "It is not enough that they should buy their earth (he said), they must fight for it. Then and then only can they win it and hold it".

Anyway, nothing came of the harebrained scheme and more attention was fixed on Palestine. This was done mainly by the *Gruppe junger Zionisten*, directed by Dr Josef Cohn, then private secretary to Dr Weizmann. It offered a well-designed programme of regular lectures, and discussions were always on a high level, with attendances never less than 60 including sometimes very strange non-Zionist freaks, descendants of Rupert Brooke's "temperamentvoll German Jews" enduring an utterly incomprehensible "exile", also a sprinkling of Christian "non-Aryans" who felt they had been raised from the valley of dry bones.

The more social life was to be fostered in a "London Jewish Club 1933". This was the brainchild of a few people, both refugees and others, who realised the demand for a club but also the need to be discreet as they feared a suspicion could arise that a club of this kind might wish to compete with the powerful Committee. Such a suspicion, however unwarranted, would be disastrous and so the great thing was not to attract possibly undesirable attention.

Before we had moved very far, a hand was taken in our affairs by a remarkable woman who determined to help us in every way she could by way of personal initiative, care for the individual and the charity which is the companion of faith and hope. This stocky, youthful, eminently serious-minded woman, who in appearance might easily have been mistaken for an Indian student, was Emmy Buchler, daughter of the famous principal of Jews' College, and we thought the world of her.

We usually met in the (no longer extant) annexe to St John's Wood (now New London) Synagogue, and I remember the genial Rev. Gustave Prince, our neighbour, who frequently dropped in to entertain us with some of his little stories. He had been an army chaplain in France and one day a German Jewish prisoner was brought to him who promptly stood stiffly to attention and, saluting, introduced himself as "Gefreiter (corporal) Moses". Prince was a little taken aback, he said; he was familiar enough with the name of Moses but *Gefreiter* he only knew as an ingredient of *Gefreite Fish*—so what sense did that make?

While our social activities were centred in Hampstead because that was where most of the refugees lived, I lived (more cheaply) in North London, near the East End, and there I met many fellow-Jews who remembered how, 30-odd years earlier, they passed through Germany on their way from Russia. They thought that in some respects I was now in their position then, for (they said) they

were not really wanted by the German Jews whose main concern was to get them a ticket for the crossing from Hamburg to England (or America). There was occasionally an undertone of *Schadenfreude* but of course the essential historical justice of the comparison could not be denied.

Meanwhile we followed the reports from Germany and the reactions to Nazism with great intensity. The Jewish Chronicle in those months seemed to be providing new chapters for Foxe's "Chronicle of Martyrs". Even before leaving home I had read in a Berlin paper about the "Whitechapel mob" being led by what was made to appear as a particularly obnoxious "rabble rouser" called Barnett (later Lord) Janner. At the great Jewish ex-servicemen's march in Hyde Park big banners proclaimed, "In 1914 we defended freedom against the Huns, in 1933 we defend the Jews against Hitlerism". It was quite an event. But, said my landlady, "what good will it do? The English have already forgotten the war". In fairness, they had not quite forgotten. When Alfred Rosenberg, on his official visit in May 1933, had the *chutzpa* to lay a swastika-draped wreath at the Cenotaph it was promptly removed and flung into the Thames as "a protest against the desecration of our national war memorial". Hitler's effigy at Madame Tussaud's was daubed and, with notable perception, marked "Mass Murderer".

Protest Meetings

A boycott was (haphazardly) organised by the gallant (if luckless) Captain Webber; protest meetings were held, especially in the East End, and the Chief Rabbi composed a special prayer for German Jewry. Many took pleasure in contrasting the two countries—Britain's "self-assurance" which could match the Jews any time, and Germany's "inferiority complex" which clearly could not. Many too fancied Hitler was not likely to last long; this Nazi business really seemed too bad to be true. Yet there was also a feeling that what had been possible, "the land of *Killtur*", was not altogether impossible in England. This could be heard particularly in the East End which was beginning to be infested with fascist antisemitism.

I was now soon to leave London, moving up North, to Yorkshire where I stayed for a couple of years. The farewell was in some ways sad for I had made friends, among them an English civil servant whose ambition was to read *Mein Kampf* in the original, which, I am glad to say, I was able effectively to interpret for him. But the saddest parting was from my landlady's 8-year old son, a quiet boy with a mind of his own, whose dearest desire was to engage me in a round of rummy—any time of the day, preferably over breakfast. There was nothing quite like it for him, and sometimes when we had to stop because it was time to go to school, he would come back after a while, announcing he had thought better of it—he *much* preferred another game of rummy with Mr A. And no wonder, whatever the odds may have been at school, here he (nearly) always won.

SELF AID CONCERT Sunday, 13 November 1983

All of us in our daily lives will have on occasions lamented the rapid passage of time. Where does it go? Birthdays and other anniversaries come and go in relentless sequence, seemingly ever more swiftly.

It may therefore have caused little surprise that the last two issues of *AJR Information* carried announcements of the next annual Self Aid Concert when the last one is still vividly in our memories.

So let us put aside concern about the inevitable and look forward to and plan to attend the extension, by yet another link in the chain of a tradition forged over many years of holding every year this one big event of the refugee community for the benefit of the less well off among us.

This year's concert will be given by the Yehudi Menuhin School Orchestra who have chosen for us pieces classical and modern.

It will give us particular pleasure to welcome and hear the piano virtuoso Louis Kentner, who gave the very first Self Aid Concert.

We look forward to a repeat of last year's success, which was virtually a sell-out of the hall—the better to help where help is badly needed.

The date is Sunday, 13 November, the place the Queen Elizabeth Hall, where we have been so many years, the time 3 o'clock in the afternoon, which we hope will be convenient for everybody—and the interval has been extended to 30 minutes to allow plenty of opportunity for talking to friends and relatives. Please make it again the family event it has become over the years and bring as many members of your family and friends as you can.

C. T. MARX
Chairman

New President of Self Aid of Refugees

Lady Warburg has accepted an invitation to fill the office of president of Self Aid of Refugees. She thus continues the long Warburg family connexion with this charity of which her husband, the late Sir Siegmund Warburg was a founder member and for many years until his death last year the honorary chairman.

Self Aid is a registered charity founded in 1941 and actively continues to help refugees who have suffered through Nazi oppression to an extent that they are unable properly to look after themselves without such assistance. Self Aid is now administered jointly with AJR. It holds an annual charity concert for the benefit of its charges. Details of this year's concert, due to be held on Sunday, 13 November, will be found elsewhere in this issue.

A CHAT WITH YEHUDA BAUER

Relaxed, genial and forthcoming as he converses, one is not surprised to learn that Yehuda Bauer is still a member of Kibbutz Shoval, and fulfils his duties there when he is back on the land. But behind the friendly Israeli exterior is the serious scholar, the Professor of Holocaust Studies of the Institute of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the leading authority on his subject. It is a painful and a tragic subject, but a key subject of twentieth century history and a crucial one in Jewish history. As time distances from us the terrible events of the thirties and forties they do fade but seem all the more extraordinary, a cataclysmic event in general and in Jewish history. As such, they demand from us deeper efforts to understand what happened and why, and to record the facts while the people and the documents survive to tell us.

That is the task Professor Bauer has taken upon himself. Two-thirds of his students and researchers are from Israel, one-third from abroad, mostly Americans. Jewish History is not taught very satisfactorily in Israeli schools. The teachers have certainly improved over the years, but the textbooks remain woefully inadequate still presenting a narrow picture of one long vale of tears—young Israelis resist the tale of endless passive suffering—with no imaginative reconstruction of social and community life through the ages. And yet, serious young Israelis are curious about Diaspora life then and now, and from these dedicated young people he draws his hard-working students and researchers. They cast their net widely.

Professor Bauer works in close conjunction with Yad v'Shem, and they are devoting much effort to a History of German Jewry. Material is being collected on all the German Jewish communities, large and small, and they are receiving whole archives from particular German towns.

Life of German Jewry

Two recent monographs have dealt with 'The Social and Cultural Life of German Jewry 1933-38' (by Jehoiachim Kochavi) and 'Jewish Emigration from Germany after 1938' (by Ruth Zariz). Another one, on emigration before 1938, is in preparation. A very good economic historian, Avi Barkai, is writing about the 'Economic Life of German Jewry under the Nazi Regime'. Work is being done on the Judenräte and on the Rescue. There is close liaison with German historians working in the field, such as Wolfgang Scheffler and Hans Mommsen.

Eastern Europe is receiving full attention of course. A recent book, 'Armed Resistance in Poland' by S. Krakowski, has appeared in English in the U.S., and studies of Lithuanian and Latvian



Yehuda Bauer

Jewry, of Western Byelorussia, the Ukraine and Eastern Galicia and of the Partisan Movement have appeared in Hebrew.

Work is being done on Jewish Partisans in Italy, and on the Displaced Persons Camps after the war. Other projects cover The Holocaust on Film, Jewish Leadership in the Free World, The Jewish Agency and the Histadrut, Soviet Jewry (the Yevseksia and Contemporary Soviet Jewish Demography). There is a group examining Jewish Education in the Diaspora.

Professor Bauer's 'The Holocaust in Historical Perspective', which comprises four fine, thoughtful and deeply researched essays, was published here by the Sheldon Press. His 'American Jewry and the Holocaust' appeared recently in the U.S. and attracted a great deal of attention. He found, as good historians usually do, that the closer he looked at the vast array of facts and events, the more complex the picture became. He found, broadly speaking, that though American Jewish efforts were not sufficiently effective internally, a good deal was accomplished abroad through these efforts. Prof. Bauer's 'History of the Holocaust' will soon be published in America and here, by Franklin Watts.

Yehuda Bauer was himself a refugee, emigrating from Prague to Palestine in 1939 when he was twelve. He served in the Israeli commando unit, the Palmach, during the War of Independence.

He is much concerned by what he sees as a rising tide of antisemitism in the world. In the West it is an intellectual antisemitism, and can be observed in the British media to a certain extent and in the French Nouvelle Droite. It is especially evident in the Soviet bloc, where it can be quite crude, and also in the Third World. The Third World variety is particularly obvious in the United Nations, particularly in the U.N. special agencies, where it is very ugly indeed. In the Arab world it is mixed with the political quarrel with the Jewish State. Oddly enough, the PLO has tried to eliminate antisemitism from its material, though it remains ensconced in the Palestinian Covenant. The PLO hopes to subvert Israel by attracting Jews who identify with the PLO, and then support its line.

Antisemitism has been particularly evident in Egypt, especially in the press, with glorification of Nazism and references to the Protocols of Zion. Prof. Bauer is setting up an International Centre for the Study of Antisemitism to help cope with the problem by documenting and analysing it.

He is the centre of a great hive of activity producing scholarship and analysis to help us understand the recent past, and to deal knowledgeably and effectively with the problems of the present.

M.S.

WALTER MECKAUER PLAQUE TO GERMANIA JUDAICA

The first Walter Meckauer Plaque has been awarded to the Germania Judaica Library in Cologne and the Head of the Library, Dr. Jutta Bohnke-Kollwitz. The prize was established by the Walter Meckauer Circle to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Nazi 'burning of the books', and to commemorate the exiled author (1889-1966) whose books were banned by the Nazis.

The Germania Judaica Library is the most comprehensive and specialised library of its kind in Germany and has been in existence for almost 25 years. Dr. Bohnke-Kollwitz is the granddaughter of the artist Käthe Kollwitz.

On the day the award is presented in the Cologne Central Library, a Walter Meckauer exhibition will be opened on the Library premises.

CHRISTIAN ORGANIST RETIRES

After 23 years of service to the Belsize Square congregation, John Platford retired recently as organist to the synagogue. A committed Christian and a member of Christ Church, Whetford, where he plays the organ on Sundays, Mr. Platford was a deputy organist at Golders Green Crematorium when the late Rabbi Kokotek asked him to come to Belsize Square. At first he shared the work with others, but later became sole organist.

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HOME NEWS

HEINRICH STAHL HOUSE COMES OF AGE

To mark the 21st anniversary of the establishment of Heinrich Stahl House at The Bishop's Avenue, a most enjoyable garden party was held on August 28. The function attracted almost 300 visitors, mainly relatives and friends of the residents but also other AJR members who had read the announcement in AJR Information. In his welcoming words, Mr. L. Spiro, Acting Chairman of the Home's House Committee, conveyed thanks to the Matron, Miss R. Gawthorpe, her deputy, Mrs. D. Neale, and her staff as well as to the voluntary helpers for all the trouble they had taken to make the function a success. The atmosphere of the party testified to the happy spirit prevailing in the Home, and whilst it was the main object of the gathering to celebrate its birthday, it is also gratifying that the bazaar and the raffle raised about £1,000.—for the Amenity Fund.

CAMP CHILD'S STORY

A child in the concentration camps of Dachau and Bergen-Belsen, Agnes Sassoon has recently published her story under the title "Agnes: How My Spirit Survived". Mrs Sassoon, who was born in Czechoslovakia, became a journalist in later life, working both in Israel and Britain. Much of her time nowadays is spent in trying to eradicate prejudice and bring people of all religions together.

To explain why she was publishing her story now, 35 years after she was saved from the camps, Mrs. Sassoon wrote, "I want people to know we were not mindless bodies. Today's youth seems ignorant of what went on".

DUBLIN ARCHIVES PUT IN ORDER

The history of Dublin Jewry will be preserved and illustrated in a special museum to be constructed in the grounds of Terenure Synagogue. Archives of the community are at present being sorted and catalogued in Stratford College, where important discoveries about the history of Irish Jews have already been made. For example, a hitherto unknown Jewish Cabinet-Workers Trade Union of 1913 has come to light, apparently founded because of anti-Jewish feeling in the existing union. Hundreds of documents and photographs are being sorted and provide a rich fund for researchers, who are already working on the collection.

MPs BACK SOVIET JEWRY

Two Conservative MPs, Sir Bernard Braine and Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, have been elected vice-chairmen of the All-Party Parliamentary Committee for Soviet Jewry. Lord Douglas-Hamilton has also been actively involved with the parliamentary campaign on behalf of Raoul Wallenberg. It may be remembered that some years ago he wrote "Motive for a Mission", primarily dealing with Hess's flight to Britain but also largely concerned with the fate of Albrecht Haushofer.

PARAS REUNITED

A wartime paratroop officer and his driver, both wounded and taken prisoner in the Allied crossing of the Rhine in March 1945, have been reunited after an appeal by Colonel Edward Lough seeking the whereabouts of the driver, Wolf Jublitsky. Colonel (then Major) Lough advised Private Jublitsky to get rid of his papers, so that their German captors should not know he was a Jew. He also told him to give a false name, but this precaution was not taken and turned out to be unnecessary. In fact, Mr. Jublitsky did change his name in the intervening years and is now Wally Jackson of Luton. He was traced after a paragraph had appeared in the "Jewish Chronicle" and after nearly 40 years the two ex-paras could resume their interrupted conversation.

NEW LITERARY PRIZE

Although the "Jewish Chronicle's" H. H. Wingate Prize was awarded for the last time in 1982, it has at once been succeeded by a new book prize of £3,000 established by the H. H. Wingate Foundation and the Balfour Diamond Jubilee Trust. The award is yearly and to be conferred on that work published in English which best stimulates interest and awareness regarding themes of Jewish interest. The authors need not be Jewish, but should be resident in either the UK, Israel, the Commonwealth, South Africa or Pakistan. Judges for this year's prize include Professor Elie Kedourie and the Hon. Terence Prittie.

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).

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"U-BOAT DIARY" FOR WAR MUSEUM

The Imperial War Museum has received (on permanent loan) a diary kept by Max Bock. The document (*They Called Themselves 'U-boats'*) must surely be unique, for it is the diary of a German Jew living in Berlin and covering the period of the fall of the city, from April 20 to May 31, 1945. It has been translated by the writer's niece, Mrs. S. Segel of Hampstead.

Max Bock's daughter, Mrs. I. Austin of Knutsford, Cheshire, came to England as a young girl in 1939. Her parents were to have followed her, but the war supervened: they hoped then to go to Sweden, but her mother had to go into hospital, from which she was deported in 1942. During the war, Mrs. Austin received a little information about her father through the Red Cross. She found the diary amongst his personal effects after his death in 1969 and after reading it was able to fill in many blanks in her father's life history, which he was unwilling to talk about after the war.

No one knows how Max Bock managed to survive in Berlin. His papers showed that he was a Jew, yet he was working on the railways for some time. He had Gentile friends and hid in their homes during the day, while at night he rode on the Berlin underground. His daughter can only put his survival down to pure luck.

The diary opens with a forecast of the immediate downfall of Nazism and the following day's entry speaks of the sounds of Russian gunfire. Although it deals with day-to-day events, it also includes parts of Max Bock's autobiography—he was a soldier in the First World War and later an accountant in Berlin. A specialist publishing house, Ellison's Editions in Cambridgeshire, is hoping to publish it in due course. Meanwhile the Imperial War Museum is delighted with its acquisition, which will provide a fund of information for students of the period.

"CEDAR BOYS" MEET BENEFACTRESS

In 1939, thirty Jewish schoolboys from Frankfurt a.M. were welcomed by James de Rothschild and his wife Dorothy to their home at Waddesdon Manor, Bucks. The boys were lodged in a large house on the estate, called "The Cedars". In 1945, when they were aged between 12 and 20, most of them found that their families had perished and the lads began to scatter all over the world.

Some time ago, two of the "Cedar boys", Bernard Katz and Jack Hellmann, met by chance in New York and the idea of a reunion sprang up. Mrs de Rothschild is now a widow, aged 88: she had left Waddesdon after her husband died in 1957. But the present owners, the National Trust, were able to arrange for the dining-room of the Manor to be available for the gathering. Fifteen of the "boys", most of them now prosperous businessmen, came from Israel, the United States and Canada to greet their former hostess and helper.

WALLENBERG PROTÉGÉS AT BOURNEMOUTH

When a Raoul Wallenberg exhibition was opened at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Bournemouth, recently, three of the people present had personally received Swedish visas from the diplomat. Armed with these papers, they had been able to escape from the Holocaust in Hungary and are now living in England.

Werner Rosenstock

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

REALISTIC DRAWINGS

TERENCE PRITTIE'S GERMANS

Terence Prittie's latest book, *My Germans—1933–1983* (Oswald Wolff, £9.75 cloth) approaches the German "problem" not by way of an abstract analysis but by an unbiased collection of personal contacts with twelve Germans of different backgrounds. The assessments of their actions and thoughts are written in a vivid style, interspersed with apparently humorous and yet basically serious anecdotes. Prittie first got to know the Germans during the pre-war Nazi period, having spent some time with an officer's family in Freiburg in 1933 and he stayed in Munich in 1935/6.

The next stage of his "residence" in that country was less voluntary: taken prisoner in 1940, he got to know a variety of German camp officers and guards. After the war, he became Manchester Guardian correspondent in Germany, a position he held until 1963. It has always been one of his basic efforts to work for Anglo-German reconciliation and understanding. Another cause close to his heart is the fate of the State of Israel, about whose problems he has become an understanding expert.

Some of the studies in his book refer to Germans of aristocratic background, who were right-wing Conservatives but, without becoming active resistance fighters, kept aloof from the Nazi party. Yet, as he writes about one of them: "Like many Englishmen, he regarded the Jews as exotic, strange, not quite 'belonging'". "There are plenty of Englishmen and Germans", Prittie goes on, "who feel the same way even in the 1980s."

Learning the Language

One chapter deals with his teacher in German, "die Bermann", who was a Jewess. Once Prittie read out to her an essay he had written against Hitler's policy. Though herself a victim of the régime, she exclaimed furiously: "Who are you to criticise my Government and its policies?"

To express their misgivings about the Nazi regime, Prittie and his friends destroyed several Stuermerkaesten at night time, a dangerous pastime, which once led to complications; he smashed the glass with his key but could not pull it out because he felt that he was being watched. Only under great difficulties did he redeem the key the following morning.

Having made the acquaintance of Unity Mitford, he was given a "special treat" by her: she reserved a table in the café which Hitler used to frequent. "His eyes were bright, hypnotically compelling, slightly mad. I thought, may one perhaps see the Devil peering through the lattice windows..."

As a prisoner-of-war, Prittie, who had attempted no less than six escapes, was, on the whole, treated correctly and with the respect accorded to imprisoned officers. One guard even developed bonds of friendship with his charges. Yet we also meet a captain, an ardent Nazi, who was the type of a distrustful constant investigator and who always got furious when his suspicions turned out to be unfounded. In one of the camps, the Commandant authorised a clandestine check

on which officers might be Jews. They were relegated to a special room, but as a result of a protest by the Swiss Protecting Power (under the Geneva Convention) the discrimination soon came to an end.

After the war, Prittie had a chauffeur who excelled by his Berlin wit. He was also in touch with a German from East Berlin who supplied him with information, and he met an aristocratic German cousin of relatives of his who lived in Potsdam but managed to move to West Berlin with her belongings before it was too late. One of the most curious post-war stories is that of Joseph Gardener, originally a regular sergeant with the Coldstream Guards. He had served with the British Occupation Forces in Germany after the First World War, fallen in love with a German girl and, after his demobilisation, married her. He changed his name to Josef Gaertner and the couple settled in the small town of Siegburg-Muehldorf in the Rhineland. Called "der Englaender", he was very popular among his new countrymen. The occupation authorities appointed him Mayor, and later the citizens of the township entrusted him with the office of Town Clerk.

The last study is dedicated to "Herbert", his and our friend Herbert Sulzbach. His story is well known to our readers. Prittie sums up his personality with the words: "Dual loyalties are said to be hard to achieve, but he is a loyal British citizen who remained equally loyal to his German people and to German tradition; in addition, he remained loyal to his Jewish ancestry and upbringing, and German-Jewish reconciliation is a desire very close to his heart. Over and above all that, he is the best kind of European."

Describing twelve different characters, the book is at the same time an organic entity, a mine of information with pertinent and often amusing comments. It is definitely worth reading.

A MAJOR FILM PRODUCER

The film producer Artur Brauner recently celebrated his 65th birthday. Polish by birth, Brauner stepped into the world of films in 1937 as a trainee technician attached to a Persian expedition. At that time, he worked on the documentaries "The Dead Sea" and "Treasures of the Near East". Imprisoned in a concentration camp in Poland, he was able to escape and to make his way across wartime Germany. After the war, he began to work in Berlin and personally produced 10 per cent of all West Germany's film output. Titles of his works include "The Captain and his Hero", "20th July", "Teve and his Seven Daughters", "You are free, Dr. Korczak!" and "The Magician of Lublin", a version of I. B. Singer's book.

GEORGE GROSZ REMEMBERED

After ten years of discussion, Berlin has a Georg-Grosz-Platz formerly the Schlüter-Dreieck on the Kurfürstendamm. Controversial in his lifetime, the caricaturist still raises arguments in his birthplace, where he died in 1959 after returning from exile in America.

The Institute of Foreign Cultural Relations, Stuttgart and the Nationalgalerie, Berlin have organised an exhibition of realistic drawings from Germany which the Goethe Institut, London is presenting at the Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre from 17 September to 16 October. The exhibition comprises works by eight artists, Göttlicher, Grützke, Knapp, Petrick, Sorge, Sartorius, Vogelsang and Willikens, none of whom was born before 1933 and all of whom have established themselves as professional artists of repute in the Federal Republic.

The common theme of the exhibition is realistic art and the different interpretations placed upon it by the artists concerned. The works shown are not merely sketches, but large drawings on various themes with independent messages of their own.



Therapy by Peter Sorge

A catalogue with many illustrations, some in colour, is available, price £3.

For those fortunate enough to be able to visit Edinburgh during the Festival, there was a profusion of delights in the various Viennese exhibitions. The National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland showed "Vienna 1900", a mixed exhibition of important pieces, including a collection of paintings by Arnold Schoenberg. The Fine Art Society reconstructed the dazzling Scottish Room, originally designed for the Vienna Secession Exhibition in 1900, whereas the Mercury Gallery showed applied arts from the Wiener Werkstätte, 1903–1932.

SIGI TEMPLE

Sigi Temple, a Brazilian Jewish artist was born in Leipzig in 1921 and left Germany at the age of 17 for Rio de Janeiro where he became a designer for industry and later a painter. One of his recent paintings was purchased by UNESCO in the National Year of the Disabled and has been reproduced by the Brazilian authorities as a postage stamp.

Sigi Temple recently had an exhibition at the I.C.A. in London and a special private viewing of his work was held at Hamiltons' 13 Carlos Place, W1 on July 3rd. This viewing was sponsored by the Judaica Philatelic Society which itself is sponsored by the Jewish National Fund. The Society (President Abram Games OBE, RDI) promotes the collection of all stamps of any Jewish interest. Information about the Society can be obtained from Harold Poster House, Kingsbury Circle, London NW99SP. ALICE SCHWAB

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Revealing Visit

Sir,—Your readers may be interested in reading about my visit to Hamburg during the first half of May this year. My stay coincided with the 50th anniversary of the "Bücherverbrennung" on May 10, 1933—a fact of which, on my arrival, I was totally unaware. City and university had arranged lectures and exhibitions. A poster with the words "Verfolgt, Verbrannt, Verboten", showing black on white, flames over a charred human figure, was displayed on many Litfassäulen. Near the Kunsthalle, documents of the period such as a report of the event in the "Hamburger Tageblatt", the official Nazi organ, were on display.

Being a graduate of the university, I was specially drawn to revisit my academic past—to find it replaced by a very "present" campus of towering blocks, with one architectural gem, the Auditorium Maximum. The original university building had been left intact; being somewhat apart from the campus, its old fashioned, villa-like tininess does not clash with the rest. "My" department, the Literaturwissenschaftliche Seminar, is housed on the fourth floor of a 12-storey building. I had gone without a plan and introduction, but luckily met one of the professors within minutes of my arrival. This meeting was fascinating for both of us, and we continued later that day at his home.

"Der Herr Professor Doktor..." has gone. He is addressed and referred to simply as "Herr...".

On his table, I saw a copy of Kafka's *Der Prozess*, which he was going to read with some of his students that afternoon. He told me that night that they had spent the whole afternoon discussing the first sentence:

Someone must have been telling lies about Joseph K., for without having done anything wrong he was arrested one fine morning.

A prophetic sentence, if there ever was one!

The other Germany

My new professor-friend was one year old when the war ended and he regarded me with a kind of awe: meeting a live specimen of the "andere Deutschland", which he only knew from hearsay and studies. But to him, the 30s are far more than that: he feels deeply and personally involved and feels the responsibility to act, teach and educate, for he is no optimist:

"There was no family here that wasn't entangled in some way with Nazism—at least I haven't met one yet; the pressure of repression, deportations and disavowal was so great. And children often feel very precisely the repression in their parents, and the repression in the parents is to a certain extent absorbed by the children. Thus there is very likely some residue of the psychological immorality of Nazism transmitted to me against my will. I had thought it was all over. But you've met my daughter, who has to contend to quite an extent with young neo-Nazis. It seems that that chain of murderous irrationality has not yet been broken". (from a recent letter.)

I was also in time, I hope, for an "Ehrenrettung" of my old Professor—I had had nothing but kindness from that man, till 1935 when I was still enabled to pass the Staatsexamen. He was accused of having given "evidence" to the Nazi authorities

about a Jewish colleague who was subsequently sacked. I am in no position to contradict this, but, for all his studies and warm human interest, my friend had not experienced the horrifying pressures that were exerted on men like my old Professor, a good old-fashioned Liberal. And how many of us would have been prepared to be martyred—for what?

The following day I was taken to the ceremonial opening in the new Hamburger Staatsbibliothek (which is part of the campus) of a Reading Room dedicated to the study of "Exil-Literatur". At the same time, the library itself was formally rechristened as "Carl-v.-Ossietsky-Bibliothek". Ossietsky's daughter had come from Sweden and original letters from her father, written in the KZ to his family, were on display. There were speeches from the Bürgermeister, v. Dohnanyi, and the "President" of the University. (The "President" is what used to be called the Rektor, but now this is a full-time job which is advertised. A President holds this office for seven years.) The speeches were short, thoughtful and elegant—a new feature entirely. No phrases, no rhetoric. However, the President was interrupted in the middle of his speech by a group of young protesters, who objected to official "Selbstgefälligkeit", and criticised the overlong delay. Apart from the "rudeness" of interrupting the speaker the spokesman of the young people was brief, articulate and not abusive. My professor-friend, privately, tended to agree with the protesters!

I was impressed by this experience of democracy in action. Is anything like it imaginable even during the "democratic" period of the Weimar Republic? The President did not appear to be put out. He took notice of their point, they withdrew, and the ceremony continued calmly, without fuss or righteous indignation. As I said, my professor-friend is pessimistic, and who am I, as a visitor, to contradict him? And yet...

Chelholm,
Lansdown Road,
Cheltenham

GERARD CUTNER

Alyth Gardens Synagogue

Sir,—In your item 'Important Events at Alyth Gardens' (August issue), I think you should have mentioned Rabbi W. van der Zyl, whose devotion to the synagogue and labour for it over the greater part of fifty years enabled Rabbi Dow Marmur to build on his achievement and raise the synagogue to its present eminence.

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US LAWYER'S THREATS SAVED JEWS

The man who was at least in part responsible for the establishment of America's War Refugee Board in 1944 has died only a few weeks after being awarded the American Jewish Committee's Distinguished Humanitarian Award. During the Second World War, Josiah E. Du Bois jr. was working as a young lawyer in the US Treasury Department. Realising that the State Department was suppressing information about the "Final Solution" then taking place, and that it was holding up money intended for rescue organisations, Mr. Du Bois took direct action. He drew up a memorandum addressed to Secretary of State Morgenthau under the heading "The Acquiescence of the Government in the Murder of Jews". He used the threat of making his report available to the general public as a means of forcing President Roosevelt to help rescue efforts. The response was the creation of the War Refugee Board, independent of the State Department, in January 1944, a move which did lead to saving some of the persecuted Jews of Europe.

US SALE OF JEWISH TREASURES

The Leipnik Hagada, written in Altona in the years 1736-1737, was recently sold by Sotheby's in New York. The vellum manuscript, in Hebrew, Old Yiddish and Ladino, displays splendid miniatures by Joseph ben David Leipnik of Hamburg. The purchaser, who paid over £171,000 for the Hagada, was an anonymous American collector.

Other eighteenth-century items sold included a Chanukah lamp from Berlin and a pair of kiddush cups made by Georg Nicolas Bierfreund of Nuremberg. The two-day sale of Judaica was the most important ever held in the US and over £1 million changed hands.

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OBITUARIES

DR. F. H. KROCH, CBE

Dr. Falk Heinz Kroch (Manchester), who died on August 22 at the age of 79, was one of those personalities who combined outstanding achievements in their professional work with signal services to their community of origin. Born in Berlin, he went after completion of his studies into the chemical industry. In 1937, he came to this country and in the same year established Lankro Chemicals. The firm started from small beginnings and when, in 1977, it was bought by Diamond Shamrock, an American company, it had 1,250 employees.

Dr. Kroch's public services have been recognised in many ways. He was an Hon. MSc of the University of Manchester, a Fellow of the University's Institute of Science and Technology, and a Freeman of Eccles. In 1973 he was appointed CBE.

Notwithstanding his high position, Heinz Kroch struck everybody who met him as a modest and unassuming man. This also gained him the affection of his colleagues on the Board of the AJR, whose meetings he frequently attended and to whose deliberations he made constructive contributions. Yet the cause nearest to his heart was the Home for elderly refugees in Manchester, Morris Feinmann Home, which was founded by him and a small band of other public-minded refugees at a time when the funds of the heirless German-Jewish property were not yet available. His devotion to this Home is reflected in the following tribute by one of his close fellow workers.

SERVICE TO MORRIS FEINMANN HOME

From the early days of the life of the Morris Feinmann Home, located in a house on the Southside of Manchester, Heinz Kroch made it his particular interest. The Home had been set up to care for elderly and lonely Refugees from Nazi oppression; as Trustee and Honorary treasurer, he managed its slender resources with great skill. Later on, when the Home was established on its present site in Didsbury, the number of residents grew from about 20 to 70, but Heinz Kroch knew each one personally and always had time to talk to them and discuss and deal with their problems.

In the last few years he had been chairman of the Management Committee, but although declining health had caused him to take a less active role in the Home's administration, his interest in the Home and the residents never flagged for a moment.

I was privileged to be counted amongst his friends and when invited to join him and his wife Anna and other friends at their hospitable home, the conversation ranged widely over many subjects. His interests embraced music, painting, sculpture, commerce, to mention just a few, and he had a deep understanding of them and love for them.

The "Anna & Heinz Kroch Foundation" is one expression of his philanthropy. Many people are willing to give money to good causes; fewer are willing to give their time and energy to listen to the problems of others and to seek solutions for them.

We have all lost a very good friend and counselor in the passing of this remarkable man; a brilliant businessman; a man widely read, with interests in all spheres of human endeavour; but most of all a man who held out a hand to those in need.

E. R. KINGSLEY

Hon. chairman, Executive committee
Morris Feinmann Home Trust

RUDYARD KROENER

Well-known as a banker and financial adviser to the Irgun Olej Merkas Europa, Rudyard Kroener died some weeks ago in Israel. Brought up in Berlin, where he attended the Werner-Siemens-Gymnasium, he became an active "Blau-Weiss" member and left Germany for Palestine in 1925.

OLGA HALLE

A leader of German Quakers, Olga Halle has just died in Berlin at the age of 89. She and her late husband Gerhard strove throughout the Nazi period to maintain links with the Quakers in Britain and to assist their activities in Germany.

DR. ZALMAN GRINBERG

The death of Zalman Grinberg was recently announced in New York. He was 72. Shavli-born Dr. Grinberg came to prominence immediately after the liberation of the camps in 1945, when he rallied the Holocaust survivors in Germany from his headquarters in St. Ottilien, Bavaria. He established contact with the Allied occupiers and organised food distribution, teaching for displaced children and exit visas for emigrants. Later he moved to Israel and then to New York where he continued his medical practice despite ill-health.

DINA ROSENBLUETH

One of the best-known followers of the child psychologist Melanie Klein, Dina Rosenblüth died recently. She was the daughter of the Zionist leader Pinchas Rosen (born Felix Rosenblüth). She worked at the London Institute of Psychology and, in collaboration with colleagues, had written several popular books on child development. During the Second World War, Dr. Rosenblüth was associated with Anna Freud's work amongst children and, together with two other doctors, she established the first training course for children's psychotherapists.

STEPHEN S. BARBER

The death of Czech-born Stephen S. Barber was reported recently in Montreal. He was 72. Trained as a lawyer in Czechoslovakia, he joined the Free Czech Forces in Britain during the Second World War and took part in the liberation of Prague in 1945. He organised the first Jewish services in the city after liberation and worked to settle displaced persons.

Emigrating to Canada in 1954, Mr. Barber founded the Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce and a French-Canadian Friendship with Israel Society. He was also executive director of the Canadian Society of the Weizmann Institute.

SIR NIKOLAUS PEVSNER

The widely-respected architectural historian Sir Nikolaus Pevsner CBE, who died recently at the age of 81, had already built up a solid artistic reputation in Germany before coming to this country at the beginning of the Hitler regime. A native of Leipzig, he studied at the universities of Leipzig, Munich, Frankfurt and Berlin and in 1924 was appointed assistant keeper at the Dresden Gallery. Between 1929 and 1933, he lectured on art history at Göttingen University, where he became a specialist in English art. But it was in his student days in Leipzig that he first conceived the idea of recording architecture throughout England, following the example of Georg Dehio who had written five volumes on the regional buildings of Germany. In the time left available from his academic and editorial duties, which grew rapidly once he had made his mark in this country, Nikolaus Pevsner visited every county, each town and village, and then wrote one volume after another of his 47-volume "The Buildings of England", published by Penguin Books.

It is almost impossible to estimate the influence of Nikolaus Pevsner on the world of art and architecture, particularly in his adopted country. Slade Professor of Fine Art, Reith lecturer, editor of the 35-volume Pelican History of Art, chairman of the Victorian Society, member of the Historic Buildings Council—his range was immense, though even he could not deter the modern school of architecture which disfigures so many of our cities. He not only taught the English to respect their own heritage of buildings, he also delighted them with his brilliant use of language.

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QUARRELS OVER CANADIAN ANTISEMITE

For 16 years James Keegstra, teacher in the village of Eckville, Alberta, and latterly its mayor, told his pupils that the Holocaust was a legend, a gigantic lie disseminated by international Jewish conspirators. Now the question of his dismissal has grown into a Canadian scandal.

Ironically, it was not his anti-Jewish stance which provoked action against him, but his references to the IRA as a tool of Communism. This led to a complaint from a Catholic housewife. But in her petition to the authorities, she also referred to essays by her children which contained phrases like, "All Jews are cut-throats and take all they can get".

Keegstra lost his post as a teacher, but there was an immediate outcry. Out of 116 senior pupils, 94 protested against his dismissal and the Alberta Teachers' Association stood by him, providing legal assistance. The matter was hotly debated in the media as a question of "freedom of opinion". The township of Eckville called for his resignation as mayor, but then drew back: he has in fact promised not to stand for re-election in October.

One Alberta politician has defended Keegstra, declaring, "No documents that I have so far seen prove that the Jews of Germany were actually persecuted". The Prime Minister of Alberta, however, finally declared that Keegstra's teaching was a cancer in the body politic.

Seeing for Themselves

Our member Herbert Sulzbach OBE has passed on to us the following report from one of his former POW 'students' who lives in Canada:

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"Regarding the idiotic teacher in Western Canada who taught his pupils that no Jews were killed in concentration camps, there has been an interesting sequel. A citizen of the province invited pupils of that teacher to write essays on a set subject, and then, choosing the four best students, sent them at his expense to West Germany and arranged for them to see two of the camps still standing. Upon their return they appeared on television and described their impressions, which showed up the teacher for what he was."

KLARSFELD ACCUSES POPE PIUS

Already well-known for his Nazi-hunting campaigns in conjunction with his wife Beate, Maître Serge Klarsfeld came to general public notice a few months ago when he traced Klaus Barbie in Bolivia. He is also president of the Association of Sons and Daughters of Jews Deported from France. Recently he published "Vichy-Auschwitz" (Fayard, Paris), which points an accusing finger at the collaboration of the Vichy Government and its agents with the Nazis.

Based chiefly on documents preserved in the archives of the Centre de Documentation juive contemporaine and the Gestapo's Jewish Affairs Department, the 550-page book tells how Pierre Laval, Vichy's Prime Minister, offered to round up Jews who had sought refuge in the unoccupied southern zone, in order to make up the unfulfilled "quotas" of Jews in Occupied France. It also shows how the Vichy government introduced restrictions on Jews within a month of the fall of France in June 1940 and before the German authorities had exerted any pressure.

Maître Klarsfeld's work contrasts the attitude of the French Roman Catholic and Protestant clergy, who protested in support of the Jews and who in fact sometimes managed to persuade the government to amend its policies, with the failure of Pope Pius XII to intervene. Whilst Jews were being rounded up in 1942 and sent to French concentration camps to die of starvation, cold and mistreatment, Laval told a cardinal that it was up to the Pope to protest if the action were to be stopped. But the Papal Nuncio in Vichy said that Pius XII had decided on "a prudent delay and a wise reserve... for fear of measures against Jews spreading to other occupied territories". Even South American diplomats in Vichy registered their protest against the Vatican's inaction—the Holy See, they said, was "enclosing itself in silence in the face of inhumane persecution".

VATICAN ESCAPE ROUTE REVEALED

In an article appearing in "Reform Judaism", the magazine of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Charles R. Allen provides details of the help given by Vatican clergy to fleeing Nazis. The essay is largely based on a report by the American military attaché in Rome, sent to the American Secretary of State in 1947. The attaché, Vincent La Vista, himself a Catholic, lists some of those who used the "monastery escape route": Klaus Barbie, Eduard Roschman, Franz Stangl and Walter Rauff, all of whom managed to get to South America. The report also gives full names and background, even down to the telephone numbers, of 27 clergymen led by the Austrian Bishop Alois Hudal.

FATE OF THE DEAF UNDER NAZISM

Currently only one researcher is known to be studying the particular problems of the deaf victims of Nazism. He is Professor Horst Biesold of Bremen University and he recently attended a congress at the Jewish Community Centre in Los Angeles held under the auspices of the Temple Beth Solomon of the Deaf. Professor Biesold, the main speaker, told of the persecution inflicted on deaf people, both Gentile and Jew, by the Hitler regime: sufferers had to appear before "hereditary health courts" and were almost all ordered to be sterilised under the Law for Prevention of Congenitally Diseased Offspring, one of the very first laws to be promulgated under Nazism. Nearly 17,000 deaf people were sterilised—mostly "Aryan" adolescents—and 1,600 died in the concentration camps.

Another speaker, Marion Intrator, whose hand movements were interpreted to the audience, spoke of her escape after her parents and siblings had left for the United States. There was no visa for her, because she was deaf and dumb. But the director of the Berlin Jewish Institute for the Deaf promised to escape with some of his charges and in fact they were able to get to Holland a few weeks before the outbreak of war and thence to Britain. Marion lost touch with her parents until 1942, but even then she could not enter America until the war had ended, when her family managed to get her a visa as a trained agriculturalist.

Professor Biesold asked for anyone who possessed information about the persecution of deaf people to write to him at Bremen University.

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TUCHOLSKY IN DUESSELDORF

The Heinrich Heine Institute in Düsseldorf has recently held an exhibition contrasting Nazi placards with Kurt Tucholsky's work as editor of "Die Weltbühne", as humorous writer and anti-Nazi polemicist.

Erich Kaestner said of Tucholsky, "He was a short, fat Berliner who wanted to hold back catastrophe with a typewriter". The writer poured out a stream of satire, parodies and political analysis in the years before 1933. Even after Hitler's seizure of power, when Tucholsky was in Switzerland, he still regarded the dictator as a figure of fun. But three years later he was dead by his own hand.

The Heine Institute has simultaneously produced an illustrated catalogue entitled "Kurt Tucholsky und Deutschlands Marsch ins Dritte Reich".



Max Reinhardt by Dolbin

SALZBURG REMEMBERS REINHARDT

Elisabeth Bergner joined former members of the Max Reinhardt "Everyman" company at a memorial gathering for the Vienna-born impresario. This year marks the 110th anniversary of Max Reinhardt's birth. As one of the founders of the Salzburg Festival, he was fittingly remembered there by readings given by Miss Bergner, Klaus Maria Brandauer, Will Quadflieg, Walther Reyer and Ernst Schröder.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD**US BANKS ACCEPTED BOYCOTT**

Two large banks in America have been fined for repeatedly breaking the US boycott laws. In connection with sales by American firms to Dubai and other Arab states, the Bank of America and the Bank of New York handled letters of credit which included requests for certificates that the freight vessels involved were "eligible to enter" the country in question. This phrase was taken to mean that the ships had not carried goods from Israel or entered Israeli ports. The Bank of America, the largest in the country, was fined about £66,000 and the Bank of New York some £16,000.

CONNECTICUT ARSON OUTRAGE

An outbreak of antisemitic vandalism has shocked the town of West Hartford, Connecticut. Two synagogues were extensively damaged by fire in one week. In the night following the arson at Temple Emanuel Synagogue, the library of Rabbi Krupka's house was set on fire. He and his family were away, but the house was occupied by six young women attached to a nearby youth camp. Fortunately they were awakened by the smoke and no one was injured.

PARIS BOMB ENQUIRY PROGRESSES

The French investigating officer in charge of the enquiry into the grenade attack on the Goldenberg restaurant believes that substantial progress has been made. Following the assassination of Issam Satawi in Portugal, Youssef al-Awat was arrested and has now been identified as the leader of the Goldenberg attackers: it is also known that he was involved in the shooting of Shlomo Argov, the Israeli ambassador in Britain, and in the grenade attack on Rome's chief synagogue. All these murders and attempted murders took place in 1982.

FRENCH RIGHT-WINGER SENTENCED

A Paris court has sent Frederick Oriach to gaol for six months. One of the heads of the banned "Action Directe", Oriach was found to possess files listing organisations linked to Israel. Four of these bodies had suffered terrorist attacks by "Action Directe" and the jury declared that the files "could not be used otherwise than for criminal ends".

SORBONNE MAN AWARDED JASPERS PRIZE

To honour the centenary of the philosopher Karl Jaspers, the Ruperto-Carola University of Heidelberg has founded a Karl Jaspers Prize. The first recipient is the Sorbonne lecturer and philosopher Emmanuel Levinas.

FRENCH VILLAGE EARNED AWARD

Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, a village in France, proved a haven for thousands of Jews during the Second World War, when the populace gave them shelter and help. Now the village has been awarded the Roger E. Joseph Prize by the Hebrew Union College and the Jewish Institute of Religion in America. The prize money of £10,000 will help to build a local history museum, where a prominent place will be reserved for the villagers' activities during the war.

CHINESE JEWS IN POLITICAL LIFE

As in Britain, where Jewish descent is no bar to high political office, so in China: among the eleven naturalised citizens who have been appointed to the Sixth National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference are Israel Epstein, Sidney Shapiro and Ruth Weiss. All are journalists and have resided in China for many years. Mr. Epstein is of Polish-German parentage and edits "China Reconstructs"; Mr. Shapiro was a lawyer in America—married to a Chinese dramatic critic, he works with "China Pictorial"; whilst Austrian-born Ruth Weiss is an adviser to the same journal.

SINGAPORE VETERANS REMEMBER

Singapore University has undertaken a three-year project intended to portray Singapore's social history. As part of the exercise, members of the Jewish community still living in the city have been invited to speak of their experiences, which will be recorded by the University's Archives and Oral History Department. Some Jewish soldiers who served in the area during the Second World War and were imprisoned by the Japanese are also contributing their life-histories.

JEWISH RELICS IN COLOMBIA?

A Colombian paper has reported the discovery of giant stone pillars in the mountainous interior of the country, bearing inscriptions in Hebrew and apparently dating from long before the Viking journeys to the American continent. Nine years ago in the same area, a Colombian archaeologist named Santamaria found a pottery figure with Hebrew lettering. He believes it possible that voyages of exploration to America were made in ancient times from Europe.

BASLE PUBLISHER'S ENDOWMENT

An endowment by the late Bertha Cohn-Hess will provide financial help for the production of scholarly books. In the first instance intended to assist publications by the University of Basle, the foundation will also consider funding books issued by other learned institutions. Bertha Cohn-Hess, who died two years ago, was married to publisher Arthur Hess (Verlag für Recht und Gesellschaft). He died in 1937 and his widow took over the firm, which was re-established in Basle and became notable for its philosophical publications, in particular the works of Karl Jaspers.

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ISRAEL'S TECHNOLOGY

The Israeli-Scottish Information Centre recently let it be known that the security fence protecting Buckingham Palace is an Israeli product. Controlled by a microcomputer, the fence was developed by the state-owned Israel Aircraft Industries and was installed following the Fagan break-in scandal last year. The slightest brush against the fence sets off the alarm.

Israeli technology was well represented at the international fair on opto-electronics held in

Munich in July, "Laser 83". Fibronics Ltd. of Haifa showed metal-free cables which are unaffected by electro-magnetic disturbance. Ophir Optics of Jerusalem displayed measuring equipment for carbon dioxide lasers among their products.

Another Haifa firm, Industries Development Corporation, is working on a revolutionary transmission system, which uses the energy stored in a vehicle's flywheel to add power to the engine. The device is expected to save 30 per cent of fuel in heavy lorries and buses. A major American motor

company has acquired an option on the commercial application of the system.

NORDHAUSEN

Jörg Engelhardt is collecting material for a history of the Jews of Nordhausen, his native town. In view of the destruction of archives, he is anxious to hear from former residents of Nordhausen about the situation of the Jews between 1927 and 1945, and perhaps they can help direct him to archival materials that have survived. Mr. Engelhardt's address is: Boxhagener Str. 23, DDR 1034 Berlin, East Germany.

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.

Births

Fried:—Ludwig and Marianne Fried are delighted to announce the arrival of three grandchildren, a son Michael Samuel, a daughter Dina Malka and a daughter Aviva Yaël to Dr. Ronald and Claudine Fried, née Straus. Im Ettingerhof 8, CH4055 Basle, Switzerland.

Golden Wedding

Leighton:—Melvyn and Rose Leighton (née Klein), formerly Berlin, will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on 22 October. 39, Capel Gardens, Pinner, Middlesex.

Birthday

Barowitz:—Bertha Barowitz celebrates her 90th birthday on 13 October. 37, Walsingham, St. John's Wood Park, NW8.

Deaths

Allerhand:—Hedi Allerhand, of Glasgow, died suddenly and peacefully on 3 September in her 81st year. Sadly missed by her niece and nephews in New York and Geneva and her friends in Glasgow.

Borchardt:—Miriam Borchardt, née Pottlitzer, died suddenly at home on 16 August. Deeply mourned by her husband, family and friends all over the world.

Eisenstein:—Nelly Eisenstein, née Taussig, of Otto Schill House, passed away peacefully at the age of 89 on 31 July. Deeply mourned by her son Robert Evans and family, nephews, nieces and friends.

Posner:—Margot Posner (née Fruehling), beloved wife of Harry for 53 wonderful years, passed away peacefully after a long illness on 15 September. Deeply mourned by the many who loved her, including her husband Harry, daughters Ruth and Susan and their families.

Schreiber:—Lottie Schreiber (née Jungman) passed away on 5 September in Bournemouth. Sadly missed by her husband and friends.

Zweig:—Hilde Zweig died peacefully on 30 August. Sadly missed by all who knew her.

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CAN YOU HELP US with information as to the whereabouts of Marianne Frey, née Beuthen, who is presumed to have emigrated to England in 1938 or 1939? Please write to Prof. J. Walk, Leo Baeck Institute, 33, Bustanai Street, Jerusalem 93229.

DOES ANYONE KNOW of the existence of a will made by the late Mrs. Anna Wessely, who was born in Vienna and died recently at the age of 58? Box 1000.

(FOR FAMILY RESEARCH). Dr. Ernst Kallman or his descendants. Born in Mainz, practised dentistry in Frankfurt, emigrated to London. His father, Karl, born 22 July 1851 in Bingen, married and lived in Mainz, was a wine merchant, died 3 February 1917 in Mainz. Ernst's mother Mathilde, née Erlanger, was born in Ulm. His sister, also born in Mainz, emigrated to Holland. Write to Liselotte Fischer, 2316 Observatory Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90027, USA.

Müller:—Has anyone any information about Ursula Müller, born 9 September 1919, home address Bienertstrasse 43, Dresden A27, who came to England between 1936-39, lived at 51 Archers Road, Southampton, and worked at the Royal Southants Hospital. She apparently moved from there to St. Mary's Hospital, Islington. Please contact Mrs. J. C. Burkill, 2, Archway Court, Barton Road, Cambridge. CB3 9LW.

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Blackie:—Would Mr. H. S. Blackie, last known address 5, Ashton Court, 254-256, Camden Road, NW1 9HE, please contact the Membership Department.

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GIFT FOR FRANKFURT MUSEUM

When he found himself the only member of his family left alive, Siegfried Baruch felt it his duty to gather together the evidences of Jewish culture dispersed during the Nazi era. Once a teacher in Berlin, after the Second World War he headed an old age home and an orphanage, but his spare time was spent in lovingly searching out and building up a collection of silver and pewter Seder and Purim plates, Chanuka lights, spice-boxes and other examples of Jewish art.

Siegfried Baruch died in Wiesbaden in 1970 and his collection of some 70 items has been given to the Jewish Museum in Frankfurt a.M. Until the end of the current year, it will be displayed in Frankfurt's Museum of History. The Jewish Museum will ultimately be housed in the Rothschild Palace on Schaumainkai.

HEINE'S ANCESTRESS

The stone marking the grave of Sarah de Geldern, Heinrich Heine's grandmother, has been discovered in one of Düsseldorf's old graveyards. A bronze plaque with a translation of the epitaph extolling Sarah de Geldern's virtues will be set up.

NEW LIBRARY FOR BERLIN

Researchers into the "Jewish Problem", as the term was understood in the nineteenth century, now have a new source of information. The Institute for Research into Antisemitism, headed by Professor Herbert Strauss and attached to the Technical University of Berlin, has thrown open a library of well over 3000 books and pamphlets, mostly dating from the last century. The material comprising the new library was acquired just over a year ago from an archivist in Vienna.

JURIST WORKED FOR JUSTICE

Dr. Wolfgang Haussmann, former Justice Minister of Baden-Württemberg, was congratulated on his 80th birthday by President Karl Carstens, who particularly referred to Dr. Haussmann's services in the field of restitution and to his attempts to reveal unacknowledged Nazi crimes. In his book, "Verfolgung der Juristen jüdischer Abstammung durch den Nationalsozialismus", and elsewhere Dr. Haussmann stressed the necessity of pointing out to German jurists both their past guilt and their responsibility for the future.

THAELMANN'S DEATH

Following an application by the daughter of Ernst Thälmann, the Cologne Oberlandesgericht has decided that a former Buchenwald guard is liable to prosecution for his part in the murder of the Communist leader. The accused, who has not yet been named, is a former teacher aged 71 who was an SS-Oberscharführer at Buchenwald at the time of Thälmann's death. An American court sentenced him to 20 years' imprisonment after the war, but he served only 5 years of his sentence.

The Cologne court declared that it was "highly probable" that the accused man had had a direct part in the killing. It appears that, after 11 years' imprisonment, Thälmann had been brought to Buchenwald in August 1944 and there despatched by a shot in the back. The story that he had been killed in an Allied air attack was dismissed.

The immediate murderers, said the judges, were Adolf Hitler and Heinrich Himmler, who had given the order for execution. Those who had assisted by carrying out the order, with the one exception of the man in question, had all died or disappeared without trace.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

Opera News. The New York Metropolitan Opera House is 100 years old this month, having opened in 1883 with Gounod's "Faust". The autumn and winter programme of our own Royal Opera House Covent Garden will include "Otello" with *Placido Domingo* in November, and a revival of "Fledermaus" in December this year. The new Sadler's Wells Opera Company will evoke many pleasant recollections when presenting Flotow's opera "Martha" next January.

Brecht—a permanent favourite? No other author (apart from revivals of some of the classics) seems so much in vogue in German-speaking theatres, in particular in the South (Bavaria and Austria). Indeed, producers compete with each other in interpreting Brecht's works, and his partly humanistic, partly pacific, often polemical but always interesting way of thinking. Towards the end of last season one could see "Im Dickicht der Staedte" in Vienna's Akademietheater, "Schwejk im 2. Weltkrieg" at the Schauspielhaus Graz, whilst "Mutter Courage" remained in the repertoire of the Residenztheater, Munich.

Obituary. Lovers of piano music in the lighter style have regretted the death, at 73, of *Walter Landauer*, the Vienna-born pianist who for many

years, together with Marian Rawicz formed a memorable piano-duo which ended in 1970 with the death of the latter. Afterwards, performing as a solo artist, Landauer still excelled in the special artform of musical lilt, and, until recently, entertained passengers aboard the cruise liner "Canberra". It is belatedly learnt that *Joseph Wechsberg* died earlier this year at the age of 75. He was born in Ostrava, studied in Vienna, Paris and Prague, and emigrated to the United States in 1938. A gifted violinist and prolific writer of reviews, newspaper articles, record sleeve notes and books, he made his special mark with the books "Looking for a Bluebird" and "Prague the Mystical City".

Where are they now (Addendum.) When in August, members of the cast of the cabaret "Blue Danube Club" were mentioned, the list was in no way meant to be complete, as between 1940 and 1954 the ensemble changed several times and many contacts were lost. To supplement the names given (and in reply to readers' questions) we gladly report that Kate Peres and Brigitte Bender who had both joined the cast temporarily, are living in London, and that Rolf Carston who had been the show producer in succession to founder

Saltenburg, was last heard of from Toronto, Canada. Last and by no means least, Frederick Schiller who started a new career when appearing at the club in 1947, has gone from strength to strength, working on British stage, radio and television; now, at the age of 82, he still gives recitals with undiminished strength, and has become an indispensable contributor to entertainment on many occasions when performing in old people's homes and at the AJR Club. S.B.

GEORGE STONE

A prominent member of the World ORT Union, George Stone has died at the age of 73. He joined the committee of British ORT in 1956 and from 1957 to 1970 chaired the committee responsible for the British ORT concerts.

LEON MAIERSDORF

Diamond merchant Leon Maiersdorf, who died recently in Belgium at the age of 75, held vital posts in a number of Belgian Jewish charities. The Beth Maiersdorf on the Scopus campus of the Hebrew University benefited from his generous donations. During the Second World War, he served with the Free Belgian Forces in Britain. Mr. Maiersdorf had received honours both from his native Belgium and from Israel.

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