

# AJR INFORMATION

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Egon Larsen

## KURT WEILL AND HIS MUSIC

### Rise of Cantor's Son to Worldwide Fame

There is one catchy little tune that has conquered the world. Big and small bands play it, pop and jazz singers perform their own variations of it, radio stations on both sides of the Atlantic broadcast it ever so often. But not many listeners will recognize it—only those of us who grew up with it know its origin and its composer: it is the "Moritat", the barrel-organ tune ("Mack the Knife") with which the "Threepenny Opera" begins, and Kurt Weill was its creator.

Little has been written about this composer, and we have to thank Douglas Jarman, a young British musicologist, for the first and definitive Weill biography (*Kurt Weill*, Orbis Publishing, London, £12.50). It is painstakingly researched, devoted yet objective, and illustrated with many rare photographs; and there are also dozens of quotes from the composer's works which will satisfy the music-lover. Jarman must have had a hard time struggling through his Continental source material, for his German seems to be somewhat shaky as one can see from his spelling mistakes: e.g., he fancies *Umlaute* where there are none—*Hochschüle* and *Novembergruppe* appear many times.

But he has found some interesting facts about Weill's family. They came from that large Jewish community which had settled in Baden in the fourteenth century. Kurt's father moved to Dessau where he became cantor, and there the boy was born in 1900. He was brought up as an orthodox Jew, and though he abandoned his strict faith as an adult, many of his early—and last—compositions show a marked Jewish influence.

He studied under Busoni, the German-Italian composer, in Berlin, and Georg Kaiser's one-act plays "Der Protagonist" and "Der Zar lässt sich photographieren" (1924, 1927) were Weill's first operatic libretti. His association with Bert Brecht began at the same time—perhaps the most notable of those artistic relationships between a Jew and a Gentile which were so characteristic of cultural life in the Weimar Republic. They had first met as

members of the "November Group" of 1918, formed by over a hundred German artists and dedicated to the spirit of the revolution; it spawned movements like the Bauhaus and Berlin's eccentric Dadaists before petering out in the early 1920s.

On one of his visits to Kaiser's home, Weill met and fell in love with a young dancer and budding actress who called herself Lotte Lenya, the daugh-

£1 (To non-members)

ter of a Viennese coachman and a laundress. They married—yet another Jewish-Gentile alliance of artists. She got her first part in Brecht-Weill's short *Singspiel* "Mahagonny", which had its première at the Baden-Baden Festival of 1927; half of the audience applauded, the other half booed and whistled. The authors decided to extend it into a full-length opera, but other projects intervened. Ernst Robert Aufricht, who had started as an actor and joined Berthold Viertel's repertory company *Die Truppe*, bought the *Theater am Schiffbauerdamm* in Berlin with his father's money and was looking for an unconventional play for the opening. He asked Toller and Feuchtwanger, but neither of them had a piece ready. At last he met Brecht who was working on a German version of John Gay's "Beggars' Opera", which had been all the rage in London in the 1730s; Elisabeth Hauptmann, Brecht's collaborator, had suggested it to him and had translated it. Aufricht commissioned Brecht to complete it, and Brecht insisted that Weill should write the music.

(continued overleaf)

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## KURT WEILL AND HIS MUSIC

Rehearsals began only a month before the opening night, which was to be August 31st, 1928. Everything went wrong. Actors fell ill. Everybody had noisy rows with everybody else. Eventually all those involved in the "Dreigroschenoper", as the piece was to be called, agreed at least on one point: "For heaven's sake, let's call it off!" Heinrich Fischer, Aufrecht's assistant (who later, during the war, worked in the German section of the BBC at Bush House), was already preparing "Charlie's Aunt" to be put on at the Schiffbauerdamm at short notice after the, as he believed, inevitable *Durchfall*. Only Kurt Weill, says Jarman, "remained calm, quietly sitting in the middle of the pandemonium, a mocking smile on his lips". Someone called him "a coldblooded fish without artistic temperament—no outbreaks, no breakdowns".

However, everything was "all right on the night"; the play did open on time, and it was an immense success—not only in Berlin. The whole of German-speaking Central Europe fell for it. Within the short period before the Nazi regime banned it, the "Dreigroschenoper" was shown in about two hundred theatres, and within a single year there were some 42,000 performances: an all-time record.

### Ideal Score

It was, without doubt, Kurt Weill's genius that made the play into a kind of culmination of what we now call Weimar culture. He had not only created an ideally complementary score for Brecht's text but the music of a whole era. Alfred Kerr, Berlin's leading critic, described Weill's music as "magnificently simple"; but it was more than that. The tunes and rhythms he had made to measure for the play's unsophisticated characters sounded deceptively like popular cabaret songs, but the slightly out-of-focus harmonies suddenly dissolved into warm, romantic chords that touched the heart. It was the mood music of Weimar's young generation.

Although the triumph of the "Dreigroschenoper" gave Weill, as Jarman says, "financial security and popularity", both were short-lived. Brecht-Weill's subsequent works, the "Mahagonny" opera and the farcical gangster comedy "Happy End", never achieved the same success. Weill seemed to have passed his artistic climax. And the Wall Street crash of 1929 laid Germany's economy, and that of the entire Western world, in ruins. Hitler rose to power on the backs of six million unemployed.

On the day after the Reichstag fire, the funeral pyre of the Weimar Republic, Brecht left Germany. Weill and Lotte Lenya drove by car to Paris a month later. Brecht was already there, with a new subject for Weill: a ballet with songs, "The Seven Deadly Sins of the Bourgeoisie".\* The première was as early as June, 1933, in Paris. The press was not greatly impressed by the unusual format of what turned out to be the last Brecht-Weill work.

Weill began to compose the music for Franz Werfel's "Weg der Verheissung", a Biblical drama on the fate of the Jewish people throughout the centuries. Their persecution in Germany had re-awakened his religious background. The work was still unfinished when the Weills decided to



Kurt Weill

emigrate from France to the USA. In September 1935, they arrived in New York, where the Jewish drama was produced by Max Reinhardt. It got rave reviews but was a financial disaster.

From then on, Weill was mainly occupied writing film music. His best score was that for the stage and film comedy "Lady in the Dark", with lyrics by Ira Gershwin, the late George's brother. It was about the psychological problems and dreams of a fashion writer—poles apart from his Berlin works. In 1946, he reverted to Jewish synagogue music with a "Kiddush" for cantor, chorus and organ.

### Americanised

But on the whole, his attitude had become completely American. According to Lotte Lenya, he never spoke German again, and he "didn't want to have anything to do with refugees". He also seemed to be worried that people might hold his "Communist-tainted past", his collaboration with Brecht, against him. He wrote in "Life" magazine: "Although I was born in Germany, I do not consider myself a German composer . . . I am an American citizen."

He died, only 50 years old, of a heart attack. His dying words were in English.

\* A first-class recording of "The Seven Deadly Sins", conducted by Simon Rattle and sung by his wife Elise Ross, has just been issued by EMI on ASD4402.—Ed.

### SELF-AID CONCERT Yehudi Menuhin School Orchestra

There will be a double treat in store for the audience at this year's Self-Aid Concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on November 13.

There will be an opportunity to hear veteran virtuoso pianist Louis Kentner in one of Mozart's loveliest piano concertos, the one in A major, K.414. He will be supported by the Yehudi Menuhin School Orchestra.

This orchestra is the seedbed and hothouse of the virtuosos of the future, and this will be a unique opportunity to hear the most gifted soloists and players as they make their initial impact. Jin Li, of Shanghai, is a rising star who has already recorded Bach's Double Violin Concerto with Yehudi Menuhin, as the young Menuhin recorded it with Georges Enesco.

It is a very cosmopolitan orchestra which emphasises the importance of human relationships and cultivates a family atmosphere which takes into account the young artist's individuality.

While its obvious chief commitment is to the development and flowering of the gifted musician as an artist, the Yehudi Menuhin School educates the whole person on the assumption that the well-rounded individual, with a broader knowledge of all aspects of culture and the workings of society and the world around him or her will be a finer and profounder musician.

It will be our privilege and pleasure to hear them, conducted by Peter Norris, on 13 November.

### MUNICH SCHOOLMATES MEET

Two former schoolfellows met again in the Schloss Suresnes in Munich, when the Bavarian Catholic Academy honoured the 70th birthday of each of two "sons of the city". Shalom Ben-Chorin, today noted as an Israeli writer and theologian, and Hans Lamm, President of the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde München, received the gold medal "München leuchtet" and a bronze figure symbolising "Meetingpoint". The citations praised their long years of work towards Christian-Jewish understanding.

Both Shalom Ben-Chorin (then Fritz Rosenthal) and Hans Lamm attended the St. Anna School, where they produced a student magazine, instantly banned after its first appearance in 1933. They emigrated in 1935 and 1938 respectively, the one to Palestine, the other to America. In their speeches of thanks, both praised Gentile women: Hans Lamm spoke of his family's servant Babette, who never missed six o'clock Mass each morning, yet prepared the Pesach meals just as conscientiously. Shalom Ben-Chorin spoke of an "Aryan" woman who urged him to follow the dictates of his heart and emigrate to Jerusalem. He reminded his listeners of the proverb, "An angel is not recognised until after it has passed by".

### WILFRID ISRAEL'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

The fortieth anniversary of the death of Wilfrid Israel was recently recalled by surviving friends and former associates, and a biography of the London-born, Berlin-raised-and-educated German-Jewish leader who was also one of the founding fathers of the AJR, is being written by the British-born journalist Naomi Shepherd, who lives in Jerusalem.

Wilfrid Israel was in the unarmed aircraft flying from Spain to London which was shot down by Nazi fighter planes in 1943; the film actor and fellow-Jew Leslie Howard was also killed in the same crash. The Nazis thought the plane was carrying Winston Churchill back from a conference in Ottawa. Wilfrid Israel had been in Spain and Portugal trying to arrange for Jews from occupied France to emigrate to Palestine.

He was only 43 when he died. He was managing director and partner in the family textile and mail order firm founded by his great-grandfather N. Israel in 1815, and was very active in German-Jewish social welfare work even before 1933. In the pre-war years he was very much involved in helping Jewish youth to emigrate from Germany, through the Association for Child and Youth Aliyah, of which he was one of the founders in 1933. From 1939, when he emigrated, he devoted himself entirely to Jewish community work, and in Britain did much for the interned refugees. His mother Amy was the granddaughter of the British Chief Rabbi Adler. By the end of 1942 he was already thinking about how to save, help and resettle surviving continental Jews during and after the end of the war.

He was a widely-travelled, well-read, highly cultivated man of great warmth ability. He had close links with Kibbutz HaZorea (near Haifa), where his collection of oriental artefacts is well looked after in the Wilfrid Israel House. It is hoped that Naomi Shepherd's biography will put his personality and achievement in their true perspective. E.G.L.

### WEININGER PLAY IN EDINBURGH

An attempt to explore the mind of the "self-hating" Otto Weininger has been made by Yehoshua Sobol in his play "The Soul of a Jew". Weininger, a philosopher who committed suicide in 1903 at the age of 23, produced only one book, "Sex and Character", in which he denigrated both Judaism and womanhood. At the time of his death, he was a convert to Christianity.

The play was recently premiered in Haifa and aroused controversy throughout Israel, partly because of erotic scenes, but chiefly for its anti-Jewish quotations from Weininger himself. It formed part of this year's Edinburgh Festival as one facet of the 1983 Viennese theme.

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

### MRS. PARISER AT 100 IN HEINRICH STAHL HOUSE

Mrs. Hedwig Pariser, of Heinrich Stahl House, the oldest resident of the AJR old age homes, celebrated her 100th birthday on 17 August. It was a very pleasant occasion organised by the Matron, Ruth Gawthorpe. The deputy mayor of Barnet, Councillor Denis Dippel, was introduced by Mr. L. Spiro, Acting Chairman of the House Committee, in the presence of many relations of Mrs. Pariser, including her two daughters and grandchildren. There was a birthday telegram from the Queen.

### OTTO SCHIFF AFTERNOON

On Sunday, 31 July 1983 relatives and friends spent a most enjoyable afternoon at the Otto Schiff House where the matron and her staff had prepared a most delicious tea.

Residents and staff joined together to transfer everything indoors as the rain came down, but this did not mar the occasion in any way. These events are so much appreciated by the residents who love to welcome guests to their 'home'.

### OPEN DAY AT OSMOND HOUSE

Though the very hot and humid weather kept some of the usual big crowds from the Open Day at Osmond House on 17 July, there were plenty of 'old faithfuls' to make it a successful afternoon.

Bettine le Beau graced the fete with her usual charm. Jenny Halfon amazed the guests with her graphological skills. Matron, Mrs. L. A. Charlesworth, with her staff and house committee, were responsible for the preparation and smooth running of the teas and the various stalls.

The residents enjoyed themselves and everyone present was inspired by the tireless personality of Pauline Todd, who lived up to her motto: Never fear, Pauline is here.

### MEMORIAL SERVICE

The thirteenth Annual Interdenominational Memorial Service is being organised by the North West London Branches of AJEX in conjunction with the Metropolitan Area of the Royal British Legion, in memory of those who died in Prisoner of War and Concentration Camps, and will be held on Sunday, 16th October 1983 at 3 p.m. at the Prisoners' Memorial, Gladstone Park, Dollis Hill, London, N.W.2.

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### HOUSING BENEFITS— RENT AND RATE REBATES BOROUGH OF BARNET

We can now inform our readers who are residents of Barnet about clarification received from the Borough of Barnet concerning the treatment of German Compensation Annuities (Entschadigungsrenten) paid under the German Federal Compensation Act and German/Austrian Social Insurance and Public Service Pensions paid under special German or Austrian legislation for Nazi victims, in calculating their income for rent/rate rebate entitlement.

#### Monthly Compensation Annuities (Entschadigungsrenten)

These will be entirely disregarded by the Council in calculating an applicant's income for the purpose of the rebate.

#### Social Insurance Pensions

##### a. Invalidity/Disability Pensions

These are also completely disregarded.

##### b. Other Social Insurance Pensions (Old Age/Retirement/Widows)

These will be included in the calculation of the applicant's income, but there will be a disregard of £4 per week in calculating the weekly income. If, however, the pensioner also receives an Entschadigungsrente which is disregarded, there will be no further disregard of £4 p.w.

#### Public Service Pensions

These will be included in the income computation, but a similar disregard of £4 per week as in (b) above will operate.

The Director of Financial Services, Barnet, advises that claimants should give full details of the income received under special German/Austrian legislation so that it can be correctly categorised in accordance with his communication. F.E.F.

### PASSION PLAY IN ESSEX

Chigwell is to have its own Passion Play which will be put on early next year to coincide with the 1984 production in Oberammergau. But it is hoped that the Essex version will have none of the antisemitic undertones of the original. The Rector of Chigwell is writing his own script, not based on the Bavarian village's play, and he has promised to avoid offence and to appeal to all religious-minded people.

### SENIOR RAMBLING GROUP

Ramblers who enjoy the countryside in the Home Counties and are able to walk between six and fourteen miles are invited to join this group. Details from Miss Irene Gunston (229 8373) or Mr. Peter Johnson (286 8825, after 8 pm). Occasionally theatre and other outings are arranged as well.

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## HOME NEWS

### HEBREW AND YIDDISH TECHNOLOGY AIDS

Hugh Denman, a lecturer at Queen's University, Belfast, has devised a Yiddish golfball: not intended for the links, but for an electric typewriter. The "golfball", bearing embossed characters, can be fitted into IBM typewriters to enable the typist to produce professionally neat Yiddish, Hebrew (with points) or Ladino. Hebrew golfballs have been available for some time, but Mr. Denman's design includes several additional symbols.

Another academic, Dr. M. West of Salford University, has produced programs for BBC microcomputers (widely used in schools) with the aim of teaching Hebrew. The computer trains users in the Hebrew alphabet, vocabulary, some songs and the final program turns the keyboard into a Hebrew typewriter! Although the programs are not yet quite perfect, the idea of "Beebrew" has been welcomed.

### ROMANIAN VISIT FOR BRITONS

British Friends of the Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Diaspora are organising a seven-day visit to Bucharest and Jassy. The programme of events has been arranged by Chief Rabbi Rosen of Romania and it is hoped to show the tourists something of the lives of present-day Romanian Jews.

### BRISTOL SYNAGOGUE RESTORED

Thirty years ago "planning blight" struck at Bristol's century-old synagogue when it was learned that Bristol University might exercise a compulsory purchase order on the site. Already in poor repair, the building was allowed to deteriorate to near-collapse. But in the late 1970s, with re-awakening interest in the architecture of Anglo-Jewry and a growing congregation, combined with the university's apparent withdrawal from its option to purchase, 90 families of the historic Bristol Hebrew Congregation joined in a programme of restoration, scheduled eventually to cost £60,000. A bequest received in 1980 has enabled them to complete renovation of the synagogue itself and to incorporate a large new communal hall. Next on the agenda is the restoration of the adjoining synagogue house.

### NF STIRS THE IRISH POT

The Irish problem has recently been complicated by the arrival on the scene of National Fronters. Leaflets strongly urging "Have a go at the IRA", "Chase the IRA out of the ratholes where they live and shoot and hang them", were warmly welcomed by skinheads at football matches, to such an extent that the Front thought it worthwhile to book a hall in Coleraine for a recruitment rally. Only about 150 people attended and they were addressed by Joe Pearce (recently imprisoned for his racist writings). Martin Webster, the National Front national organiser, was also present. No antisemitism was expressed at the meeting.

Coleraine has no Jewish residents. However, local people were not slow to complain to the town hall about the meeting and the local authority's hiring of the room. A spokesman admitted that, notwithstanding their practice of accepting all applicants for a letting, the town council had perhaps been "a little naive in this case".

### NO HIRING TO NATIONALISTS

Leicester City Council, who have consistently barred the British National Party from hiring any premises belonging to the city authorities, have once again confirmed that no such letting will be made. In a letter to the BNP organiser, the council gave as its reason for this action the fact that some of the party's policies are "both racist and racialist". The BNP asserts that the ban is ultra vires and threatens to take further action.

### SWASTIKA SELLING HALTED

When an army surplus store in Jewry Street, Winchester, put swastika armbands on display in its front window, angry objections from passers-by eventually led to a protest from the city's Trades Council. The shopkeeper ceased selling the swastikas and took them out of his window. He acknowledged that they might have given offence and apologised for any annoyance caused.

### 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).

### The Executive Committee and Staff of the ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES

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### JEWISH RELIEF UNIT REUNION

October 2nd of this year will see a reunion of Jewish Relief unit ex-members. The meeting will take place in London and the organisers are the CBF World Jewish Relief, Jubilee Committee, at Woburn House. Not all former members of the Jewish Relief Unit have yet been traced and the Committee would be glad to have news of them. They are also organising a commemorative display and the loan of relevant photographs and documents would be very much appreciated.

### LOSS OF CANTERBURY SYNAGOGUE

Canterbury's historic synagogue has passed into the possession of the King's School and will be used for recitals and concerts. An adjoining mikva has already been converted into a music studio.

The synagogue was opened in 1847 by Sir Moses Montefiore, but about 1930 it was sold to the Church Commissioners, who have since been pondering the best use for the building. Two years ago, a student at the University of Kent tried to organise a "Save the Synagogue" campaign. Although a petition achieved some 200 signatures, no funds were forthcoming.

### EDITOR HONOURED IN CATHEDRAL

Miron Grindea, MBE, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, and best known for his editorship of the international arts review "Adam", met Cardinal Hume, the new Lord Grimond and a Governor of the Bank of England in Canterbury Cathedral. The occasion was the grant to the veteran editor of an honorary doctorate of literature by the University of Kent. Lord Grimond (Chancellor of the University) invested Mr. Grindea with his degree and in response heard an address in verse on the forbidden fruit which drove the old Adam from the Garden of Literature.

### FALASHA GROUP IN BRITAIN

Falashas, the black Jews of Ethiopia, are reported to be facing great difficulties in their home country, living in conditions of starvation and prevented from practising their religion. Some 1,500 have managed to emigrate to Israel, but there is also a small group of about 50 persons living in Britain. They are working as doctors, building contractors, salesmen and so on, and are scattered throughout the country.

### LUTHER'S ANTISEMITISM REJECTED

Martin Luther's polemics against Jews have been disclaimed by the Lutheran World Federation, following its three-day conference held jointly with the International Jewish Committee for Inter-Religious Consultations. In this field, the sixteenth-century Protestant reformer's best-known work is "On the Jews and their Lies", a theme eagerly taken up by Nazi propagandists, including Alfred Rosenberg. The Lutheran Federation expressed deep regret that Luther had been exploited to justify antisemitism and that his writings had so easily lent themselves to such abuse. Representatives of the American Jewish Committee, the World Jewish Congress, Tel Aviv University and the Hebrew University were present at the conference among many others. Rabbi Kelman of the WJC said that the occasion represented a historic meeting-point and he laid particular emphasis on the joint communiqué which specifically repudiated "any organised proselytising of each other".

## WILLIAM GUTTMANN AT EIGHTY

The distinguished journalist William Guttman will be 80 on September 25. Looking decades younger than his fourscore years, and as lively in mind as he ever was, he has had an unusual knack for being on the spot when great historical turning points take place. Even his place of birth, Gleiwitz in Upper Silesia, turned out eventually to be the place where the Second World War started, with the Nazis' faked attack on the radio station, which gave them their excuse for declaring war on Poland.

Many of Europe's festering ills could be closely observed from Gleiwitz. It was under French occupation after the First World War, the Freikorps threatened the Poles and the Poles rose up, which in turn fuelled the German fears that fed early Nazi propaganda.

At the time of the great inflation the young Guttman was in Freiburg and Munich. That experience was later to serve as the raw material for his famous 1973 television programme 'The Year Money Went Mad', which was also the source of his book entitled 'The Great Inflation'.

In 1923 he was sharing digs in Munich with his brother Erich (later the well-known psychiatrist) and studying law, when, emerging from a performance of 'Fidelio', he heard a great commotion which turned out to be the Hitler putsch. Both he and his brother felt that if Hitler had succeeded, they would pack their bags and leave Germany. When the putsch was suppressed, they thought the Nazi danger had passed.

He took his law degree and practised as a Rechtsanwalt from 1929-33. When Hitler seized power, he emigrated to Italy, where he lived in Genoa and was awarded a doctorate in law within a year with a thesis comparing the law on illegitimacy in Italy and Germany. He gave a course at the University of Genoa and helped Italian students with their German law and language.

When Italy passed its antisemitic legislation in September 1938, his brother Erich helped him to come to Britain under the aegis of the Society for the Protection of Learning. He was lucky to meet David Astor early in 1939. Astor was interested in broadcasting to Germany and Italy, and had Guttman operate a private monitoring service when the BBC started broadcasting in German and Italian. He also worked on the King-Hall Newsletter. He was interned for six months first in Huyton, then on the Isle of Man, but regards the whole internment episode as a remarkable chapter in British history, since the government, after making a silly mistake, responded to public pressure, in time of war, to set it right.

He also took a British law degree, thus having legal qualifications in three countries—Germany, Italy and Britain.

At the beginning of 1943 William Guttman joined the Observer. He started a cuttings library, wrote for the paper and helped to research many stories and articles. He also contributed to the Observer Foreign News Service, which was syndicated all over the world. He continued on the Observer staff until retiring in 1969.

William Guttman's retirement has not been an idle one. He still writes for the Observer (and, as a member, for AJR Information). His warmth, humour and kindness are familiar to all who know him. We wish him and his wife many happy returns and long, fruitful years of good health and contentment.

## JEWISH NUN PORTRAYED

Although Edith Stein was born to Jewish parents, she was converted as a result of her philosophical researches and became a Carmelite nun. Escaping to Holland in 1933, she was captured when the Germans occupied the country and sent to Auschwitz, where she was murdered. In her memory, a postage stamp bearing her portrait has been issued by the West German authorities.

## LUCIEN PISARRO (1863-1944)

The exhibition of paintings by Lucien Pisarro at Anthony d'Offay, 9 & 23 Dering Street, W1 during July and August has once again given us an opportunity to appreciate the importance of this artist's work in modern British art. Most of the pictures exhibited have not been seen in public for many years.

Looking at this first-rate collection, it was impossible not to recall the artist's famous father from whom he derived so much. Camille Pisarro (1830-1903) was born on the island of St Thomas, then part of the Danish West Indies where Jews had been living since its official settlement in 1665. His parents were merchants and the boy was to enter the family business. At the age of 12 he was sent to France, ostensibly to learn the trade, but he devoted his time to his passionate desire which was to become an artist. After 6 years he returned to St Thomas where he worked in the business, but spent most of his time painting. At length his father relented and accepted the inevitable. In 1855 Camille returned to Paris, eventually to become the "father of French Impressionism".

Lucien first came to England in 1870 on a visit with his father. He settled here in 1893, founding the famous Eragny Press, named after the Pisarro home in Normandy. In England Lucien married Esther, eldest daughter of Jacob Levi Samuel Bensusan (1846-1917), an ostrich-feather merchant in the City of London. He was a member of an old Sephardi family and his real ambition was to have become a rabbi. Esther and Lucien established a home in a beautiful Georgian house in Stamford Brook, West London and their life there is charmingly described in "Recollections of Lucien Pisarro in his Seventies" by his nephew John Bensusan-Butt. Lucien and Esther's daughter, Orovida, born at Epping in 1893, was also a very gifted artist in her own right. She died only recently.

At Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, W1 there has recently been an 85th Birthday Exhibition of works by Henry Moore. This exhibition which coincided with similar exhibitions at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the City Museum, Ljubljana, and the Tate Gallery, London, provided a magnificent display of the work of the greatest of our living sculptors. A superbly illustrated catalogue is still available at the Gallery.

On the subject of sculpture, there is a most interesting exhibition at the British Museum (open until November 1983) of the finds at Lachish, the royal city south-west of Jerusalem which was captured successively by Sennacherib and Nebuchadnezzar. Lachish features in the Amarna letters, on Assyrian reliefs and is repeatedly mentioned in the Old Testament.

## SELECTIONS

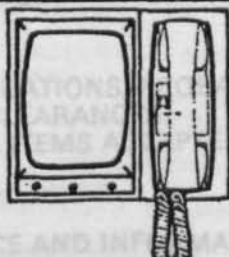
At Leinster Fine Art, 9 Hereford Road, W2 there is a mixed exhibition (5-17 September) 'Selections'—works by modern masters. Most of the works shown in this exhibition are by well-known artists, including amongst others Leonard Baskin, Erwin Blumenfeld, Henry Gotlib, Georg Grosz, Josef Herman, David Hockney, Emil Nolde and Richard Ziegler. Together they provide a striking display. Prices range from £55-£21,500.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Reichstag Fire Mystery

We are pleased to print the following comment from Lord Dacre of Glanton (the noted historian Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper), Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge, on the Reichstag Fire article we published in our May issue.

I have read John H. Kahan's article on 'The Reichstag Fire Mystery' with great interest—and also some perplexity. I have to admit that I simply do not know what to think about the Reichstag Fire, but I incline to the belief that van der Lubbe, as a communist, started it single-handed, and that the Nazis seized their chance and exploited it. The defenders of the 'orthodox' version—that the fire was organised by the Nazis—have been driven to rely on some very suspicious, and some spurious, sources, and some of their arguments seem to me desperate. I have never seen any hard evidence that the Nazis started the fire; I feel reasonably sure that Hitler and Goebbels were surprised by it; and I cannot believe that such a dangerous operation, which might so easily have gone wrong, would have been undertaken without their authority. Göring—to whom the fire is often credited—was Prime Minister of Prussia, but Goebbels was Gauleiter of Berlin, and it is inconceivable that the SA would have done the job without his authority. I find it inconceivable too that if the job were done without official support, a man like Hanussen could have been allowed to know about it.

Altogether I am sceptical about Mr Kahan. I would need confirmatory evidence about van der Lubbe's 'conversion', which is quite inconsistent with other evidence, and I find it odd that Mr Kahan has waited so long to tell his story. I have so often, in historical research, found that 'memory' has proved to be fantasy, that I am perhaps, in this matter, over-sceptical. But perhaps it would be fairer to wait till Mr Kahan's memoirs can be judged as a whole.

The Master's Lodge,  
Peterhouse, Cambridge CB2 1QY

DACRE

### Mannheim/Klaus Synagogues

Sir,—Although I corrected the statements about Mannheim synagogues made by Dr. Keller I want to send you my correction on the announcement on page 11 of the May issue of the AJR.

The Millburn, New Jersey Synagogue has one stone taken from the portal of the Mannheim Synagogue and another stone taken from the portal of the Klaus Synagogue. They were sent to my congregation at our request by the American Chaplain who was stationed in Heidelberg. He was also responsible for the transfer of the valuable library of the Klaus Synagogue to H.U.C. I believe he was helped in this by Dr. Baeck.

I do not know how parts of the library got to Geneva. But I repeat what I said at that time to Professor Baron that this whole transfer was an arbitrary action.

DR. MAX GRUENEWALD  
Leo Baeck Institute President  
New York

### Founding Rabbi Munk

Sir,—Rabbi Dr. E. Munk, the son of the well known leader of the German orthodox rabbis of Berlin, was the Founder Rabbi of the Golders Green Beth Hamedrash Congregation which has just celebrated its 50th anniversary. He served his community for over 35 years and under his guidance it developed into one of the most vibrant Kehillot in this country. Rabbi Munk died in Jerusalem, where he lived after his retirement four years ago and to honour his memory the Golders Green Beth Hamedrash Congregation has published a memorial volume. (*The Blessing of Elyahu. A volume dedicated to the Memory of Rabbi Dr. Elyahu Munk szl. Published by the Golders Green Beth Hamedrash Congregation, London.*)

It contains the Hespel given by his successor, Rabbi H. I. Feldman, a biography of Rabbi Munk which describes his devoted work for his own and for the wider Anglo-Jewish community, his efforts for the rehabilitation of survivors of the death camps where he worked as one of the first volunteers at the end of the war, some of his hitherto unpublished letters and papers. In addition there are 10 essays contributed by professionals of many spheres and from various countries, amongst them the Chief Rabbi, Sir Immanuel Jacobovits and some members of Rabbi Munk's own congregation. The book can be considered a historic document as it shows the development of a Kehilla founded by a handful of German orthodox re-

fugees in 1933 on the principles of the former communities in Berlin, Frankfurt, Leipzig, Hamburg etc. from which most of its members originated. The book is available from the Secretary of the Golders Green Beth Hamedrash Congregation, The Riding, London, N.W.11. (Tel. 455-2974 or 455-7160). Price £15.

W. NEUBERGER

### SPEER'S MEMOIRS ON TV

With its showing of "Inside the Third Reich", based on the memoirs of Albert Speer, ITV some weeks ago gave a careful record of events as seen by Hitler's architect. Speer's public confession of deliberate blindness to the suffering of persecuted human beings found a due emphasis, perhaps most neatly expressed in the sequence in an ARP shelter. With bombs falling around, his secretary sobs out, "Why are they doing this to us? We haven't done anything wrong", while Speer gazes glassily at a notice "Für Juden verboten". It was abundantly clear that atrocities went on all around him and that he continued to close his eyes to them.

The film was strong in its portrayal of the self-important bustle of Party HQ, the noisy comradeship, the arriviste intrigues. Great care was taken to present scenes based on authentic photographs of the time and the same care was extended to the cast, evidently chosen partly for their physical resemblance to the characters. Well-known posters were subtly altered so that the face on them was that of Derek Jacobi, cast as Hitler, who had clearly studied every one of the dictator's gestures, so familiar to anyone who lived through the thirties.

And yet this very care gave the aura of a posed tableau, a waxwork or pastiche. However closely Hitler's gestures and words are copied, his eminently recognisable face, carriage and undeniable dynamism remain elusive. Derek Jacobi quite simply looked too decent. We can believe that Speer was driven by overweening ambition and a desire to find a place among a future elite. What is still incomprehensible is Hitler's magnetism as exercised upon this well-educated, talented young man. Perhaps the answer lies in the young Speer's shallowness of character which, we may charitably believe, developed into something more worthwhile over the years.

When Chaplin's Great Dictator spoke, the very microphones cowered and withered before his hate-filled breath. This can be no part of a film of record: but it reveals a deeper truth than any amount of careful imitation of the outward appearance. charge, please apply to: J.L.

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### OUTSTANDING CLAIMS DOWN

Up to the end of 1982, West Germany had paid out a total of £17 billion in reparations and restitution. Over 5 million individuals had claimed against the Government and of these only 5,000 were still unsettled at the end of last year.

## ANTISEMITISM AND HOLOCAUST **OBITUARIES**

### DR. FRANCIS L. NEWMAN

Dr. Francis L. Newman, the well-known North London General Practitioner, died on 23 July. He was born in 1899 in Berlin, son of a prominent Jewish banker and brother of the late Erich Neumann, author and Jungian philosopher.

He studied Classics and chose Medicine as a career, but the 1914-18 war intervened and he served on the Russian front with his Hömer in his knapsack. On his return to Berlin he joined the Freikorps, raised to combat communist revolutionaries, and then resumed his studies in Heidelberg, Freiburg and Berlin, being active in the Kartel Convent, a student organisation which aimed to resist early Nazi influence in the universities. Subsequently he worked in the Virchow and Charité hospitals, and in 1923 obtained his M.D. summa cum laude with a thesis on the absorption of fluids of different ionic concentration and content by human tissues.

Circumstances in Germany increasingly restricted his medical work. He joined his father's firm, Paul Sauerland, and became a respected member of the banking community and of the stock exchange. In 1935, he narrowly escaped with his life when, after arrest by the Gestapo, his interrogator happened to be a comrade from the Freikorps and released him. He came to England and obtained a permit to stay on the basis of his patented invention of an unbreakable gramophone record, which was later sold to the Decca Company. He was joined by his wife and later by

his closest family, most relatives falling victim to the Holocaust.

In England he and his wife supported themselves by various projects, but he owed his opportunity to return to medicine to Dr. Harold Avery, late Physician to the Battersea General Hospital, where he worked part-time throughout the 1939-45 war as medical assistant and later as locum consultant. In 1948 he was accepted on the full medical register without examination, and started a new career as a General Practitioner in the Health Service, his own family being his first patients. He and his wife built up the practice, in his latter years with a partner, and he also joined the Council of Management and took on the medical care of patients in the Heinrich Stahl and Leo Baeck Old Age Homes.

He embodied a total view of medicine that has become old fashioned with ever increasing specialisation, identifying himself with all his patients' problems and making as great an impact beyond the scope of scientific medicine as within it. He continued his work until the age of 84 years, ceasing only when his final illness asserted itself.

Throughout 57 years of happy marriage his wife worked with him and gave devoted support, encouraging his return to medical work, helping to support the family by fashion designing, and by organising the practice. While his career arguably saw more radical medical and social change than in any previous generation, neither he nor his wife ever accepted any other than the best possible care for his patients, demanding and receiving exceptional co-operation from the consultants to whom he referred patients. He continued to be receptive to new ideas throughout his life, and read widely. He was a late survivor of a talented and cultured generation, who will be sadly missed. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

C.G.H.N.

### DR. F. NEWMAN

I remember Dr. Newman from the day he started as the medical officer of Leo Baeck House in 1958 and the Heinrich Stahl House in 1962, where he attended the residents until his retirement four years ago. His devotion to the patients made him very popular and no call ever went unanswered.

His readiness to help medically when called upon in an emergency will never be forgotten.

Margot Williams

### CLUB 1943

Meetings on Mondays at 8 p.m.  
in Hannah Karminski House,  
9 Adamson Road, NW3

- 1983
- 3 Oct. Walter Schwab, M.A.: "Anglo-Jewry in Perspective"
  - 10 Oct. Dr. Ruth v. Schulze-Gaevernitz: "Platos Weltbild. Archytas von Tarent"
  - 17 Oct. Richard Crown: "So you think you know the language?"
  - 24 Oct. J. Pesate: "Oil—A Non-Renewable Resource"
  - 31 Oct. George Jaeger, M.A., TH.L. "The Genius of Bernard Shaw"
  - 7 Nov. W. R. Powell, B.A., F.R.G.S. "1683, Vietnam and the Turks."

Strong protests have been made by Helmut Gellhaus and Werner Neukirch, leaders of the British Jewish Community and the Central Council for Jews in Germany.

### CONNIE MOND

The death of Connie Mond, a pillar of strength in Youth Aliyah, was announced recently. Serving in the British armed forces throughout the Second World War, she was a member of the first unit to enter Bergen-Belsen after the Army had relieved the camp. Then and there she decided she would help the starving survivors and joined Youth Aliyah in order to provide a passage to Palestine for the children who were left in the camps. She was a founding member of the Jewish Child's Day committee and for the rest of her life devoted her energies to the cause of Jewish youth.

### MIRIAM F. GOODMAN

A member of the well-known Swiss Erlanger family, Mrs. Miriam F. Goodman has died at the age of 84. She and her late husband (the president of Agudas Israel, GB) were extraordinarily active in the cause of refugees during the 30's and 40's. In some cases, they were able to organise escapes and they were always ready to guide refugees and organise hospitality for them on their arrival in Britain.

### RABBI AKIBA EISENBERG

Rabbi Akiba Eisenberg, for 35 years chief rabbi of Vienna, died recently at the age of 75. Born in Slovakia, Rabbi Eisenberg was a minister in Budapest when he was forced into hiding to escape the Gestapo. He managed to live underground until the end of the war and three years afterwards he was appointed to Vienna, where he had to overcome bitter wrangles in the community as well as physical attacks by neo-Nazis.

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**ANTISEMITISM AND THE HOLOCAUST**

In a lecture given at the Technical University, Berlin, Professor Herbert Strauss discussed the relationship between historical antisemitism and the Holocaust, and declared that the Holocaust could not be identified with traditional antisemitism. He pointed out that earlier anti-Jewish writings had always propagated the idea of "resettlement" or "emigration", their aim being to destroy the economic and religious bases of Jewry and so induce Jews to emigrate. This concept was at the root of the "Madagascar Plan", whereby the island would have been designated a "Jewish reservation". Yet even in 1919, there had been suggestions that large numbers of Jews should be concentrated in camps. Latent violence had always been a characteristic of antisemitism, but "annihilation was not the central theme". In this sense, the evolution of antisemitism into the Holocaust was "esoteric and peripheral".

Discussing the passivity of the population and institutions confronted with Hitler's threat to annihilate the Jews, Professor Strauss pointed to the effect of World War One atrocity propaganda. Just as people had not believed the horror stories in the war, which had later been disproved, so they took little notice of the reports concerning the persecution of Jews. This attitude was strengthened by the apparent successes of the Nazi regime both inside Germany and in the field of foreign relations. From 1937 on, there was no resistance on any important political level to the growing radicalisation of policies towards Jews. The subdivision of labour within the State apparatus meant that personal responsibility was often ab-

rogated. Energies were always directed to the attainment of an immediate end—it was no part of anyone's duty to judge the consequences.

Research into antisemitism had still to cover much ground concerning the Holocaust, said Professor Strauss. But the central question was still unanswered: "How far could organised action and institutional protest have averted the events of history?"

**"JEWS PROVOKED KRISTALLNACHT"**

Many histories of West German towns and cities which have appeared since 1945 include chapters on the former Jewish community with a sympathetic description of the persecution suffered in the Nazi years. But not in the town of Moringen, Lower Saxony. The chronicle of its thousand-year existence, says the "Frankfurter Rundschau", blames the November Pogrom of 1938 on Jewish provocation. According to Moringen's honorary archivist, in the autumn of 1938 German firms in the USA had their windows broken as a result of Jewish agitation. Several attempts were made to assassinate German representatives abroad. Since "the German people would not put up with this sort of pogrom, some radical elements, particularly the SS and SA, lost their heads and reacted with that piece of insanity which many people later dubbed 'Reichskristallnacht'". Elsewhere a young Jew is referred to in the following terms: "Willi enjoyed full acceptance in Moringen, since he was the only Jew in Moringen who worked with his hands". The town authorities are apparently unwilling to withdraw the offensive passages.

Strong protests have been made by Heinz Galinski and Werner Nachmann, leaders of the Berlin Jewish Community and the Central Council for Jews in Germany.

**CAN WAFFEN-SS PAST BE PARDONED?**

Former Chancellor Willy Brandt has criticised attacks on public figures who had joined the Waffen-SS in their youth. He said that there was no place for a "new wave of denazification"; it was sheer hypocrisy to ask men who had proved their adherence to democratic principles for justification of political errors committed at the age of 17 or 18.

Among prominent men branded by their past is the Cultural Affairs Minister of Nordrhein-Westfalen, Jürgen Girgensohn. The Düsseldorf Jewish Community has asked that he should not be appointed as representative of the Land government at a forthcoming ceremony in the Jewish community centre. Herr Girgensohn, who was aged 20 at the end of the war, had been a Bannführer in the Hitler Youth Movement before joining the Waffen-SS. The parliamentary opposition has declared that his wartime record was no longer a political issue.

Although Herr Girgensohn has rejected calls for his resignation, another public figure has announced his retirement following disclosures about his Waffen-SS record. Theo M. Loch of the WDR television station in Cologne joined the SS organisation in 1940 and rose to the rank of lieutenant before the end of the Second World War.

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Arthur Brass

## THE WEISSENSEE CEMETERY

On 6 June 1941 67,000 Jews were still registered in the Berlin Jewish Community. On 31 March 1943, after the well known so-called 63 "Transports to the East" and the 117 "old-age transports" to Theresienstadt, as well as the many deaths which had meanwhile occurred, there remained only—approximately—18,581 members of the Jewish Community in Berlin. It was the Jewish workers' duty to look after the funerals and the upkeep of the Weissensee cemetery up to the last hour of the Nazi regime. All remaining workers—with the exception of those married to non-Jewish women—had been deported between March and May 1943, together with the remaining other employees of the Jewish Community. This only left approximately twelve Jewish employees at the cemetery, with whose help the Berlin Community did its rightful duty, burying their dead. With the exception of a very few doctors, nurses and employees who had to attend to their duties in the Jewish hospital, the tiny group of Jewish cemetery employees formed the small circle of survivors in Berlin.

During the years of the Nazi persecutions the number of funerals went up tragically. There were, for instance, altogether 11,863 funerals between 1939 and 1944. Among those who were buried between 1933 and 1944 were 1,907 men and women who had committed suicide in order to avoid transportation. Apart from the burials there were also approximately 800 urns to be accommodated, which had reached the cemetery by way of the families of those who, in their last will, had stipulated their wishes for cremation. The deaths of political adversaries of the Nazi regime through torture and "special treatment" had started soon after the Nazis had come to power. Among those interred in the Jewish cemetery there were also those—after the Nuremberg laws had been proclaimed—who had been baptised or had officially left the Jewish community, because the Christian communities and municipal cemeteries had refused to have them buried there. For them too, the Jewish earth became the "Gute Ort"—their place of eternal rest.

Only with the greatest possible effort, always under the threat of deportation and "special treatment" was it possible for the small number of people left in the administration to proceed with these burials, which still amounted to 937 in the year 1943 and to 230 in the year 1944.

This small circle of Jewish cemetery workers, of whom I am the only survivor, deserves high praise from me, since I was in charge of the cemetery administration from 1938 until April 1945.

One must point out that until the last day of the Nazi regime the funerals were conducted strictly according to the rules of the Jewish religion. Among those connected with the administration of the cemetery was the deserving Martin Riesenburger, who had been working in the old people's home in the Grosse Hamburger Strasse. In April 1945 Riesenburger took over the duties of the Rabbi for the by then very small Jewish congregation in East Berlin, which he kept until his death in the year 1965. There was a large number of funerals during the years 1939 to 1945, and the simple coffins, which were made in the carpenter's workshop of the cemetery, were made according to our own tradition.

**Arthur Brass, the last survivor, tells the moving story of the workers who ran the Weissensee Jewish Cemetery in Berlin during the terrible years from 1938 to 1945.**

Even after the collapse of the Nazi regime, the Jewish funerals from both parts of Berlin took place in this cemetery, and it is still used to this day by the small Jewish community in East Berlin. The two cantors of the West Berlin Community consider it their duty to attend the funerals of those who have died in West Berlin, but wished to be buried in Weissensee instead of in the West Berlin Cemetery.

In May 1945 the Jewish community in Berlin had to begin their activities in the old administrative building in the Oranienburger Strasse in the then not-yet-divided city of Berlin. The unfortunate partition of the town in the year 1955 and the resulting consequences for the community, made it necessary to acquire the new cemetery in the Heerstrasse, near the Scholz Platz in West Berlin, which is being kept in perfect condition. The Berlin Jews, who had emigrated, remained faithful to the now over hundred-year-old cemetery in Weissensee. When they visit the town, they also visit the graves of their families buried there.

In addition to the various administrative duties of the Jewish community, connected with the cemetery a new, historic duty was added in May and June 1943. After more than 700 Jewish communities had been dissolved in Germany, all their Torah scrolls had been sent to a community building in the Elsaesser Strasse in Berlin.

One day in May or June 1943 the 583 scrolls, all in good condition, arrived at the cemetery, announced by a sudden telephone call. Neither Rechtsanwalt Henschel, who was then in charge of the community, nor the people working with him, had been previously informed of this event. After the roof of

the New Hall, which was situated at the centre of the cemetery, was hit by a fire bomb, we brought the Torah scrolls into the building next to the main entrance.

Our carpenter had meanwhile put up long wooden shelves in the cellar of the building. The scrolls, which had been damaged during the war, were carefully examined by Jewish pupils with the help of their teacher. Approximately 19 scrolls, which were no longer of any use, were then buried in the secret grave in the presence of and according to the directions of Heinz Meyer, the young Rabbi, where the scrolls have remained until the present day.

After the final collapse of the Nazi regime, the Torah scrolls which by then were still in good condition were returned to the newly-reopened synagogues and the communities in the Federal Republic and in the German Democratic Republic. Once again they served their purpose for the congregations in the newly-reopened synagogues.

In this context we must remember that Jewish gardeners continued their work within the grounds of the cemetery up to the year 1942, helped by their Christian colleagues.

The gardens and the five large greenhouses, where plants were grown in their thousands, and where Jewish gardeners, together with their Christian colleagues worked until 1942, must by no means be forgotten. They were indeed a considerable source of income for the Jewish community.

The head of the community, Direktor Heinrich Stahl, who died in Theresienstadt, and who had been held in very high esteem by all of us, visited the cemetery and the gardens every month to discuss relevant matters with members of the administration.

The horticultural importance of the cemetery gardens was such that the community decided to train approximately 40 people, mainly young, who would be able to use their botanical knowledge when it was their turn to emigrate.

Today there is nothing left of the green house buildings. The "New Hall" was demolished. Although it was in a state of semi-collapse, it could have been saved by the timely repair of the roof. Parts of the large cemetery are by now in a precarious state, which was caused by the loosening of the ancient foundations and by damage to the gravestones—all as a result of air-raids during the war.

Weeds are growing between the graves and on the paths, and have overtaken what was once the tree-nursery. By their own efforts and with the help of the State, the community in East Berlin has managed to keep the two main avenues, and especially the "row of honour", in perfect order, making it possible for visitors to use them.

But the upkeep of this large cemetery, which would be in the Jewish interest, is far beyond the means of the small, but active East Berlin community.

However, the Jewish community tries year after year, by special appeals, to attract contributions towards the upkeep of this historic place of rest.

### CAMPS INTERNMENT—P.O.W.— FORCED LABOUR—KZ

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## ARGOV UNIVERSITY CHAIRS

In honour of Shlomo Argov, the Israeli Ambassador shot last year in London, two professorial chairs for the study of Israel-Diaspora relations have been established at Bar-Ilan and the Hebrew University. Mrs. Thatcher was present at a dinner in London given to mark the inauguration of the professorships, and spoke of the gift of peace offered in response to an act of terrorism: "To brutality, we reply by giving the chance of learning and of contemplation. Long after the names of the practitioners of violence have passed into oblivion, the name will be remembered of the brave man to whom we pay tribute tonight—Shlomo Argov". In another passage, the Prime Minister said: "When lives are at risk it can be hard to stand firm, but to give in is to endanger many more lives. Israel knows that to be true: so does Britain".

## MEDAL 47 YEARS LATE

Back in 1936, the German high-jumper Gretel Bergmann was barred from the Olympic Games on racial grounds. Today she is Gretel Lambert of New York, and she has just received a medal—not the medal which should have been awarded in 1936, but the Medal of Honour given by the German Light Athletics Association. The presentation was made at the West German General Consulate in New York.

## 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

**Wetzler:**—Mr. and Mrs. H. Wetzler are pleased to announce the birth of their grandson Aron to Dr. Micheal and Mrs. Wetzler of Oxford.

### Birthdays

**Feibusch:**—Adolf Feibusch celebrated his 95th birthday on 25 June. Congratulations from his wife Paula, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. 22, Argyll Road, Westcliff-on-Sea.

**Goodfriend:**—Frederick Goodfriend, of 11, Shirehall Lane, NW4 celebrates his 80th birthday on 6 September. Congratulations from family and friends.

**Salomonson:**—Mr. Walter Salomonson will celebrate his 80th birthday on 5 October and Mrs. Paula Salomonson her 75th birthday on 3 October.

### Acknowledgement

**Pariser:**—Mrs. Hedwig Pariser wishes to express her cordial thanks to her many friends for their felicitations, flowers and presents on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

### Deaths

**Auerbach:**—My dear wife Ernestine died suddenly on the 3 February. Sadly missed by me and relatives. David Auerbach.

**Cohn:**—Dr. Erich Cohn passed away on the 26 July, aged 87. Deeply mourned by his wife and family. Sadly missed by friends and former patients.

## HE SOUGHT OUT "RIGHTEOUS"

The good deeds of many recipients of the "Righteous Gentile" medal would never have come to light had it not been for the efforts of Ignaz Jakobson. Himself a victim of persecution, Mr. Jakobson has for a number of years sought out Germans who helped to save Jews during the Third Reich period. Now he too has been honoured: he has been awarded the Service Cross of West Germany's Order of Merit in recognition of his contribution to West German-Israel understanding.

## WERNER NACHMANN DECORATED

Werner Nachmann left Germany in 1933, only to return as an officer in the French army of occupation in 1945. At once he sought to integrate himself into the new life of his former country: he renewed his German citizenship and began to build up his parents' former business in Karlsruhe. He also directed his energies to the needs of displaced Jews and former refugees, seeking to re-integrate them into the West German state. He has held many important posts in German industrial organisations, as well as becoming President of the High Council of Baden Jews and, above all, Chairman of the Board of the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

In recognition of his services, Werner

Nachmann has now received one of the Federal Republic's highest honours: the Grand Service Cross with star and sash of the order. The investiture was made in Stuttgart by Ministerpräsident Spath.

## SUCCESS FOR NEWS SERVICE

During the Lebanon war last year, the Zionist Federation established a telephone news service giving up-to-date information from Israel. In its first year of operation, it has received over 200,000 calls. Most callers were either Israelis visiting Britain, media representatives or simply ordinary Jews throughout the country.

The project director, Paul Usiskin, makes up a short bulletin from the Israeli Government's press office information and revises it each day, a fresh 3-minute bulletin going out each noon. Since Israeli papers take several days to reach England, the telephone service is often the simplest way of providing visiting Israelis with home news. But when the Middle East figures prominently in the British media, ordinary citizens and pressmen alike turn to the Zionist Federation to discover the latest position: sometimes as many as 600 calls a day are received.

Two telephone numbers are given: 01-446 3302 and 01-446 3460.

**Leven:**—Dr. Luise Leven, of Hindhead, died suddenly and peacefully on the 17 July in her 84th year. Sadly missed by her cousin Ilse Shindel, her friends and former pupils.

**Liepmann:**—Käthe Liepmann died 7 August at home at the age of 85. Daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Hugo Liepmann of Berlin. Our family historian who will be deeply missed.

**Salzberger:**—Dr. Max Salzberger, born in Breslau, only brother of the late Rabbi Georg Salzberger, died in Montevideo, Uruguay, in July, at the age of 99. He had been cared for by the daughter of his second wife.

**Steiner:**—Elsa Steiner (née Kohn), formerly Berlin/Vienna, passed away on 13 July. Deeply mourned by her sons, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends.

**Strauss:**—Robert Leopold Strauss, of 5, Westly Court, Dartmouth Avenue, London, NW2, died 18 July, aged 77.

### Tombstone Consecration

**Arje:**—The consecration of the memorial stone for the late Mr. Walter Arje will take place on Sunday, 2 October, at 2.30 p.m. at Edgwarebury Lane Cemetery.

### CLASSIFIED

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## INFORMATION REQUIRED

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**COULD MRS. LUSTIG** (father had a soda factory in Berlin) or anyone knowing her address, please contact E. Low, 21, Fernhall Drive, Redbridge, Essex. Telephone 550 6220.

**MRS. MARGOT POLLAK**, née Kaufmann, formerly Andernach a/Rhein, or anyone knowing her address, please contact Hans Loeb, 2005 Church Road, Glenside, PA 19038, USA.

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**AUSTRIA**  
**Arab Terrorist to be Deported?**

The life sentence on one of the terrorists who bombed the Seitenstettengasse synagogue in 1981, Bahij Younis, has been quashed by the Austrian Supreme Court. Younis was also sentenced for the murder of Heinz Nittel, the president of the Austria-Israel Friendship Association. The Supreme Court has ordered a retrial, but without assigning a date to the hearing, and it is commonly rumoured that the terrorist will be deported to an Arab state.

**Film on Jewish Situation**

Among the productions from all over the world shown at the recent Moscow Film Festival was the Austrian "Little Stones", directed by Lukas Stepanik. The film closely examines the social situation of Jews among a circle of professional, well-educated people in today's Vienna.

**Politician's Dilemma**

In the 1930s, the father of today's Vice-Chancellor of Austria joined the illegal Austrian Nazi Party, but was turned out when it was discovered that he was half-Jewish. The Vice-Chancellor, Norbert

Sieger, who also heads the right-wing Freedom Party, is now facing problems with the far right of his party and the disclosure that he is partly Jewish has been used to embarrass him. The far right dislike the coalition with the Socialists and are seeking every possible means to discredit the Vice-Chancellor.

**Hopes and Fears in Antisemitism Study**

According to a sociological study recently carried out by Bernd Marin in Austria, barely one-third of the population is free from any kind of prejudice concerning Jews. 24% of those questioned experience strong anti-Jewish emotions and 10% of them are still bitterly antisemitic. The remainder of the population apparently feel some prejudice concerning Jews, in some cases mildly favourable.

It appears that the personality of former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky has had some positive influence. Although often described as "the stereotype of a Jew", he is seen as "clever, industrious, cunning, strikingly successful" and, since he has used these talents in the service of Austria, he is regarded with favour by people not blinded by antisemitic feeling.

Marin believes that, since the end of the '60s, antisemitism in Austria has declined slightly. This is particularly true of educated people, who at least try to avoid blatant expressions of racial feeling, whereas the less-privileged make fewer attempts to hide their beliefs. The author describes the Austrian situation as "antisemitism without antisemites"—it might more truly be called "antisemitism without Jews". The study also shows that anti-Jewish feeling is much weaker in places where the Gentile is actually in contact with Jews—predominantly Vienna.

In a sample taken among selected groups chosen from various callings, certain definite prejudices were expressed: 26% thought that Jews were responsible for the excessive growth of capitalism, 18% would feel reluctance to shaking hands with a Jew, 35% would not marry a Jewish partner. Marin found that antisemitism was still rising steeply in groups who felt that their social status was on the decline—skilled workers and farmers—in contradistinction to people in other professions. On the whole and despite some of the negative attitudes which he found, the author believes that Austrians no longer regard Jews as natural enemies.

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# THEATRE AND CULTURE

50 years ago Musical Vienna mourned the untimely death, at 58, of soprano *Selma Kurz* whom the Viennese had taken to their hearts since she joined the opera house in 1904, remaining with the ensemble until 1927. She was born in Bielitz (Silesia), started her career in Hamburg and was called to Vienna by Gustav Mahler. One of the finest coloratura singers, married to gynaecologist Professor Halban, she dominated the operatic scene of her era, and sang at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden where it was rumoured that—possibly out of professional jealousy—Dame Nellie Melba refused to appear during the same period.

**Zürich.** *Friedrich Duerrenmatt*, Switzerland's most prominent dramatist whose plays "Romulus the Great", "The Visit", "The Physicists" and "The Meteor" have carried the author's reputation far beyond the Swiss borders, has completed a new work called "Achterloo" which will be premiered at the Zürich Schauspielhaus in October.

**Tit-Bits.** *Tom Stoppard*, the British writer of Czech origin, has written the film script for a television film dealing with Lech Walesa and the forbidden Polish trade union "Solidarity"; the film is shortly to go into production. *Oskar Werner*, internat-

ional actor and film star ("Jules et Jim") will take the part of Julius Caesar in a new production of the Shakespeare play at the Vienna Burgtheater which he will direct himself.

**Birthdays.** *Ingmar Bergman*, Swedish film director whose films are shown the world over, and can be seen at the London National Film Theatre at regular intervals, is 65 years old; *James Levine*, conductor and musical director of New York's Metropolitan Opera House since 1976, one of the youngest and busiest figures in modern opera life, conducting annually at Salzburg and Bayreuth, celebrated his 40th birthday during this summer.

**Obituary.** With the death of *Werner Egk*, the German operatic world has lost another of the relatively few contemporary opera composers. He was 82. Egk had been the subject of universal praise for his opera "Peer Gynt", musically touching and stage-effective. Augsburg-born, Egk's musical and dramatic gifts were recognized with his early opera "Die Zaubergeige"; some of his later works, "Irish Legend" and "Engagement in San Domingo", showed Stravinsky's influence and proved the sustained strength of his music.

S.B.

## LPO CONDUCTOR FOR TEL AVIV

The new conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Klaus Tennstedt, will be the only German representative at the Tel Aviv Festival in 1986, celebrating 50 years of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Top musicians from all over the world have been invited to appear at the Festival. The conductor is delighted to experience the musical life of Israel at first-hand, "only to be matched in London or New York".

Klaus Tennstedt, who comes from Merseburg and left East Germany in 1971, will keep up his links with West Germany during his 3-year term with the LPO by recording with the Berlin Philharmonic.

## AWARD FOR RADIO "SHORT"

A short programme on the lasting effects of the Holocaust, produced by Anita Davis Avital of Israel Radio, won the best documentary award at the recent New York film and radio short programmes festival. There were over 3,000 entries.

The 25-minute programme included interviews with survivors and with one of the parachutists who was dropped into Nazi-occupied Europe in the hope of rescuing Jews. Its chief focus was the way in which memories of the Holocaust still affect individuals and Israeli society as a whole.

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