

AJR INFORMATION

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Ronald Stent

HOLDING MIRROR TO NATURE

An Attempt to Define German Jewish Identity

'Sufferance is the badge of all our tribe' says Shylock. The German Jews certainly had their share of 'sufferance', of being buffeted about by the winds of change and of outrageous fortune, a sufferance which has materially contributed to making us who we are. But who are we? To find that out seems to be the purpose of a new book which has just appeared. It is called *German Jewish Refugees in England*, with the subtitle: 'The Ambiguities of Assimilation'. The author is Dr. Marion Berghahn and the publishers are Macmillan. Dr. Berghahn is a non-Jewish post-war-generation German who has the advantage of looking upon and dissecting us from, as it were, a unique outside vantage point.

She belongs to a different generation from mine and is thus steeped in the for me unfamiliar jargon of sociology, fashionable since the 1960s. Her particular buzzword is 'ethnicity' which, she says, has developed in the case of the German Jews into a significant social phenomenon. According to the dictionary, 'ethnicism' is concerned with the characteristics of a group having racial, religious, linguistic and other traits in common; the cultural traditions of a group of people. Dr. Berghahn says that 'race' in any case has to be deleted, and that it is culture, not race, which makes us different not only from the Germans and the British but also from the pukka Anglo-Jews.

But how do you define culture or 'Kultur'? Surely not in the sense in which Goering used it, nor in that of our parents' generation for which the word 'kultiviert' covered all those often only superficial appurtenances of a civilised life. It seems to me that she uses the term 'Kultur' not only to embrace a whole set of moral values and a way of life, but also to include such quirky characteristics (quirky in the British context) as what we eat (lots of what she repeats in delightful emigranto, 'aufschnitty things'); how we eat (peas shovelled, not spiked on the fork); and at what time of the

day we have our hot meal. How trite can you get?

The book contains a longish discourse on the current state of sociological research into such concepts as 'race', 'assimilation' and 'integration' and dismisses previously prevalent interpretations. This has only a tenuous connection with what I think is her purpose, namely to find out who we German Jews settled in England really are and what makes us tick.

From the outset Dr. Berghahn realised that the spectrum of refugees encompasses several generations and that what reminiscences we still nurse,

what language we speak at home, how we react to and identify with our British 'Umwelt' depends on the age at which we settled here. She divides us between those born before 1920, between 1920 and 1945, and those born after the war. I think a better, though also arbitrary and imprecise division would have been between those (a) landed here after an already settled life in Germany or Austria (a job or profession, a home, a family); (b) those who came as young adults at the threshold of a career; (c) those, though born in Germany, who had most of their education here; and (d) those born in this country.

She directs her attention to the problem of what she calls 'a redefinition of German-Jewish identity', in which problem is encapsulated an even more baffling one: just what being a Jew really means. Is it just a religion, is it a race, has it a world-wide definable cultural homogeneity, is it more than just a 'Schicksalsgemeinschaft' forged on the anvil of persecution? She quotes extensively from such writers as Gershom Scholem, Simon Dubnov, Jakob Wassermann and Hermann Cohen, but in the end does not come to any really

Continued on p. 2

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HOLDING MIRROR TO NATURE

plausible conclusion, except that she claims that the Jews in Germany never achieved a full assimilation. They developed instead, she says, an 'ethnicity' all of their own, which for those who settled here, was then faced with a further challenge to their identity by their new environment. It was much less of a problem for those thrown into the melting pot across the ocean.

She recapitulates all those well known problems which faced German Jewry after 1933: the initial shock, the purblind optimism of many, the inability to face harsh reality; the return to their religious roots for some, for others only further alienation; the impact of Zionism, until then for many only at best a cause to contribute money to; the growing economic precariousness; the inexorable tightening vice of persecution; the fragility of relationships with non-Jewish partners and friends; problems only too familiar to us, but which in a study of this nature have their place, albeit in a more condensed form, in order to evaluate the state of mind of those who settled here.

Almost half of the book consists of her general sociological theses and a description of the situation in Germany up to the point of emigration until she finally begins to tackle the real subject of the book's title, the German Jews in England, and tries to arrive at a cumulative analysis of them as an ethnic group *sui generis*. Here she relates in vignettes observations and impressions gleaned from interviews with a host of refugees. This is the type of Oral History which has become an increasingly important part of historical research. Dr. Berghahn claims to have conducted 180 interviews but what she distilled from them and included in her book is disappointing. One gathers the impression that she concentrated mainly on the "Swiss Cottage" community and being a German, directed her questions too much to their distant past.

Casting a wider net

What was really required was a much more comprehensive question-and-answer survey of our community, casting her net much wider. I hazard the guess that this would disclose more significant variations in impact, perception and integration than these truncated interviews show by covering such criteria as what language one normally speaks, what memories are still carried alive, what one's attitude is to past and present-day Germany and how one feels oneself to have become anglicised; not only from one generation to another, but also within these age groups. It might even show how many still hold their fork the Germanic way and how many nowadays dare to cut their potatoes with a knife.

So many of her interviews are dominated by trivia that they hardly show up any significant views on, or reactions to life in Britain, or to the British people, or to the attitudes to the Anglo-Jewish community, except perhaps for one common factor: to the extent that the refugees have made friends outside their own circle, these are more often non-Jewish English people than Anglo-Jews with whom they seem to have fewer common interests.

The interviewees are mentioned only by their initials, a Mr. A or a Mrs. B. It is impossible to draw any cogent conclusions from these mini-reports distilled from 180 random interviews of an unrepresentative cross-section.

The book becomes much better when she draws on her secondary sources and reports on the activities of the refugees in Great Britain, their successes in helping themselves, their impact on others, their contributions to their new home country. She pays a fulsome tribute to the AJR and to this journal in particular. She quotes from it extensively and says that it is 'generally praised by its readers for its liveliness and for "the high intellectual standard of its contributors"'. (What will she think of this one?). She also compliments it on keeping the German heritage alive by reporting regularly on political and cultural developments in Germany past and present and at the same time strengthening the links with Israel by similar reportages.

Internment and Army

In her evaluation of the degree to which over the years the refugees have integrated and identified themselves with their new home country Dr. Berghahn pays scant attention to two stages and events which undoubtedly have had a major impact on many of us. She hardly touches upon the traumatic months of 1940 and in particular on internment, which threw many youngsters suddenly into close contiguity with older Jews, as also with Jewish values, rituals and hang-ups, and led them to a fresh appreciation of the community. Even more significant were the five or six years which at a formative stage of their lives they spent as members of H.M. Forces. She ignores them almost completely. Yet what was of crucial importance for so many of them was their first real plunge into the earthier facets of British life, the camaraderie of the barrack room with members of a socio-economic class they had hitherto never met. Perhaps Dr. Berghahn's disregard can be explained by the fact that she seems to have spoken to a lot more women than men.

She claims that for the refugees the "past is fully alive" and that "nothing has been forgotten or forgiven". She is appalled by our "sweeping generalisations about the Germans", but surely her above remarks are just as sweeping. Rarely could I find in any of her portraits a simulacrum of any of my friends.

In her concluding chapter she claims that the process of assimilation is a much more complex one than historians used to think it was (I am not aware that any historian ever considered it a "straight progression" as she says), and that we have developed a new "ethnicity" which integrates both cultures in a unique way.

I suggest that there exists for us not just two cultural heritages but now also a third one, the English "Golden Treasury", which for many of us has gradually by sheer passage of time been pushing back the German one. After all, a large number of us have now lived two thirds or more of our lives on this side of the Channel.

In her concluding chapter Dr. Berghahn makes no attempt to draw together the strands and

extract from the often contradictory multiplicity of views and impressions gleaned from her interviews any common denominator suggesting some mosaic of group characteristics. Perhaps she has realised that there might after all not exist a paradigmatic German Jewish refugee in England, any more than there is a typical German, Briton or Anglo-Jew.

I doubt whether in fact we have in any meaningful sense an 'ethnicity' of our own, but it is a subject well worth a proper study in depth. Perhaps it has after all to be done by someone not haunted by the shadows of our tragic history in Germany, as Dr. Berghahn undoubtedly is. She has put a lot of empathy and sheer toil into her research, but has laid far too much emphasis on our fading German heritage and not nearly enough investigative research into the impact of British life, British people and British institutions which, I suggest, has for a majority of my categories b, c and d become the more dominating influence. I am saying this as somebody who in his youth belonged to the Vortrupp circle around Jochen Schoeps and who with him believed in a symbiosis of Prussian enlightened authoritarianism and Jewish ethical teachings, until at Speakers Corner I came face to face with British liberal democracy.

The real book about us sometimes weird, occasionally wonderful people still remains to be written.

HONOURS LIST

Among those on the Queen's Birthday Honours list were Rabbi Joseph Apfel of Leeds, a member of the AJR, and Miss Else Mayer-Lismann, both awarded the MBE. Miss Mayer-Lismann is famous for her Opera Workshop, which she founded in 1963. She is noted for her ability to inspire students as she gives advanced students of singing training in stagecraft and in mastering operatic roles in their original languages. She is also known for lectures in conjunction with operatic performances at the Glyndebourne and Edinburgh Festivals.

• "THE FACE IS FAMILIAR . . ."

When Fred Uhlman's collection of African art arrives at the Hatton Gallery, Newcastle (*AJR Information*, May 1984), it will find a familiar face. For the gallery also houses works by Kurt Schwitters, one of them a portrait of artist-author Fred Uhlman carried out while both men were interned during the Second World War.

BERLIN EXHIBITION

The Berlin Museum is showing paintings and graphic works by various Jewish artists from the Sofer Collection in its Jewish Department, 14 Lindenstrasse, 1 Berlin 61. The special exhibition will continue until September.

At a recent members' meeting, the Society for a Jewish Museum in Berlin confirmed that the previous Committee officers would continue in office, with the Chairman remaining Stadtrat Hanns-Peter Herz, and the Deputy Chairman Dr. Heinz Galinski.

G. Lowenthal

HOME NEWS

JOYFUL GATHERING AT AJR CLUB

The personal bonds between the Club members and the artists who often entertain the AJR Club were again evident at the Social Gathering on June 17. The function was at the same time a birthday celebration for Mrs. Margaret Jacoby, who recently turned 102 years young, and Mrs. Dora Segall, who has joined the ranks of the octogenarians. Mrs. Segall has decided to give up her office of Vice-Chairman, but there is every reason to expect that she will retain her close contacts with the Club. The new Vice-Chairman is Mrs. Lotte Saenger. It was the first time she was in charge of a function, and she discharged her duties in a way which made everybody aware that her heart was in it.

The team of artists consisted of Paul Blumenfeld, Johanna and Paul Lichtenstern, Frederick Schiller, Katinka Seynar (accompanied by Margaret Gibbs), Alan Milford (guitar) and last but not least, Dr. Hans Freund, who made the audience join in the singing.

After the artistic part, coffee, tea and cakes were served. It was a most enjoyable afternoon which again testified to the important role of the AJR Club within the framework of AJR activities.

PARLIAMENT HONOUR FOR MARTIN GILBERT

The fifth annual award of the All-Party Parliamentary Committee for the Release of Soviet Jewry was made this year to the historian Martin Gilbert, jointly with two refuseniks, Yul Kosharovskiy of Moscow and Aba Taratuta of Leningrad. Despite repeated applications, the two Soviet citizens have consistently been refused exit visas.

The award is designed to mark outstanding services for the release of Soviet Jewry and those honoured receive a lithograph donated by the sculptor Henry Moore and inscribed "For courage in defence of freedom".

HINDERED NOT HANDICAPPED

As well as his chairmanship of the BBC, Mr. Stuart Young holds a similar position in the Central Council for Jewish Social Service. Addressing the Jewish Welfare Board's annual meeting, he stressed the BBC's role in furthering society's "sense of gentle obligation" towards the elderly, the infirm and the disabled. He felt that "handicapped" was not always the most suitable word for disadvantaged people and that the word "hindered" would sometimes express the necessary reminder that the hindered should be helped.



György Pauk, violin virtuoso

SELF-AID CONCERT COMING UP

The Self-Aid Concert on October 21 promises to be a great treat. It features one of the country's leading string orchestras the *Divertimenti*, and an outstanding violin soloist, *György Pauk*.

The *Divertimenti* String Orchestra was established a decade ago by Emanuel Hurwitz CBE, and has risen to the first rank among chamber orchestras in a country where the excellence of these groups has become proverbial. They will be conducted by their Leader, Paul Barritt, who was also until recently leader of the Kent Opera Orchestra, which he left to fulfil his increasingly heavy schedule of commitments to work with *Divertimenti* and chamber ensembles. *Divertimenti* has appeared in many parts of the country, with Festival concerts including the Aldeburgh and Camden Festivals, and abroad they have performed at the Montepulciano Festival in Italy, as well as in Siena, Florence and Paris. The orchestra records regularly for BBC Radio 3.

György Pauk was born in Budapest and was accepted at the Franz Liszt Academy at the age of twelve, with Kodaly as one of his teachers. As a student he gave many concerts in Hungary and throughout Eastern Europe and won first prize in several major international competitions. In 1961 he settled in London and gave both his recital and orchestral debuts here the same year.

He performs throughout the world with the leading orchestras and conductors, such as Pierre Boulez, Sir Colin Davis, Antal Dorati, Lorin Maazel, Klaus Tennstedt and Sir Georg Solti. Solti invited him to make his American debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and he has returned regularly to play with the Cleveland, Philadelphia, Los Angeles Philharmonic and Boston Symphony Orchestras. He has worked as director/soloist with the English Chamber Orchestra, London Mozart Players and the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. He has several prize-winning records to his credit, and last year was violinist in the Tippett Triple Concerto (with the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sir Colin Davis), which was Gramophone's Record of the Year.

With a lively programme of Mozart, Bach, Mendelssohn and Barber, this is a concert not to be missed. You can reserve your ticket now. Use the form enclosed with this issue.

LEWIS CARROLL AND THE JEWS

The Lewis Carroll Society recently discovered that the famous author (and Oxford mathematics don) under his real name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, was one of the signatories to a petition against the treatment of Russian Jews in 1882. Lewis Carroll was evidently sensitive to anti-Jewish prejudice as he is also known to have protested against a portrayal of Shylock in a contemporary production of "The Merchant of Venice". On another occasion he sent copies of "Alice in Wonderland" to a hospital for Jewish children: on being reproached for this kindly act, he replied, "Israelite children have as many rights as other children".

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E. G. Lowenthal

TWO YOUNG DETECTIVES TRACKING MURDER

Shortly after the so-called Roehm Putsch of 30 June 1934, I was sent to Central Silesia to establish whether, as seemed all too likely, Jews in that area had been murdered during the action against Roehm and his followers.

Early in the afternoon of 2 July, a telephone call came to the Berlin office where I worked for the Central-Verein deutscher Staatsbürger jüdischen Glaubens. I was to go at once to the Reichsvertretung der deutschen Juden (the body representing Jews in the Third Reich) at 198 Kantstrasse. Hurrying there, I was greeted by some of the leaders of the organisation—former ministerial councillor Dr. Otto Hirsch, the executive chairman, and Friedrich W. Borchardt, head of the Finance Department (Zentralausschuss für Hilfe und Aufbau). With me was Leopold Kuh, well-known as Dr. Ludwig Tietz's close associate and constant companion for a number of years. (Dr. Tietz, a physician and Jewish youth leader, had died the previous November). Dr. Leo Baeck, president of the Reichsvertretung, soon joined us.

The three leaders spoke to Kuh and myself, anxiously yet with composure, about rumours that several Jews had been murdered in or near Hirschberg in the Riesengebirge (Silesia). No precise information was available, since telephone lines had been cut or disconnected. The question was, would we be prepared to go at once by car to Hirschberg, "disguised" as tourists, as it were, to find out details and report back on our return?

Poldi, as Leopold Kuh was universally known, was also an old acquaintance of mine. Both of us agreed to go without a second thought. We got ready in the shortest time possible, hired a car (the driver being told only the name of the place where we were going) and four or five hours later, as night was falling, we arrived in Hirschberg. We found a peaceful, picturesque drowsy town, its quiet broken only by a night-time dance at the "biggest hotel in the place", where we too booked rooms.

The following morning, the market opened in the usual placid way as though nothing had happened. It was perhaps about 7 o'clock that we set off to seek out Jewish families in their own homes. We had to behave with caution and tact, neither making ourselves conspicuous, nor alarming anyone who could give us information. In the first instance, we might almost have been shown the door—the people seemed so nervous and intimidated. Not until they heard the whisper—"Dr. Baeck of the Reichsvertretung has sent us"—could their fears be allayed.

In this way we learnt that, quite apart from the

odious SA men, in the previous few days innocent citizens—Stahlhelm supporters, Catholics and Jews—had been haphazardly arrested and thrown into the local prison. Much worse, they told us that four Jews, three men and a woman, had been shot in a nearby wood. The victims were a lawyer, Dr. Walter Förster, a married couple, both doctors, named Zweig, and a businessman. They had been murdered in cold blood.

At that stage, no-one knew anything further about the grounds or the motive for the shooting, nor even the exact circumstances in which the four people had been done to death. What had happened had aroused a sense of insecurity and despondency but not despair or a feeling of helplessness. After talking to some of the local families, we could after some time create our own picture of events. Moreover, it emerged from various hints and indications that other towns in this beautiful Silesian region might have been similarly affected. The young rabbi in Hirschberg, Dr. Max Koppel, was not to be found: it appeared that he had travelled to Breslau.

No traces

Although our instructions related only to Hirschberg, we made an on-the-spot decision to extend our area of reconnaissance to Landeshut, well-known for its linen industry, as well as Löwenberg and Bunzlau. There would be no undue delay in the time of return as agreed in Berlin. And so we drove on, in all likelihood passing the scene of the cruel murders in the wood. Unobtrusively, we kept a lookout for any traces of the deed: but the forest betrayed only the silence of deepest peace.

Our road ran uphill high into the mountains. We were soon to discover for ourselves that SS men on motorbikes were keeping watch in the area. Near the customs post, one of these patrols stopped us; their only apparent interest was in the numberplates of our car. Our hearts sank . . . Leaning out of the open car, I called to the man to ask what he was trying to find. The answer came, "Why, don't you know 'Lieschen Schmidt'? That's who we're looking for." (It later transpired that Schmidt was the boy-friend of SA-Gruppenführer Edmund Heines, Police President of Breslau, shot in connection with the Roehm affair). The SS man volunteered the information that Schmidt was said to have fled and was thought to be at the Czechoslovak border.

In Landeshut, Jewish firms were open and

working as usual. But there were signs of insecurity amongst the owners, who on the whole knew of nothing except the inexplicable arrests in the town's immediate neighbourhood. They were all keeping a stiff upper lip. I might here mention the name of Philipp Falkenstein, then 71 years old, the preacher and teacher of the Synagogue congregation, a devout man, elegant in physique and with snow-white hair. In his home, a haven of civilisation, with its comfortably old-fashioned air, there reigned faith in God, confidence, an atmosphere of unshakeable harmony, human warmth; and he displayed frank and cordial ties of affection with other Jews, however much they might be strangers.

In Löwenberg, we stopped in the marketplace. Making short calls on people there, we received the same impressions as at Hirschberg and Landeshut. Bunzlau, too, the pottery town, seemed to be enveloped in uneasiness. The daughter of the community's chairman, the lawyer Dr. Hülse, opened the door timidly, not to say fearfully: she said that her father was away. As tourists, which after all we were, we strolled around the town, looked at the pottery and even bought some. We soon found the Jewish firms and enquired about the owners and managers. At first we were invariably met with questioning glances. But here too the situation was made clear in the course of conversation and in the end, as everywhere else, our errand was gratefully acknowledged, for it showed that the Reichsvertretung was alert and on guard.

It was long after midnight that we could give our report—from memory—in Berlin. Dr. Hirsch, who lived near the radio tower, had not yet gone to bed, for he wanted to see us safe and sound with his own eyes, as had been agreed. He had been worrying the whole evening where we could have got to. Being young, we had made light of the rather difficult trip. Just as we had not taken any printed matter or writing with us on the journey—after all, one never knew . . .—neither had we brought back any written notes of facts, names, dates or figures. We kept them in our heads.

Old excuse

It was not until some twenty years after the bloody events in Hirschberg that the murders were expiated—even if only by the imposition of a very mild sentence in a Berlin court. The perpetrators relied, as usual, on the defence of "superior orders".

I should not like to lay aside these recollections without thinking of my "travelling companion" Poldi, who died ten years ago while on his travels to visit his children in South America. He was a civil engineer in Berlin and a member of the DJJG (Deutsch-Jüdische Jugendgemeinschaft). In 1933/4 he took over the management of the revised teaching workshop set up by the Jewish community in Berlin-Niederschönhausen. It was characteristic of him that at all times and in all places, wherever there was a need, he turned to and took control of the situation. He came to England a few months before the outbreak of war. At first he was a staff member at the Kitchener Camp, but when war broke out he immediately volunteered for service in the British armed forces and returned in 1945 as Captain L. Kew. For a long time after that he worked as technical manager in a large industrial works in Birmingham. Poldi was only 64 years old when he died of heart failure.

Volunteers Needed Now

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NEWS FROM ABROAD

"RESTRICTED" CLUB CLEARED BY US JURY

When William Bell was told by the manager of the Ocean Club, Atlantic Beach, N.Y., that his Jewish guests would not be welcome in future "because the club does not admit Jews as members or guests", he complained to the media about the incident. He went on to bring a suit for violation of his civil rights and demanded damages of £70,000. But although Mr. Bell's lawyers were able to prove that Ocean Club admitted every type of person excepting only Jews, the jury dismissed his claims. They found that the manager had acted without authorisation and they were uncertain that the club was covered by the State's civil rights legislation. The New York State attorney-general has expressed dismay at the verdict.

US OFFICE HANDS OVER TRIAL REPORTS

The US Justice Department's Offices of Special Investigations has presented Yad Vashem with a number of trial reports relating to Nazi war criminals living in the United States. The OSI was set up in 1979 specifically to deal with such cases and Yad Vashem has lent support, particularly in seeking out evidence and tracing witnesses.

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COMPLETE HOUSES CLEARED

SURVIVORS' CHILDREN MEET IN NEW YORK

At the end of May, a gathering was held in New York under the auspices of The International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. To some extent, the participants, mostly in their twenties and thirties, wish to dispel the image of psychological damage and to replace it by focusing on the strength which they have received through their parents' experiences and their successful struggle to survive. Another aim of the International Network is to paint the past in its true colours at a time when eyewitnesses are dying out, and to ensure that it shall not be repeated. The Network currently holds a list of 6,500 names of survivors' children now living in North America and anyone wishing for further information should write to it at One Park Avenue, Suite 1900, New York, NY 10016.

NEW BROADCASTING ARCHIVE

A new Jewish archive has been inaugurated in New York. The Jewish Museum recently opened the National Jewish Archive of Broadcasting, a uniquely comprehensive collection of relevant broadcast material. Begun in 1980, the archive is financed by a grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation.

FRENCH PRESIDENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In a foretaste of his speech in Moscow, M. Mitterand referred to the case of Dr. Sakharov when accepting the Simon Wiesenthal Prize in Paris before his trip to the Soviet Union. The French president declared that he would continue to struggle to defend human rights and also underlined his solidarity with the Jewish people.

President Mitterand will have a formal meeting with Chancellor Helmut Kohl in September at the site of the First World War battle of Verdun. The two heads of state will there commemorate the dead of both countries: Chancellor Kohl has said that their meeting will show that it is indeed possible to learn from history.

MEDAL STORM IN BAYEUX

When a group of 90 German ex-servicemen visited Bayeux in Normandy, the Medal of Honour of the City of Bayeux was presented to former SS Panzer General Heinz Harmel. City officials regarded the matter as a gesture of reconciliation between France and Germany, but deportee associations and former Resistance men reacted angrily, saying that the award represented "a banalisation of Nazism".

FALASHA ORGANISATION REVIVED

In the changed circumstances of Ethiopian Jewry, the Falasha Welfare Organisation has been revived under the chairmanship of Mr. David Kessler. British ORT is housing the FWO at present.

DUTCH TOWNSHIP CONDEMNED

The official history of Dutch Jewry may be said to have begun at Appingedam, for it was there that Jews were first permitted to live in Holland nearly 375 years ago. At the time of the Nazi occupation, the community numbered 84 of whom 78 perished in the Holocaust. The other six were hidden by Christian families outside Appingedam. Now the town has erected a memorial statue to its last Jewish citizens, not however without hard words from a former inhabitant, 80-year-old Sam Kroon, now living in Brussels. He declared that the memorial recorded the shame of Appingedam where, in contrast to almost every other Dutch town, not a single Jew had found refuge.

ROMANIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS EASE

Relations between the Romanian State and the country's Jewish community appear to have improved following an outbreak of antisemitism earlier this year. Receiving the Shazar Prize of the World Zionist Organisation in Jerusalem, Rabbi Moses Rosen, the Chief Rabbi of Romania, praised President Ceausescu for giving Jewish aspirations the chance to flourish. At the same time, the Romanian Ambassador in Canada has passed on assurances that the President had intervened over the antisemitic publications and that there would be no recurrence of such libels in his country's newspapers.

"DENIAL" BARRED FROM CANADA

Caught by a law which prohibits the importation of literature "of an immoral or indecent character", the book "The Hoax of the Twentieth Century" has been refused entry to Canada. Arthur Butz, a professor of engineering at Northwestern University, Indiana, wrote the work, one of the most determined attempts to deny the reality of the Holocaust.

CANADIAN DOCTOR USES DACHAU DATA

Information obtained from criminal medical experiments in Dachau has been used by a hypothermia researcher, Dr. John Hayward of Victoria University B.C. Victims of the experiments were immersed in ice-cold water to test how long they could survive, if at all. Dr Hayward told a Toronto paper that he had been worried about the ethics of using this material, but he felt it would be terrible if it were wasted. The information has been referred to in scientific literature over the intervening 40 years and Dr. Hayward says that, when it came to his knowledge, "I felt that if we could learn from this material, then, I hope, in some small way, that these people did not die futilely".

DAMAGES CLAIM AGAINST YOUTHS

Just over three years ago, Bagneux cemetery in the suburbs of Paris was disfigured by scrawls on Jewish tombstones and monuments, such as "Heil Hitler", "Vote SS" and "Keep Europe Pure". Now two youths are facing a Nanterre court, accused of property damage. The prosecution has demanded a two-year prison sentence for each of the accused, while the Paris authorities are calling for £7,500 in damages.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Second Generation

Sir,—On behalf of the Jewish Women's History Group, I would like to express our appreciation of the review by Simon Garfield of "You'd Prefer Me Not to Mention It..." in the June issue. We all felt it to be extremely sensitive and thoughtful and understanding about what we did. Simon Garfield is the first reviewer we've had who correctly intuited what we were trying to express. Thank you. It is gratifying to know we got through.

Your readers may like to know that the booklet can be obtained from The Jewish Feminist History Group, Box 20, Sisterwrite, 190 Upper Street, London, N1, against payment of £2.00.

MARGARET GREEN, M.Sc.

Flat 7, Callcott Court,
Callcott Road,
London, NW6

Affaltrach Facts

Sir,—The appeal by the Vicar of Affaltrach for information about its former Jewish citizens was a consequence of the studies undertaken by the local schools and the encouragement of the Mayor and the Landrat to retrieve the memory of their former Jewish citizens.

I should like to point out that the synagogue of Affaltrach was one of the very few not destroyed in the November '38 pogrom because it adjoined a farmer's barn full of hay.

In March Affaltrach and Obersulm celebrated the 100th birthday of August Thalheimer, who was born there and went on to become a noted philologist, and one of the founders of the German Communist Party Opposition faction. In the twenties he spent several years in Moscow, and is said to have lectured on Hegel in Chinese at the Sun Yat-sen party school in that city. He died in exile in Havana in 1948.

43 Nightingale Lane,
London, S.W.12 8SU

S. W. NELKI

Rheinhausen

For a scholarly study of the history of the Jews of Rheinhausen till 1945 (the former communities of Friemersheim/Hochemmerich, today incorporated in Duisburg)/(West Germany I would like to trace surviving Jewish citizens from Rheinhausen (and their descendants) as well as persons who can give some information about their fate. Please write to Burkhard Biella, Friedhofallee 12, 4100 Duisburg 14, West Germany.

SURVIVORS' PICTURES SOUGHT

The Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Diaspora, Beth HaT'futsot, is asking for film or photographic material illustrating the lives of survivors of the Holocaust, particularly from the period of liberation (1944/45) and of rehabilitation (1948/50). Next year is to be marked by a full-scale exhibition commemorating the 40th anniversary of the liberation. Films or photographs should be sent to: Holocaust Survivors Documentation Campaign, Beth HaT'futsot, POB 39359, Tel Aviv 61392, Israel.

Read Worldwide

Sir,—You were kind enough to publish in your May issue my request for contacts with former Jewish citizens of Gross Strehlitz in Upper Silesia, now under Polish administration. I thought you would like to know that two families from the USA, one from Israel and one from West Germany have written to me. I shall correspond with them and will perhaps get further names and addresses from them. I hope further former citizens will communicate with me and perhaps then we can all meet at the planned reunion in Soest in Westphalia. The AJR seems to be spread and read worldwide! Again many thanks for your efforts. With friendly greetings.

Im Mühlenfeld 20, WOLFRAM RUDEL
2852 Bederkesa,
West Germany

FAMILY PAINTING FOR CENTRE

When Adrian Shindel was a boy in Dresden, he and his three sisters were painted by the royal portraitist Bohringer. Now the family group of the sailor-suited youngsters hangs in the Michael Sobell Centre, a gift from Mr. Shindel. In the meantime, the handsome young boy seen on the canvas escaped from Germany in 1934, worked illegally as a pianist in a Nice nightclub, joined the French Army, saw service at Dunkirk, enrolled in the Maquis, escaped the occupiers by trudging across the Pyrenees, was thrown into a Spanish gaol, before being reunited with his family in England. At present he lives in Wembley with his wife Ilse, whose own family perished in the Holocaust. Adrian's three sisters, shown in the painting with enormous bows in their hair, now live in California, Argentina and England respectively.

JOURNALIST'S AWARD

A veteran journalist has been honoured with the Federal Republic's Cross of Merit. Rolf Simon of Berlin passed his apprenticeship in the publishing house of Rudolf Mosse before emigrating to Buenos Aires in 1933. There he edited "Argentinisches Tageblatt" for a number of years and later founded a Spanish-language literary magazine. He lives today in California and still acts as correspondent for many German-Jewish and other periodicals.

CLUB 1943

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

30 July: Dr. Erwin Seligmann: "Stehen die Tuerken wieder vor Wien? Islam greift an von V. S. Naipaul: 1. Teil.

6 Aug: Dr. Erwin Seligmann: "Stehen die Tuerken wieder vor Wien?": 2. Teil. Anschliessend: Mitgliederversammlung.

13 Aug: George Jaeger, MA, ThL: "Is Marxism Relevant Today?"

Summer Holidays until end of September. The next lecture will take place on 1st October.

MACHIAVELLI'S COMEDY UPSTAGED

Mandragola (The Mandrake Root) by Niccolò Machiavelli. Translated by Wallace Shawn. Music and Lyrics by Howard Goodall. Directed by David Gilmore. In repertory at The National Theatre (Olivier).

Let me begin by assuring theatre-goers that they will have a very amusing evening at the Olivier if they decide to see Machiavelli's comedy. Roger Glossop has designed an attractive Florentine piazza, intimate yet spacious, which serves well throughout, and the play is set in the present, with the actors in modern dress. The pace is fast and high-spirited and bits of silent business—from Swedish tourists, groupies, an au pair and a municipal fountain mechanic—have been added as a modernising touch. The translation, apparently American, strives for the vigorously demotic, with some four-letter words thrown in which are, however, quite superfluous.

Machiavelli wrote the play in about 1518—the exact date is in dispute. It was a spectacular success at the time and has been traditionally considered the greatest Italian Renaissance play. The plot revolves around a young man's passion for a beautiful young woman married to a rich old lawyer who very much wants an heir. Through an elaborate series of ingenious tricks and disguises the young man achieves his aim, to the satisfaction of everyone involved. This production invents a very successful visual joke in which the young man's offstage achievement of his aim is symbolised by the activation of the piazza fountain to a rhapsodic musical climax belted out by the five-girl band. One can't imagine any subsequent producer of the play being able to resist this invention; it makes perfect comic sense.

Questions of style

It does seem strange that except for a brief visit by a foreign group in a World Theatre Season some fifteen years ago, this is the first time the play has been staged here. Perhaps it was too spicy and direct in the bad old days of the Lord Chamberlain. This production raises some uneasy questions of style. By turning it into a semi-musical, with facile lyrics for pleasant but never catchy songs (Machiavelli himself added some songs for a 1526 production at Modena), the director seems to be trying too hard to push the play into the twentieth century; the strain shows, however entertaining the result. Perhaps he should have trusted his text. I know of at least six other translations, and the Bondanella/Musa and Bentley/May versions are quite good. Set in its own time, the temporal distancing would have added a dimension to the riotous goings-on, and the subtleties would have emerged with no loss of comic effect.

The characterisation of Ligurio, the avaricious parasite and manipulator who engineers much of the action, played here as a creepy-crawly spiv, did not quite work in the modern context. But Nicky Henson was energetic and resourceful as Callimaco the lover, John Savident funny as the pompous old cuckold Nicia, Phyllis Roome most decoratively convincing as Lucrezia the wife, and Jim Norton outstanding as the venal priest.

M.S.

MASTER DRAWINGS

A cross-section of their huge and superb collection of drawings is now being shown at a special exhibition at the British Museum (north entrance, Montague Place) until 19 August. A fully illustrated catalogue which reproduces a selection of the finest drawings and water-colours in the Museum (price £7.50, but £4.95 at the Museum bookshops) gives an indication of the wealth and treasures contained in the Collection.

In the exhibition, works of more than 150 artists are displayed, ranging from the famous drawing of King David playing a psaltery by Fra Angelico (1387-1455) to Henry Moore and Wyndham Lewis. In an exhibition of this kind which contains so many superb pictures, it is difficult to choose any particular work for special mention. The chalk sketch of an Old Man Drawing by Lucas van Leyden (1494-1533) is most expressive, especially the old-fashioned spectacles perched on his nose. Not to be missed is Rembrandt's Elephant. Another marvellous picture by Rembrandt is "A Girl Sleeping". The modern style of its execution makes it difficult to believe that it was drawn some 350 years ago.

Another picture worth looking at is the self-portrait by Nicholas Poussin (1594-1665); it is not a very attractive face but a marvellous representation. Amongst the modern works is a fine pastel by Emil Ludwig Kirchner, "A Nude Woman Standing". It was executed in 1914 in his Berlin period. Of English works the one I liked best was "A Woman with a Sash" by Wyndham Lewis (1882-1957).

The exhibition of Rosenthal porcelain at the Victoria and Albert Museum shows the enormous success that good and innovative design can



Sleeping Girl by Rembrandt

bring. Philip Rosenthal, with British and German nationality, now runs the business started by his father just over a century ago and sells his products all over the world, including Germany, where he holds 20% of the market.

The Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy (until 19 August) has been aptly called a "Canvas Supermarket" by one of the critics. Over 12,000 works were submitted to the selection committee and no less than 1,769 have found their place on the walls of the Academy, some unfortunately hung so high that it is difficult to see them properly. The range is enormous and there must be something to please every taste.

Particularly striking are the exhibits in the main sculpture room (Paolozzi, John Wragg, Allen Jones) and in the main graphics room which is full of excellent small works. Unfortunately this is the last opportunity to see the work of Gertrud Hermes and John Aldridge in the Summer Exhibition, since both of these outstanding artists died during the year.

Alice Schwab

WALLENBERG STORY REVIVED IN HUNGARY

In 1948 the Jewish community of Budapest, the city's Mayor and Swedish representatives were preparing to dedicate a statue in honour of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved so many Hungarian Jews from the Holocaust. He disappeared after being taken into Russian military custody in Debrecen. The 15-foot high statue, showing a heroic figure killing a snake, was inscribed "May this memorial express our eternal thanks". But just before the ceremony was due to take place, it mysteriously disappeared, believed to have been removed by Soviet soldiers.

Just as mysteriously, the statue reappeared in 1950 and was erected outside a factory in Debrecen, the very town in which all trace of Wallenberg had been lost. The inscription had been removed and the figure was entitled merely "Man with snake".

The Hungarian trade union paper "Magyar Nemzet" suggested recently that the statue should be returned to Budapest in order that "we Hungarians should live up to our historical duty". The article followed publication of a detailed account of the monument's wanderings in the influential publication "Historia".

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FINDING OUT FOR THEMSELVES

A group of Anglo-Jewish youth workers who recently took part in an educational visit to Munich attempted to find out for themselves what the German-in-the-street thought about the Holocaust. After the official seminar on "Teaching the Holocaust in German schools" (organised by Youth and Hechalutz Department together with the Zionist Federation Educational Trust), the party went out into the town to talk to ordinary people. Their experiences closely followed reports by other bodies; older Germans were reluctant to talk about the Second World War and those who did were anxious to exculpate themselves from knowledge of Nazi crimes. Younger people, however, were more ready to learn about the Holocaust, although the British group also came up against a neo-Nazi organisation handing out leaflets in the Marienplatz.

Shocking but effective

In the course of the seminar, the youth workers heard of one school where children learnt about the background to Fascism by acting it out themselves, to the extent of singing the Horst Wessel song and giving the "Deutscher Gruss", the Hitler salute. This apparently shocking idea, they were assured, had had highly effective educational results. Another disturbing piece of information came from Bnei Akiva youth leaders who declared that young German Jews had no real interest in the community. With only 300 young Jews in Munich, there were simply not enough active individuals to benefit from exchange programmes or charity work, according to the Bnei Akiva representatives.

WEIMAR, WEIMAR . . .

There seems to be no end to the fascination with the Weimar years. Book after book rolls off the presses to feed an apparently insatiable curiosity. But it is a justifiable curiosity: it was an amazingly fertile period and there is a rich visual record.

John Willett's *The Weimar Years: A Culture Cut Short* (Thames and Hudson, £6.95 in paperback, £12.50 hardback) casts its net over everything visual that can convey the flavour of the period, from ordinary photographs to film stills, paintings, pictures of writers and other personalities, advertising, street scenes, Bauhaus art, furniture and crockery. What impact, what contrasts!



Head: a photcollage by Willi Baumeister (1923)

There is a brief but compact introduction which makes the main points and makes them well. Mr. Willett knows the period, has written about it at length elsewhere, is a translator of Brecht. As he observes, "It was those fifteen years between 1918 and 1933 which saw the fiercest, most concentrated and least one-sided contest between the modern movement in the arts and the primitive-conservative resentments with which it has long had to contend. Fought out at the centre of Europe, it was in its way one of the world's decisive battles. And unhappily it was lost."

This is a lively, stimulating, valuable companion to the subject, and gives us a better feel for the period than many heavy tomes. It is a picture book with excellent and informative extended captions written by a man who has been immersed in the Weimar period for many years. M.S.

MARIE SYRKIN HONOURED

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of "Jewish Frontier", the American Labour Zionist publication, special tribute was paid to the writer Marie Syrkin, who has for many years furthered the Zionist cause in the United States. She is also remembered for her study of Jewish resistance during the Second World War, published in 1948 and entitled "Blessed is the Match".

LANDKREIS KASSEL

The Regional Museum, situated at Hofgeismar, has last year established a department for "Judaica", having particularly regard to the great interest shown by young people. The directorate would greatly appreciate contact with former Jewish residents of this area, and would very much like to receive as many details as possible relating to the Nazi era. These should include such items as boycotts, emigration, discrimination, desecration of synagogues, prayer rooms or tombstones. Equally helpful would be photos of business houses, synagogues, cemeteries, also photocopies of such items as newspaper articles, business correspondence, adverts. Kindly write to: Michael Dorhs, Lamerder Weg 26, 3520 Hofgeismar, West Germany.

EASTERN JEWS IN THE RUHR

For a post-doctoral thesis on "The East European Jewish Proletariat in the Ruhr 1914-1922", Dr. Ludger Heid of Duisburg would appreciate receiving relevant material such as letters, memoirs, photographs, or documents which would cast light on the everyday life of East European Jews in Germany—their working and living conditions, leisure occupations, political and trade union organisations (e.g. Poale Zion and Bund, etc.). In the First World War these East European Jews were brought to the Ruhr from the Russian-Polish occupied zones to work in war industries and mining, and after the war there was another wave of East European Jewish immigration. Write to: Dr. Ludger Heid, Schillerplatz 3, D-4100 Duisburg 1, West Germany.

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OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR YIGAEEL YADIN

The death has been announced in Israel of Professor Yigael Yadin at the age of 67. His astonishingly full career comprised high military office, outstanding archaeological research and the leadership of the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC). Chief of Staff and acting Commandant of the Haganah and the Israel Defence Forces in 1947/49, Yigael Yadin has been called the architect of Israel's armed forces. In his role as archaeologist, he acquired four scrolls from Qumran (his father Professor Sukenik, had already obtained three Dead Sea Scrolls for Israel during the 1948 War of Independence). In the 50s and 60s, Professor Yadin excavated Hazor and Megiddo; he discovered the documents relating to Bar Kochba's revolt of 132/35 AD; and he crowned his work by heading the archaeological expedition to Masada. His book "Masada: Herod's Fortress and the Zealots' Last Stand" was a popular success and he also wrote a number of academic books and articles on that and other historical subjects. He was an outstanding lecturer and populariser of Biblical archaeology.

Following the Yom Kippur War of 1973, Professor Yadin formed his own political party, the DMC, pledged to root out corruption and to amend the electoral system. The party won 16 seats in the 1977 elections but gradually faded away. Nevertheless, Professor Yadin did accept the deputy premiership in the hope of influencing the Likud Government from within. With only three members acknowledging his leadership, however, he did not stand for re-election in 1981.

JACOB SONNTAG

Jacob Sonntag, the writer and journalist, has died at the age of 79. He was born in Wiznitz, Bukovina and worked as a journalist for 13 years in Vienna and a further three in Prague before coming to Britain in 1938. He founded and ran "The Jewish Quarterly" for thirty years.

A full report on the Annual General Meeting of 12 July will appear in the September issue.

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KATTA STERNA

Katharina Stern has died in West Berlin at the age of 86. As a dancer and actress she was known as Katta Sterna. Her heyday was in the twenties in Berlin and she was Puck in Max Reinhardt's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream". She was the third of the four remarkable Stern sisters: the late Regula was a doctor; Johanna Hofer, the well-known actress, still working, who is the widow of Fritz Kortner; and Maria Matray, the novelist and prizewinning television writer. Their father Georg Stern was a principal manager of AEG and a fine amateur musician, and their mother Lisbeth was the sister of the artist Käthe Kollwitz. Katta Sterna gave dance recitals all over the world, often with her sister Maria's husband Ernst Matray. Her married name, Herrendorfer (the marriage was very brief), helped her survive the war years in Berlin, whereas Johanna and Maria had emigrated first to Britain and then on to Hollywood. She was a warm and lovable woman who retained a delightful childlike charm and sense of fun to the end of her days.

PROFESSOR URIEL TAL

Jewish scholarship has suffered a deep loss with the early death of Professor Uriel Tal in Israel. Born in Vienna in 1929, he came to Palestine in 1940. He served in the Haganah and the Israel Defence Forces and then began his career of scholarship, specialising as a teacher in modern Jewish intellectual history. In 1977, he was appointed to Tel Aviv University's Schreiber Chair in Contemporary Jewish History and was also visiting professor at a number of American universities.

Professor Tal's "Christians and Jews in Germany: Religion, Politics and Ideology in the Second Reich" was perhaps the best-known of his works, but he was the author of very many scholarly essays and monographs on the roots of antisemitism, Jewish-Christian relations and the religious dimension of Israeli politics. He was also a member of the Jerusalem Board of the Leo Baeck Institute.

TOM BLAU

Berlin-born Tom Blau, of Hungarian descent, became head of a world-renowned picture agency after coming to Britain in 1935. Mr. Blau, founder of Camera Press, died not long ago in London aged 71. A photographer himself, he produced noted portraits of P. G. Wodehouse, Dr. Kissinger, Ernest Oppenheimer and Peter Sellers among many other well-known people. His autobiography "In and Out of Focus" appeared last year.

FELICJA WILCZEK

Mrs. Felicja Wilczek died recently in Israel, only 20 months after the death of her husband Gustav. During the war, the couple were split up, Gustav escaping from Germany to Shanghai while Felicja lived in Paris. The two managed with infinite difficulty to establish contact and then to escape and meet in Wellington, N.Z. Later they came to England, where they lived in St. John's Wood.

LILLIAN HELLMAN

The American playwright Lillian Hellman died recently in Boston aged 77. Her earliest-produced play "The Children's Hour" dealt with oppression following the manipulation of public opinion: it was filmed twice, as "These Three" and "The Loudest Whisper". In 1941, her "Watch on the Rhine" was a story of anti-Nazi resistance, with which she was at one time personally involved. Much later, the film "Julia", based on her autobiographical "Pentimento", showed an American woman rescuing Jews and anti-Nazis from the Third Reich. Blacklisted in the McCarthy era, Lillian Hellman continued writing both autobiographical works and material for the theatre.

KAZIMIERZ IRANEK-OSMECKI

An outstanding underground soldier of the Polish Home Army in World War II, Colonel Kazimierz Iranek-Osmecki has died in London aged 86. Parachuted into Poland, he was directly involved in the recovery of a V2 rocket, so enabling its mechanism to be examined in Britain before the Germans opened their rocket campaign.

Settling in London after 1945, Colonel Iranek-Osmecki wrote several books, including "He who saves one life . . .", an account of Polish Gentile help given to Jews.

RABBI DR. MAX ELK

Rabbi Dr. Max Elk died in Haifa at the age of 85. Before his emigration in 1934 he was Rabbi of the Stettin Jewish community. In Palestine, he founded a congregation for German-Jewish immigrants together with Rabbi Lazarus (formerly Wiesbaden). His main achievement was the foundation of a school which had elementary and secondary classes and which he named after Leo Baeck. In recognition of his services he was made an Honorary Citizen of Haifa.

ANNA MAYERSON

The imaginative artist Anna Mayerson died recently in London at the age of 77. Austrian by birth, she studied art in Vienna and Zürich. Before emigrating to London in 1938, she worked for a time at the Brain Research Clinic in Vienna, modelling and illustrating brain phenomena.

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J. B. SACHS 70

Mr. J. B. Sachs will be 70 in August. He is a member of the AJR Board and was a founder member of the AJR. He was particularly active and successful in recruiting members from the fur trade. He is also closely associated with the Beit HaMidrash in Golders Green. We extend our hearty congratulations to him.

INTERFAITH SCULPTURE

Jewish sculptress Naomi Blake has completed her "Mother and Child", to be unveiled in June and sited in front of Norwich Cathedral. The work is dedicated to the concept of bringing all people closer together, regardless of faith or background. An earlier Naomi Blake carving is already in place outside Bristol Cathedral.

PRIZE FOR POETESS

Rose Ausländer, who today lives in Düsseldorf, has received the Literature Prize of the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts. Born in Czernowitz, she lived in the USA for several years up to 1963. A book of her poems, translated by Ewald Osers, was published some years ago by London Magazine Editions.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in this column are free of charge, but voluntary donations would be appreciated. Texts should reach us by the 10th of the preceding month.

Acknowledgement

TO SAY that I was overwhelmed, would be an understatement. Knowing however that the instigator was the 102-year-old Margaret Jacoby I cannot but be grateful for so much love shown to me. My heartfelt thanks for all the tributes, the good wishes, the gifts, and especially to the AJR CLUB for having my name inscribed in the Jerusalem Volume of the Golden Book of the JNF. Dora Segall.

Birthday

Broch, Walter was 80 on 22 July. Love and congratulations from your wife, family and friends. Flat 3, 55 Priory Road, London, N.W.6.

Liebeschuetz:—Dr. Raciell Liebeschuetz celebrated her 90th birthday on 21 June. Admired and loved by friends and family.

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Deaths

Borowski:—Hugo Borowski (formerly of Guttstadt, East Prussia), devoted husband and father of Ann and Ephraim, died peacefully on Monday 2 July, after a long illness bravely borne. 42 Dinmont Road, Glasgow.

Callman:—Hanna Callman passed away peacefully at Osmond House on 22 June 1984 at the age of 91. She will be sadly missed by her daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren and other relatives and friends.

Emanuel:—Alfred N. Emanuel passed away after a short illness on June 22. Deeply mourned by his wife Karla (née Rosenstock), sons, daughter, daughter-in law, grandson, brother and family and friends.

Feldman:—Marta Feldman, of 3 Clarendon Gardens, London, W9, passed away on 6 June, after a long illness, aged 79. She will be sadly missed by all her relatives (Vienna and La Paz, Bolivia) and her many friends.

Gerson:—The funeral of Henry Gerson, 12 Eton Hall, Eton College Road, London NW3, took place on 4 July 1984. Deeply mourned by his wife Esther, sister, brother-in-law, cousins and friends.

Gratz:—Siegfried Gratz, 233 Empire Court, Wembley Park, Middlesex (formerly of Berlin) died on 16 June after years of suffering borne without complaint. Deeply missed by his wife, family and friends.

Kahane:—Marcel Kahane. Deeply grieved by the sudden loss and mourned by his wife Rita (New York), brother Bruno and sister-in-law Flora (London) and nephew Roger and family (Paris). He will be sadly missed.

Kallenbach:—Dr. Thekla Kallenbach (formerly of Hanna House, Hove and Green Hill, London), widow of the late Dr. Simon Kallenbach, died peacefully on 7 July.

Wolf:—Carol Wolf, dearly beloved wife of Stephen, passed away on 29 June, after a long and painful illness.

CLASSIFIED

The charge in these columns is 50p for five words plus £1.00 for advertisements under a Box No. To save administrative costs, please enclose payment with the text of your advertisement.

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ABRAMCZYK. Seeking descendants of Adolf Abramczyk and Emma Arnold who married in Berlin 1860. There were nine grown-up children: 1. Willy Abramczyk, Rechtsanwalt & Notar who was 72 in 1933. 2. Fritz (married Lisbeth, who died in KZ). 3. Max. 4. Ludwig. 5. James. 6. Anna. 7. Selma with daughter Alice. She married Harry Seeligsohn. Alice and Harry died in KZ. 8. Lotte. 9. Marta. Please write to Nelki, 43 Nightingale Lane, London, SW12.

HIRSCH. Fraenze Hirsch, born 1914(2), lived in Sprottau/Schlesien, sought by former school friend Ruth Brueninghaus née Matzke, Kornweg 25d, 8400 REGENSBURG, West Germany.

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LONDON, Walter (originally Walter Levy-Lingen). Graduated from the Französisches Gymnasium in Berlin in 1937, later served in the British Army as Walter Landon, was killed in action near Arnhem as British parachutist in 1944. Information about his life in Britain, and a photograph if possible, needed for a history of the Gymnasium being written by the present Headmaster. Write to: Dr. C. Velder, Französisches Gymnasium, Derflinger Strasse 7-11, 1 Berlin 30, West Berlin.

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CENTENARY OF SIEGFRIED AUFHAEUSER

A hundred years ago, on May 1, 1884, the trade union leader Siegfried Aufhaeuser was born in Augsburg. From 1920 until 1933 he was chairman of the "Arbeitsgemeinschaft freier Angestelltenverbaende" (AFA). Until the Nazis came to power, he was also a Social Democratic member of the Reichstag and a member of the Reichswirtschaftsrat. He left Germany in 1933 and, after staying in Paris and Prague, settled in the U.S. in 1939. There he held several positions in emigrant organisations. He also edited the "New Yorker Staatszeitung und Herold" and was a regular contributor to "Aufbau". He returned to Berlin in 1951 and was elected chairman and, in 1959, hon. chairman of the Deutsche Angestellten Gewerkschaften, Landesverband Berlin. In 1964, he was made an Hon. Citizen (Stadtaeltester) of Berlin. He died on 6th December 1969. His daughter Eva (Chava) Nicolai is a member of the Kibbutz Hazorea.

HUNGARIAN RESCUER

Transylvanian-born Andreas Biss has recently passed his 80th birthday. During the Second World War, he was among those who actively worked to save Hungarian Jewry and he was closely involved in the "Jews for lorries" negotiations. His own account of his wartime activities "Der Stopp der Endlösung" appeared in 1969 and the English version "A Million Jews to Save" in 1973, and here are to be found Andreas Biss's descriptions of his confrontations with Eichmann and Himmler.

WARSAW GHETTO PHOTOS

All too familiar are the photographs taken by Wehrmacht propagandists of the destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto in 1943; but two years before the Uprising a German soldier had been in the Ghetto with his camera. Joe J. Heydecker kept his negatives for 40 years before issuing a book of illustrations under the title "Wo ist Dein Bruder Abel?" and his photographs are now on display in

the Munich City Museum, presented as the photo-diary of a German soldier. Simultaneously, the dtv-Verlag is putting out a book on the Warsaw Ghetto illustrated by Heydecker's pictures. He has already been associated with Johannes Leeb in "Der Nuernberger Prozess".

GHETTO DIARY

Forty-five years ago, Lily Goldenberg was restricted to the Warsaw Ghetto, living with 60 other people in a cellar underneath the Hebrew Library. Then aged 17, she kept her diary from September 1939 to January 1940. In that month, the Nazis allowed her to emigrate to Palestine, since she was able to prove that she held an immigration certificate allowing her to study at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Today, Mrs Goldberg lives in Tel Aviv, although her father and sisters perished in the Holocaust. While she was cleaning her flat recently, she came across the diary among some other papers and it is now on display at the Holocaust Memorial Museum, Kibbutz Lohamei Hagettaot.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

When "Musicals" entered the scene. *Ralph Benatzky* was born 100 years ago and is rightly called "Father of the Musical," as originator of an art form which succeeded the era of operetta. With "Meine Schwester und ich" as well as with the musical numbers he contributed to "White Horse Inn" he created the musical comedy of the Thirties which, during and after the war was superseded by the American perfectionists Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin and Richard Rodgers, followed by Lowe, Schwartz and Sondheim. There are other aspects of Benatzky's work: he composed over 1500 songs, many presented to the audiences by his first wife Josma Selim; to-day not many people realize that it was Benatzky who translated Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess" into German, or that his songs included the evergreen "Ich muss wieder einmal in Grinzing sein."

London. Actor *Milo Sperber* who has played many roles in the British theatre and on Television and is also known as a producer, is at present in "The Clandestine Marriage" at the Albery theatre. BBC 2 are preparing a documentary about the No. 31 London Bus which, along its route from Camden Town to Chelsea, passes through Notting Hill, Kilburn and Swiss Cottage. It is attempting an illustration of the various communities inhabiting specific areas of these parts of London, viz. the Irish population of Kilburn, the West Indians of Notting Hill, both maintaining their customs and traditions, whereas the next generation of Czechs, Germans and Austrians who settled in NW3, has been almost completely absorbed into the English style of life.

Birthdays. *Rafael Kubelik*, Czech-born conductor

and composer, one of the prominent musicians of this century, son of the famous violinist Jan Kubelik, celebrated his 70th birthday. After having left Czechoslovakia in 1948, he conducted in Edinburgh, and in London where he was musical director of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden from 1955 to 1958.

Obituary. Hungary mourns the death of *Janos Ferencik* who has died, aged 77. He was an assistant of Toscanini in 1930/31, and afterwards worked mainly in Budapest where, later on, he was instrumental in reconstructing the Hungarian Philharmonic Orchestra. A friend of Bartok and Zoltan Kodaly, he visited many European cities to present and popularize contemporary Hungarian music. The untimely death of *Ernst Haesslerman*, Vienna's "Josefstadt" director of long standing, about whom this column reported at length in the April issue, has left a gap in Austrian cultural life. He was 68 and had been a central figure in Viennese and Salzburg theatre activities ever since his return from the United States after World War II. He had established a near-record by diplomatically guiding the Vienna Burgtheater for 10 years until 1968, after which he made the "Josefstadt" a true ensemble theatre once more as a faithful disciple of Max Reinhardt, his mentor and friend.

S.B.

A GRANDE DAME OF FILMS

This year Lilli Palmer celebrates her 70th birthday and over 50 years of stage and screen appearances. Born in Posen, Lilli Palmer (real name Peiser) was

brought to Berlin by her parents as a child. In 1932 she made her debut in Berlin's Rose Theatre in "The Iron Maiden" and then went to Darmstadt. As a "non-Aryan", she was obliged to leave Germany and came to London, where she appeared in films for the first time in 1935. In the 30s and 40s, she was often seen on the screen with roles in Hitchcock's "The Secret Agent", Fritz Lang's "On Secret Service" and many more. She also acted on Broadway and her greatest film success was with her first husband Rex Harrison in Irving Reis's "The Four Poster".

Returning to Germany, where she married author-actor Carlos Thompson, Lilli Palmer has appeared in a number of films, both German and international, as well as in television dramas. Her autobiography "Dicke Lilli—gutes Kind" was published with considerable success a few years ago.

F. M. BROOKS 80

Mr. F. M. Brooks will be 80 on August 4. He joined the Olympia Typewriter Company fifty years ago in Berlin, and rose to be Managing Director of the London company. He was running the Olympia branch in Czechoslovakia when the war broke out. He became a leader of the Czech underground in Bohemia, was captured and was in Dachau and Auschwitz, and escaped from a moving train. After the war he was awarded the Czech Military Cross and the Czech Medal for Bravery. Mrs. Brooks had a miraculous escape when the US forces marched in and captured the camp as she was on the way to the gas chamber. After the war they went to the US where Mr. Brooks worked for the resettlement of refugees, and eventually returned to Europe to establish the Olympia branch here.

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