

# AJR INFORMATION

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Ronald Stent

## A CRITIC OF OUR TIME

### Difficult Case of Hannah Arendt

*The evil that men do lives after them;  
The good is oft interred with their bones.*

Hannah Arendt, who was born in 1906 in Hannover and died in 1975 in New York, was a moral philosopher, sociologist, historiographer and political scientist. She was a genuine, if perhaps an occasionally superficial polymath. Throughout her life she acquired considerable esteem as well as attracting personal loyalty and friendship. She was one of the best known German-Jewish intellectuals of her generation—certainly in the USA. Much of all this she forfeited when, in 1961, she persuaded the 'New Yorker' magazine to send her to Jerusalem to report on the trial of Adolf Eichmann. Subsequently she chronicled her impressions and conclusions in a series of articles in the magazine and later published them in book form as 'Eichmann in Jerusalem'. It was her obsession with the so-called 'Banality of Evil'—the subtitle of the book—which proved her undoing and which, for much of informed Jewry, has blotted out the memory of the 'good' which she undoubtedly did as a thinker, teacher and writer.

Nine years after her death it was high time that someone resurrected Hannah Arendt and recalled that her life's work was not confined to the highly contentious and unfortunate 'Eichmann in Jerusalem'. This has now been done by one of her American ex-pupils and later colleague at Wesleyan University, Elizabeth Young-Bruehl in her biography *Hannah Arendt—For The Love Of The World* (Yale University Press, New Haven and London).

Hannah was born into a typical bourgeois German Jewish family and brought up in Koenigsberg where she received a classical education. Her father, not quite so typically, contracted syphilis at an early age. When Hannah was five he had to be institutionalised in a psychiatric clinic where he died three years later. Her early formative years were therefore spent in a one-parent, one-child family. Her mother, who eventually remarried,

was somewhat domineering and protective, with intellectual pretensions of her own; she was a dedicated socialist. Hannah belonged to that gilded generation of German Jews who grew up in the extraordinary atmosphere of the Germany of the nineteen-twenties; it was a time of exceptional intellectual and artistic creativity, flowering on a compost of economic and political instability. She was a gifted, attractive girl with penetrating eyes, an inquisitive mind, considerable emotional depth and a finely attuned ear for language, writing poetry from an early age.

At 18 she matriculated at Marburg University to read philosophy and immediately fell under the spell of one of the progenitors of existentialism, Martin Heidegger, 17 years her senior. She not only became his star pupil but for a while also his mistress. They tried to keep their relationship a secret. He was a Catholic, married, with two adolescent sons and a shrewish, antisemitic wife; she was a glowing, vibrant young Jewess. It could not last long and at Heidegger's own suggestion she did not attempt to write her doctoral thesis at Marburg on the concept of love in the writings of St. Augustine but went instead to Heidelberg, where Karl Jaspers held the chair of philosophy.

With Jaspers she also developed an intimate personal relationship but it was of quite a different kind. It was also intense, certainly on her part, but platonic in the usual sense. He, more than Heidegger, became her real guru, her 'father-confessor', the shaper of her ideas. Her relationship with Heidegger gradually declined and after 1933, when Heidegger proclaimed his conversion to Nazism (it did not last long though) and became Rector of Freiburg University it fractured completely, only to be re-established in 1949, albeit on a somewhat tenuous basis. By contrast she kept faith throughout the years with Jaspers, who during the Hitler period had remained true to himself and had retired into internal exile. From 1948 onwards Hannah saw Karl and Gertrud Jaspers regularly in

Basel, where he taught after the war, until his death in 1969. She drew ever closer to him but over the years their relationship changed subtly. They had become peers on the same plateau and Jaspers now relied as much on Arendt's counsel and approval as she on his.

The third major mentor of Hannah's formative years sprang from a background very different from that of the two philosophers and one much closer to her own. He was Kurt Blumenfeld, 15 years her senior and one of the earliest German-Jewish Zionists. It was he, more than anyone else, who aroused her interest in Judaism and Jewish affairs. For the rest of her life it remained one of her intellectual preoccupations and emotional mainsprings, of which her own ambivalent attitude towards Zionism was just one, albeit a crucial, facet. Assimilation, integration, Jewish identity in an increasingly hostile environment, antisemitism, remained her prime concerns and coloured much of her politico-philosophical work. Blumenfeld was dying when in Jerusalem the storm broke loose over her 'New Yorker' articles and nothing hurt her more than that she never got a chance to explain herself and become reconciled to him again.

### Life of Rahel Vernhagen

After finishing her Ph.D. Arendt turned from St. Augustine's 'De Civitate Dei' to a study of German Romanticism and in particular to one of the most brilliant women of that period, Rahel Vernhagen, with whom Hannah Arendt came to identify herself more and more and whose 'Life' she always wanted to write and never quite completed. She never became the centre of a 'salon' quite in the way in which Rahel Varnhagen managed to attract the intellectual elite of Berlin—time and circumstance were against her. Yet she always, and in particular during her New York years, managed to gather around her a stimulating circle of friends, mostly fellow German-Jews, but with a sprinkling of other notables, such as Mary McCarthy, who became her closest American friend.

Hannah was arrested in the spring of 1933—at the request of the Zionist Federation she had been collecting material on antisemitism in the Preussische Staatsbibliothek—and held captive by the Gestapo for eight days. On her release she left for Prague and then for Paris, the staging posts on the way to exile for so many of her contemporaries. In

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Paris she worked for various Jewish organisations, such as Youth Aliyah and the Jewish Agency. After the fall of France she continued on the same perilous trek westwards: Gurs, Montauban, Lisbon and finally New York, where she arrived in May 1941 and settled for the next 34 years.

By then she was in her second marriage. She had met her first husband Guenter Stern (later to become known under his journalistic nom-de-plume Guenter Anders) at university. Their marriage had finally broken up in Paris, where she had met and fallen in love with and eventually married Heinrich Bluecher, an ex-communist Berliner of proletarian origins, a non-Jewish self-taught polymath. By background and temperament they were as different as possible but they cherished a close and happy relationship until Bluecher's death in 1970, a relationship in which they constantly challenged and inspired each other. By choice there were no children.

The first few years in an unfamiliar environment under wartime conditions, struggling with an unfamiliar language, were hard. Gradually, helped by friends from the Frankfurt School of Social Research, now recreated in New York as the New School for Social Research, and by the Schocken publishing house, she found her feet. She began to lecture, although she never got nor really wanted a tenured university professorship. She published pamphlets and books, becoming known gradually as an important analyst of political theories and a commentator on the burning political issues of the day. She continued to speak and correspond in her native German, but her important works were written in English, edited by friends, such as Mary McCarthy and David Riesman (of the 'Lonely Crowd'). They were the 'Origins of Totalitarianism' (1951) and 'On Revolution' (1962).

Her book on totalitarianism is very much influenced by the shock of the 'Final Solution' revelations and could hardly have been written by anybody but a Jew. A large part of it is devoted to a historical and philosophical analysis of anti-semitism as one of the markers of the modern totalitarian states. She says: 'Perhaps we understand human nature better now; for man's nature has shown us possibilities, unknown and unsuspected in three thousand years of analysis and definition of human nature by western philosophy and religion.'

## Revolutions

In 'On Revolution' she traces the origins and purposes of modern revolutions and assesses the relative inspiration which they received from the French Revolution and the American Revolution which preceded the French one by over a decade. (Most British historians do not even call the American War of Independence a 'revolution'). By 1960 Arendt had identified herself with the American traditions and way of life to such an extent that she contends that for the history of Europe 1774 had been more important than 1789, Paine and the Founding Fathers, particularly Thomas Jefferson, more influential than Rousseau or Robespierre. She had become an American German Jewess and was nourished by all three traditions.

The British historical and political science establishment had largely ignored her, but in the USA and in Germany she had become something of an acknowledged authority. Less so in Israel,

where after 1948 she disagreed more and more with the whole thrust of policy there. 'Eichmann in Jerusalem' caused a sensation. Eric Silver in the 'Guardian' called it: 'this remarkable and exasperating book'. A very muted comment! The 'Council of Jews from Germany' issued a special pamphlet 'In the Wake of the Eichmann Trial' in which leading Jewish academics, many of them her former friends, metaphorically speaking, almost tore her to pieces. The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith warned that her book 'might haunt the Jews for years to come'. What was it that sparked off such violent denunciations?

Arendt offered two major comments on the Holocaust regarding issues which had come to her as a revelation whilst attending the Eichmann trial. One was that evil is by nature banal and the other that the Jews could and should have done more to save themselves. The two propositions are not directly linked and it seems a pity—at least to this writer—that the soundness of her first point has become swamped by the unsoundness of the second. The executors of the decisions of the Wannsee Conference, their minions, the bureaucrats, even Eichmann himself—or at least some of them—had become so calloused by indoctrination, so robotised that they were past comprehending the difference between good and evil. They were so hypnotised by an urge to do a job with real efficiency, that they could be brutal killers one moment and patres familias and gardeners the next. 'Evil' in the sense in which she uses the term, can be often banal, but of course it still warrants full retribution.

## Insupportable

Arendt is on much shakier—and really insupportable—ground, when she accuses the Jews under Hitler's sway of aiding and abetting their own destruction instead of standing up for themselves and refusing to co-operate. She does not claim, as some of her critics alleged, that in that case there would have been no Holocaust, but she does say that if there had been no Reichsvertretung, no Judenraete, no orderly voluntary assemblies for deportation, no dialogues with Nazi officials, fewer than 6 million would have perished. How does she know, how can anybody know? Can anybody who was not there, in a situation without parallel in history, judge, even with hindsight, what would have happened if the Jews had adopted Gandhian methods of passive resistance? Arendt's worst faux pas was probably her attack on the saintly Leo Baeck who was in London during the dying August days of 1939 and insisted on going back to Berlin; a shepherd who refused to desert the flock entrusted to him by God. She attacks his decision not to tell his fellow captives at Theresienstadt what by April 1943 he alone knew, that transfer to Auschwitz meant certain extermination. But why should he have told them? Would the awful truth have stirred them into a Warsaw Ghetto type of revolt and if it had, would it not have meant the instant death of everybody in the camp? As it was, at least some of them survived.

It is of course true that nowadays young Jews—and sometimes also young Gentiles—ask one the question: Why did the remaining German Jews acquiesce and allow themselves to be led so meekly to the slaughterhouse? It is a question, with its implied criticism, which Hannah Arendt's book fuelled, but it is unanswerable because it is wrongly conceived.

Elizabeth Young-Bruehl, in her book of 500 pages, was faced with the problem which confronts all biographers of public people: how to intermesh their private and their public lives, their works and contributions with their personal problems. She does not entirely succeed. There is on the one hand too much of Hannah Arendt's early years, of the family background, of all her relatives, and not enough of herself in later life, not enough correlation between her philosophy and her personality. The book is written by a disciple whom she obviously influenced. It is by no means mere hagiography, yet it lacks sufficient critical distance. One's main criticism is that somehow Hannah Arendt does not really come alive in these pages. For somebody who never met her it is difficult to imagine what she was really like as a vibrant and responsive human being.

Not long after Bluecher's death Hannah received a marriage proposal from W. H. Auden, who was an old acquaintance but did not belong to her intimate circle of friends, a proposal which she declined. It is difficult to perceive just what it was that the lonely homosexual Wystan Auden expected from marriage with the cardboard-figure of Hannah Arendt who emerges from the biography and who, unlike Erika Mann did not need a British passport. There was undoubtedly much more to her—indubitably a very complex character—which the reader of this book can only guess at.

## CHANUKKAH AT THE AJR CLUB

We knew that our Chanukkah celebration, with Arnold and Suse Horwell presenting the programme 'A Feast of Lights and Light Music', would again be the most delightful event of the year in our Club. With their choice of records as varied as music, opera, Richard Tauber, Otto Reuter, Karl Valentin, to name only a few, they could not fail to give pleasure to everyone in the audience.

But there was something else which made this Chanukkah very special. Since her accident in February Mrs. Margaret Jacoby had not been to the Club. Antony Clayden, who over the years has assisted the Horwells with the technical side of playing the records, had said that Chanukkah without Mrs. Jacoby would not be Chanukkah. This message was conveyed to her but it was only on the morning of the concert that she definitely decided to come. Arrangements were quickly made for the function to take place in the Hall instead of the Club rooms so that there would not be any difficulties with the wheelchair. Flowers were put on the tables to make it more festive, and there she was, 101, looking radiant, listening attentively, joining in the songs, having tears of laughter in her eyes when humorous records were played. Watching her gave additional enjoyment to all of us as did her speech at the end of the concert.

Our warm thanks to the Horwells, to Tony Clayden but especially to Mrs. Jacoby for making this great effort such a wonderful success. We hope to see her very often in the New Year. D.S.

## LEGACIES

The AJR Charitable Trust has received the following legacies: From the estate of the late Mrs. Ise Dukes £3000 (interim) and from the estate of the late Mrs. Käthe Tilsiter £275 (interim).

## HOME NEWS

### VOLUNTEERS' SERVICE

On December 7th a number of Voluntary Workers met for coffee at Hannah Karminski House. The guests were welcomed by Mrs. Anderman, who thanked them for the service they are giving to our Community.

There are volunteers who deliver meals, some who help in the kitchen and others who visit people in their own homes or in one of the Old Age Homes.

Mrs. Lassman, our new Administrator, spoke to the volunteers and introduced one of the recipients who wanted to show her appreciation personally by giving a vote of thanks to all volunteers. It proved a very friendly and happy meeting, and a most successful afternoon.

### ZIONIST DISCUSSION OF HOLOCAUST

The Holocaust and its impact on Jewry was the subject of a Zionist Federation Educational Trust seminar entitled "The Phoenix Rises from the Ashes", held in Bournemouth a few weeks ago. Ben Helfgott, founder of the 45 Aid Group, spoke of his experiences in Occupied Poland and in Treblinka. Other speakers included Professor Shamai Davidson, an Israeli psychiatrist, who pointed out the difficulties facing camp survivors who wanted to "talk out" their experiences immediately after liberation. Roger Owen discussed television presentation of the Holocaust and the rise of the Jewish State, Richard Grunberger described the Jewish communities in the wake of the Holocaust, while Dr. David Auerbach and Mr. Leon Yudkin dealt with literary aspects.

### LEFT AND RIGHT ANTISEMITISM

A recent seminar held by the Board of Deputies heard Dr. Jacob Gewirtz say that, whilst the National Front has become an isolated and fragmented group, extreme left-wing elements have become firmly entrenched within the Labour Party. These groups did not consider themselves antisemitic, but they display the utmost hostility towards the State of Israel. Mr. David Graham pointed out that the recent disclosures of Mosley's brand of antisemitism had revealed a marked similarity between the Fascist leader's views and today's extreme right and left-wing attitudes.

### OFFENSIVE T-SHIRT

In imitation of T-shirts celebrating pop group tours, etc., a shirt recently being worn in London showed the face of Adolf Hitler with the caption "European Tour 1939-1945".

### "TEACHING CAN REINFORCE RACISM"

Some teaching can make young children more racist: this is one of the suggestions made by Gillian Klein, a leading figure in the field of multicultural teaching, in "Race Relations in the School Curriculum" published by the Centre for Contemporary Studies. Miss Klein recommends an oblique approach, letting children know what persecution is like and illustrating racism by allowing them to trace the growth of antisemitism in the 1930s. Many black educators believe that taking the historical example of antisemitism is a valuable method of teaching resistance to racism.

### GUARDIAN CARTOON CLEARED

Although the Press Council stigmatised a "Guardian" cartoon attack on Dr. Henry Kissinger as "deliberately cruel and heavily personalised", it did not consider that the paper or the cartoonist had been motivated by antisemitism. In the cartoon strip, the former Secretary of State was depicted as a turkey with a German accent; but the cartoonist explained that he had shown other politicians as turkeys, while the "Guardian" assistant graphics editor told the complainant (David Myers of Tatsfield, Kent) that Dr. Kissinger was being legitimately satirised for his international policies. The paper's executive director told the Press Council of his alarm at the implication that it was permissible to lampoon a non-Jewish politician, but a Jewish politician might not be attacked under any pretext. The Press Council was satisfied that the cartoon was directed against Dr. Kissinger's political policies, 'a legitimate subject for strong argument and comment', and was not inspired by antisemitism.

### YORK BONES REBURIED

The Chief Rabbi and the York Archaeological Trust have been at odds over the removal of remains from a medieval burial ground. Some 50,000 bones were to have been made available for archaeological research at York University, but after protests from the Chief Rabbi they are being reburied on the site—destined to become a Sainsbury's car park. Although the bones were found in an area known as Jewbury, it has been pointed out that this could mean nothing more than that a Jew owned a house and land there. However, there is documentary evidence that there was a Jewish cemetery in the district, although the conditions of burial—bodies laid north-south, iron nails in the coffins and a lack of tombstones—render it uncertain that the Trust has actually discovered the medieval Jewish cemetery.

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### "ORINOCO" SURVIVORS SOUGHT

Any one who sailed in the "Orinoco" on her fruitless voyage to Havana in 1939 is asked to contact Else Rado née Scholem, who is hoping to organise a reunion of passengers and crew. Write to: Mrs. E. Rado, 56 Crown Walk, Wembley Park, Middx. (England).

### BELSEN FILM SEEN AGAIN

After nearly 40 years, film of the liberation of Belsen and the terrible conditions discovered by Allied troops has been shown on television. The Ministry of Information called in the famous director Alfred Hitchcock to help in compiling a film to be shown to German audiences. Hitchcock worked on the records of liberation during the summer of 1946. By the time he had finished, however, it was felt that the film was no longer appropriate for German audiences and it was handed over to the Imperial War Museum. There it remained until some weeks ago, when it was shown on Channel 4.

### CHRISTIAN STUDENTS AT LBC

Christian theological students were made welcome at a seminar organised by Leo Baeck College intended to provide them with a fuller knowledge of Jews and Judaism. As well as attending theological and historical lectures, many of the students visited Jewish families and took the opportunity to learn more about their hosts.

### KISSINGER'S SON ON VISIT

David, the son of Dr. Henry Kissinger, has recently come to Britain to study politics here. He has been acquiring inside knowledge by acting as assistant to a Conservative MP. However, David Kissinger is not sure that he will make his career in politics and he intends to continue his law studies in America after this interlude.

### SHAKE-UP IN NATIONAL FRONT

After changes in the National Front's directorate, Martin Webster is no longer head of the publicity department. His editorship of "National Front News" has passed to Martin Wingfield and he has left the executive council.

### PRINCE CHARLES WITH JWB

The Prince of Wales will attend a Guildhall dinner in March, given to mark the 125th anniversary of the Jewish Welfare Board. He will be among 700 guests of the JWB, which is promoting a major fund-raising drive in its anniversary year.

### IMPORTANT INDEX COMPLETED

A major record of Anglo-Jewish history has been established with the completion of the "Jewish Chronicle" index for the years 1896-1900. The index of nineteenth-century issues was begun by the late John Shaftesbury, but the very last section of the work was taken over by Amanda Golby.

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## BIRTHDAYS

### BERTA STERLY 80

On February 8 our Berta Sterly will be eighty years old, a fact which seems incredible to her many friends. A meeting of *Club 1943* on February 6 at Hannah Karminski House, at which she will give a lecture entitled "In Pursuit of the Holy Grail", will be followed by a small celebration to which all her friends are cordially invited. The choice of the title of her lecture is highly significant. If I had to choose a motto for her whole life, I could not find anything more fitting to characterise her personality than the search for the Holy Grail.

The second daughter of a Hamburg publisher who edited the *Altonaer Tageblatt* and was in close contact with the father of Axel Springer, owner of the *Welt*, she started her higher education at an early age, studying domestic and social sciences with deep interest and recognised success, until the Nazi laws forced her to abandon the completion of her doctorate and to emigrate to England in 1938. There, a congenial position was available to her as a domestic science instructor at Lunce Court, the thereto transplanted free New Herrlingen school. When the school had to leave the area under the war time restrictions, Berta Sterly returned to London. She joined her parents who meanwhile had settled at 20 Ludlow Way in the Hampstead Garden Suburb and has continued to live there after her parents' death. She freely indulges in the planting of flowers and vegetables in the large adjoining garden, for she was born with green fingers and is inclined to vegetarianism.

In order to further herself she took up professional dressmaking and worked with several firms, until the Suburb Institute appointed her as teacher for dressmaking. She held this position for 11 years, admired by all her pupils, to whom my late wife also belonged.

In the meantime, the friend and beloved one of her youth, the social worker Helmuth Sterly from Hamburg, had also been able to come to England and to marry her in 1949. He died in 1970.

The marriage remained childless; but she adopted other children, mainly the *Club 1943* which she joined in the early Fifties and whose secretary she has now been for nearly 20 years. After the death of Hans Jaeger the Club would doubtlessly have had to close down without the efficient and successful work of Berta Sterly, helped by her sister Heddy Friedmann and others. She made the impossible possible, found new speakers week after week and increased the attendance in spite of the many losses through age.

Berta Sterly's intellectual curiosity and deep-seated religious feeling is best mirrored by the choice of the subjects of her lectures in our Club: they deal with Buddhism, Mazdanism, the later life of Christ in India, the Turin shroud. On the other hand, she also explores today's material world by undertaking wide travels which have taken her as far as Australia.

We wish her many more years of fruitful work and enjoyment of life.

DR. ERWIN SELIGMANN  
(Chairman of *Club 1943*)

With acknowledgement to the news service  
of the Jewish Chronicle

### DR. CHARLOTTE WITTELSHOEFER 85

On February 8, Dr. Charlotte Wittelschoefer will celebrate her 85th birthday. A pediatrician by profession, she worked until her retirement with the Whipps Cross Hospital in London. Her late husband, Fritz Wittelschoefer, was one of the protagonists of modern welfare in the Prussian administration. After the war, the AJR and the Council of Jews from Germany benefited from his experience. He laid the foundations of the selection method of applicants to the Old Age Homes. At the same time, he was in charge of the social programme of the world-wide Council during the first period of its activities. His wife followed his example with her own activities for the old. For many years, she was a House Committee member of Osmond House. Here, her compassion, understanding and medical knowledge were of particular value. She has retained her contacts with the AJR and its activities, especially under the auspices of the AJR Club. A cordial personality of wide interests, she has become a friend to many in our midst. In gratitude, we extend our sincerest birthday wishes to her.

### TRIBUTE TO TERENCE PRITTE

To mark the seventieth birthday of Terence Prittie, a reception was held under the auspices of the Zionist Federation. A distinguished journalist and author, Mr. Prittie is editor of the informative bulletin "Britain and Israel" and has also used his expert knowledge of the problems of Israel in many other ways. The second cause which he serves is the promotion of understanding between Jews and post-war Germany. As former German correspondent of the then "Manchester Guardian" he has acquired an inside knowledge of this intricate issue. His latest book, "My Germans", reviewed in the October AJR Information, testified anew to his involvement in this subject. In the course of his work, Mr. Prittie has become a trusted friend of many former refugees. Belatedly, we extend our cordial birthday greetings to him.

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### SILVER JUBILEE OF LEO BAECK HOUSE

The Chanukkah Celebration at Leo Baeck House on December 4, 1983 was a particularly festive occasion, because it also marked the 25th Anniversary of the Home. Its history during this quarter of a century has been blessed by good fortune and continuity. When the property was acquired, it appeared extravagant that former refugees should be accommodated in what was called "Millionaires' Row". Yet at that time The Bishop's Avenue had gradually lost its original character. It was no longer possible to find sufficient staff for managing the single villas, and their sale price was below that of adequate houses in other districts. The site of the Home, acquired out of the recovered heirless Jewish property in Germany, comprises half an acre and the house and the garage left a large area of space, partly used as a garden, partly a kind of wilderness. There was sufficient room to add an annex to the villa and, later, to erect Osmond House on the same site. Notwithstanding the change of use, the Home has retained its character of a private villa, last but not least because of its large beautiful Hall.

The Home's other good fortune was the continuity of its management. Its first chairman, who served for many years, was the late F. W. Ury. He had effective experience in the wider issues involved and at the same time a practical sense of detail. Thus he welded the House Committee comprising members of the AJR into an organic and devoted team and also established a close relationship with the staff. The continuity is also manifested by the fact that the Matron, Mrs. G. Dick, who started her services with the Home 21 years ago, has been in her senior position for the past 18 years. She excels by her particularly close relationship with the residents and her gift to guide and inspire the staff, members of which often retain contact with her after they have left the Home and founded families of their own. On an occasion like this we also remember the long-standing medical officer of the Home, the late Dr. F. L. Newman, who had his heart in the work and was available at all times for seven days a week.

At the celebration, where the Menorah was placed under the portrait of Leo Baeck, the lights were kindled by Kantor J. Dollinger and brief addresses were delivered by the Chairmen of the House Committee, Mr. M. Durst, and of the Management Committee for the Homes, Mr. L. Spiro. This most enjoyable function was attended by more than 100 guests, comprising committee members and friends of the Home and relatives of the residents.

### COMMUTER EXTRAORDINAIRE!

Surely the all-time record for commuting must go to Johnny Back, who lives in Raanana, Israel, and works in London. Mr. Back, a solicitor and a founder of the Bushey Jewish Community, decided that with Israel only 4½ hours away by plane, he might just as well install his family there, fly to London each Monday morning early and return on Thursday afternoons. Incidentally, he finds he makes many useful contacts on the way. He has found, too, that his twin existence encourages Israelis and Britons who need legal help in each others' countries to beat a path to his door.

# A PASSIONATE EUROPEAN

## Birthday Tributes to Herbert Sulzbach

Another five years have passed, and again we can record an important birthday for Herbert Sulzbach. On February 8 he will be ninety. Usually, at that stage, one speaks of "declining years". But this does not apply to Herbert Sulzbach. On the contrary, in recent months, he has achieved nationwide recognition. In a radio broadcast on Armistice Day, "The Black and the Grey", he appeared as one of the central personalities because of his unsurpassed educational work in camps for German Prisoners of War. The appreciation index given by the BBC's audience research department turned out to be one of the highest ever recorded, and the broadcast was repeated a few weeks later.

It was indeed a unique experience recollected by Herbert Sulzbach. When he arrived at Comrie Camp, songs like "Wenn's Judenblut vom Messer spritzt" were favourites in the prisoners' repertoire. Nevertheless, in his determined effort to overcome the spirit of hatred, Herbert, the German Jew, was rewarded with success. He taught the soldiers that there was a fundamental difference between "patriotism" (love of one's own country) and "nationalism" (aggressiveness against other nations). After the war, he was transferred to another camp, Featherstone Park, where the relationship between him and the prisoners became so close that a Featherstone Park Camp Association was brought into being in 1960 where ex-prisoners held annual meetings which were not only personal reunions but also gatherings with prominent speakers, all serving the idea of promoting Anglo-German understanding. Herbert Sulzbach was the Hon. President of the Association. As age took its toll, the final meeting was held last October.

An achievement as important as the broadcast was a write-up by Tom Pocock in the "Evening Standard" of November 24, 1983. Referring to an episode in Herbert Sulzbach's service with the German Army during the First World War, it was headlined "The man who almost killed Montgomery" and showed a picture of Herbert Sulzbach. Apart from scientists and scholars, not many ex-refugees have been accorded the same degree of publicity in the national press.

The list of awards bestowed on Herbert Sulzbach maps the course of his life. During the First World War, when he served as an officer, he obtained the Iron Cross First Class. In the Second World War, he reached the rank of captain in the British Army. When, after the dissolution of the POW camp, he became affiliated to the newly established Federal German Embassy, he unrelentingly continued his work for Anglo-German understanding. In recognition, he received the German Grand Cross of Merit. In 1978, he was awarded the Franco-German Croix de Paix de l'Europe. Finally, after his retirement from the service of the Federal German Embassy, he was made an OBE in 1982.

If we try to trace the main reason for Herbert Sulzbach's success, it is in his outstanding gift of establishing human contact. There were journalists of high calibre at one of the parties given on the occasion of his retirement. Not in spite of, but

because of the affirmation of his German origin (his accent would have given him away anyhow) he has become well known and loved in numerous English circles. Needless to say that his contacts have also included leading personalities in Anglo-Jewish life. Yet above all there are his "next-of-kin", the Jewish ex-refugees. On many occasions he has been a helpful link between the Embassy and the AJR. Beyond this, he has become a trusted friend to many of us. Though, unfortunately, his birthday is marred by the loss of his beloved wife, Beate, he will be recompensed by the sincere good wishes which will be extended to him from many quarters. Nominally retired, he is still active and his health is unimpaired. May he be given undiminished strength for many more years to come.

WERNER ROSENSTOCK

*The following tribute to "Herbert the Great", which we leave in the original German, was written by Carl Heinz Holst, one of Herbert Sulzbach's POWs at Featherstone Park Camp.*

### DANK AN UNSERN FREUND

Im vergangenen Frühjahr war es, als ich Herbert zum ersten Mal in seinem Londoner Heim aufsuchte. Nach meiner dreijährigen Kriegsgefangenschaft in Featherstone-Park hatte ich Herbert 1967 in der Deutschen Botschaft/London getroffen und in der Folge anlässlich der jährlichen Featherstone-Park-Camp-Treffen in Düsseldorf wiedergesehen. Aber richtig kennen, und ich darf es als Mann sagen, lieben gelernt, habe ich ihn erst anlässlich der Filmaufnahmen für I.T.V. Ende April 1982 in Hexham und Featherstone, als wir die zur Ehre gereichende Gedenktafel am Eingang des Kriegsgefangenenlagers enthüllten.

Damals als PoW 1946 und 1947 war Herbert für mich Zwanzigjährigen ein Emigrant—als britischer Captain—der uns zur Demokratie umerziehen sollte. Ich hatte in meinem bisherigen Leben bis zu diesem Zeitpunkt überhaupt noch keinen Juden gekannt, aber hatte nicht unser "Führer", dem wir bedingungslose Treue schwören mussten, die Juden verdammt? Und hatte er nicht angeblich immer Recht gehabt? Seine Worte in Zweifel ziehen hiesse für einen Grossteil unserer Generation eine Welt einstürzen lassen. Umerziehung für mich, einen Jungen, der im nationalsozialistischen "Grossdeutschland" aufgewachsen, der bis dahin seinem Führer gefolgt und sein Blut für Volk und Vaterland zu geben bereit war?

Es bedurfte einer sehr, sehr langen Zeit, ehe ich überhaupt begriff, was dieser Herbert Sulzbach wollte, welche Grösse er hatte und welch gütiges Verständnis er ausstrahlte. Und welch eine enorme innerliche Kraft erforderlich ist, um seinen ärgsten Feinden, die die nächsten Verwandten verfolgt und ums Leben gebracht hatten, zu verzeihen, sie zu verstehen und ihnen zu helfen! Ich wäre kaum dazu in der Lage und ich glaube, viele, viele meiner Landsleute auch nicht.

Die vorerwähnten Filmaufnahmen wurden vor zwei Jahren gedreht, aber ich sehe Herbert noch

wie heute, bibbernd vor Kälte, in seinem dünnen Übermantel, am Tyne-River stehen. Ein starker Westwind vermischt mit Regen und Graupel legte durch das so romantische Tyne-Tal. Und Herbert konnte doch keine Schwäche zeigen; schliesslich war es sein Ehrentag, an dem die Inschrift enthüllt wurde:

HERE WAS THE ENTRANCE TO P.O.W. CAMP 18 WHERE THOUSANDS OF GERMAN OFFICERS WERE HELD IN THE YEARS 1945-48. THE INTERPRETER SINCE JANUARY 1946 WAS CAPTAIN HERBERT SULZBACH O.B.E. WHO DEDICATED HIMSELF TO MAKING THIS CAMP A SEED-BED OF BRITISH-GERMAN RECONCILIATION! OUR TWO NATIONS OWE HIM HEARTFELT THANKS! THE FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF THE FEATHERSTONE PARK-ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INMATES OF CAMP 18.

1982

In der Folgezeit wechselten viele Briefe den Kanal und schliesslich war es mir möglich, Herbert im vergangenen Frühjahr zu besuchen. Obwohl er kurz zuvor seine über alles geliebte Frau Beate verloren hatte, wurde ich freundschaftlich aufgenommen und bewirtet. Wir führten lange und für mich sehr aufschlussreiche Gespräche, die uns zusammenführten in unseren gemeinsamen Gedanken und Erkenntnissen. So spürte ich dabei nicht nur die menschliche Grösse dieses Mannes, ich fühlte seine innere Herzlichkeit. Als ich drei Tage später London verlassen musste, war es mir schwer ums Herz. Seit meiner Jugend im Elternhaus habe ich ein solches Gefühl nicht mehr verspürt. Es war als ob ein Vater Lebwohl sagte.

Als Gegner des Systems und als Soldaten, die dennoch dafür kämpfen mussten, hatten Jahrzehnte zuvor eine ganze Anzahl meiner ehemaligen Mitgefangenen, aber auch einige englische Journalisten, die Grösse dieses Mannes längst erkannt.

Der ehemalige PoW Nr. 915 051, (Lt.) Gerhard Adler, der seit seiner Entlassung aus dem Featherstone Park Camp nichts mehr von Herbert Sulzbach hoerte, schrieb in seinem Ende 1982 veröffentlichten Buch "A 915 051": "Neben Colonel Vickers, dem Sponsor, fungierte als dessen rechte Hand gewissermassen ein Education Officer namens Herbert Sulzbach. Sein ganz und gar nicht britischer Name liess auf deutsche Herkunft schliessen, und tatsaechlich wusste inzwischen jedermann, Captain Sulzbach war ein aus Hitler-Deutschland emigrierter Jude. Er sprach unsere Muttersprache mit einem leichten Frankfurter Akzent. Wenn wir unsern Lagerkommandanten, Colonel Vickers, gern mit dem Titel "unser Herrgott" bedachten, dann verdiente wegen seiner vielen kleinen Wohltaten uns Gefangenen gegenueber Captain Sulzbach den Spitznamen "unser Erzengel"... Ich erlebte Groesse, Toleranz und Fairness, wie ich sie als deutscher Kriegsgefangener eigentlich nicht erwarten durfte."

Unser "Erzengel", Herbert Sulzbach, OBE, hat durch sein Wirken tausenden von Deutschen, auch vielen ehemaligen Angehoerigen der SS, nicht nur den Antisemitismus abgewoehnt, sondern abertausende zu Bewunderern der Juden und deren Kultur gemacht. Der britische Parlamentsabgeordnete, Sir Bernard Braine, hat unser aller Empfinden auf die kuerzeste Formel gebracht, was sich ueber Herbert Sulzbach sagen laesst: "Britten und Deutsche verdanken Sulzbach mehr, als sie ihm je zurueckgeben koennten."

Zu Ihrem 90. Geburtstag, lieber Herbert, meinen Glueckwunsch und noch viele gute Jahre. God bless you! Ihr  
CARL HEINZ HOLST

# OBITUARIES

## DR ERICH JULIUS GOLDSTEIN

Dr Erich Goldstein, who died in November, was born in Glogau, Silesia in 1897. An active member of the "Kameraden" youth group (and nicknamed "Putz") he proceeded to study law at the universities of Marburg, Heidelberg and Breslau. After a short spell as a judge he chose advocacy and settled down as a partner in a legal practice in Glogau. Already during the First World War he was an outspoken critic of excessive nationalism and became a Social Democrat. He married Jenny Zweig from near Beuthen, Upper Silesia, in December 1930.

Having become known to the Nazis quite early on, he was sought out by a group of them early in 1934, but had a lucky escape through a bathroom window and fled via Czechoslovakia to Palestine with his wife and small daughter. There he lived for 22 years, engaging in such meagre office work as he could find and promoting moves towards reconciliation between Jews and Arabs. In 1955 he moved to Golders Green, London with his family and worked at the United Restitution Office and later in the practice of Dr Georg Cohn. Here he found great satisfaction in his new specialisation—German compensation claims. His last few years were spent lovingly and selflessly caring for his ailing wife.

Totally committed to Biblical teaching and the sayings of the great prophets he was also the product of the finest in German culture. He suffused his deep religious faith and commitment to Judaism's moral teachings with a deep sense of vocation as judge and advocate.

He will be remembered for saving many souls from destruction in the early stages of the Second World War by arranging affidavits for them so that they could leave threatened territories, for espousing peace and fighting the cause of the oppressed.

G.G.

## WILLI STERN

Mr. Willi Stern, MBE, who has died in Cardiff, came to this country from Fulda, where his family had had a paint factory since the late nineteenth century. Together with his brothers, the late Simon and Fritz Stern, he re-established the business. It was the first firm to be formed on what is now known as the Treforest Industrial Estate. He was closely connected with the Penylan Synagogue as chairman of its building committee and was a staunch supporter of Israeli institutions. In 1977 he was appointed MBE for his services to industry.

## DR. ISRAEL MORDECHAI RABINOWITZ

Dr. Israel Mordechai Rabinowitz, a world-famous expert in the treatment of diabetes and scarcely less known for his bitter opposition to Zionism, has died in Montreal at the age of 93. In 1946 he shocked Canadian Jewry by a speech attacking political Zionism as contrary to Jewish traditions and in the 1970's he accused the Zionist leadership of sacrificing Jewish lives during the Holocaust in order to build up the Zionist cause.

## SIEGFRIED SIMON LEVI

Siegfried Simon Levi suddenly passed away on November 23rd at the age of 70. He was born at Bentheim (Germany) the son of deeply religious parents and studied chemistry at Dresden. He came to England in 1939 after imprisonment in Buchenwald. During the war he served in the Medical Corps of the British Army and after his release he worked in a chemical firm in Port Glasgow. In 1948 he was engaged as an Engineering Chemist in Nigeria and in this capacity he helped the development of that country for 15 years. Returning to England in 1963 he devoted much of his knowledge and concern to the Middlesex New Synagogue at Harrow of which he was Warden, Chairman, Vice President and Trustee. During his Chairmanship the old synagogue was replaced by the building of a new one, which is the pride of the Community and represents a landmark in its history.

## MRS. LULU LIBROWICZ

Mrs. Lulu Librowicz, who has died in Bradford, was one of the pillars of Jewish community life in the northern region of this country. Together with her late husband, the dental surgeon Dr. Hans Librowicz, she revived and expanded the activities of the Bradford Reform Synagogue, transmitting the values of German Jewish life.

Mrs. Librowicz was born in Frankfurt. She joined the B'nai B'rith in Berlin, where she was a social worker. A few weeks before her death she was presented with the B'nai B'rith golden certificate, having been a member for 60 years. She was also actively associated with the AJR and repeatedly contributed to the letter columns of this journal. Her numerous friends, who include many former refugees, will always remember her gratefully as an upright, helpful and deeply religious personality.

## FANIA FÉNELON

Fania Fénelon, the Frenchwoman who wrote "The Musicians of Auschwitz", has died in Paris at the age of 75. A pianist with a Jewish father, she was arrested by the Gestapo for her Resistance work in 1943 and sent to Auschwitz. Her description of life there, first published in Paris in 1976, was translated into several languages and formed the basis of the television film "Playing for Time".

## MARCEL DARLO

Marcel Darlo, born Israel Moshe Blauschild, has died in Paris aged 83. For many years he was a noted figure in the French cinema, having starred in over 50 films. Of Romanian origin, he was brought up in Paris, but was able to emigrate to the United States in 1940. Although all his family perished in the Holocaust, Marcel Darlo returned to France after the war and then took his new name and began his cinematic career. As recently as 1982, he published his autobiography "Mes Années folles [My crazy years]".

## JULIUS GELLNER

The veteran theatrical director Julius Gellner has died in Israel at the age of 83. Born in Bohemia, he worked as artistic director for a Munich theatre and after 1933 returned to Czechoslovakia, where he became chief producer of the German theatre in Prague. Leaving the country only a few steps ahead of the Gestapo, Julius Gellner came to England, where he joined the BBC. Tyrone Guthrie encouraged him to resume theatrical work and his "Othello" was one of the successes of wartime London. He became associate director and resident producer of the Mermaid Theatre, which he had helped to found, but he left Britain for Israel and in 1962 took up a resident post with the Habima Theatre, Tel Aviv.

## HELMUTH HEINEMANN

While on a business trip to his native city of Hamburg, Helmuth Heinemann died, aged 69. He was president of the Congregation Bnai Tikvah in Buenos Aires and had been a leading figure in South American B'nai B'rith.

## HENRY INLANDER

Viennese-born Henry Inlander, an important and original painter, has died in London. He was 58. After coming to England in 1938, Henry Inlander attended the Camberwell School of Art and the Slade, and in 1952 won the Prix de Rome. As well as exhibiting his works, some of which are in the Tate Gallery, he was a well-known art teacher.

## AMY ULLMAN

Amy Ullman died recently at the age of 87. She was an active member of Golders Green Beth Hamidrash. Mrs. Ullman organised one of the most remarkable escapes from Occupied Europe in May 1940. Herself pregnant, she gathered together over twenty of her relatives and with her three young children brought them all to England from Belgium while the German forces were overrunning the country.

## CHAIM WERED

Well-known to British tourists as one of the best guides in Israel, Chaim Wered died recently. Born in Czechoslovakia, he escaped to England and served in the Northumberland Fusiliers, later transferring to the Jewish Brigade, where he reached the rank of Captain and was called "Captain Hollywood" in recognition of his splendid physique. He emigrated to Palestine after the Second World War and served with great distinction in each of Israel's wars.

## HENRI PERLMANN

Henri Perlmann, a prominent member of the Curaçao Jewish community has died in New York at the age of 74. A native of Königsberg, he escaped from Holland by walking with his wife (the sister of Sir Sigmund Sternberg) across the Spanish frontier and then boarding a Dutch vessel sailing for the Caribbean. Mr. Perlmann was active in a number of Jewish organisations both in Curaçao and in the USA.

## "NESTHAEKCHEN" ON GERMAN TV

On six afternoons between Christmas and New Year, the Zweite Deutsche Fernsehen broadcast a series based on "Nesthaekchen" by Else Ury. It commenced with episodes in which "Nesthaekchen" was six years old and ended with the outbreak of the First World War.

The selection of "Nesthaekchen" stories for the programme at a season and hour with the highest number of potential youthful viewers is interesting for several reasons. It indicates that, though depicting a distant period with an entirely different life style and social slant the work is not outdated. Of the ten volumes of the series of novels, all (with the exception of "Nesthaekchen im Weltkrieg") are again on sale (Hochverlag, Dusseldorf) with a total of six million copies. The fact that despite its old-fashioned language it still appeals to a young generation entirely different from that depicted in the stories testifies to the literary value of the work. In a test among students of education about the best remembered books for girls "Nesthaekchen" got the fourth place with 55 per cent; of course, the list was headed by "Heidi". This is revealed in the interesting postscript by Christa Rotzoll to one of the volumes.

In the producer's synopsis of the series, biographies of those connected with the film in one way or another are also listed, including a brief account of Else Ury's life story. She was born in

Berlin in 1877, the daughter of a Jewish tobacco manufacturer. To some extent, the middle class milieu of her family is mirrored in her work, though there is no specific reference to the Jewishness of the background. Yet the biography contains a very odd sentence: "In spite of her Jewish origin, some of her books express quite a patriotic traditional attitude" ('eine durchaus patriotisch-traditionelle Gesinnung'). In 1934 she was excluded from the "Reichsschrifttumskammer" and thus forbidden to continue her literary activities. Caring for her then 92-year-old mother, she did not emigrate and on January 12, 1944, was deported to Auschwitz.

One of the "Nesthaekchen" stories ("Nesthaekchen und ihre Kueken") has also been published in paperback in the series "Die Frau in der Literatur" (Ullstein-Taschenbuch). It has an interesting postscript by Christa Rotzoll. It deals with the sociological facets of the Nesthaekchen milieu and indicates that to a certain extent some of the characters were based on members of Else Ury's family which, in her generation, had already advanced from the commercial to the academic sphere. The author also refers to the integration of German Jews into their environment. "During the first third of this century the most stupid German lawyers and doctors were by no means Jews", she writes.

## SCHINDLER ON TELEVISION

In 1982, the prestigious Booker Prize was awarded to the Australian novelist Thomas Keneally for "Schindler's Ark". A lot of controversy followed, because the book was not a novel, but rather a work of fiction, i.e. a mixture of fact and fiction. It narrated events which the author had been told about by some of the participants, and, as he stated, he had only added some invented dialogue to the material he had gathered in many interviews and which he had been urged to publish.

Keneally's book, which told the extraordinary story of Oskar Schindler, who saved the lives of many Jews by employing them in his armaments factory during the war, was reviewed at length in AJR Information of March 1983.

It is strange to note that before the publication of Keneally's book, nothing of this extraordinary story was known in Britain, perhaps because none of the survivors had settled here. At the time of the Eichmann trial, the Daily Mail did carry a feature on Schindler, comparing the two men, but it was disregarded. Shortly before his death, there had been a documentary about him on German TV. In the United States recognition came when seventy-five of the survivors there collected \$120,000 to dedicate a floor of the Truman Research Center at the Hebrew University to him. The floor was to house a Book of Life with an account of his rescue activities and a list of the rescued.

Recently Thames Television made amends for this omission by devoting a 90-minute programme to him. Director Jon Blair deserves praise for the extra research done for this project. He traced witnesses everywhere, including Schindler's widow, but the most frightening amongst them

was Amon Goeth's mistress Ruth, who said that Goeth had not been a brutal killer. "He thought what all the SS thought about Jews... that they were just there to work. He didn't kill them for the fun of it." A few days after the interview, she committed suicide. (Goeth himself had been sentenced to death by a Polish Court and hanged soon after the war. Some of the Schindlerjuden had been witnesses at his trial.)

At the end of the programme witnesses were asked what had motivated Schindler to act as he did. No clear answer emerged, but somebody told how, when the prisoners were at last set free, one of them had sacrificed a gold tooth to be melted down and made into a ring for Oskar. It bore an inscription from the Talmud: "He who saves a single life, saves the world entire." It is perhaps the most fitting epitaph for the adventurer in whose camp no Jew died an unnatural death. M.P.

### VISHNIAC PHOTOS IN HOLLAND

Simultaneously with last month's exhibition of Roman Vishniac's photographs of pre-war Jewry at the Ben Uri Art Gallery, his pictures of Eastern European Jewish life were shown at the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam.

### GERMAN JEWRY EXHIBITION

The Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Jewish Diaspora opened an exhibition on the Jews of Germany on January 5th. The period covered by the display runs from Roman times to the advent of Hitler. Further exhibitions to be held later in the year include "The Jews of Kaifeng [China]" and "The Jews of Hungary".

## PAINTER CONTRIBUTED TO ENGLISHNESS

Interest in an almost forgotten German-Jewish artist, Martin Bloch, has been revived by the researches of an "Omnibus" television team. "Omnibus" showed a number of Bloch's works and conducted interviews with his daughter and his friend and fellow-artist Josef Herman.

Martin Bloch left Germany soon after Hitler came to power, bringing with him only his canvases. He felt himself inspired by London and by England: Josef Herman said that he was the only exiled artist who benefited from the change in his environment and who himself contributed to Englishness. He believed that Bloch was one of the best painters of London that there has ever been and the pictures themselves, with their glowing colours, backed up this view.

When war came, Martin Bloch had almost completed naturalisation formalities, but now he had to go back to the beginning again. He was interned for nine months and during that time he forsook colour though he made drawings of his surroundings. However, when he was released, he was able to found an art school—a successor to his school in Germany. Later he visited America and the colours which he found in that country once more inspired him to mountain landscapes and other scenic painting. But he responded with equal vigour to the scenery of Dorset and Wales.

Martin Bloch died in 1954. The hundredth anniversary of his birth has recently passed almost unnoticed. But the interest of the Arts Council has been attracted to him and it is likely that an exhibition of Bloch's work will soon be seen in London.

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## POLITICAL CABARET SATIRE

Wit is probably not so much a weapon in the fight for justice as a tool for building a shelter against injustice. If used as a weapon in an emergency it can hurt of course—but not enough. So an anthology of wit, satire and tragic irony, used by Jews to protect both their Jewishness and their sanity would hardly be appreciated by Voltaire or Karl Kraus, but then the first was not a Jew and the second died too early. Oscar Teller's collection of sketches, short plays and songs from half a century of cabaret (*David's Witz-Schleuder, Auswahl und Einführung: Jüdisch-Politisches Cabaret*, Ed. Oscar Teller, Verlag der Darmstädter Blätter, Darmstadt, 372 p.) is a chronological collection of scripts (and a few 'stills' and 'actors' photos), but the actual performances, the tunes and the magic of the countless Lilliput stages are left to the reader's imagination and—in some cases—to his or her memories. But this sober compilation of wit, this bare skeleton of passion, anger and defiance becomes by virtue of its restraint and limitation an encyclopedic history of Jewish cabaret and, in a weird way, a history of the world it grew up in.

Let there be no mistake: this is not a funny book. A great many of the (more than a hundred!) contributions are tragic poems and their conversion into theatrical performances only gives them—or rather gave them—the additional dimension they had to forego at the time of their creation. Kurt Kaiser-Blueth's 'Sprung ins Leben' is the harrowing story of his jumping from a goods wagon puffing towards Auschwitz, Beda's (Dr. Fritz Löhner's) "Buchenwald" was written by

order of the camp commandant (and survived its author, who died there), and Berthold Viertel's 'Der nicht mehr deutsch spricht' is a most beautiful example of tragic irony—to name only a few—but all have in common literary values commensurate with their overwhelming subject matter. Some of them, marked 'Ms', have not been performed, but together with those in a comparatively 'lighter vein' constitute an absolutely unique form of literature, unique in their choice of subjects and unique as the voice of the condemned who refused to surrender.

Oscar Teller, now 80 years old and living in Israel, arranged his enormous store of spiritual weaponry in nine groups—not so much ordinary chapters of a book but more nine milestones of European Jewish history. It begins with a title which is a Leitmotiv: 'Gottes erste Liebe—Der Menschen ältester Hass', with, among others a literary curiosity, Theodor Herzl's one-act playlet 'Im Speisewagen' and Richard Beer-Hofmann's famous 'Schlaflied für Miriam,' written in 1897. Then follow the forefathers of Jewish-political Cabaret, Fritz Grünbaum and Beda among them, the first reactions to Hitler ('Sein Kampf oder das Tausendjährige Jahrzwölft'), emigration and refugee verses by the most brilliant of emigrants (Werfel, Stefan Zweig, Heinz Politzer and Rudolf Spitz among them) and the 'Geschichtskaleidoskop' with contributions by Friedrich Torberg, Anton Kuh, Peter Hammerschlag and many more. And then the great hiatus, the war and the abyss—the next chapter is called 'Nach 1945'.

'Biblisches', 'Jiddisches Et Cetera' and 'Israel' form this aftermath-trilogy and it would be both meaningless and arrogant to choose 'better' or 'less impressive' works from those performed after 1945. Not all were necessarily written in the post-war years, as Heine's "Entstehungsgeschichte des Wortes Schlemihl" figures prominently among them—and not even personal taste could justify promoting an arbitrary order by attributing purely literary merit to this most moving transformation of ideas, flashes of wit and solid craftsmanship in a monolithic unit of fierce protest. However, some do stand out, if only by their masterly treatment of the only thing they shared with their enemies—the German language. The first two stanzas from Berthold Viertel's poem (mentioned above) ought to be quoted in this connection:

'Deutsch zu sprechen, hast du dir verboten,  
Wie du sagst: aus Zorn und tiefer Scham.  
Doch wie sprichst du nun zu deinen Toten,  
Deren keiner mit herüberkam?

Zu Genossen, die für dich gelitten,  
Denn statt deiner wurden sie gefasst.  
Wie willst du sie um Verzeihung bitten,  
Wenn du ihren Wortschatz nicht mehr hast?'

Space is restricted, alas, and the conclusion must be left to an author who does not belong to the world of political cabaret, certainly not to the Jewish one, but to the world as such:

'Vor dem ethnischen Richterstuhl, vor dem  
Richterstuhl des Gottes der Völker, wird nicht  
gefragt, ob se die beste, die trefflichste Nation  
sei, sondern nur, ob sie sich erhalten habe... An  
Selbständigkeit, Festigkeit, Tapferkeit, und  
wenn alles das nicht mehr gilt, an Zähigkeit  
sucht das jüdische Volk seinesgleichen. Es ist

das beharrlichste Volk der Erde, es ist, es war, es  
wird sein, um den Namen Jehovas durch alle  
Zeiten zu verherrlichen.'

Oscar Teller put these lines as Motto to the chapter headed 'Geschichts-Kaleidoskop'. It was a good and noble idea, because they were written by Goethe.

The editor's friend and closest collaborator was Fritz Stöckler. He was also this reviewer's swimming companion at Vienna's Alte Donau half a century ago.

F. THORN

### TWO WINNERS FOR JEWISH BOOK AWARD

The 1983 H. H. Wingate Prize, in association with the Balfour Diamond Jubilee Trust, has been jointly awarded to Chaim Herzog for *The Arab-Israeli Wars* (Arms & Armour Press, £14.95) and Chaim Raphael for *The Springs of Jewish Life* (Chatto & Windus, £12.50). The Prize of £3,000 was divided equally between the two authors. In addition *Heine's Jewish Comedy* by S. S. Praver (Oxford University Press, £40.00) was highly commended. The presentations were made by Mrs H. H. Wingate at a reception in London in December, in the presence of the Minister for the Arts, Lord Gowrie and The Israeli Ambassador, Mr. Yehuda Avner.

The panel of judges this year was Professor Elie Kedourie (Chairman), Baroness Birk, Madelaine Duke, the Hon. Terence Prittie MBE and Lady Wilson. The judges made their choice from an encouragingly large number of entries from publishers.

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# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## WEILL MANUSCRIPTS IN USA

Fourteen unknown compositions by Kurt Weill have come to light in New York. They date from before 1921 and comprise an orchestral suite, a piano composition and several song settings.

The manuscripts were in the possessions of Rita Weill, the composer's sister-in-law, who died recently. She had been contemplating a sale of the documents and her daughter wishes to carry this through. Photocopies of the papers have already been handed to the Weill Foundation.

## NEW YORK SEES "GENOCIDE" PAPERS

The man who invented the term "genocide" has been commemorated by a display of his archives at the New York Public Library. Rafael Lemkin, a Warsaw lawyer, escaped the Nazi persecution by fleeing to Sweden and thence to America. He taught international law at Yale and Duke Universities and wrote a major treatise on Nazi genocide. Having lost all his family, except one brother, in the Holocaust, he lobbied perseveringly for the UN "Genocide Convention", although the USA is the one major country which has not ratified it. Rafael Lemkin died in 1959 aged 58. His autobiography remained unfinished at his death and the manuscript forms one of the exhibits in New York, along with correspondence with diplomats of all nations and other papers.

## TREBLINKA MAN ARRESTED

After months of negotiation between Israel and the United States, a 63-year-old mechanic, John Demjanjuk, was arrested as a result of Israel's request for his extradition. Originally from the Ukraine, Demjanjuk was known as "Ivan the Terrible" in the death camp of Treblinka where, it is alleged, he operated gas vans and gas chambers, and also killed many inmates who crossed his path. His American citizenship was revoked two years ago when his Nazi past was revealed.

## ITALY

### Editors Sentenced

Two editors of Rome's right-wing newspaper "Giornale d'Italia" have received prison sentences for "defence of genocide". In the summer of 1982, the paper published an anonymous letter full of antisemitism and ending "How useful and welcome a certain Adolf would be!". Editors in Italy are deemed responsible for the opinions expressed in unsigned letters which they publish and the offence can carry a sentence of twelve years' imprisonment. The investigating magistrates were unable to find the original letter in the paper's offices and their decision was based on the argument that, by their very selection of letters for publication, the editors had actually made a political choice, for which they were ultimately responsible.

### Italian-Jewish Relations New and Old

Although the text has not yet been officially disclosed, the new Concordat between Italy and the Vatican is expected to contain several provisions of interest to Jews. The first Concordat, of which this is a revision, was signed in 1929 in the days of Benito Mussolini, who made a number of concessions to the Church in order to gain its approval. Sixteen years of negotiation have led up to the revision of the Concordat. It is expected that non-Christian catacombs, at present in the custody of the Church, will be returned to the State and that the principle "Catholicism is the religion of the Italian State" will be discarded. Contrary to the general belief, a number of the catacombs were in fact used or inhabited by Jews. Italian Jewry is at present subject to a 1930 law governing its internal statute and a new agreement between the community and the State is in preparation.

Yet not all Italo-Jewish relationships are so enlightened, as evidenced by a television programme which has evoked protests from the community. In presenting a film about Porto Buffole, a small town in the neighbourhood of Venice, the narrator read a story of "ritual murder" recorded in 1480. No criticism was made of this tale; on the contrary, the screen showed a picture of a man stabbing a helpless child. The mediaeval "ritual murder" story apparently led to the trial and execution of Jews and the confiscation of the Porto Buffole synagogue—which remains a Christian cathedral to this day.

## ZENTRALSTELLE'S QUARTER CENTURY

In the 25 years of its existence, the Ludwigsburg Zentralstelle für Aufstellung von NS-Verbrechen has instituted nearly 50,000 proceedings, though not all the people it has accused have appeared before the courts and there still remain 129 cases in its backlog. The Centre has named 88,000 criminals over the years, yet over 80,000 of them have gone scot-free. A leading member of the organisation, Alfred Streim said that the Centre held over half a million documents and it still saw its task as collecting, reading and evaluating all available evidence on Nazi crimes. Eventually it was hoped to have firm evidence of each and every such crime, with the date, place and other details of the event firmly fixed.

## BAD KREUZNACH AWARD

For his work furthering German-Jewish friendship, the chairman of the Jewish Community of Bad Kreuznach and Birkenfeld, Wilhelm Tichauer, has been awarded the German Cross of Merit. His efforts for the restoration and maintenance of Jewish cultural monuments in the Rhineland Palatinate were also recognised.

## DANISH "LITTLE BOAT" HONOURED

A small and very ordinary-seeming rowing-boat has been given pride of place in a permanent exhibition at Yad Vashem. It was one of the many boats used to transfer 7,000 Jews from Denmark to the safety of Sweden in September-October 1943. Danes involved in the resistance operation attended the opening of the exhibition in Jerusalem and heard Professor Leni Yahil emphasise that Denmark was the only country in Europe where the population rallied with one accord to help the rescue effort.

## ARGENTINE "GASSING THREAT"

Employees at a health centre in Buenos Aires have been questioned about an incident in which Jewish schoolgirls were threatened with gassing if they did not take off their clothes during a health check. The parents of the girls have made strong protests to the health and school authorities, but all workers at the centre deny being implicated. Argentine newspapers are calling for a full enquiry.

The Argentine Jewish Movement for Human Rights organised a large protest meeting in Buenos Aires to protest about these and other antisemitic incidents. Seven thousand people were present, including Adolfo Perez Esquivel, the Argentine Nobel Peace Prize winner of 1980. DAIA, the Argentine Jewish political representative body, boycotted the meeting on the grounds of a lack of security. No untoward incidents were reported, however, and the crowd dispersed peacefully.

## LETTER TO PAPER BROUGHT DISMISSAL

The head teacher of a seamen's training school in Lower Saxony has been dismissed following letters which he sent in 1979 to a local paper. The letters, which were not published, referred to the mass murder of Jews in concentration camps as "lying propaganda".

## CAMP NAMED AS MONUMENT

The grim neo-Gothic factory which once housed the transit camp of Osthofen has been named as an historic monument. Osthofen, in the Alzey-Worms district, was described by Anna Seghers in her book "Das siebte Kreuz".

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## AUSTRIAN NAZI CELLS REVEALED

When a Viennese editor noticed a booklet on a shop counter—"Training Course for Survival of All Kinds"—he thought he might have found something which could be worked up into an article. He made telephone enquiries and was told that only groups could join and that the course cost 15,000 Schilling (about £550). The editor gathered some of his colleagues and a photographer and they enrolled for a course. Before it began, they made some investigation into the organisers and found that they included a professor, a civil servant and several officers of the Austrian army. Thirty instructors were employed, nearly all of them from the army. At least 325 trainees passed through their hands during 1983.

When the journalist group arrived at the training centre, they were asked for their real names since the giving of false names in the written application was accepted as normal for such a group by the training staff. An Army sergeant greeted them as "Comrades" and after a long question and answer session, in which the journalists pretended to be a neo-Nazi group, he began by telling them how to set up an information network. They were informed that it would be quite possible to plunge Vienna into chaos by disabling the electricity supply, by blowing up transformers rather than main power stations.

Asked whether the Austrian army contained many men like himself, the sergeant was most reassuring—all the men on outside duties were

really reliable and all had the right ideas, all good lads. But you had to be careful of the pinkos on garrison duty. The idea was to build up small cells of sympathisers, three or four people under a commander, who should be the only one to know every member of the group.

The training was not just theoretical, but included marches, orienteering and how to live off the country. The journalists also learnt how to deal out silent death—by garotting with a wire or by a kidney-punch. Growing confidential, the instructor told them that many of the neo-Nazi groups only stirred up a fuss without actually doing anything; nevertheless, there were underground groups who could not be discovered, who used secret caves as arms depots. The group was warned not to buy books in certain Viennese shops, because the police were always sniffing about there: they were told about people in America who would provide funds "for clever things".

The journalists' disclosures, including a list of names given to them by the sergeant instructor, have naturally aroused alarm in the Austrian public and government. It seems as though the army, the police and the legal authorities are harbouring neo-Nazi cells which would have to be eradicated for the safety of the state.

## SCENES IN VIENNA TRIAL

During the trial of nine neo-Nazis in Vienna, accused of causing a number of bomb attacks, the

court was horrified by a violent attack. The German defendant Ekkehard Weil attacked Simon Wiesenthal as the latter was about to give evidence and struck the 75-year-old head of the Jewish Documentation Centre in the face. Weil was dragged away by police, shouting "Slanderer! Barefaced liar!". The incident occurred only a short time after defence counsel had pleaded that his client had already been in custody for 16 months and deserved some consideration because of this.

## DRANSFELD JEWS REMEMBERED

A Memorial Plaque was unveiled at the former Synagogue of Dransfeld (near Goettingen). The text commemorates those "who once prayed here, were expelled or exterminated". At the ceremony, which took place in the presence of the Mayor, the Landrat and a great number of residents, addresses were delivered by Dr. Hannah Vogt, Chairman of the Goettingen branch of the Society for Christian-Jewish Co-operation and the Landesrabbiner for the Hanover district, Henry Brandt. The Synagogue was built in 1810. It was spared destruction during the November 1938 pogroms and, from 1951 to 1975, served as a Catholic Church. The plaque was suggested by a Jewish former citizen of the town, Ernst Isenberg, who lives in Florida. He had met a Dransfeld youth group on a ferry to England. The implementation of the idea is mainly due to the Goettingen Society for Christian-Jewish Co-operation.

## FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in this column are free of charge, but voluntary donations would be appreciated. Texts should reach us by the 15th of the preceding month.

### Birthday

**Pastor:**—Congratulations to Hynek Pastor, London, WC1, who will be celebrating his 80th birthday on 7 March. M. Pastor and family.

### Deaths

**Goldstein:**—Dr. Erich Goldstein, of 71 Wentworth Road, Golders Green, London (formerly of Glogau and Jerusalem) died peacefully on 26 November 1983 at his home after a short illness. He is mourned by his wife, two children and grandchildren in Jerusalem and London.

**Librowicz:**—Luise (Lulu) Librowicz died 10 December. Formerly Frankfurt and Berlin. 212, Bradford Road, Shipley, W. Yorkshire.

**Linz:**—Mrs. Lucie Linz passed away suddenly at her home in London on 30 September 1983. Deeply mourned by her daughter and family in Vancouver (Canada) and sadly missed by her many friends.

**Lustig:**—Mrs. Elise Lustig, of 33 Lawns Court, Wembley, died in her 85th year on 18 December 1983. Deeply mourned by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchild and many friends.

**Rosenthal:**—S. A. Rosenthal passed away on 27 December 1983, at the age of 92. Lives in our memory. Son John and the family.

**Schwarz:**—Margarete Schwarz, of 85 Windsor Court, Chase Side, Southgate, London, N14, beloved wife of Fritz for 34 wonderful years, passed away on 23 December 1983 at the age of 87 after a long illness bravely borne. Deeply missed by her ever-loving husband Fritz, cousin Gertrude Philippsthal, brother-in-law Walter and sister-in-law Lisl.

**Zmuda:**—Hedwig Zmuda (née Wolf) passed away peacefully 25 November 1983. Deeply mourned by her husband and friends.

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### Personal

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## INFORMATION REQUIRED

**NEUMANN.** Walter Neumann, born in Kleinsteinach, district Hassfurt/Main on 9 March 1923, (father's name Moritz), address in 1957, 4 Cheltenham Crescent, Salford 7. Would Mr. Neumann or anyone knowing his present whereabouts please contact the International Tracing Service, D-3548 Arolsen, West Germany, under Ref. No. T/D-1 110 525.

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### Personal Enquiry

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## CHANUKKAH ON MICRO-COMPUTERS

ORT pupils on both sides of the Atlantic have been set a project in their computer studies—to program a robot to carry out the traditional rites leading up to Chanukkah. Gloria Mann, the director of a Miami ORT school, has devised a program for a BBC Micro which instructs a robot to place one candle after the other and then to light them at the appropriate times. The third computer task is to repeat the first two texts day by day. Thereafter the pupils are encouraged to write their own programs according to taste and fancy.

Judah Harstein and Daniell Barnett of the Technical Department of ORT based in London have developed a similar robot system, controlled by orders given via a computer keyboard. One of ORT's aims is to maintain a close relationship with modern technology in all its training projects.

## ASHKELON-LIVERPOOL TWINNING

Schools in Ashkelon are to be twinned with the King David Primary School in Liverpool.

## PLAIN FACTS OF DEMOGRAPHY

A symposium in Jerusalem recently convened to discuss the problems of assimilation heard Roberto Bachi, one of the best-known of Jewish demographers, foretell that within 50 years, if present trends continued, the fundamental problem of Jewry would cease to be that of bringing up the new generation. It would be the care of the elderly.

Dr. Bachi was followed by Joseph Dan of the Hebrew University, who gave the following facts: "Not one out of a thousand young Jews can say that he lives in the same community in which his grandfather was born. Nor does one in a thousand Jews speak the same language as his grandfather. The majority of the Jewish communities in the USA, Latin America, Canada, France, Great Britain and Israel are at present three generations old. The same can also be said of the most important Jewish groups in the USSR, Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, etc. This extraordinary migratory movement in the past century had its origins in persecution and discrimination, to which Jews were exposed in their native Eastern European countries. The oldest

and most deeply-rooted Jewish communities of Europe no longer exist, having in the vast majority of cases fallen victim to Nazi genocide".

## MODERN GRAPHICS AT THE MARLBOROUGH

Marlborough Fine Art (London) Ltd, 6 Albermarle Street, W1 (entrance 39 Old Bond Street) have opened a new graphics gallery under the direction of Libby Howie (formerly with Sotheby). To mark the occasion an exhibition of Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Master Prints is on display, including works by Edward Munch, Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, Paul Klee, Emil Nolde, Käthe Kollwitz, Marc Chagall, Avigdor Arikha and many others. All the prints are in prime condition. It is the Marlborough's intention to hold regular exhibitions covering a wide range of print-making, from the beginning of the Nineteenth Century up to and including the most contemporary work. This exhibition and those to come will fill a real gap in the London art scene and the Gallery should be an ideal venue for all print collectors and those who love this medium. A. SCHWAB

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## THEATRE AND CULTURE

Berlin. The "Schaubühne", known for the production of contemporary plays, created a sensation by touring with the—now almost classical—"Dybbuk" in a new version by the British author Bruce Myers, with coloured actress Miriam Goldschmidt playing Leah. (The original play was first given in Warsaw in 1920.) The "Schillertheater" has *Martin Held* and *Berta Drews* in the main parts of the Russian comedy "Einmal Moskau und zurück" (original title: *Retro*.) The East Berlin "Werkraum" reopened with Ibsen's "Ghosts", the same play which inaugurated the theatre before the First World War, remarkable at the time for the debut of Alexander Moissi as Oswald, and the cast including Max Reinhardt(!), Lucie Höflich and Friedrich Kayssler.

Two prominent actresses, featured in a recent German TV programme, told of their experiences during the Hitler regime: *Inge Meysel*, today the "grand old lady" of German films, had to interrupt her film work for years because of her Jewish father, and *Marianne Hoppe*, wife and partner of Gustaf Gruendgens, told how she became instrumental in assisting some of her half-Jewish colleagues.

**Birthdays.** Ballet star of the Vienna opera in the Twenties, ballerina *Riki Raab*, celebrated her 85th birthday. Engaged by the then "Imperial Court Opera" in 1914, she remained there until 1932, and is sponsor of the "Fanny Elssler Ring", a distinction for "particularly Viennese" dancers. *Victor Borge*, Danish-American star and musician par excellence whose inimitable comic antics have

entertained millions, had his 75th birthday. Also 75 is *Hans Hotter*, baritone of the Vienna State opera, leading singer of Wotan in post-war Bayreuth, who was acclaimed in many Wagner, Mozart and Richard Strauss parts.

"Totally absorbed by the Silver Screen", *Gustav Froehlich* says of himself in his book "Waren das Zeiten", issued by Herbig Verlag, Munich. He thus adds another volume to the list of autobiographies launched by film actors and actresses over these last 10 years. The lively memoirs of Würzburg-born Froehlich, who started out in Fritz Lang's silent classic "Metropolis" in 1927, display his charming and radiant personality in numerous films, becoming a firm favourite with "Ein unsterblicher Lump", "Ein Lied, ein Kuss, ein Maedel" and especially in "Lied der Pusztta" starring with his Hungarian-Jewish wife Gitta Alpar; later, he was involved in the notorious Lida Baarova scandal but reappeared on stage and screen after the war. Today, at the age of 81, he looks back on a life richly enjoyed, by German audiences, and—after 1945—even by the Americans as "The guy who is said to have slapped Joseph Goebbels" (which, incidentally, has never been proved.) S.B.

### BERGNER APPEARS AGAIN

While the actress Elisabeth Bergner was in Berlin to receive the Ernst Reuter Medal, the opportunity occurred to present her once again on the television screen. She and Rudolf Platte appeared in an episode of the series "Die Kaisers".

### KNIGHTHOOD FOR GEOFFREY FINSBERG

The New Year Honours included a knighthood for **Geoffrey Finsberg, M.P.** for Hampstead and Highgate. He started his public service at an early age, when he became a member of the Hampstead Borough Council in 1959. He was elected to Parliament for the first time in 1970, and his long association with his constituency has proved particularly beneficial. He has always shown particular understanding for the specific position of the former refugees and frequently attends functions arranged by their organisations. He lent his help to the AJR when special concessions for the taxability of certain German pensions were under discussion in Parliament and was one of those friends who succeeded in having these concessions enacted. His co-operation on this and other occasions has also resulted in personal relationships with leading AJR members. We extend our sincerest congratulations to Sir Geoffrey Finsberg.

The Honours List also included an MBE for another friend of the AJR, **Mr. Alan Silverman**. He has been active in Jewish social work for many years and has organised thorough discussions on vital aspects of communal needs both on a national and an international basis. In recent years, his main concern has been the establishment and running of various types of accommodation for the elderly and the citation of his award expressly refers to his services for sheltered housing in London. The AJR has always been in close contact with Mr. Silverman. Cordial congratulations on the well-deserved recognition of his achievements.

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