

AJR INFORMATION

Volume XXXIX No. 7, July 1984

Martin Stern

A KEY TO MANY MANSIONS

Bringing German Jewish Past to Life

'Yes', the young man said, 'I know that he was an important poet, and a travel writer and journalist, and a radical in his time. I know that he is still a controversial figure, and even now attempts to put up statues to him produce arguments and endless trouble, but what is so special about him when what I am after is the search for roots—to fill in the background. . . .?'

'Well', I replied, 'here is your answer'. And I held up the dark blue book, for all its bulk somehow light in the hand, perhaps from sheer readability; a case where clear, transparent prose not only sheds light but becomes light.

The author has had a very fruitful idea. What Professor S. S. Praver has done is to assemble and examine all of Heine's Jewish characters, real, imagined and in-between, following their development from their earliest appearance in his work to the very end, and drawing on all the surrounding material from letters, diaries, memoirs and outside accounts. He calls this *Heine's Jewish Comedy* (Clarendon Press, Oxford: O.U.P.), using the word 'comedy' in Dante's and Balzac's sense: the portrayal of a world, of a panorama of human life. (Heine loved Dante and he knew Balzac, who dedicated a story to him.)

'A people demands its history from the hand of the poet rather than that of the historian', Heine had written. 'History is not falsified by the poets.'



Lithograph of the Old Synagogue in Frankfurt

ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE AJR PLEASE TAKE NOTE!
You Will Be Welcome

The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain

Gives notice that the **Annual General Meeting** will take place on **Thursday, 12 July 1984** at 7.45 p.m. at **Hannah Karminski House, 9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, London, N.W.3.**

The Meeting will be combined with a Meeting of the Board and we look forward to an exceptionally good attendance at this very important event.

They faithfully convey its meaning even when they invent figures and incidents.' And what a gallery they are: pedlars, old clothes men, pawnbrokers, shopkeepers, brokers and speculators, bankers, scholars, rabbis, cantors and beadles, doctors and lawyers and actors, students, poets, painters, musicians, journalists, society hostesses and so many others.

Prof. Praver begins by showing how much we can learn from the case of Heine's friend Eduard Gans, who was born in the same year as Heine (1797), had been Hegel's student and later editor, studied law (like Heine too) and hoped to take advantage of the growing tolerance in Germany to become an academic. Heine writes about Gans

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Volunteers Needed Now

Contact Mrs. Matus at 01-624 4449

Don't miss:

AN IMPORTANT DATE

Sunday, October 21

Please keep this date free for the Self Aid Concert at 3 p.m. in the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

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A KEY TO MANY MANSIONS

with humour and affection, but also with cutting satire—his loud and booming voice, his clumsiness and gaucherie, his pedantic mania for quoting scholarly sources in ordinary conversation. They had both been members of the Society for the Culture and Science of the Jews (*Verein für Cultur und Wissenschaft der Juden*), with, among others, Leopold Zunz. The Society's aims were to spread modern science and scholarship among the Jews to enable them to take their place in German society when they gained full civil rights, to study Jewish cultural achievement in all fields in order to extract the Jewish contribution throughout the ages, and to inform Jews and Gentiles of these studies so that the Jews would understand the essence of their own culture and the Gentiles would learn of the Jewish contribution to world culture.

The Society had an education section in which Heine lectured on German history and institutions to young Jews from the Polish provinces. The Society did not last long, for lack of members and of financial support, but, as is well known, Zunz went on to establish Jewish studies as a great scholarly discipline which spread all over the western world. Heine had a fair knowledge of matters Jewish, and liked to use bits of Hebrew in letters all his life, but there were considerable lacunae and he was often sloppy with facts. He did read a good deal in preparation for writing his novel 'The Rabbi of Bacherach'.

His own conflicts

However, there was a simpler reason for the dissolution of the Society: most of its members went on to be baptised, the only way they could get entry to government-controlled positions. As Gans put it, 'If the state is so stupid as to forbid me to serve it in a capacity which suits my particular talents unless I profess something I do not believe—and something which the responsible minister *knows* I do not believe: all right then, it shall have its wish.' Gans became Professor of Law at Berlin University. Heine was caustic in many ways about Gans's baptism, but Prof. Praver stresses the irony of the fact that this was *after* Heine's own baptism in 1825, for similar reasons, though Heine called it 'the ticket to European culture'.

The author's wholly convincing point is that in satirising Gans Heine was really working out his own conflicts and self-disdain. 'Do you think', he wrote in a letter, 'that the cause of my brethren is less dear to me than before? Then you are mightily mistaken . . . "May my right hand wither if ever I forget thee, Yerushalaim"'. To the same correspondent (Moser) he wrote exactly a year before he became, nominally, a Protestant, 'The spirit of Jewish history reveals itself to me more and more fully, and this spiritual armour will be very useful in times to come.' 'Beneath my dignity, and a stain on my honour' he called it, but he was baptised in June 1825. His cousin Hermann Schiff reports that when he visited Heine in 1827 at a time of great stress, and asked him how he was, Heine replied *Allen Meschumodim soll zu Mute sein wie mir* (All apostates should feel as wretched as I do!). In 1826 he wrote to Moser: 'I am now hated by Christian

and Jew . . . Isn't it absurd, I am no sooner baptised than I am abused as a Jew.' Heine fully understood the logic of that process.

In that same year of 1827 Heine visited England and saw Edmund Kean as Shylock, an experience on which he based his brilliant interpretation of the Merchant in Lewald's 'Theatre Review' and in 'Shakespeare's Girls and Women'. He was impressed by a speech made (in a debate on Catholic emancipation in the Commons) by the MP Thomas Spring-Rice in which he discussed civil rights for Jews, and in listing the absurd reasons used in the past for excluding Jews from these rights, provoked loud laughter in the House. Heine translated the speech from Hansard and printed it afterwards to highlight the fact that those same absurd reasons, laughed at in England, were still being used in Germany in the late thirties of his century (though he knew that no unbaptised Jew could take a seat in the Commons until the 1850s).

Prophetic insights

In his sombre moods Heine was capable of some remarkably prophetic insights, when he foresaw that the decline of religion would unleash a monstrously destructive pagan fury in Germany, or the famous passage from the play 'Almanson': 'where they burn books/They will, in the end, burn people too.'

We can be grateful indeed to have Prof. Praver's broad and lively panorama, for his coherent and revealing picture of the German Jewish past at a crucial moment of its emergence into the modern world, yet with problems and concerns that still interest and affect us: for example, while baptism is a dead issue, assimilation is certainly alive and kicking.

Prof. Praver writes that he hopes to have shown that Heine 'was indeed a Jew at heart, as he was also a German and a European; and that much of the fascination exerted by his many portraits and caricatures of Jews and Judaism is due to the interplay of these identities, and the conflicts to which it occasionally gave rise. Heine felt these conflicts as keenly as his most sensitive contemporaries; and his poet's ability to express them, to externalise them in verbal portraits and cartoons, makes his work uniquely valuable as a contribution to intellectual and spiritual history . . . He shows himself a poet-historian who can give us insights into a past age that we would otherwise have lacked; who enables us to re-experience past feelings, attitudes and opinions while reminding us, at the same time, of our own conflicts, our own difficulties, our own failings, and our own ability to rise above all these through laughter, through indignation, not suppressed but given free vent, and through the pleasure we may take in a gifted poet's pain or distorted—but always recognisable—portrayal of fallible humanity.'

All this Prof. Praver has indeed shown, clearly and majestically, riveting our attention on Heine's world for hours of absorbed and exhilarating reading. The book is a key to many mansions of the German Jewish world in its formative stages.

We are left with one problem if we want the

book to have the readership it needs and deserves. The publishers have put an exorbitant price on it: £40. So, it can only be had, for most mortals, from the library. Or perhaps the publishers will grasp that this is no ordinary scholarly book, despite its 841 pages, and that it could in paperback reach a fair audience both here and above all in America, where this great treasure of a book will fill a real need. Let us hope so.

For the young man of our opening paragraph, inheritor of the German Jewish tradition, here is his past (as complex as his present) on a most elegant platter: a master entertainer presented *con brio* by a master scholar.

ROTHENBURG GARDEN

A plaque in a little garden adjacent to one of the main streets in Rothenburg-ob-der-Tauber in West Germany reads:

Judentanzhaus
Erbaut 1613—Abgebrannt 1945
Wieder Aufgebaut 1953

Rabbi
Meir Ben Baruch
Gärtchen

Rabbi Meir Ben Baruch war der
Bedeutendste Talmudgelehrte seiner Zeit.
Er wirkte von 1245—1286 in Rothenburg o.
Tauber Begraben zu Worms

The German word used for garden is "Gärtchen" which is the diminutive form and has an endearing implication. In front of the house on which the plaque was fixed was a well-kept lawn, bounded on the second side by another house, on the third, alongside the street, by a wooden fence and hedge, in which there was a tiny gate, and on the fourth by a stone wall about 1.5 m high. The area of the garden was about 10 m x 5 m. In the wall were set about 8 grave-stones which had Hebrew inscriptions, many of which ended with three alephs.

The road which ran on the other side of the wall was called Judengasse. It was about ¼ km long, but the only manifestation of anything Jewish were two similar grave-stones set into the outside wall of a small hotel, called 'Gasthaus zum Schwarzen Adler'. The man in charge said that when he took the hotel over (he looked about 40 years old) the stones were already there. Its foundation year was given as 1784.

The Jewish cemetery, from which the stones presumably came, was at the north part of the town near the city wall, which completely encircles the town. It is now a car-park.

Cecil Roth's Standard Jewish Encyclopaedia (1962) says that Jewish residence began in the latter part of the 12th century. Between then and 1520 the community in turn flourished or was massacred or expelled. Rabbi Meir Ben Baruch's sojourn there is mentioned. A new community established itself in 1870, but was not refounded after the recent war.

The rebuilding of the stone wall, the care of the little garden and preservation of the plaque are obviously carried out with love and devotion and all the current guide-books mention the Jewish connection with pride.

R. O. LEAVOR

HOME NEWS

SIR MOSES MONTEFIORE'S BICENTENARY

The passing of two hundred years since the birth of Sir Moses Montefiore will be marked on July 1st by the opening of an exhibition at Enfield devoted to his life and works. The ceremony will be performed by Greville Janner, MP, honouring his predecessor in the post of President of the Board of Deputies. Organising the exhibition is a committee of the Jewish Historical Society of England. After closing in September 1984, the exhibition will travel to Yeshiva University Museum, New York.

NOW IN ENGLISH

Exile in Great Britain, edited by G. Hirschfeld, has just been published in English by Berg Publishers at £19.50. The German version (published by Klett-Cotta) was reviewed on the front page of our May issue.

HOLOCAUST VICTIMS REMEMBERED

Holocaust Memorial Day was marked by ceremonies at the memorial placed last year in Hyde Park, attended by many members of the Anglo-Jewish community. Wreaths were laid and the victims remembered in a common tribute.

STAINED GLASS AT MILL HILL

The artist Roman Halter was present in Mill Hill Synagogue recently when two stained glass panels created by him were consecrated. Himself a Polish survivor of the Holocaust, Mr. Halter explained to the congregation the symbolism of his work, representing the transition from the Holocaust to the State of Israel. The panels were commissioned by four families in the Mill Hill congregation.

THEFT FROM JEWISH MUSEUM

Insurance premiums are so high that the Jewish Museum in London is unable to insure any of its numerous treasures. Recently the museum authorities had cause to regret this fact, since a megila scroll of the Book of Esther valued at £150,000 was stolen from the collection. The megila, almost 400 years old and enclosed in a silver-gilt case engraved with scenes from the Book of Esther, was made in Germany and presented by Lord Bearstead and the National Arts Collection Fund in 1939. It is easily one of the most valuable objects in the museum. This is the first loss by theft that the Jewish Museum has suffered since it was opened in 1932.

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BRITISH-ISRAELI LINKS

After 20 years as the Anglo-Israel Friendship League, the movement has decided to change its title to Friends of Israel Association. Another linking body, the British-Israel Numismatic Association, has recently been formed at the suggestion of Sir Geoffrey Finsberg and Michael Latham, both MPs.

QUILTER'S WORK FOR LODGE

After B'nai B'rith First Women's Lodge circulated a questionnaire designed to reveal members' special talents, they discovered that Mrs. Ilse Strauss was a founder-member of the London Quilters' Guild. Her expertise, backed by former Lodge president Ruth Stern, led to the foundation of a sewing group which has now produced a Lodge cloth for use on special occasions. Mrs. Strauss, who receives many commissions for her exquisite work, was self-taught and, she says, "learnt from her mistakes".

MAIL ORDER CLASHES WITH BOYCOTT

The mail order firm of Freemans has run into a storm after supplying its representative in the United Arab Emirates with bras made in Israel. Identical products are made in Britain, Hong Kong and Israel and the company believed it was exporting the Hong Kong variety to the UAE. But after an Arab women complained to an Abu Dhabi newspaper, Freemans were attacked in the press for "misdeclaration". The company is to apologise to the UAE.

SYNAGOGUE IN FLAMES

Arson, according to police reports, was responsible for the fire a few weeks ago at the Central North Manchester Synagogue, Salford. Paper was piled up in the building and set ablaze, leading to considerable damage. Fortunately, a passer-by noticed what was happening and called the fire brigade at an early stage.

COME TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 12 JULY

to help make this year's vital decisions.

Details on front page.

VIRULENT VERSE

A prize-winning poet, Peter Reading, has vigorously defended himself against charges of anti-semitism after publication of his poem "Cub" in the "Times Literary Supplement". The work, supposed to represent the thoughts of a journalist in Beirut, describes the death of a boy who has fired on an Israeli jeep:

"As from a colander, into the pavement
streamed the juices / of the assailant, a slight
soldier homunculus. Well / nobody looks for a
motive from these Old Testament shitters—
thick hate is still in the genes. /
I learned the boy was aged twelve."

In a "Times" article, Dr. Roger Scruton writes:
"... the meaning of those last two lines seems clear. The Israelis (for who else could be referred to?) are the 'Old Testament shitters' and thick hatred . . . is still in their genes . . . Moreover, since clearly the duty of such vermin is to be fired on and patiently accept their extinction, they had no motive to retaliate.

To associate the Jewish religion, first with excrement . . . and then with a hatred that is genetically determined—what is this if not antisemitism in its pure unreconstructed form?"

Mr. Reading has said that Dr. Scruton's article is "an alarmist and reactionary piece of bunkum, a hysterical and ill-informed response". His words, he declared, were not intended to be political. The editor of the TLS has also said that his journal would not have printed the work if it had been antisemitic. Since then other letters have appeared in "The Times" and the TLS both for and against the charge of antisemitism.

BRIGHTON'S JEWISH HISTORY

The largest Jewish-Gentile gathering ever to meet at Brighton's century-old Middle Street synagogue recently attended an "open house" there. The evening included a talk by Rabbi Bernard Susser on Judaism and an outline of the synagogue's history by Mr. David Spector, as well as a programme of psalms and liturgical music.

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR

S. S. Praver, whose latest book is the subject of the front-page article, is Taylor Professor of German Language and Literature, and Fellow of The Queen's College, Oxford. He was born in Cologne and came to Britain in 1939 at the age of 14. He is a member of the AJR and the Committee of the Leo Baeck Institute. He received the Goethe Medal in 1973, and is widely regarded and admired as a leading authority in the field of comparative literature. His sister, Ruth Praver Jhabvala, is the well-known novelist and film scenarist, whose most recent film, taken from her novel of the same name, is 'Heat and Dust'.

BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE 51 Belsize Square, London, N.W.3

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MY FRIEND WILFRID ISRAEL

I met Wilfrid Israel for the first time in 1927. That was the year when Habimah, the Hebrew National Theatre, toured Berlin, leaving a deep impression on the local community. Both of us were conscious of our "Jewishness" and proud of our origins. However, with a similar background of an assimilated, Western upbringing, we still had to discover the living proof of our Jewish roots. We were, in fact, still searching, if unconsciously perhaps, for the Jewish heritage within us. The encounter with Habimah was much more for us than a theatrical event. We felt that they had given us an opening into a world which, even without knowing its language, revealed a basic part of our hidden identity.

I believe it was the sharing of this spiritual experience which started our life-long friendship. When it became obvious that without financial support Habimah had no future, we joined forces to save its existence, attempts which enabled them to continue their work in Europe at least for another few years, fulfilling their cultural role with artistic brilliance, before finally settling in Palestine.

Another strong link was forged through our mutual friend and his work: Dr. Siegfried Lehmann, later to be the director of the youth village Ben Shemen. I had been greatly impressed by his personality as an educator and was happy to assist him with his work for orphaned Jewish children in Kovno, Wilfrid was one of his intimate friends and collaborators in his Zionist youth work in the early days, when Lehmann, as a young doctor, had founded the Juedische Volksheim in Berlin. Here Wilfrid had been deeply influenced by lectures on Eastern Europe and Zionism. After the advent of Hitler which sparked off the immediate re-orientation of the Jewish community towards all aspects of emigration, it was only natural that our relationship should become even closer. Wilfrid and I had both worked with the Hilfsverein, the organisation geared to social work among the disadvantaged "Ostjuedische" com-

munity, most of them immigrants from Russia and Poland. This experience helped us to combine that framework with the tasks now facing the community at large.

Casting back my mind to this period of our activities, the image of another exceptional man emerges: Dr. Ludwig Tietz, a congenial friend of Wilfrid's who, long before 1933, had been at the helm of Jewish youth work in Germany. He, like ourselves, came from a liberal background and his approach to the task at hand meshed easily with our views and understanding of the situation. The three of us were equally involved in the formation of the Reichsvertretung. Although each of us had his individual assignments, daily personal contact between us resulting in the co-ordination of efforts and plans developed into a firm cornerstone to the structure of the communal effort.

Obligation to serve

I still remember vividly our "missionary trips" to this country hoping to impress the urgency for rescue operations on a wider scale. Nor can I ever forget our mutual unhappiness and depression on our return journey from England. He realised that we had practically failed to convince the politicians in the British Foreign Office of the real dangers threatening Europe's horizons. Wilfrid's sensitivity—it seemed to add a sixth sense even to his political vision—made him, perhaps more than anyone else in our circle, desperately aware of what the future held. But then it was also this very sensitivity which essentially spurred him on to fresh initiatives and to casting an even wider net for rescue work under his own steam. To me he personified the true image of the lonely aristocrat, motivated by an "iron obligation to serve", as Naomi Shepherd so aptly characterises the major driving force in Wilfrid Israel's life.

LOLA HAHN-WARBURG



Oppenheim's 'The Festival of Hanukkah'

Rothschilds, acquired works of art for them, decorated their houses and, like a "court painter" depicted important events in their family history.

The exhibition included his first genre picture on a Jewish subject, entitled "Return of a Jewish Volunteer from the Wars of Liberation to his family still living in the Old Tradition". It was meant as a political statement and stresses Jewish participation in the German struggle for freedom from French occupation under Napoleon. The "Wars of Liberation", in which Jewish volunteers had taken part, been wounded and killed, eventually deprived the Jews of the privileges which they had enjoyed, and at the Congress of Vienna in 1815, marking the end of the war, civil rights previously granted to the Frankfurt Jewish community were withdrawn, and the reactionary policy was re-established.

Message understood

Oppenheim obviously wanted this picture to be a reminder of the Jewish contribution to the war, a debt which had not been honoured.

The fact that the Jews of the Grand Duchy of Baden chose this particular painting as a gift for Gabriel Riesser, a leading advocate of German Jewish emancipation and Vice-President of the National Assembly, and an eloquent defender of Jewish civil rights, indicates that Oppenheim's message was understood by his fellow Jews.

Oppenheim's portraits include Heinrich Heine, Ludwig Boerne, Gabriel Riesser, Fanny Hensel-Mendelssohn and self portraits. His frequently reproduced paintings of Jewish family life, some of which were also on display in Jerusalem include "Ushering in the Shabbat", "Shabbat Eve", "Shabbat Afternoon", "Purim", "Shavuoth", "The Wedding" and "Hanukkah", as well as "Jahrzeit", a scene from the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871.

In his scenes from Jewish family life he conveyed a message to his fellow Jews expressed through his own life and art: that their commitments to modern life and society could be compatible with the observance of Jewish tradition, a message still applicable today.

WOLF S. MATSDORF

MORITZ OPPENHEIM The First German-Jewish Painter

The recent exhibition at Jerusalem's Israel Museum of works by the first German-Jewish painter, Moritz Daniel Oppenheim (1800-1882), focused attention not only on his career and art, but also on highlights of German Jewish history during the last century.

Born in the ghetto of Hanau on the threshold of the emancipation, he emerged from a ghetto existence into the modern world of his century to receive the academic training of a professional painter.

He not only resisted the pressure of friends to change his religion but went his own way and became known for his paintings depicting traditional Jewish family life, recollecting in his mature years early childhood impressions.

After studies in Hanau, Frankfurt, Munich and Paris he went to Rome, where he came under the

influence of young German artists who tried to revive German medieval and Italian quattrocento art and showed a predilection for biblical subjects. Some of these paintings and lithographs by Oppenheim were shown in Jerusalem.

During his Roman period Oppenheim had some distressing antisemitic encounters, making his ambiguous situation even more bewildering. He also met the Roman Jews, who were still confined to the ghetto and suffered constant harassment by the Jesuits, who spared no effort in trying to convert them.

But in Italy Oppenheim also met Baron Carl Mayer von Rothschild, who bought three pictures, and this first meeting with a member of the Rothschild family led to their patronage which eventually became a major factor in his life. Over the years he painted three generations of

NEWS FROM ABROAD

NEW YORK PRIZE FOR WJC MAN

Dr. Gerhart M. Riegner, wartime director of the World Jewish Congress in Geneva, has been awarded the Roger E. Joseph Prize of the Hebrew College and Jewish Institute of Religion. The prize, carrying an honorarium of \$10,000 was presented at Temple Emanu-El, New York. Well-known for his efforts to convince the Western world of the reality of the "Final Solution", Dr. Riegner was honoured for his services to the emergent State of Israel, his help for Jews in the Soviet Union and in Arab countries, and his work in connection with restitution and the punishment of war criminals.

US HONOURS FOR POLICEMAN

Leader of the Dordrecht detective force during the Second World War, Captain Cor Pyl used his local knowledge to conceal the identity and hiding-places of dozens of German-Jewish refugees in Holland. Later he was arrested by the Nazis and spent over two years in prison.

One of the Jews protected by Captain Pyl was Mrs. Paula Straus, who went to live in America and whose son John took a holiday in Holland in 1983. There he met his mother's rescuer and invited him to the USA. Now Captain Pyl has been presented with the ceremonial key of Cincinnati, Ohio, in a ceremony organised by the Mayor in recognition of his wartime bravery.

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ITALY REMEMBERS SONCINOS

Just 500 years have passed since the publication of the first book printed in Hebrew from the presses of the Soncino family. Originating from Speyer, Moyses de Spira de Alemania fled from persecution in the 14th century to take up residence in Northern Italy. He settled in Treviso as a moneylender and the family engaged in business in various Italian towns until in a later generation Israel Natan, now living in Soncino, ordered his son Shlomo to "Make books by printing". This was the origin of the famous firm, known for the perfection of their work. The family house is still to be seen in the old Italian town. However, the Soncino family were forced to move on, first to towns in Italy, then further east and finally to Cairo. In 1562, the last book known to have been printed by them appeared in Egypt.

In this half-millennium year, the "Friends of Soncino" have produced a documentary film on the famous printers and are publishing a special commemorative book. The "Friends" hope to establish a permanent museum in the house where the Soncino printers lived and worked.

JEWISH ROLE FOR A MUSSOLINI

Alessandra Mussolini is the granddaughter of the late dictator of Italy, Benito Mussolini, and also a niece of Sophia Loren. Her career follows that of her aunt rather than that of her grandfather, and she was recently cast as a refugee in a film called "The Assisi Underground", dealing with the rescue of Jews in Franciscan convents and monasteries in Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis. But the idea that anyone bearing such a name should sustain a Jewish role aroused protests, and Alessandra has been re-cast as a nun.

AMSTERDAM JEWISH HISTORY

Dutch-Jewish history is available for retrieval on computer by visitors to an exhibition mounted by the Jewish Historical Museum in the "Alte Waage" in Amsterdam. Under the title "De Mediene", the display is to last until November 1984. The treasure of the Portuguese Israelite Community in The Hague is on show, together with many other items illustrating the course of Jewish life in the Netherlands.

INADEQUACY OF BELGIAN MEMORIAL

The Auschwitz Foundation of Belgium recently inaugurated a memorial at the death camp site, intended to commemorate the 30,000 Belgian citizens who died there. Immediate protests were voiced by the Belgian Jewish community when it was observed that the memorial bore no indication that the vast majority of these deportees were Jews.

WAR CRIMINAL DIES IN CHILE

Renewed attempts by European states to extradite Walter Rauff from Chile were forestalled by his recent death from cancer. Rauff, a former SS colonel, had been responsible for the mobile gassing lorries used in the massacre of Europe's Jews. At the funeral, three elderly men came forward and gave the Nazi salute.

DANISH SYNAGOGUE PRESERVED

One of the oldest synagogues in Copenhagen has been taken over by the local authorities. Situated in tumble-down premises, the furnishings and religious objects were in danger of total loss until they were "rescued". Copenhagen museum authorities are hoping to reconstruct the synagogue as a witness to the history of Danish Jewry.

The Leather Street Synagogue was founded in 1845 by Moses Levy. Always small, its membership rose after the Second World War to include worshippers who could not attend the Great Synagogue because of post-war repairs. But in recent years, congregation and finances have dwindled until only official action could be of help.

HUNGARIAN-JEWISH REUNION

The World Federation of Hungarian-Speaking Jews is to organise a major conference and reunion in July, marking the 40th anniversary of Nazi efforts to annihilate the Jews of Hungary. Under the chairmanship of Professor Edward Teller, the conference will take place in Jerusalem from 9th to 12th of July. It is hoped that thousands of former Hungarian Jews will be reunited there.

PORTUGUESE MARRANOS AT SEMINAR

Two representatives of the Portuguese Marrano community—the "secret Jews" of the Iberian peninsula who retained their religion though outwardly conforming to Christianity—were present at a recent seminar in Lisbon. Sixty Jewish students attended the gathering, which discussed anti-Zionism as a new form of antisemitism.

BOOK SEIZED IN ROMANIA

Reaction in Romania to an outbreak of antisemitism has led to the confiscation of a book which directly attacked Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen. No action has been taken against the writer, nor against the authors of any of the recent flood of antisemitic articles in the press. The woman editor of the book of poems attacking Rabbi Rosen has sent a letter of apology to him, in which she complains that the writer was not punished, although she had undergone imprisonment.

NAZIS IN HOLLAND SURRENDERED TO CARTOONIST

Eight Norwegians were honoured during the 40th anniversary celebration of Holland's liberation from the Nazi occupation. Among them was the Jewish cartoonist "Pedro" (real name Salo Grenning, formerly Goldfarb). During the war, he escaped to the Shetland Islands and fought with the 52nd Lowland Division. Shortly after D-Day, he became separated from his regiment and came across a German company who offered him the surrender of the Nazi troops in Walcheren.

GIFTS CARRY DUTY IN USSR

New postal rules are being brought into effect in the Soviet Union, under which duty on gifts from abroad can no longer be paid by the senders. It is not clear whether copies of the regulations have yet been received by the British Post Office, but the new system will naturally bring hardship to Soviet citizens receiving gifts from overseas friends and relatives.

THE AJR INTERVIEW THE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ACADEMIC PROBLEM-SHOOTER

The tall, soft-spoken American-born and educated economist has been teaching at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem for the last thirty-five years. Now he is President of the university, burdened with the heavy task of keeping his famous institution afloat in the economic gales of 300 per cent inflation. Alas, Professor Don Patinkin has no direct influence on how the Israeli economy is run, and he can only fight for the integrity of a university, which, since its foundation almost sixty years ago, has achieved world rank in many fields. Don Patinkin was in Britain on an emergency drive to help shore up the Hebrew University against the cuts of six and then a further threatened ten per cent.



Prof. Don Patinkin

All the universities of the western world were going through hard times as a result of the worldwide recession, Prof. Patinkin explained, but the Hebrew University was particularly hard hit because of its structure. It is wholly financed by the state, and the income from tuition fees is minimal. 'Practicals'—laboratory time—have been cut and library hours have been reduced; both are essential tools of learning. Most of the academic staff is tenured, since tenure is acquired automatically when the post of senior lecturer is attained. Thus the cuts have been borne by the untenured junior staff, who are, of course, the real future of the university.

The recent remarks of a cabinet minister, who said that the university should pay more attention to 'practical' subjects, not only revealed the philistinism of the proposer, but also simple shortsightedness, since "the pure science of today is the applied, practical science of five years from now". Prof. Patinkin pointed out that the two fastest growing departments of the university were Computer Sciences and Business Administration—and what could be more practical, more directly relevant to the country than those? And as for the humanities, they are what make the Jewish people what it is, and Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University set the standard for the subject for the whole world, thus serving the Diaspora in quite a direct and valuable way.

"But these are days when the self-evident has to be made explicit to prevent damage to a great institution, however difficult times may be." Then Prof. Patinkin was off to the Treasury. "To give a first-hand report on that rampant inflation?" "No, just to see old friends."

Search for Roots

Sir,—Like Chana Finklestone I too was born comfortably and safely in England a year or two before the war, but in my case in Birmingham from a family long previously settled in Britain. That such as us are part of contemporary surviving Jewry, due to a happy accident of birth, sometimes produces in us a sense of "almost guilt" that can be very powerful at times. Chana's very moving article certainly engendered such emotions in me, not for the first time. (I doubt if any of my many friends amongst the European-born Jews who fled Nazi terror and have since rebuilt their lives here would wish us "natives" to experience these feelings but at least for me logic and reason do not easily apply here and the very presence of refugees while most warmly welcome does nevertheless kindle such emotions in me. They are mostly latent but never far from the surface.)

I have recently returned from Jerusalem after attending an International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy (I was invited to read there a paper on Anglo-Jewish sources). The Yad Vashem archive was one of the most important tours of the Seminar and while manifestly the reason for its existence in no way derives from genealogical research it has in fact developed as a most significant source along with several other Israeli archives that we were also shown.

However, Chana's letter does give rise to two important points which I would like to explain to your readers. The first is that Yad Vashem's Director would still be very grateful to receive details of any Jews who perished in the Holocaust and may not yet have been recorded. It can only be a relatively few years from now that most Holocaust survivors will have died or become very elderly and frail in the natural course of events. It is essential to record these memories before the opportunity is lost for ever and I would urge any of your readers who have not yet faced this task to cope with it now and submit Pages of Testimony so that as many individual victims as it is possible to name are definitively recorded.

The second point is that for some months now and continuing for several more months browsing through the Yad Vashem archive in search of possible relatives cannot be done. This is because the earlier Pages of Testimony are suffering from wear and tear through prolonged use and in order to prevent their destruction they are now being carefully collated and microfilmed.

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After this process has been completed the Director would like to put all the information on computer which would greatly simplify the task of locating individuals especially when information on them is scanty (perhaps as meagre as only a surname, initial and a town of residence).

However the cost of computerisation would be very heavy and it is not in prospect for the foreseeable future. If any person or persons would be interested to contribute to this major and very important task, again I know the Director of Yad Vashem would be more than grateful to hear from them.

Jewish Historical Society of England.
33 Seymour Place,
London, W.1
ANTHONY JOSEPH

Short Biographies

Sir,—For the publication of a reference book "Short Biographies of German Jews 1918-1943" (*Kurzbiographien zur Geschichte der Juden Deutschlands 1918-1943*) we are collecting exact dates and precise information about Jews who played a leading role in the Jewish life of their place of birth and/or in regional organisations in the period mentioned. Please send us a list of names of persons whose life stories and activities are familiar to you and we will provide you with a short questionnaire.

PROF. JOSEPH WALK

Leo Baeck Institute,
P.O. Box 8298
Jerusalem 93228, Israel

HELP FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS

Sara Newman and Shirley Gamaroff have been studying the origins of Jewish surnames at the Beth HaT'futsot of the Diaspora. With the help of a computer into which they feed information and lists of names, they have been able to tell numerous visitors to the Museum about the significance of their names. Sara, the daughter of an Anglo-Jewish historian, finds that about two-thirds of Jewish surnames are simply taken from places in the Diaspora. Concerning the remainder, when surnames were first adopted Jews in some areas were obliged to take a biblical name in order to identify themselves. In other cases, the authorities would supply a list from which names had to be chosen; if a poor man could not give the recording officer a "sweetener", he was liable to be saddled with the name "Eselkopf" or some such insulting term, while a bribe would procure an attractive flower or tree name.

Even without this complication, a Hebrew name can turn up in many forms: for example "Baruch"[blessed] can appear as Benedict, Seligmann, Felix, Benedetti, Barbakoff or Barry, according to the language concerned or the taste of the individual.

MEDICAL ETHICS

Jewish medical ethics are to be the object of study at a new academic centre in the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. The centre has been endowed by a South African businessman and will be named after the British Chief Rabbi, Sir Immanuel Jacobovits. Sir Immanuel is to lecture on the subject, one in which he is recognised as a world authority. Last May, he was also appointed to a fellowship at University College and began a pastoral tour of Australia and New Zealand.

ROUND THE GALLERIES

Years ago when my daughter (now Rabbi Julia Neuberger) was a pupil at South Hampstead High School, she told me about a fellow pupil, Sylvia Finzi, a promising artist, and asked if I would look at her work. I did so and was so impressed that I bought two drawings (one of Sylvia's feet). I think that this was her first professional commission.

Sylvia Finzi, of mixed Italian, German, Jewish parentage, was born in London in 1948. She studied at the Slade and, after receiving her diploma in 1970, lived mainly in Munich for the next ten years. In 1983 she was visiting artist at Westfield College, University of London and has shown her work all over the world. Recently there was an exhibition of her graphic work at Morley College. Most attractive were her very small pictures which encompassed great life, movement and charm in a small space.

At the Bernard Jacobson Gallery, 20 Cork Street, W1, there will be an exhibition (June to 2 July) of recent works by Josef Herman. It is always a pleasure to look at Herman's work and these, which are typical of his best, are no exception. Herman was born in Warsaw in 1911 where he established himself as a painter. In 1938-9 he moved to Brussels and in 1940 came to Britain, first settling in Glasgow where he renewed his friendship with Jankel Adler. In 1943 he moved to London and thereafter, for a period of eleven years, had a studio in the Welsh mining village of Ystradgylais where many of his famous studies of miners were executed. His work has been very widely exhibited and he was specially commissioned to contribute a large panel for the Festival of Britain Exhibition in 1951.

It is a pure coincidence that a major retro-

spective exhibition of Josef Herman's friend, Jacob Kramer (1892-1962) is being held at the Ben Uri Art gallery (31 May-8 July). The exhibition consists of 75 selected works gathered together from private collections and museums, especially Leeds City Art Galley and Leeds University. Kramer spent most of his life in Leeds and, from the Ben Uri, the exhibition will go to Leeds, Bournemouth and Hull. A fully illustrated catalogue is available at the exhibition.

In the Oriental gallery at the British Museum is an exhibition of Chinese ivories (until 19 August). This is the first exhibition to deal exclusively with this field of Chinese art and shows superb carvings spread over a period of three thousand years.

At the Tate Gallery there is a small exhibition "Beckmann's Carnival 1922" (until 9 July) to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Max Beckmann (1884-1950). A major exhibition to mark the centenary was held in Frankfurt earlier this year. A catalogue of 354 pages with 297 illustrations was issued in connection with that exhibition. Copies are still available from the Städtische Kunstinstitut und Städtische Galerie, Dürerstrasse 2, 6000 Frankfurt am Main 70. The price is DM45.-, but postage is extra—and very expensive! Frankfurt has incidentally lent two works from its collection for the present exhibition in London.

The Goethe-Institut, London, is continuing its series of exhibitions of German art. Until 21 July they are showing at the Institut, 50 Princes Gate, SW7 "The Art of German Drawing III". This is an exhibition of Romantic German Drawings and water-colours from the Kunstmuseum, Düsseldorf.

ALICE SCHWAB

A CONSIDERABLE ACHIEVEMENT

Now that Lotte Kramer has published her first full collection of poems, one can measure the extent of her considerable achievement. (*A Lifelong House* by Lotte Kramer, Hippopotamus Press, £3.90. Available in better bookshops or from the Press at 26 Cedar Road, Sutton, Surrey). It is remarkable enough for a non-native-born writer to become a master of English prose, as Joseph Conrad did, but poetry is a more difficult matter. Lotte Kramer has mastered the craft, and we have good reason to be proud of her as a member of the AJR.

She has a wide range of themes, art and travel, personal relationships, and a strong line as a nature poet carefully and closely observing the natural world, as her admired John Clare did—and there is a good poem about him too. At the back of her mind, the Holocaust provides subjects for some of the strongest pieces. She is also aware of an even wider context. Her title comes from a poem by Osip Mandelstam, the great Russian poet who was murdered by Stalin, and her poem about him has an image which is profoundly true to his spirit:

He could move through lies of iron

Saying the password: rust

The whole of the second section of the book revolves around themes from Mrs. Kramer's continental background, for, as said succinctly in her epigraph to this section (a Hassidic saying), *To forget is to prolong exile, To remember is the beginning of redemption*. The drama of the past gives a powerful dimension to the poems in this section, beyond her fine lyrical gift. Each poem here is a world of its own, rhythmically subtle, and displaying an inventive talent for metaphor. There are also four excellent Rilke translations at the end. Altogether, a first-class performance, and one looks forward to her further development. M.S.



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THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE AJR LUNCHEON CLUB, with cake and candle. Providing delicious lunches every Wednesday at the Hannah Karminski House in Swiss Cottage, London, the AJR Luncheon Club has been a great success. Above, the volunteers who do the work, from left to right: Mrs. Marianne Hasseck, Miss Marga Posner, Mrs. Margot Schmelz, Mrs. Ruth Anderman, Mrs. Edith Kauffmann and Mrs. Judith Glick. Missing from the photograph is the cook, Mrs. Ruth Renfield, who took the picture.

MARTIN BLOCH

In pre-Nazi days the flourishing German art world contained many Jewish names, some of whom acquired world-wide fame. Among this galaxy of

talent was Martin Bloch whose centenary was celebrated this year. To mark the occasion a major exhibition of his work was recently held at the South London Art Gallery. It was a marvellous display, rich in colour, breadth and sweep of view. Martin Bloch, who not only painted but taught painting, must deservedly be counted among the leading artists of his time.



Self-portrait of Martin Bloch

He was born in Neisse, Upper Silesia, of parents who owned a lace and linen factory. He developed an early inclination for painting and drawing, but his parents wanted him to use his gifts for designing lace patterns. He refused and entered an art school instead. Later, having received a legacy which made him independent, he devoted himself

fully to painting and rented a small studio in Berlin, joining the "Sezession" presided over by Max Liebermann and attending drawing classes with Lovis Corinth. During the First World War he lived in Spain, but later returned to Germany and in 1923 opened the well-known Bloch-Kerschenbaumer School of Art in Berlin which became very popular with students from all over Europe.

Anton Kerschenbaumer died in 1926 and his place at the school was taken by Karl Schmidt-Rottluf. Condemned by the Nazis as a "degenerate artist", Bloch fled with his family to Denmark and in 1934 arrived in England where he opened a school of painting with Roy de Maistre. Interned in 1940 he was released the following year and shared Josef Herman's studio. In 1949 he became guest teacher at the Camberwell School of Art. He died in 1954. His works have been widely exhibited and are to be found in many permanent collections.

ALICE SCHWAB

MUSIC MANUSCRIPTS SOLD

A manuscript of Gustav Mahler's First Symphony in D Major (The Titan) fetched £143,000 at a recent sale held by Sotheby's in London. Dating from the 1890s, the document is partly in the composer's hand and partly in that of his secretary; the latter section contains numerous annotations by Mahler. At the same sale, some of his song manuscripts were brought by the Austrian National Library.

Other documents on sale which were bought for many thousands of pounds were Wagner's draft libretto for the Death of Siegfried and 15 letters from Marcel Proust to his mother. Some contained Proust's comments on the Dreyfus Affair.

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OBITUARIES

LORD ROBBINS

The numerous causes which the eminent economist Lord Robbins, CH, espoused included an active interest in the fate of the victims of Nazi persecution. When in 1933 academics lost their positions in Germany, he took a leading and effective part in the efforts to find new appointments for them.

Thirty years later, the refugees who had found a new home in this country launched the Thanks-Offering to Britain Fund under the auspices of the AJR. The proceeds, amounting to £100,000, were put at the disposal of the British Academy, of which Lord Robbins was President at that time. At the memorable handing over ceremony Lord Robbins stressed the benefit this country had derived from refugee scholars and scientists. He continued his relationship with the Fund as a member of the Committee set up by the British Academy for the award of grants to postgraduate research workers. He attended the Committee Meetings as long as his health permitted. He will be remembered with gratitude and respect by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

DR. CELINA SOKOLOW

A human link with the signing of the Balfour Declaration in 1917 was severed with the death at 97 of Dr. Celina Sokolow, the daughter and secretary of Nahum Sokolow. Her father was a close associate of Chaim Weizmann and was instrumental in obtaining French and Italian support for the idea of a Jewish National Home. Dr. Sokolow, then acting as his secretary, naturally acquired detailed personal knowledge of all the diplomatic moves connected with the Declaration.

After Nahum Sokolow's death in 1936, his daughter continued to live in Compayne Gardens, Hampstead, and always sought to keep his memory green. Almost her last public appearance was at the unveiling of a plaque to her father's memory on the 65th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration.

IRWIN SHAW

Irwin Shaw, the successful American-Jewish writer, has died in Switzerland at the age of 71. His play "Bury the Dead", an attack on war and Nazism, rapidly brought him to prominence and his first novel "The Young Lions", published shortly after the end of the Second World War, dealt with the moral issues personified by a Jew and a Nazi soldier. Irwin Shaw also scripted "Survival", a documentary film on the Six-Day War which involved him in conflict with the French authorities for its criticism of France's attitude to Israel at that time.

ALFRED WITKON

Justice Alfred Witkon, a noted legal scholar and authority on tax law, has died in Israel at the age of 74. Born in Berlin, he studied in German universities and at University College before settling in Palestine in 1934.

CHAIM SCHREIBER

Chaim Schreiber, who used his wartime experiences to build up a large furniture firm, has died at the age of 65. Born in Poland, he was studying architecture in Vienna at the time of the Anschluss. He emigrated to Britain and during the Second World War worked on the development of the Mosquito aircraft, which was constructed in wood. This gave him an interest in wood engineering and led to his involvement in furniture-making.

REV. JOSEPH BRAUNOLD

The minister of Sunderland Hebrew Congregation, the Rev. Joseph Braunold, died a short time ago. He had lived in Sunderland since 1957. Mr. Braunold trained for the ministry in London, having come to England in 1939; all the rest of the family were lost in the Holocaust.

REV. WOLF LEWI

The Rev. Wolf Lewi has died at the age of 89. He was the reader of Singers Hill Synagogue, Birmingham, from 1933 until 1966 and after his retirement held the post of emeritus reader. Born in Lodz, Wolf Lewi moved in his youth with his family to Germany. He studied at the Academy of Chazanut, Berlin, and ministered at the Ahavat Achim Synagogue. Later he was appointed Oberkantor in Mannheim.

MAURICE FRANKS

A former staff member of the "Jewish Chronicle", Maurice Franks died recently, aged 96. He first joined the newspaper in 1908 and left England after the First World War to live in Holland. Mr. Franks was the British Pro-Consul in Amsterdam at the time of the Nazi invasion and was able to help Dutch Jews to escape in 1940, organising a number of stowaways in the hold of a Harwich-bound ferry in which he and his family also managed to reach England.

A HAVEN FOR REFUGEE SCHOLARS

Sir James Lighthill, Provost of University College, London invited a number of scholars and friends to a lecture by Emeritus Professor Hans Kalmus on "50 Years of Exiles Working at University College." In his introduction to the lecture, Sir James referred to the College's long record of aid to refugees, starting in 1828 when it received the Italian political refugee Panizzi who was to become the creator of the British Museum Reading Room.

Immediately after Hitler's advent to power, and in succeeding years when scholars at German, Austrian, and Czech universities were losing their jobs, University College invited many of them, eventually several hundred, to continue their research here. Funds to enable them to do so were provided by the Academic Assistance Council and the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning. They were received with ready sympathy by scholars and students. One of them was Hans Kalmus, who had been Reader in Zoology at the Prague German University for seven years. He had since made an enormous contribution to the life of the College by his research, his teaching and his many scholarly and popular publications.

In his talk, Professor Kalmus expresses his and his fellow refugees' gratitude to the College for the support it had given them in their first difficult months when they felt elated to be able to work.

During the war, many refugee scholars were employed on work for the war effort, though it was always done in strict secrecy and during air raids work was carried on in the basement. One of the tests for the Admiralty involved shooting bullets at telephone directories in order to test their power of penetration. The refugees were highly amused by the fact that these tests were always accompanied by an unending supply of cups of tea.

By now he and his colleagues no longer regarded themselves as refugees because they had for many years been completely integrated into the life of the College. It was difficult to assess the special contribution made by refugee scholars, but they had certainly helped in developing new disciplines like genetics and biochemistry. After the war many of them had been appointed to teaching posts and taught generations of students. This era was now nearing its end.

Professor Kalmus's lecture will be published later this year. M.P.

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EXPECTED OPENING OF FREUD MUSEUM

Visitors to the Freud Museum in Vienna are often disappointed to find that it consists merely of the psychoanalyst's former house, quite bare apart from some photographs on the walls. Soon, however, admirers of Sigmund Freud will be able to see his furniture, his library, his papers and his correspondence with the prominent men of his day. And this will not be in Vienna, but in Maresfield Gardens, Hampstead, where the great man lived in exile. The house was bought for him by the British Psychological Society, but he died

after living there a year and the house continued to be occupied by his daughter Anna. Before her death two years ago, Anna Freud had given the property to the Sigmund Freud Archives Trust and in her will she left the Trust the contents of the house. With the co-operation of Camden Council's Planning Department, four rooms will be set aside as a museum and probably opened to the public within the next twelve months.

SONG FESTIVAL IN WUPPERTAL

A Yiddish song festival, the first to be held in West Germany since the end of the war, recently took

place in Wuppertal. Singers were drawn from a number of European countries, as well as from Israel.

SULZBACH ON W.W.I

On 7 August, at 8.10 p.m. on the Timewatch programme of BBC2 TV, AJR member Herbert Sulzbach OBE will describe the atmosphere of the years 1913-14 and the Sarajevo assassination which led to the outbreak of the First World War.

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.

Acknowledgements

Jacoby:—The 102-year old birthday child Margaret Jacoby extends her deepest gratitude and thanks to all her relatives, friends and especially to the members of the Club for their warm congratulations, 224 cards and their gifts and donations.

LEO BAECK HOUSE wishes to thank all Friends for their kind and generous donations and for their personal help in making the Bazaar on 6 May a great success.

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Deaths

Heyman:—Kurt Heymann, beloved husband of Gerda and dear father of Roy, also loved by Jennifer and David, passed away after much suffering on 29 May. He will be very sadly missed. Shalom.

Leden:—Bohumir, much loved husband of Marie, father of Tommy and Jana, grandfather of Tony and Judith, died peacefully in Rowcroft Hospice, Torquay on 4 June.

Tenne:—Harry Tenne, (formerly Teneberg of Breslau), died peacefully in Glasgow, on 1 June, aged 86, after a long illness. He will be sadly missed by his wife Ellen and daughter Evelyn.

Wolffenstein:—Else Wolffenstein, wife of the late Dr. Erich Wolffenstein, mother of Marianne and family in Norway, died peacefully on 10 May.

Ullmann:—Mrs. Johanna Ullmann, née Bergman, (formerly Nuernberg) died peacefully after a prolonged illness. Deeply mourned by her brother and family and her many friends in Gt. Britain and abroad.

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BUNZL SCULPTURE FOR CHICHESTER

A two-meter high bronze sculpture called "Oedipus Rex", by the late Mrs. Trude Bunzl, was recently unveiled in front of the Chichester Festival Theatre, Sussex. Mrs. Bunzl was the wife of George Bunzl, the founder of the famous firm Bunzl & Biach. He was well known as a fine photographer, was a member of the Royal Photographic Society, and won many exhibition prizes.

Trude Bunzl came to Britain in 1938 from Austria, studied at the Chelsea Art School with Bernard Meadows, who strongly influenced her work, and later she went on to the St. Martin's School of Art. She saw a performance of "Oedipus Rex" in Athens which left an indelible impression and was determined to translate the idea into sculpture.

She had many successful exhibitions in Britain and in Austria. Her style recalls that of Jacob Epstein.

J.H.K.



MISSED OPPORTUNITY WITH IMPORTANT SUBJECT

David Hughes has taken on a very tricky subject in his new novel. (*The Pork Butcher, Constable, £5.95*). He tells the story of the massacre that took place at Oradour in France, when German troops wiped out a whole village, through the mind of one of the soldier participants who returns forty years later under the pressure of conscience precipitated by his imminent death from cancer. Closing down his butcher's shop in Lübeck, he picks up his estranged daughter in Paris—she is married to a Frenchman—and heads for the village. He had been carrying on a passionate clandestine love affair with a woman in the village, and her fate is bound up with that of the place. The course of events is evoked with great skill, but towards the end the mechanical workings of the plot take over, and what promised to be an important recreation of the events of the time by a young novelist of considerable talent, ends up trivialising its subject.

M.S.

Right: Oedipus by Trude Bunzl

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

Israel. The living theatre has always been at the centre of Israel's cultural activities, and—according to statistics published recently in the "Jerusalem Post"—several dozen plays are being staged at the moment, in addition to almost as many for children, as well as a number of others which could be classified as theatre but are merely listed as "entertainment." If one realises that over half of Israel's population does not speak Hebrew very well, theatre audiences are high.

News from everywhere. Vienna's outstanding film success of the season is "Yentl", with *Barbra Streisand*. Budapest now possesses a semi-private theatre, managed by *Marton Karinthy*, grandson of the master of humour *Frigyes Karinthy*. This theatre now has "American comedy" on its programme, a play by *Karl Aszlanyi*, author of "Sieben Ohrfeigen" which in UFA days was the subject of a film with *Lilian Harvey* and *Willy Fritsch*. US film director *Fred Zinnemann* ("High Noon") had a number of his films shown in Bolzano, and had a personal meeting there with *Luis Trenker*, 92, known as "King of the Mountains."

Birthdays. Born as *Frederick Austerlitz* in Omaha, Nebraska with ancestors of Austro-Hungarian origin, *Fred Astaire* who has just had his 85th birthday is one of the most universally acclaimed Hollywood personalities having achieved fame as a prominent dancer, singer and actor. *Lilli Palmer*, Posen-born, a woman of many talents who made her name as actress, painter and author, and has become as well known in Europe as on Broadway, and who now lives in Switzerland, has reached the milestone of 70.

Two very Austrian Books. In a country where the position of opera director often means more to the public than the appointment of a political figure, it is no surprise that "Die Musik meines Lebens" by former state opera director *Egon Seefehlner* has created general interest. (Published by Paul Neff Verlag, Vienna.) Seefehlner who was opera manager in Berlin and Vienna—he appears to have been a most diplomatic administrator—is again going to take the hot seat at Vienna's State Opera next season after the unforeseen early departure of *Lorin Maazel*. The script of *Friedrich Torberg's* novel "Auch das war Wien" (Langen-Mueller Verlag, Munich and Vienna) was discovered after the author's death. It deals with the dramatic events of the Austrian "Anschluss" interwoven with a love story, and representing a heart-rending picture of the happenings in 1938/9, the occupation of Austria and the end of an era.

S.B.

NATIONAL THEATRE'S ORWELL

Animal Farm by *George Orwell*. Adapted for the stage and directed by *Peter Hall*. Music by *Richard Peaslee* and lyrics by *Adrian Mitchell*. In repertory at *The National Theatre (Cottesloe)*.

For the Orwell year *Peter Hall* has adapted *Animal Farm* for the stage as a musical play, though not a full-blooded musical. *Richard Peaslee's* tunes are pleasant and unobtrusive, if not particularly memorable. *Adrian Mitchell's* lyrics are clever and competent, but his agitprop tone, which is very appropriate at some points, tends to dominate

others as well. The actors wear animal masks and often go on all fours. This works very well once one has accepted the convention, and the actors produce all the expression they need by skilful use of their voices.

Peter Hall has been faithful to the original text, though one could have done without the device of a young boy taking the book down from a shelf and providing a linking narrative throughout. Despite the fidelity to the text, there is a dimension missing. One is left with the feeling that the play is a comment on the general cupidity of mankind. Orwell was more specific about his intention: "I have been convinced that the destruction of the Soviet myth was essential." He made the point that "the various episodes are taken from the actual history of the Russian Revolution" and a second point that

"has been missed by most critics . . . the impression that it ends in the complete reconciliation of the pigs and the humans. That was not my intention; on the contrary I meant it to end on a loud note of discord, for I wrote it immediately after the Teheran Conference which everybody thought had established the best possible relations between the USSR and the West. I personally did not believe that such good relations would last long, and, as events have shown, I wasn't far wrong."

Orwell had an instinctive understanding of totalitarianism, which is still not wholly grasped in certain influential circles today. The 'hijacking' of Orwell by elements of the Left is discussed, with exhaustive documentation, in the June and July issues of *Encounter*. Orwell's classic certainly has universal aspects, and will survive because of them, but the specific political facts which provoked his powerful satire are still there and it is at least a little strange not to have let that come through. M.S.

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