

# AJR INFORMATION

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Egon Larsen

## SON OF A PROMISING FATHER

### Schoolmate Recalls the Young Klaus Mann

Our school-time at the Wilhelmshaus in Munich was as boring after the 1918 revolution as it had been before. The "disciplinary statutes" of the defunct Kingdom of Bavaria were still in force, restricting any intellectual activities of the pupils. But some of us started a little journal, cheaply hectographed, to be sold at 10 pfennig a copy among our schoolmates.

It was as innocent as its title, *Der Zeitvertreib*—yet it was illegal, for the pupils were not permitted to publish anything unless the school director had read and censored it first. Of course we never submitted our publication to him, and after a few issues he hauled us over the coals and forbade us to carry on.

Before that happened, we had emulated the literary magazines of the outside world by announcing a competition: the best article or sketch sent in would get a prize (I forget what it was). A few budding writers submitted their works, some of them not bad at all; one, however, ignored our strict rule not to publish anything political.

Entitled *Die Gotteslästerin!* (The Blasphemous Woman), with an exclamation mark—the whole piece was full of these passionate symbols—it was a 12-year-old boy's protest against the defamation of Munich's rebels who had recently set up their local Soviet Republic.

The scene was a bourgeois tea party, and there was among the ladies an outsider who dared to defend the insurgents; she was pelted with insults, from "Bolshevist" to "blasphemer", and finally thrown out of the salon.

I have to admit that it was I, as the editor, who persuaded our group to award the prize to the author of that piece although it broke the rules. Nor was it the best entry submitted. But I argued that the young author should win the competition, and see himself printed for the first time in our journal, because he was Klaus, the great Thomas Mann's son.

Instead of boasting that I was his first editor, I should feel rather guilty about it. To be sure, I was



Klaus Mann

only 15, and I must have been a proper little snob. But now, reading Klaus Mann's autobiography, entitled *The Turning Point* (Oswald Wolff, London, £12.95), I realize that snobbery poisoned the atmosphere around him throughout his life, infecting Klaus himself, and eventually contributing to the frustration that led to his tragic end.

*The Turning Point* was first published in 1942 in America, and the new edition is a reprint with an introduction by Shelley L. Frisch, Assistant Professor of German at Columbia University. With her help, the reader can piece together the story of an unhappy young man, beset by doubts and insecurities, hemmed in and urged on by the overpowering image of his father, Germany's greatest 20th-century writer; constantly trying to "find himself" and to identify his own aptitudes—not an easy task if one has to distinguish between

### AGM DATE SET

The AJR Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 6, 1985 at the Hannah Karminski House, 9 Adamson Road, N.W.3 at 7.30 pm. The speaker will be Peter Oppenheimer, the distinguished Oxford economist.

genuine achievements and successes that fall into one's lap because of one's father's reputation, like that prize from our teenagers' journal.

Two years after that initial success, Klaus wrote in his diary: "I must, must, *must* become famous!" His frantic efforts made Thomas Mann smile, and he presented a copy of his 'Magic Mountain' to Klaus with the dedication: "To my respected colleague from his promising father."

### Source of insecurity

Klaus wrote hardly anything about his feelings when he became aware of being partly Jewish; his mother, née Katia Pringsheim, came from one of the most distinguished (and richest) assimilated half-Jewish families in Bavaria. But one must assume that this dichotomy was an early source of insecurity in the boy.

When he was sent to the progressive Odenwaldschule, he awoke to his uncertain sexual leaning: he became infatuated with an attractive schoolmate, "probably of Slavic extraction", to whom he addressed love poems—a manifest re-enactment of Thomas Mann's 'Death in Venice', which seems to have influenced Klaus a great deal.

Later again, he teamed up with his sister Erika,

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Glorious Gogol page 5

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## UNHAPPY SON OF A PROMISING FATHER

not only for some theatrical enterprises, but perhaps incestuously. About his first impressions of Berlin he wrote: "The romanticism of the underworld bewitched me. I was magnetized by the scum. Berlin . . . was gorgeously corrupt."

He admired the famous actor Gustaf Gründgens, who was well known as a bisexual. He joined Klaus, Erika and Pamela Wedekind for a production of an avant-garde play by Klaus. But admiration turned to hate when Erika married Gründgens. Ten years later, in exile, he wrote his most successful novel, 'Mephisto' (Gründgens' classic part in Goethe's 'Faust'), which reflects that personal disappointment and his disgust with the actor who had turned into the Nazi leaders' lackey. The book was first published in 1936 in German by Querido in Amsterdam.

The Mann family had emigrated early in 1933, some of them to Switzerland and Klaus to Paris, but eventually he settled, like his parents, in the U.S.A. But there the magical name of Thomas Mann did little for Klaus.

Together with Erika, he wrote two books about the situation of the German exiles ('Escape to Life' and 'The Other Germany'), but they did not arouse much interest among the American public, and perhaps even some annoyance because of Klaus's opinion that most German Jews would have preferred to stay at home if only the Nazis would have let them.

He founded a little political-literary journal and contributed essays to Esquire and The Nation. Though his English was fluent, it was still a foreign language to him—a problem that frustrated him.

"Am I not already half alienated from Germany?" he wrote. "Maybe it will lead to my unlearning my native tongue without ever becoming completely at home with the new language." He was unhappy. Again, or still, he was searching for his "identity", his sexual inclination, with drugs as an expedient.

This long self-examination seemed to him to have reached a turning point in 1941, when the U.S. entered the war, and he began to write his autobiography under that title. But was it really a

turning point when he enlisted in the U.S. Army, exchanging, as Ms Frisch puts it somewhat poetically, "his pen for a sword"?

In fact, the sword was merely another type-writer for producing contributions to the army journal Stars and Stripes, with the only difference that he now wrote in uniform. After 1945, the occupation authorities sent him on lecture tours through Germany, but the impressions he gained of his homeland affected him deeply. "You can't go home again," was his conclusion.

He had been hoping for an early publication of his works in Germany, starting with 'Mephisto'. On May 5, 1949, Klaus Mann, then living in Cannes, received his former publisher's refusal because Gründgens was still alive and very popular. Klaus replied with a "despondent letter", expressing "the fear that the climate in Germany had not changed for the better since the end of the Nazi dictatorship," and that there was no future for writers like himself.

### Profession 'unknown'

And *The Turning Point* appeared in Germany only after lengthy wranglings, in 1952; but then its author was no longer alive. Klaus Mann had killed himself at Cannes on May 21, 1949. The death register listed his profession as "unknown".

What made him end his life? *The Turning Point* reveals enough reasons for his life-long frustrations, the vacillations of an insecure character between hope and depression.

"Suicide had never been far from his thoughts," writes D. J. Enright in his review of the book in the Observer, and he quotes from a letter by Thomas Mann to Hermann Hesse a few weeks after his son's death: "My relationship to him was difficult, and not without feelings of guilt, for my very existence cast a shadow on him from the start . . . Who can say when he began to develop the death impulse which was so mysteriously at variance with his surface sunniness, geniality, facility, and cosmopolitanism?"

## 'WHY LOOK FOR WITNESSES?'

The secretary of Chaim Rumkowski, head of the Judenrat in Lodz, has been giving evidence with her husband against former Gestapo-man Helmut Krizons in Bochum. Estra Frenkel described how all the papers relating to the running of the ghetto passed through her hands. She knew the accused man, since he often attended discussions between the "Judenälteste" Rumkowski and German ghetto administrators. She also saw reports from the ghetto police relating to the killing of the inhabitants by the German forces, usually when a deportation was taking place. Sometimes she was able to rescue children from the death transports, whose destination was the gas chambers of Chelmno. She did not know exactly what was going on at Chelmno, Mrs. Frenkel explained, but she had an idea it was something dreadful; she handed the judges a letter from the Gestapo to Rumkowski dated 1st March 1943, asking him to

chase up a bone-grinding machine for Chelmno.

Her husband Isaak, who held high office in the Polish Jewish community after the war, explained how he had lived in Lodz until 1973, when he and his wife had emigrated to Israel. He had been told in the ghetto of clothing belonging to "resettled" Jews which after a few days had turned up covered with blood. But he himself had met Krizons only once. "Why," Mr. Frenkel demanded of the Bochum judges, "why do you still look for witnesses? Isn't the court's own knowledge sufficient basis for judging the accused?"

As a footnote to this question, it may be noted that witnesses are being sought in the renewed trial of Heinz Wisner, who was sentenced last year to 6 years' imprisonment for the murder of five people in the concentration camp of Riga-Kaiserwald. The retrial is necessary because the Federal Court set aside the lower court's guilty verdict.

## AN ALERT MIND

Dr. Charles Kapralik 90

To express our congratulations to Dr. Charles Kapralik on the occasion of his 90th birthday on April 24 is both a difficult and a pleasant task. It is difficult, because since he became 70, we have paid tribute to him at five-yearly intervals, and how can one add a sixth article about him without being repetitious. Yet it is also a pleasant task because his mind is still as youthful as it was in the past. It was more than 30 years ago that co-operation began. Those were the days when the creation of Homes for elderly refugees started. Charles Kapralik, then a senior official of the Central British Fund, had been one of the initiators of the foundation of the Jewish Trust Corporation to be put in charge of the recovery of heirless, unclaimed and communal property in the British Zone of Germany (JTC) and as General Secretary of the JTC helped to lay financial foundations which made the establishment of the Homes in this country and abroad as well as the implementation of other social schemes possible. Now things have come around full circle and he himself has become a resident of one of the Homes.

Between the olden days and now lies a life full of activities in many spheres. He was a member of the Management Committee of the Homes, which comprised representatives of the CBF and the AJR. True to our country of adoption, we had no written constitution, and the terms of reference of each of the two organisations only took shape in an empirical way.

Ultimately harmonious co-operation, including personal bonds between the two of us, was achieved. Charles Kapralik excelled by his wide vistas, his financial acumen, sense of detail and human understanding.

Another issue very near to his heart is the cause of Austrian refugees, who are worse looked after by their country of origin than those from Germany. He never tired of pressing for legislative or administrative alleviations and has been successful on many occasions.

When the set-up of the management of the Homes was reorganised by the foundation of the CBF Residential Care and Housing Association, as reported in our February issue (p. 3), Dr. Kapralik's longstanding expert and devoted services were recognised by his being appointed one of the Honorary Vice-Presidents of this Association.

As a resident of Heinrich Stahl House, Charles Kapralik has become a trusted friend of many of his fellow residents and of the staff. In gratitude for his effective communal work through many decades and with feelings of personal affection we extend to him our heartfelt birthday wishes.

W.R.

## BAPTISTS ADMIT GUILT

For the first time, German Baptists have publicly declared their shame and sorrow for their failure to join the German churches which resisted Hitler during the Nazi period. The statement read at the European Baptists' Federation meeting in Hamburg said that even those who had not yet been born when the Nazis were in power accepted the guilt of the German people in general and the German Baptist Church in particular.



## HOME NEWS

### CHANGE OF MATRONS

On Sunday 3rd March, a cocktail party was given by the House Committee of Heinrich Stahl House at the Home to bid farewell to the Matron, Miss Ruth Gawthorpe, who has taken over the position of Matron of Osmond House.

Over 100 guests joined the residents to hear Mr. Ludwig Spiro, Chairman of the CBF Residential Care and Housing Association, pay tribute to the loyalty and devotion of Miss Gawthorpe and to thank her for the exemplary way she had carried out her duties as Matron over the past nine years.

Mr. Spiro welcomed Mrs. Dorie Neale to her new position as Matron of Heinrich Stahl House. As Deputy Matron of the Home for the past 3 years she had always worked closely with Ruth Gawthorpe and both ladies were wished every success in their new posts.

A vote of thanks was given to the House Committee and Staff for preparing the excellent buffet.

### LADY JACOBVITS AT OTTO SCHIFF HOUSE

Lady Jacobovits, the Chief Rabbi's wife, visited Otto Schiff House in Netherhall Gardens on 17 February. She was welcomed by the Matron, Miss Rieger, and members of the House Committee. She met most of the residents and gave a very interesting and amusing talk over tea. Miss Gottschalk presented a bouquet of flowers. Lady Jacobovits's charm and friendliness will be long remembered by those present.

### MBE FOR FORMER CHILD REFUGEE

Mrs. Susie Pearson, of Sheffield, who arrived in England from Prague in 1939 as a child refugee, went to Buckingham Palace in the second week of March to receive the MBE for services to education.

Mrs. Pearson, whose parents perished in the Holocaust, was fostered by an English family and had to leave school at 15 to earn a living. After meeting and marrying her husband Harry she became a council foster-mother and cared for a whole series of foster-children (one of whom she adopted) along with her own two daughters.

Now a grandmother, she has for many years worked in the field of pre-school nursery education.

### NO SNOBBERY, SAYS SIR KEITH

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, had a word of admonition for Carmel College pupils when he opened the school's new advanced computer laboratory. He told his audience: "Don't let them [academics] teach you the snobbery that some of them have against the very businesses that pay their salaries. We need business men and women, we need entrepreneurs".

### JWB HOSPICE PROJECT

Many people recognise the value of the hospice movement for the care of the terminally ill, with its emphasis on controlling pain, helping the chronically sick to lead a family life and supporting them through the emotional problems of their situation. Now the Jewish Welfare Board and the North London Hospice Group are hoping to obtain premises in East Finchley where they can run a hospice for the dying. A home care service is already in operation, headed by Harriet Copperman, a nurse with ten years' experience in hospice care. Miss Copperman, who is Jewish, wants the community to feel that they can call upon the service and rely on its help. But she warns that the project will need a high degree of support from all Jews.

Another JWB scheme has been put forward by executive director Melvyn Carlowe, following a visit to Australia. There he found "Project Heritage" operating among the Jewish community in Sydney; this is an idea designed to use the talents of retired people in educating youngsters. At present, much help is given by the young to the old, but "Project Heritage" reverses the situation. Schoolchildren could learn from the older people, while the latter would gain a sense of purpose in their lives, Mr. Carlowe explains.

### AJEX TOUR OF ISRAEL

Fifty Ajex members visited Israel a few weeks ago, led by Ajex officials Sidney Goldwater and Cecil Hyams. They visited the British military cemetery on Mount Scopus, planted trees in the Laskov memorial forest and attended rallies organised by the Israel War Veterans' Association.

### JEWISH CIVILISATION FOR UNIVERSITIES

At least 25 universities in Britain are teaching some aspect of Jewish civilisation. This is confirmed by Professor Leon Yudkin, who has recently helped to launch a British branch of the International Centre for University Teaching of Jewish Civilisation. The first task of the British membership will be to ascertain the extent of education on the topic in this country and to see if it can be expanded.

Universities throughout North America have integrated the television series "Civilisation and the Jews" into their courses. The series has been called television's "triumph of 1984" and the presenter, Abba Eban, has received several awards. British viewers are likely to see it on Channel Four this summer.

### WIENER LIBRARY EXHIBITION

To mark the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps and the end of the Second World War, the Wiener Library will put on an exhibition of documents and pictures and there will be shows of video films, including original newsreels from the end of the war and Lutz Becker's 'The Double-Headed Eagle' comprising archival film on the rise of Nazism. The exhibition will be open to the public for one month from 25 April to 24 May.

### SMALL COMMUNITIES SPEAK UP

Representatives of over 20 small Jewish communities in Britain voiced their hopes and fears at a meeting organised recently by the Jewish Memorial Council and Yakar, the adult education centre in Hendon. Problems troubling the small groups—in King's Lynn the community numbers just five, whilst only 20 Jewish families live in the city of Dundee—chiefly concern the education of the coming generation, help in conducting services and evaluation of the status under Jewish law of people wishing to form part of their group. Tribute was paid to the Reverend Malcolm Weisman, who ministers to the small communities, and to Alan Greenbat of the Association for Jewish Youth, both of whom travel untiringly round the country.

One of Mr. Weisman's recent duties was to reconsecrate Cheltenham Synagogue, an architectural treasure built 150 years ago. It was first consecrated in 1839 by Chief Rabbi Solomon Hirschel, who journeyed to Cheltenham for the purpose in a coach and four. In the last few years, the small Jewish community, Cheltenham local authority and outside wellwishers have joined together to enable major repairs to be carried out, especially renovation of the synagogue's cupola.

### HELP FOR BEREAVED

A new social service is being provided by a "Bereavement Befriending Group" organised by Middlesex New Synagogue. Members of the group are trained in the same way as for the "Cruse" organisation, founded to help widows in their grief. Ten helpers have been active for the past few months, visiting bereaved homes and manning a part-time "drop-in" centre at the synagogue for anyone needing a sympathetic ear. Anyone needing further information about the project is invited to ring Simone Lakmaker on 427 5070.

Another group of the Jewish Bereavement Counselling Service is opening a branch in South West London. The leader is Mrs. Lesley Paiba and anyone with counselling experience is asked to ring her at 788 4674.

### CCJ AT SPEAKER'S HOUSE

The Speaker of the House of Commons, Bernard Weatherill, recently became a member of the Council of Christians and Jews. Shortly afterwards he gave a dinner for the Council at the Speaker's House.

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## TERGIT REVIVED

When Gabriele Tergit died in 1982, the obituaries described her satirical novel *Käsebier erobert den Kurfürstendamm* and her German-Jewish family saga, *Effingers*, as her most important literary works. But to those of us who were Berliner Tageblatt readers in the 1920s, it was her law-court reports whose revolutionary style created a new branch of literature from the dust of legal cases—by looking at the people in the court rooms with sympathy and a great sense of humour.

Just as fascinating were her feuilletons, portraying Berlin and the Berliners with an insight which few other reporters possessed.

Now a young journalist, Jens Brüning, who had met Tergit only as an old lady, had the splendid idea of looking through the Tageblatt files from 1923 to 1933, picking out over a hundred of her best law reports and essays, and re-publishing them in a paperback, introduced by an affectionate biography, under the title *Blüten der zwanziger Jahre* (Rotation Verlag, Mehringdamm 51, Berlin 61, DM 22.00).

It is a volume that entertains you as well as makes you think about Weimar Berlin; but what it also amounts to is a good deal of the social and cultural history of that bygone era. There is the "misdemeanour personified" before the magistrate, a lady caught in the act of eating a couple of sausages at a street stall—nothing illegal, one would think, only that the lady was a man, as the patrolling vice-squad copper spotted at once.

There is a murder trial, with Nazis and Socialists being treated very differently by the judge: the first as pillars of the State, the second as its destroyers. There is an evening in 1929 with old films of 1905; a down-at-heel fellow hawking forged 100-dollar banknotes.

And there is Tergit's passionate love-letter to Berlin. It is not only a book bringing a vanished town to life again, but also an era—and, the best gift for today's readers, reviving an excellent writer.

E.L.



At the farewell party at Heinrich Stahl House for the retiring matron Miss Ruth Gawthorpe, from right to left: Mr. L. Spiro, Chairman of the House committee, Miss Florida Dadis, nursing auxiliary, Mrs. Dorli Neale, the new matron, and Miss Joy Narag, assistant matron of Osmond House. (See p. 3.)



Dr. Charles Kapralik, soon to be 90 (see p. 2), being wheeled by Miss Ruth Gawthorpe, who has retired as matron of Heinrich Stahl House to become matron of Osmond House.

## GERMAN HONOURS FOR NY UNIVERSITY

In December last a ceremony was held in West Berlin to mark the fiftieth anniversary of a scholarly institute. Common enough, one may think—except that this was a foreign institute, the New York "University in Exile".

The man who first thought of gathering together the scholars and artists forced to leave Germany in the years after 1933 was Professor Alvin Johnson. He raised funds to cover the establishment and continuance of his new Faculty, first from a Jewish friend and later from the Rockefeller Foundation. Before Professor Johnson died in 1971, he could look with pride on his successful undertaking. Some 170 famous exile names had found a footing for their studies in his Institute, which was attached to the "New School for Social Research". Among them were Hannah Arendt, Arnold Brecht, Erich Fromm, Paul Zucker and Carl Zuckmayer, to name only a few.

Most of the University in Exile scholars have now died, but President Richard von Wiezsäcker could personally honour 92-year-old Professor Adolph Lowe (formerly Adolf Loewe of Stuttgart), who now lives at Wolfenbüttel with his daughter. Professor Lowe, who worked at Frankfurt University until 1933, is regarded as one of the foremost economics scholars in the world.

## FELIX THEILHABER'S CENTENARY

The centenary of Dr. Felix A. Theilhaber's birth was celebrated recently. He was not only a doctor with a practice in Berlin up to 1935, but also a demographer and statistician. A dermatologist by training, he was also interested in the field of sexual reform.

Dr. Theilhaber first extended his experience beyond his Berlin surgery in 1911, when he worked voluntarily with the Turkish Red Crescent in the Balkans and Libya. It was at that time too that his first book appeared, "Untergang der deutschen Juden", pointing out the decline in the Jewish birth-rate. A field surgeon in the First World War, he wrote several war books, including "Die Juden im Weltkrieg" and "Jüdische Flieger im Kriege". In 1931, his "Schicksal und Leistung—Juden in der deutschen Forschung und Technik" was published, written in tribute to the Jewish community and to keep alive the memory of their great men. He also contributed to the prestigious "Jüdisches Lexikon" of 1927/30.

A Zionist from his student days, Felix Theilhaber was a founder of the student group "Jordania", editor of the Zionist monthly "Palästina" and a joint founder of the sports group "Makkabi" in Bavaria. When the Nazis came to power, Dr. Theilhaber was an obvious target and he spent several months in prison and concentration camp before emigrating to Palestine in 1935. He continued to practise medicine there and died in Tel Aviv in 1956.

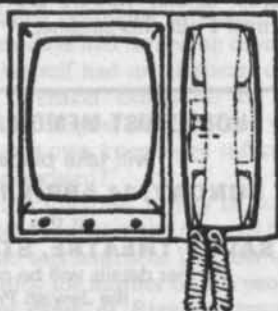
## HUNGARIAN ARTIST IN GENEVA

Before the Second World War, Hungarian artist Margit Anna was an active member of Omkie, the Hungarian Jewish cultural association. Now she has become the first Eastern bloc Jewish painter to exhibit her works in Switzerland. Mrs. Anna's paintings were put on exhibition in Geneva's Kara art gallery.

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## A BITTER LANGUAGE STRUGGLE

Mention of a "language conflict" in Erez Israel brings to mind the 1930s confrontation between Hebrew language enthusiasts and the European immigrant groups. Today, only confirmed Yiddishists believe that their "language of the people" should co-exist with Hebrew in Israel.

Few remember that 70 years ago, before the great wave of German immigrants, there was a bitter campaign against the use of the German language in Palestine. At that time the school network of the Alliance Israélite Universelle employed Hebrew as the main language of teaching and French as a subsidiary. A similar division of Hebrew and German was practised in the schools of the Hilfsverein Esra, the German-based aid society. Both sets of schools stressed Hebrew and Jewish culture, but each believed that cultural values stemming from, respectively, France and Germany should have their share within the country's Hebrew environment.

### Founded in Berlin

The Esra Society had been founded in Berlin in 1884, in the wake of the Enlightenment and the early Zionist movement, though it was some years before it came into full operation. In 1901 it undertook to assist Jewish education in Eastern Europe and the Balkans: soon afterwards it accepted wide responsibility for founding and supporting kindergartens and elementary schools in Erez Israel, particularly in Jerusalem. A worker settlement in Kfar Safa was established and cheap workers' houses built in Rehovot. After ten years, Esra could count 30 schools and kindergartens in all parts of Palestine and also in Syria, with 3,000 pupils and 100 teachers. The first Hebrew kindergarten, the foundation-stone of modern Hebrew education, was established by Esra (working with other charities) in Jerusalem in 1903. The organisation's work was crowned in 1913 with the building of the Technion in Haifa.

Esra schools were of a high standard and laid stress on Hebrew teaching. But there were critics, especially among the teachers themselves, who felt that the continuation of classes held in German damaged the spirit of unity in education. The struggle for the unchallenged supremacy of the Hebrew language came to a head when Esra produced its plans for the Technion and the *Realschule* (practical school), the bedrock of technical training. It had been decided that the natural

sciences and technical subjects should be taught in German and all other caasses in Hebrew. A storm broke out among the tutors, rejecting the German-language classes.

The leaders of the Teachers' Association coupled demands for the exclusive use of the Hebrew language at the Technion and *Realschule* with attacks against Esra schools everywhere. Public protests were organised and a boycott resolution passed: no teacher, civil servant or pupil was to enrol at an Esra school. A committee was set up with the aim of strengthening Hebrew teaching in Erez Israel. Pupils joined in the movement and demanded the exclusivity of Hebrew in teaching. A school strike was called.

Dr Paul Nathan, vice-president of the Hilfsverein der deutschen Juden, travelled from Berlin to act as a peacemaker. He rejected the demand that every Esra school in the country should teach only in Hebrew, whereupon most of the Jerusalem teachers gave notice to terminate their contracts of employment. The Hebraist David Yellin was prominent in this development.

In 1914 the Hebrew teachers' seminar, two elementary schools and a training college for nursery teachers were founded in Jerusalem. Most of the Esra schools and their teachers were absorbed into these establishments, though a few lingered on till the end of the First World War. Only at that time, too, did the Esra-inspired Technion come into full activity, as a purely Hebrew teaching foundation. The language conflict had ended in complete victory for the Hebraists.

J. LANGMAID

### New Perspectives

"Eine stumme Generation berichtet" (Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag, 2nd ed. 1984) introduces five German women from various social backgrounds, but all of them born before 1920. Prompted by the editor of the book to record their experiences of day-to-day life in the 1930s and '40s, their biographies are a valuable addition to the contemporary discussion of women's specific role in the community. The wide spectrum, resulting from the particular choice of the individual authors, not merely illustrates the diversity of women's problems, but it also proves that knowledge about the past is needed to produce new perspectives for the present generation.

Another aspect, of particular interest to former Jewish refugees is highlighted by the story Erna Nelki tells of her experience. Mrs. Nelki came to this country as a political refugee, having worked in Germany until 1937 in the resistance of the Left. Her report leaves the reader in no doubt that, having left Germany from a different motivation than most of her Jewish friends, she also had to fight, certainly at times an even more lonely and braver battle than those who were members of the Jewish refugee community.

L.SCH.

### REFUGEE'S HIGH-RANKING SON

Emigrating to Lisbon in 1936, 80-year-old Hanah Edith Singer is happy to see her only son with the rank of brigadier in the Portuguese Air Force. An orthopaedic surgeon, he has been appointed director of the Air Force health services.

## RUSSIA THEN & NOW

*THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR* by Nikolai Gogol, in a new version by Adrian Mitchell. Directed by Richard Eyre. The National Theatre, in repertory at the Olivier.

This superb production of a classic play is what a national theatre is all about. The set is a striking semicircle of mountainous heaps of flyblown bureaucratic papers, there are attractive period costumes, the cast work as a highly skilled professional team, a stand-up comic (Rik Mayall) has been plucked from the television world to play the central role of Khlestakov brilliantly, and the director has had a free hand to implement his conception of *The Government Inspector*.



Rik Mayall as *The Government Inspector*

Gogol's masterpiece is presented with surrealist touches and expressionist drive and thrust, but every element serves the whole once the mistaken notion takes root that the junior clerk Khlestakov, on his way from the capital to the provinces, is the much-feared government inspector. Servile deference to authority, no less characteristic of Russia today than it was in the 19th century under an earlier despotism, permeates and rots this provincial town which is a microcosm of the whole country.

The initial error takes on a demonic life of its own which suffuses everything, and we are reminded of the hysterical chain-reaction of Stalin's purges, forcefully brought out in the late scene when, learning how they have been duped, the characters turn savagely on each other to find a scapegoat.

No, we have not forgotten that this is a great comedy, nor has the director—the humour sparks and crackles all the way through, but behind it there is an echo to our mirth of hollow laughter: yes, it is funny, very funny, but look at the traps and systems man devises for himself. The appearance of the uniformed official at the end, announcing the descent of the real government inspector, is a powerful *coup d'éclat* heralding a Kafkaesque higher judgment.

M.S.

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## OBITUARIES

### PROF. S. D. GOITEIN

Professor Shlomo Dov (Fritz) Goitein died recently in Princeton, New Jersey at the age of 85. He was a world authority on medieval Near Eastern culture and a noted Arabist and Herbraist. He was born in Burgkunstadt, Bavaria, and after obtaining his doctorate at Frankfurt-am-Main, together with a group of Zionist intellectuals he emigrated to Palestine in 1923. He wrote many books on the religious institutions of medieval Islam, on Jews and Arabs in the middle ages, on Yemenite Jewry, on the Cairo Genizah fragments in Cambridge and elsewhere, and just before his death he delivered the typescript of the fifth volume of 'A Mediterranean Society: The Jewish Communities of the Arab World', a very readable and important work.

### DR. F. L. BRASSLOFF

Dr. Fritz L. Brassloff died in Zurich on March 3 in his 78th year. Before the Anschluss he was a lawyer in Vienna and, in accordance with his political convictions, often selflessly and courageously took up the cases of Socialist defendants. He came to this country via Switzerland and from 1947 onwards worked for the London office of the World Jewish Congress. After the establishment of URO, he also became adviser to its Austrian Desk. In 1966, he was appointed Legal Adviser to the European Branch of the World Jewish Congress in Geneva. He retired a few years ago and moved to Zurich. Yet he retained his office as representative of the WJC at Unesco. Brassloff's accomplishments in the Jewish political sphere were enhanced by widespread general interests. *AJR Information* throughout the years benefited from his expert articles and book reviews on literary, political and historical subject. We express our sincerest sympathy to his widow who, as long as she lived in London, was actively associated with the work of the AJR.

W.R.

### VERA LACHMANN

Vera Lachmann, the distinguished scholar and classics teacher, and poet, died recently in New York at the age of 80. During the Nazi era she founded a school in Berlin for Jewish children excluded from the state system, and ran it for four years until she emigrated in 1939 to America. From 1949 to 1974 she was Professor of Classics at Brooklyn College, receiving the Distinguished Teaching Award in 1963. From 1944-70 she ran, during the summer vacations from June to September, Camp Catawba in North Carolina for boys of 6-12, trying to implement the best ideas of classic Greek education. Her home in New York was open freely to anyone who wanted to learn Greek, Latin or German. She wrote three volumes of verse published by the Castrum Peregrini Press in Amsterdam and she was a close friend of Nelly Sachs, the German Jewish Nobel Prizewinner who lived in Sweden. Her enthusiasm communicated itself to friends and students. Her sister is AJR member Nina Frankfurter, of London.

### DR. B. KARLSBERG (Amsterdam)

Dr. Bernhard Karlsberg, who has died in Amsterdam at the age of 85, was a link between the Council of Jews from Germany and the former German Jews who had survived the persecution in The Netherlands. As the Council had no constituent body in Holland, the long standing relationship with him was of particular value. He was born in Hamburg, where his father and grandfather were representatives of the Cunard Line. After having obtained his degrees as doctor of law and political science, he joined the family firm. At the same time, he was active both as a Zionist and as an adherent of left-wing views in German politics.

Being accused of high treason, he fled Germany in 1935 after he learned that a warrant had been issued for his arrest. He settled in Holland, where he established himself as an adviser on legal and emigration questions. When the Germans occupied the country he went underground and whilst he and his children survived under difficult conditions his first wife was deported to Auschwitz.

During the first post-war years, he was one of the leading initiators of restitution and compensation regulations for Nazi persecutees in The Netherlands who had been deprived of their household effects and other assets. In recognition of his services he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Oranje-Nassau. A passionate fighter for justice and a loyal son of his community of origin he will be gratefully remembered by all who knew him.

### LISA ULLMAN

Lisa Ullman died in February, aged 77. She was a great dance teacher who came to Britain from Germany in 1934, when, as a member of Kurt Jooss's dance company, she came with the troupe to Dartington Hall, Devon. From 1926 she had devoted her life to studying, performing and teaching dance according to the theories of Rudolf Laban, who later joined Jooss at Dartington. Teachers throughout Britain were stimulated by her approach to dance as an education experience. In 1946 she founded the Art of Movement Studio in Manchester and eventually moved to Addlestone, Surrey, where she continued as founder-director until 1973. Together with AJR member Mrs. Gertrude Friedburg, who had also worked with Laban for many years, she propagated the Laban system of dance notation. Miss Ullman also revised, annotated and edited Laban's books, and in 1946 formed, with him, the Laban Art of Movement Guild, and in 1959, the year after his death, she established the International Council of Kinestography Laban.

### MORDECHAI BENTOV

Almost simultaneously with the death of Menahem Bader came the news that his former comrade in Hashomer Hatzair and superior at the Ministry of Development Mordechai Bentov had also died. He was 85. The last surviving member of Vaad Leumi, he had a distinguished career in Israeli politics and founded the Mapam newspaper 'Al Hamishmar'.

### FELIX MAN

Felix Man, who died recently in London aged 91, was a photographer particularly noted between the wars for his work with *Weekly Illustrated*, *Lilliput* and *Picture Post*. Born Hans Baumann, he was an important member of the Ullstein illustrations department and his pictures frequently appeared in the *Münchener Illustrierte Presse* and the *Berliner Illustrierte Zeitung*. Although required by Dr. Goebbels to join the Nazi Press Chamber, he refused to return to Germany from Vancouver, where he had gone on an assignment. While still in Germany he had met Stefan Lorant and the two men became closely associated in exile in the production of illustrated magazines in England. Felix Man earned for himself a unique position in picture reportage.

### MURIEL GARDINER

The woman who was perhaps the original of Lillian Hellman's "Julia", Dr. Muriel Gardiner has died in America aged 83. In 1934, she witnessed the workers' protests against Dollfuss in Vienna and was won over to the socialist cause. While studying medicine in Vienna, she provided "safe houses", forged papers and smuggled currency to help people to escape, continuing her activities after the Anschluss. During these years, she met her second husband Joseph Buttinger, leader of the Austrian Revolutionary Socialists.

Once more in America, Dr. Gardiner became a noted psychoanalyst specialising in the treatment of children. She was recently involved in endeavours to found a Freud Museum in London.

Despite approaches by Dr. Gardiner, Lillian Hellman denied that she was the basis for her character "Julia". The two women, in fact, never met. Nevertheless, the psychoanalyst's memoirs, "Code Name Mary" published in 1983, describe similar experiences to those of the fictional character and only one American woman is known to have taken part in the Austrian Resistance.

### FRANK OPPENHEIMER

American physicist Dr. Frank Oppenheimer has died at the age of 72. The son of a German immigrant, he was the brother of Dr. Robert Oppenheimer, who oversaw the development of the first atomic bomb. In 1949, after investigation by Senator Joseph McCarthy's UnAmerican Activities Committee, Frank Oppenheimer was obliged to resign from his research position at the University of Minnesota, where he had been studying cosmic rays. In 1959 he was again employed as a tutor by the University of Colorado and later established a museum of popular science in San Francisco. Like his brother Robert, he became a staunch opponent of nuclear weapons.

### RONALD SETH

Ronald Seth, who carried Himmler's peace offer to London in 1945, died recently in his seventies. On the outbreak of war, he helped to start the BBC Monitoring Intelligence Bureau. Having transferred to SOE, in 1942 he was parachuted into Estonia, but was quickly captured. Seth was tortured by the Gestapo but saved his life by apparently volunteering to collaborate. He was sent as a "stool pigeon" to Oflag 79 but at once reported to the senior British officer. His later life included the authorship of over 60 books, among them his autobiography, "A Spy Has No Friends".

**FRITZ LEVY**

Dr. Fritz Levy, who died suddenly in February in London at the age of 77, was born in Heidelberg where he was educated and acquired his doctorate in law in 1933. Soon afterwards he emigrated to England where he entered banking, eventually to become a partner in the well-known banking firm of Henry Ansbacher & Co.

In Jewish life he served with great distinction as Honorary Treasurer and later—for 15 years—as Chairman of the Belsize Square Synagogue. He accepted these offices with great reluctance but, once elected, occupied them with the utmost diligence and gave wise counsel, displaying outstanding ability as a conciliator and arbiter in disputes. On his relinquishing the chairmanship he was made an Honorary Member of the Synagogue Board.

Dr. Levy was a member of our former Board and took an active part in the B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck Lodge in its early years, serving a term as a Vice-President.

He was a devoted family man and our warm sympathy is extended to his widow Rachel, who was born in Tunisia, and his three sons.

**FRANK REINACH**

The death of Frank Reinach in Birmingham on 29th January was tragic and unexpected. He appeared to everyone to be making good progress following heart surgery, so his death at age 73 was a great shock to his family and friends.

He came to Britain in 1934. He was a student of law at Berlin University where he was under threat of imprisonment on trumped-up political charges so often levelled at Jewish students at that

time. Penniless and without a word of English he was helped and befriended both by Jewish and Christian organisations, who provided for him and enabled him to continue studying.

It was at this time that he first met Mary, who later became his wife. He obtained degrees in German and in French and began teaching to earn a living. He was interned at the outbreak of war.

For 35 years he taught French and German at the Wednesbury College of Commerce and Technology. Even after his retirement at 65 he continued to teach part-time for a further five years.

He is remembered as Editor of the Progressive synagogue Bulletin, which he managed from Walsall and in which he took a meticulous pride. He wrote well, contributing to *A.J.R. Information* and various other journals. He had made a special study of Heinrich Heine. He was a member of B'nai B'rith.

He was a sensitive, scholarly man. Having had direct experience of persecution, he hated intolerance. He was a deeply religious man. Just as the high ideals of B'nai B'rith appealed to him, so did the idealistic, humanitarian aspect of Liberal Judaism.

He was devoted to his wife Mary and to their son and daughter, John and Elizabeth. He is deeply mourned by his family and by his many friends.

GWEN BRYANSTON

**KURT PASSER**

Dr. Kurt Passer died, unexpectedly, in London from a heart attack on 10th February, a few days before his 74th birthday. He was born in February 1911 in Prague where he went to a well-known school and matriculated in 1930. He loved music

and very early attained an amazing proficiency at the piano, but his parents persuaded him to study law, at the German Charles University in Prague. He passed his exams and doctorate with flying colours. In 1935, he did his two-year Czech military service, attaining the rank of 2nd lieutenant. He then became articled to a firm of solicitors, but was twice called back to the army in mobilisations. In March 1939, he emigrated to England where at first he earned his living by playing the piano in a night club. Here he met his first wife, Rosel, who unfortunately died in 1958. His parents perished in a concentration camp.

In 1941, Kurt Passer joined Anglocentrop Ltd., the Tausz family company, soon to become Sales Manager and Company Secretary. He joined the B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck Lodge in 1964 and quickly became very popular, due to his pleasant personality and the great contribution he made to the Lodge's cultural life by his lectures on many famous composers and his playing in the Leo Baeck Lodge Trio (with the late Max Streat, violin, and Paul Blumenfeld, cello). The Trio also gave much pleasure by playing to the AJR Club, the Theodor Herzl Society and other bodies. He was always ready, also as a soloist or accompanist, to give pleasure to others.

In the Lodge, he served on various committees and eventually as President in 1983/84, carrying out his duties most conscientiously, although he was already affected by illness. He also was a member of our former AJR Board. In 1959 he had married a second time, Lottie, née Brock, and they lived in harmonious marriage for 26 years. A man who by his personality and his music brought great enjoyment to many, has gone from us and his memory will live on in our hearts. Our warm sympathy is extended to his widow.

F.E.F.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Family Connections

Sir,—In your issue XL No. 2 (February 1985) you carry an obituary on page 7 of Prince Hubertus zu Löwenstein but omit any references to his Jewish antecedents. These are a little tenuous but may be of interest to your readers and perhaps they shed some light on the Prince's anti-Nazi views.

Prince Hubertus' mother, Constanze, was the youngest daughter of Henry de Worms (Lord Pirbright) by Fanny, daughter of Baron Todesco of Vienna. Lord Pirbright was himself a collateral descendant of the Rothschild family in that his grandmother, Jeanette Worms, was an elder sister of Nathan Mayer Rothschild, the founder of the English branch of the famous family. Although at his death it was discovered that Lord Pirbright had requested a churchyard burial (which was granted), notwithstanding his reservation of a grave space at Willesden Jewish cemetery, throughout his life he was active in many Jewish affairs and it was never learned in his lifetime that he had disavowed his Jewishness.

A further connection, again only weakly so but perhaps not unimportant, is that Prince Hubertus' elder brother, the late Prince Leopold zu Löwenstein, was married to Victor Gollancz's sister, Diana.

Jewish Historical Society, DR. A. P. JOSEPH  
25 Westbourne Road,  
Edgbaston,  
Birmingham B15 3TX.

## Chagall Windows in Kent Village

Sir,—Your Note (March 85) may be misunderstood: The four stained glass windows in the

Royal Academy exhibition are merely the last to be installed in a Kent church that has shown a great number of Chagall windows for very many years. Their existence has been better known on the Continent than in this country. The stillness and intimacy of the church combined with its comparatively simple examples of Chagall's art leave a lasting impression on every visitor.

After installation of the last four windows the church will be unique in displaying exclusively Chagall windows.

Amongst the other possessors of one or several Chagall windows, all larger than those in Kent, your Note omits mention of the Fraumuenster in Zurich.

189 Alleyn Road,  
London, SE21 8AD.

M. L. MEYER



Mrs. Anna Braun

## Neumarkt Effort

Sir,—The small town of Neumarkt/Oberpfalz, approx. 40 km from Nuernberg, can be justifiably proud of the way it has looked after and maintained the small Jewish cemetery in the Giesereistrasse, built around the turn of the century (official records were destroyed during the war). Essentially, praise must be given where it is due, namely to the unstinting efforts of Mrs. Anna Braun, born in the year 1904. Since she was 13 years old, Mrs Braun has taken care of the cemetery, initially with help and later on her own.

There are approximately 100 graves, mostly family ones. During the war, the town was heavily bombed and many of the tombstones collapsed. They were subsequently restored and are kept in an immaculate condition. The names, i.e. inscriptions which recur are:

Wolf, Epstein, Rindsberg, Landecker, Goldschmidt, Bamberger, Frank, Baruch, Hahn, Oettinger, Feuchtwanger, Dreichlinger, Neuhaus, Erlanger, Neustaedter, Godlewski, Neuburger, Wilmersdoerfer, Ries, Bayersdorfer.

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## FRENCH PRIEST'S OUTBURST

A provincial French newspaper has published a vicious attack by the priest of Albertville in Savoie blaming the "domination of Jewish commerce" for the fact that a local company had had to make 500 people redundant. The firm was said to have been "bought up by a group of religious Jews encouraged by rabbis, and selected from the young French Jewish elite". The new owners were described as "specialists in the gifts proper to their race—financial management and business". The Archbishop of Chambéry has joined the local Jewish community in condemning this outburst of traditional antisemitism.

## US COURT SETBACK FOR ACTRESS

Vanessa Redgrave, who sued for \$1,166,000 following cancellation of her appearance with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, has suffered a setback in the American courts. The orchestra's defence was that the actress's well-known support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation had inspired threats of violence if she took part as arranged in a concert series. However, last November, a Boston jury awarded Miss Redgrave damages in the sum of \$100,000. She appealed against the amount awarded, only to find that the appeal judge put her damages at only \$27,500—slightly less than she would have received had the concerts gone ahead as planned, with Miss Redgrave in the role of the Speaker in Stravinsky's "Oedipus Rex". The court also ordered her to pay the orchestra's legal costs.

## MENGELE INVESTIGATION

A delegation headed by Mrs. Beate Klarsfeld has visited Paraguay in an attempt to go a step further on the trail of Josef Mengele, the criminal doctor of Auschwitz. The Paraguayan Interior Minister promised to complete a new investigation into the case in the spring of 1985 and would allow foreign observers to monitor their work. The agreement was confirmed by the President of Paraguay. However, the government-controlled press of the country made no mention of these plans and several newspapers sharply attacked Mrs. Klarsfeld for "chasing after ghosts" and "putting the Paraguayan people in the gas chambers".

Beate Klarsfeld is convinced that Mengele is still alive in Paraguay and also feels that the most effective way to proceed is to influence the Paraguayan government by pressure from the US State Department.

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## RENOIR AND ROSENTHAL

The Renoir exhibition at the Hayward Gallery (until 21 April 1985), sponsored by the IBM Corporation, is the first major retrospective exhibition of his work to be held in Britain since 1953. Renoir is one of the most popular of the French Impressionists and many of the works exhibited will already be familiar to viewers in reproduction. But there is nothing like seeing the original!

Renoir had a long and prolific career, painting portraits, landscapes, street scenes and the human figure which, above all else, captured his imagination. He continued to paint at Cagnes-sur-Mer where he settled in 1903, despite the fact that he was crippled with arthritis, until his death in 1919. He had hoped for a serene old age, but his dream was shattered by the death of his constant companion and wife, Aline, during the First World War and the wounding in battle of his two elder sons.

All the exhibits are superb, but one of particular interest is the portrait of the Cahen d'Anvers girls now in São Paulo. It was commissioned by the well-known banking family, but they did not like it and relegated it to the servants' quarters, whence it was later rescued by the Bernheims, the famous family of art dealers. The younger daughter appearing in the picture later became Lady Townsend of Kut and in her old age remembered the boredom of posing for Renoir but also the pleasure she derived from wearing the lace dress in which she was painted.

The Rosenthal Studio-Haus, 102 Brompton Road, SW3 is not merely a shop displaying the wares of the Rosenthal factories, but also an exhibition centre showing the best in modern design, selected from the products of various factories by a committee specially established for that purpose.

On 30th January Philip Rosenthal, head of the firm and President of the German Design Council, gave a fascinating talk about his own products and some of those of his competitors. Unfortunately the arrangements made it impossible to see all the objects very clearly, but I had the opportunity to examine and even hold a magnificent teapot designed by Walter Gropius, founder of the

Bauhaus, as part of a service. Works of other artists, e.g. Ernst Fuchs (Austria), Johan van Loon (Holland), Tapio Wirkkala (Finland), Marcello Morandini (Italy), Bjorn Wiinblad (Denmark) and Michael Boehm (Germany), were also shown.

Philip Rosenthal was educated in England, at boarding-school and then at Oxford. He escaped to England in 1942 and worked here as a journalist and at the Foreign Office. In 1948 he returned to Germany and rejoined the family firm, occupying several positions until he became Chairman of the Board in 1958.

Two separate exhibitions at the Barbican Art Gallery are of special interest because they are designed to reflect certain aspects of our social environment as seen through the eyes of artists.

Edvard Munch (1863-1944) is best known for his early paintings of tension and 'inner reality', but after a serious mental and physical breakdown in 1908, he turned to 'external reality'. In "Munch and the Workers" at the Barbican (until 8 April) there are works from this later period, all reflecting his new outlook.

### Central role

In following this new line, Munch was in the tradition of van Gogh, Rodin and Meunier who had already attempted to show the central role of workers in society.

Also at the Barbican (until 8 April) is an exhibition "Tradition and Renewal", depicting contemporary art in the German Democratic Republic. Pictures by fifteen artists from three generations are being shown. Of special interest is the work of Gerhard Kettner, Professor and Director of the School of Fine Art, Dresden, as well as that of Willi Sitté, now Director of the School of Industrial Design, Halle and President of the Artists' Union of the GDR.

There is a small exhibition at the Tate Gallery (until May 1985) entitled "Suffering Through Tyranny, 1933-1953, comprising pictures drawn from the Gallery's own collection. It is a heart-rending exhibition, but accurately depicts the emotions aroused by the events of those gruesome decades in the eyes of leading artists, such as Picasso, Beckmann, Bacon, Adler, Sutherland, Butler and many others.

Judy Goldhill, niece of the Chairman of the AJR, is an accomplished young photographer and is holding an exhibition of her work "A British Portrait", being the lives and circumstances of British Jewry, in Oxford until 7 March. It will then be shown (28 April-19 May) at the Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, NW3. Judy has also recently had a successful showing of her Indian photographs at l'Escargot Restaurant.

Finally, to the exhibition of wood engravings and lino cuts by Hermann Fechenbach at Blond Fine Art's beautiful new premises, 22 Princess Street, W1 (until 6 March). But the pictures will be in the Gallery after the closing date and can be seen there. Fechenbach, born in 1897, grew up in Bad Mergentheim. In fact, he has written and illustrated a book "Die Letzten Mergentheimer Juden und die Geschichte der Familien Fechenbach" (published by W. Kohlhammer Verlag, Stuttgart).

With the onset of the Nazi regime Fechenbach lost his official status as an artist and was forced to close his studio in Stuttgart where he taught and worked. As a young girl I was one of his pupils for a short time. He and his wife, Grete Batze—a professional photographer, arrived in England in 1939 and from 1944 to 1951 he held a number of successful exhibitions of his work. But he never attained popular acclaim because of his shy and retiring disposition, his own physical disability and the progressive illness of his wife who died in 1982.

Nevertheless, he persisted in his work and published "Genesis", a beautifully illustrated copy of the First Book of Moses, in 1969. Many of the wood engravings and lino cuts in the present exhibition relate to religious themes, for instance, illustrations from the Haggadah. But of particular importance is the series of lino cuts entitled "My Impressions as Refugee". All the prints are for sale (prices £45-175). ALICE SCHWAB

### ERNST LOMNITZ

It is learned with regret that Dr. Ernst A. Lomnitz, for many years Deputy General Secretary of the AJR, has died after a long illness. A tribute to his devoted services will be published in our next issue.

### IMT TRIAL PROCEEDINGS

A "student's edition" of the proceedings at the Nuremberg Trials of the major war criminals has been issued in 13 paperback volumes by Delphin-Verlag, Munich. The introductory price of the series is DM198.

### MINNA TYM

Miss Tym, secretary of the Children and Youth Aliyah Movement, has passed away after more than 40 years service in the cause of rescuing and training Jewish children. Born 76 years ago, Miss Tym left her Polish/Jewish home 60 years ago to join a group of Jewish activists in Berlin who built the Jewish People's Home. When Hitler came to power she turned her energy to the task of rescue and when she herself had to flee from Germany in 1939, she came to London where she joined the Youth Aliyah office.

From then on she made this task her life's purpose. She was a person of strong character, conviction and boundless energy. Her selfless work will be missed by her many friends.

### MODERN GERMANY—A HISTORIAN'S VIEW

Professor Walter Laqueur, Director of the Wiener Library, has just published "Germany Today. A Personal Report" (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.95). It will be reviewed soon in *AJR Information*. The book represents the personal view of an historian who has used his conversations with ordinary small-town Germans to distil a message not without hope. Whatever the trials to come, Professor Laqueur finds that Germans have grown more level-headed, tolerant and sensible than their fathers and grandfathers.

One chapter of the book deals with the new right-wing phenomenon. In this respect, the author expresses some confidence that German patriotism will continue to re-emerge, but that Germans will not be tempted to yet another fatal error. There is, he says, "reasonable ground for optimism, but there are no certainties".



With best wishes from

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## 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.

## Birthday

**Mathiason:**—Hans M. Mathiason celebrated his 80th birthday on 17 March. 35A Oxhey Road, Oxhey, Herts. WD14QG.

## Deaths

**Brandt:**—Emmy Brandt (née Sachs) died on 25 February, aged 87. Last remaining cousin of Nelly Sachs. Deeply mourned by her husband Toby.

**Feibusch:**—Adolf Feibusch, of Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, passed away on 20th December 1984 in his 97th year. Deeply mourned by his wife Paula, sons, daughter, daughters-in-law, son-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Goldschmidt:**—Thea Goldschmidt, born 2 October 1904, died suddenly 10 February 1985, having lived her life to the full up to the last minute. She was loved by all who met her. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends. Trees in Israel will be planted

in her memory. Donations to Mr. Gerry Freeman, 9 Stalmine Avenue, Heald Green, Cheadle SK8 3JG.

**Leyens:**—Max Leyens passed away peacefully on Shabbos, 29 December 1984. Deeply mourned by his loving wife Stefanie, daughter and son-in-law Joan and Tony Gold, and grandchildren Debbie and Jonathan.

**Levy:**—On 13 February, in his 77th year, our beloved husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather Fritz Levy suddenly passed away. Rachel, Albert, Bernard, Henry, Nicky and Oliver Levy, 39 Hollycroft Avenue, NW3 7QJ. There will be a Memorial Service at Belsize Square Synagogue, 51 Belsize Square, NW3, on Sunday 21 April at 3 pm.

**Metzer:**—Henry Metzer, beloved and loving husband of Gerda, dear father of Kurt and Lilian and grandfather of Tony and Sylvia, passed away peacefully on 8 February. Forever mourned by us.

**Plessner:**—I am mourning with deep regret the death of my dearest friend Charlotte Plessner, who passed away shortly before her 90th birthday. Her charming personality will be sadly missed by her much loved son Wolfgang, her grand-daughters Jane and Susan, and by me. Margaret Jacoby.

**Rosten:**—Dr. Paul Rosten (formerly Rosenstein) died peacefully on Sunday, 24 February 1985, in his 98th year following a short illness. He is survived by his son Frank, daughter-in-law Mary, grandchildren Ingrid and Warrick, all of California, and friend Brigitte Glaser.

**Weiner:**—Johanna Weiner passed away on 6 February 1985 after a long illness. Deeply mourned by her sister Rose, cousins and friends.

## In Memoriam

**Weiss:**—In memory of Karl, beloved husband of Lisl and father of Mina, who died 21 March 1982. Also of Tommy, who left us suddenly March

1956 not quite eleven years old. Both fondly remembered and terribly missed. To the world they were only grains of sand, to us they were the whole world.

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## Memorial Stone

**Callman:**—The Memorial Stone in loving memory of our dear mother, Hanna Callman, née Levy, will be consecrated at Willesden Liberal Jewish Cemetery, Pound Lane, NW10, on Sunday 5 May at 3.30 pm.

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## INFORMATION REQUIRED

For a planned exhibition of Jewish schools in Cologne, I would be grate-

ful to receive examples of school-work, school reports, photographs, letters and other documentation. Originals will be returned if requested. Send material to: Irene Lorbach, Hochwinkel 79, 500 Köln (Dellbrück), West Germany.

**WEIS(S).** Would anyone having information about Dr. Eric(h) Weis(s), Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, last heard of at 307 Washington Street, Waukegan, Ill., USA, please contact Mrs Loa Simons-Joseph, De Boelelaan 253, 1082 RB-AMSTERDAM, Holland.

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NARODITZKI, Pessah. Born Cercasei, Ukraine, in 1913. Parents Itzhak and Feiga. Sought by sister Pavelina Beleikov, Israel.

SCHNEIDER, Edward. Born nr. Krakow in 1914-15, was in Jaffa as a soldier in "Anders' Army" in 1943. Sought by his son Kazimierz Olejnik who lives in Israel. (Kazimierz was later adopted).

Please contact Miss Michele Williams, Jewish Refugees Committee, Drayton House, Gordon Street, London WC1H 0AN.

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# THEATRE AND CULTURE

**"Kleinkunst", now also in Israel.** It was early in the Thirties when groups of young actors and musicians in many countries got together and founded small theatres, often in basements and cafés, starting the trend known as "Kleinkunst" which combines poetry, sketches and topical satirical observations, frequently accompanied by old and new music. Numerous establishments of this kind still exist in Vienna, Munich, Hamburg and other cities in Europe, among the best known being the "Kommödchen" in Cologne and Munich's "Lach-und Schliessgesellschaft." Recently, "Quartet for Two", a small theatre in a Tel Aviv hotel has joined the ranks of their more illustrious predecessors. Two young men, one Jerusalem-born, the other from the United States, played scenes by Oscar Wilde, Beckett, Harold Pinter and others, performing in English, and these enthusiastic youngsters endeared themselves to the public. The Israeli press speaks of a "first step to hitherto neglected cultural activity."

**Tit-Bits.** The Dresden Semper Opera House reopened 40 years after its destruction with Weber's "Freischuetz". London's New Sadler's Wells Opera Company (Rosebery Avenue) will revive Lehar's "Merry Widow" with a new production this autumn. Fans of the late UFA-star *Lilian Harvey* may be interested to learn that the National Film Theatre on London's South Bank will show some of her silent and "Talkie" films during April: "I Am Suzanna" on the 11th, "Sieben Ohrfeigen" on the 16th, "Fanny Elssler" on the 17th (at 6.15) and "Capriccio" on the 17th at 8.45 p.m.

**Birthdays.** *Helene Lauterboeck*, Viennese actress for nearly 7 decades, member of the "Volkstheater" (formerly "Deutsches Volkstheater") for most of that period, celebrated her 90th birthday. *Kurt Herbert Adler*, Austrian-born musician, assistant of Toscanini in pre-war Salzburg, and after 1938 a prominent conductor in the United States where he was General Director of the San Francisco Opera House for a record period from 1953-1981, now retired, has attained the age of 80. *Erich Schellow*, the German actor who has been a pillar of strength at the Berlin Schillertheater since 1949, is 70 years old.

**Obituary.** Shortly after this column brought an appreciation of Viennese "Josefstadt" actress *Lotte Lang* on the occasion of her 85th birthday, she died after an operation, and is mourned by the ensemble of that theatre, many of her colleagues having worked with her 30 and 40 years. The German baritone *Karl Schmitt Walter*, known for his elegant appearance no less than for his musical talents as singer and teacher, has died in Bavaria at the age of 84. *Hermann Reutter*, the Stuttgart pianist and composer, has died there, also 84 years old. S.B.

## YUGOSLAV RIGHTEOUS ACKNOWLEDGED

Two Yugoslavs have been awarded the Yad Vashem Medal of the Righteous Gentile for their bravery in helping Jews during the Nazi occupation. Majej Buterina and Anka Ostric are only the twenty-first and twenty-second Yugoslavs to be so honoured.

## RECONCILIATION AWARDS FOR DDR CITIZENS

The recent "Week of Brotherhood" for the reconciliation of Jews and Christians in Germany was solemnly opened in Worms with the award of the 1984 Buber-Rosenzweig Prize to two East Germans, Helmut Eschwege and Pastor Siegfried Arndt. Dr. Eschwege is internationally known as a historian, the editor of "Kennzeichen J" (a compilation on the life of Jews in the Third Reich) and author of a work on German synagogues, among many other publications. Pastor Arndt has been active in the revival of the Leipzig Centre for Research and for the Meeting of Christians and Jews. He has also instituted an annual Leipzig memorial ceremony on each 9th November, the anniversary of the 1938 pogrom.

## SOVIET BALLET DANCERS' SUCCESS

Valery Panov, who left the Soviet Union for Israel two years ago, was appointed artistic director of the Royal Ballet of Flanders in 1984. Recently he produced Prokofiev's "Romeo and Juliet" and the proceeds of the first performance were donated to the Central Jewish Welfare Organisation. Galina Panov is appearing in the London production of "On Your Toes".

## HONOUR FOR TERENCE PRITTIE

The Hon. Terence Prittie, the historian, journalist and expert on Jewish and German affairs, was recently awarded the Sunlight Prize. Mr. Prittie was unfortunately not able to receive the prize personally from Mrs. Edith Sunlight, as he was recuperating after hospital treatment. His son Oliver stood in for him at Manchester where the award was presented.

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## OBITUARIES

### DR. RITA LEHMANN

Dr. Rita Lehmann née Rosenberger who has died aged 75, grew up in Berlin as the daughter of a well-known lawyer who specialised in stage law. She studied under his guidance and graduated before coming to this country where she worked as a secretary and translator before qualifying as a solicitor after the war. She married a fellow solicitor, Dr. Victor Lehmann, with whom she shared a great love of music and the arts and whose offices she took over after his early death. She also took over his engagement in social work.

He was a co-founder of the Self-Aid Organisation and she continued his commitments in arranging concerts of high standing as a means of fund-raising. She took an equal interest in the fund-raising activities of the Friends of the Hebrew University.

As a lawyer, she worked on many cases which required a knowledge of German and British law and language and attended a number of congresses in many countries. On such occasions she often met old friends from all over the world with whom she kept up a vast correspondence and whom she unobtrusively assisted when necessary. In this country she equally assisted many of her elderly clients by visiting them in their homes at week-ends and helping them to fill in forms, make depositions about property or choose a home in which to spend their old age. She supported the AJR in many ways and was a member of its Board for a number of years. As a member of the FWV, the organisation of Jewish alumni of German universities in this country, she helped to preserve the memories and traditions of a generation.

### MARC CHAGALL

The famous painter Marc Chagall died a short time ago in the South of France. Although 97, to the end of his life his paintings retained a childlike quality.

Chagall was born in Vitebsk in 1887. Although he came from a poor Chassidic family, by 1908 he was enrolled in the St. Petersburg Imperial Academy of Fine Arts. In 1910 he moved to Paris; somewhat curiously, his first one-man show was held in Berlin shortly before the First World War. A number of his works were also seen in exhibitions in the German capital.

After a period in revolutionary Russia, the artist returned to Berlin (where he was unable to recover the pictures left behind at the outbreak of war). Paris called him again and he painted there until the Second World War, when he travelled to the South of France and thence emigrated to the United States. In 1948 he returned to France and continued to paint in his individual style until the end of his long life.

### JOHN F. (HANS) OPPENHEIMER

The name of the journalist and publicity expert John F. (Hans) Oppenheimer who after bravely borne suffering died on March 13 at the age of 81 in Santa Barbara (Cal.), will particularly live on by his lexicographic works. He was co-editor of the Philo-Lexicon, published in Berlin in four editions (1934/37), and chief editor of the post-war "Lexicon des Judentums" (Bertelsmann, Gütersloh 1967 and 1970). In all likelihood this will be the last German-language handbook of its kind which enhances the value of his bequest to the Jewish Department of the Berlin Museum. It comprises the major part of his library and all collected particulars on which the publications were based.

Born in Fuerth, Hans Oppenheimer grew up in Darmstadt. He qualified as a pharmacist but at an early age started to write theatre reviews for the local press. From the twenties onwards he held positions with the Central-Verein, interrupted only by a few years work for the Propyläen-(Ullstein-)Verlag. In 1938, he emigrated to the U.S., where he succeeded in building up a new life as an employee and later partner in a printing and duplicating firm. He and his wife (and co-worker) enjoyed the atmosphere and nature of their new homeland.

Throughout his life, he was active and full of ideas. A good American citizen, he also remained faithful to the values of his German-Jewish past and loyal and helpful to his numerous friends.

E. G. LOWENTHAL

### ANNELIESE DEBRAY

A dedicated worker for reconciliation, Anneliese Debray died recently at the age of 74. A Catholic and a member of a women's group banned by the Nazis, after the war Frau Debray took on the directorship of Hedwig Dransfield Haus—an independent Catholic conference centre—and organised many meetings designed to promote German-Jewish reconciliation. In inviting three rabbinical students from Leo Baeck College to attend a Whitsun conference, she laid the foundations of an annual Jewish-Christian Bible Week which is now in its seventeenth year.

### CHARLOTTE KLEIN

Dr. Charlotte Klein (Sister Louis-Gabriel), who devoted much of her life to promoting understanding of Judaism by Catholic educationalists, has died in London. Berlin-born in 1915 of Orthodox Jewish parents, in 1938 she emigrated to Italy and there became a convert to the Catholic faith. Afterwards she went to Palestine where she worked for British Intelligence during the Second World War. In 1943 she joined the Sisters of Zion, an order originally intended to convert Jews. But the perception of modern Jewry and recent history led to a much broader understanding of the Christian-Jewish theological position and Sister Louis-Gabriel was one of a group of Catholics seeking a new approach.

Coming to England (where Dr. Klein later reverted to her original name), she built up the Centre for Biblical and Jewish Studies in Notting Hill, in one sense a continuation of her career in education in Palestine, Germany and America. Her book "Anti-Judaism in Christian Theology" was published both in English and German.

### ANSELM REISS

A founder-member of the World Jewish Congress, Anselm Reiss died recently in Tel Aviv at the age of 98. Leaving Poland in the 1920s, he became a prominent Labour Zionist leader. He was also president of the World Federation of Polish Jews.

### ADOLF FEIBUSCH

Adolf Feibusch died recently at the great age of 96. He was born in Berlin, his father being a property developer whose business was expropriated by the Nazis. Mr. Feibusch lived in the Southend area and was noted for his generosity to Jewish causes both in time and money.

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**INFORMATION REQUIRED**

BERKOW. Mrs Elena Berkow, born in Lithuania(?) about 1912. Was a student in Berlin, living with a Jewish family by name of Grundmann. Left for Newcastle, UK, in 1934 and later moved to South Africa. Would anyone with information about this lady please contact the International Tracing Service, D-3548 Arolsen, West Germany, under Ref. T/D-1 127 538 B.

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# THEATRE AND CULTURE

**25 Years ago—the new British theatre scene.** 1960 saw a new generation of young writers opening up a fresh chapter of British literature, and Britain was the centre of a drama revival in the true sense of the word. Today, a quarter of a century after, we can see the repercussions everywhere, new trends, and a realism undreamt of before the new wave. British writers were instrumental in setting the scene, and although John Osborne's "Look Back in Anger" and "The Entertainer" were created just before 1960, Pinter's "Caretaker" (today almost a classic on many European stages) and Arnold Wesker's trilogy "Chicken Soup with Barley", "Roots" and "I Am Talking About Jerusalem") and, to a lesser extent Edward Bond, all first presented on small stages and then given the certificate of respectability, endowed these British authors with international predominance. Sure enough, the Germans and Austrians attempted modern stage presence with their own writers (Handke, Bernhard, Kroetz); statistics, however, show widely recognised preference for the British works with the above-names still in the lead. (The new comedy writers, amongst them Stoppard and Ayckbourne follow further down on the list.)

**Birthdays.** German baritone *Gustav Neidlinger*, born in Mainz, for many years a faithful member of the Hamburg opera, from 1950 in Stuttgart (where he was made honorary member of the opera in 1977) is 75 years old. *Svatoslav Richter*, the Russian pianist of world repute who started his concert career with a Chopin recital in 1934 and has travelled all over the globe during the last 25 years, celebrated his 70th birthday.

**Obituary.** *André Mattoni* has died, shortly before his 85th birthday. Originally an actor, he became administrator and secretary to conductor Herbert von Karajan in later years. The German stage has lost a prominent figure with the death of character actor *Werner Hinz*. He was 82.

**Memoirs of a great comedienne.** "Ich moechte gern was Gutes sagen", an autobiographical work by Vienna's doyenne-actress *Adrienne Gessner*, has been published by Amalthea Verlag, Vienna. It is no ordinary book; the author, now 88, looks back at her life in a mood of protest and resignation; she was a member of the famous Reinhardt ensemble, actress at Vienna's "Josefstadt" as early as 1924 where she met author Ernst Lothar, who became her husband. Together, they emigrated to the United States, whence they returned after 1945. She tells of her struggles in the New World where she acted with Homolka, Mady Christians and the young Marlon Brando. During her long life Auernheimer, Pallenberg, Bruno Walter and Eleanor Roosevelt belonged to her circle of friends, and now—in her declining years—she sees the Austrian theatre scene soberly and with some bitterness. A very readable book in which old acquaintances abound. S. B.

## FILM DIRECTOR FOUND SHELTER

Czech-born *Milos Forman*, who won the Oscar for best director with the successful film "Amadeus", was saved by a Christian family who sheltered him during the Second World War, when the rest of his family perished.

## AMAZING FIND BY SCRAP DEALER

A Tel Aviv scrap merchant was astounded to find 17 pictures by the late *Nahum Gutman* under some rags at his premises. Mr. Gutman was a well-known artist, and the pictures were painted about 25 years ago. No one knows how these works, showing Tel Aviv in the past and in some cases very large, could have been lost in this way. Mr. Gutman's widow is just as astonished as the scrap dealer.

Not only are the paintings a valuable find in financial terms, but they will do much to increase knowledge of Israel's history.

## JAPAN PRIZE FOR EX-PRESIDENT

The Science and Technology Foundation of Japan awards the valuable Japan Prize which, it is hoped, will one day rival the Nobel Prizes. This year it is Professor Ephraim Katzir, once President of Israel and now carrying out bio-technological research at the Weizmann Institute, who has received the award jointly with Dr. John Pierce of Stanford University, Cal. The prize carries with it a grant, and Professor Katzir will receive £200,000 from the Japanese foundation.

## JESSE OWENS' LIFE RECAPTURED

As long as the 1936 Munich Olympic Games are remembered, the name of *Jesse Owens* will not be forgotten. The life of this outstanding black athlete, whose successes were so galling to Hitler and the Nazis, has been presented in a film now available on video. "The Jesse Owens Story" (CIC, £35) shows Owens' struggle against racialism in his native America as well as his sporting triumphs.

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