

AJR

INFORMATION

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Ronald Stent

FIVE REMARKABLE MEN

Early German Jewish Achievements

In the heyday of the Queen's great empire a number of German Jews, all born around the middle of the 19th century, settled in England. Taking full advantage of the spate of optimism and enterprise that was surging through the country at that time they made full use of the opportunities which it offered them to become very rich and powerful men, captains of banking, commerce and industry.

They were all well educated in the best German tradition and came from old established, comfortably-off families. Most of them combined a love of music and the arts with a shrewd nose for money making and thus not only contributed to the material wealth of the nation but also to the richness of its cultural life.

There was Sir Ernest Joseph Cassel KCMG, born in 1852 in Cologne, who came to London in 1869 and joined a small bank, also run by German Jews, Bischoffsheim and Goldschmidt. He soon became one of the wealthiest financiers in the city. His tastes and hobbies were truly catholic. He was an avid collector of pictures and objets d'art, a fearless rider to hounds and the successful owner of a stud at Newmarket where he had a large estate and often played host to the Prince of Wales, whose poker-playing companion he also became.

When the Prince became King Edward VII he admitted Cassel to his Privy Council. During the First World War Sir Ernest negotiated for the Government a large loan from his New York banking friends. He died in 1921 and having, like many other prominent German-Jewish immigrants forsworn the religion of his forefathers, lies buried as a Catholic in the Kensal Green cemetery. He left a huge fortune, some of which was bequeathed to various charities, but the bulk went to his granddaughter Edwina, the future Countess Mountbatten.

There was also Sir Edgar Speyer Bart., from Frankfurt, reared in his father's Bank Speyer-

Ellison whose London branch he was sent to run. Apart from making money his absorbing interests lay in music and the visual arts. For a time he was chairman of the Queens Hall trustees and in his house in Grosvenor Street had musical soirées where composers like Strauss and Debussy conducted their own works. He was also the founder and generous benefactor of the Whitechapel Art Gallery. Like Cassel he became a good friend of King Edward and like Cassel he also had to face a lot of xenophobic flak during the Great War when even people like Prince Louis Battenberg, a cousin of the King, had to resign as First Sea Lord because of his German origins.

General Electric

However in Sir Edgar's case there was some substance in the mistrust. His bank was accused of illegal currency transactions and after the war he was not only removed from the Privy Council but also stripped of his British nationality. He died on a visit to Berlin in 1932.

Hugo Hirsch, later Hirst, was born in 1863 in Altenstadt in Bavaria. As a boy he had rebelled against the militaristic discipline and as soon as he could leave school he came to join an uncle in England where, in 1865, he entered a small firm supplying components to the engineering industry, run by two brothers Gustav and Max Binswanger, later Byng. Hirst added a department handling small electrical accessories and from these small beginnings developed a company which grew and grew and in 1889 changed its name to the General Electric Company (G.E.C.)—no doubt copying the name of a creation in the same field of yet another German Jew, Emil Rathenau's Allgemeine Elektrizitäts Gesellschaft (A.E.G.).

In 1892 he was joined by a brother-in-law, also from Bavaria, Max Railing. It turned out to be a

perfect partnership. It has been said that without Hirst the GEC would have remained a small business but without Railing it would have gone bust. Like Cassel and Speyer, once he had left home, Hirst broke all ties with Judaism.

Unlike them, his outside interests were more in politics than in the arts. In 1912 he stood as an unsuccessful Tory candidate at a by-election. Hirst left no heirs to follow in his footsteps. His only son died during the influenza epidemic after the Great War; his only grandson was killed in action as an RAF pilot in the Second World War.

Baldwin created him Baron Hirst of Whitton in 1934 and often consulted him on industrial affairs. By then this employer of thousands of working people at home and abroad was crippled with arthritis and had to be lifted in his wheelchair whenever he visited Number 10. Railing died in 1942; Hirst a year later. After their deaths the GEC began to stagnate and lose its way until rescued by the dynamic Arnold Weinstock, for once not from Germany but a Jew of humble origins born and bred in London.

But the German Jews who probably had the greatest impact on Britain's fortunes were a father and his son (and successor), Ludwig and Alfred Mond, the son later to become the first Lord Melchett. Ludwig was born in Kassel in 1839 and studied chemistry under Bunsen in Heidelberg. He settled in Lancashire in 1860 and over the next

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FIVE REMARKABLE MEN

three decades discovered and developed a number of processes which not only revolutionised the budding chemical industry in Britain but also brought him fame and fortune.

Together with his partner John Tomlinson Brunner, he founded Brunner, Mond and Company which became the largest alkali producers in the world. They bought a Belgian patent, the Solvay process, to convert common salt into carbonate of soda and extracted gas as a by-product of other chemical processes.

But Mond's greatest discovery was the carbonyl 'process of extracting nickel' from its ores which led to the formation of the Mond Nickel Company, with its seat in Canada. Untold honours were showered upon him. He became founder president of the Society of Chemical Industry in 1881, and F.R.S. in 1891, he garnered honorary doctorates from Padua, Oxford and Heidelberg.

All his life he cherished a love for the finer things and was passionately interested in the visual arts. On a visit to Rome with his wife, a cousin from Cologne, called Frieda Loewenthal, they fell in love with the Palazzo Zuccati, a derelict Renaissance building and bought it on the spot. After restoring it to its former glory, Mond housed in it his collections of Titians, Tintoretos, Lippis and Veroneses and in later years spent most of his summers there entertaining his friends and family.

Mond was a very progressive employer, one of the first to introduce an eight hour working day and to provide housing and playing fields for his workforce. His connection to his Jewish roots was tenuous; he never severed the links completely nor converted, but neither of his two sons, Robert and Alfred, was brought up as proper Jews. But when he died he was buried according to Jewish rites in a mausoleum in the St. Pancras Cemetery at Finchley.

Great benefactor

He had been a prodigious benefactor to all sorts of causes. In 1896 he bought a house next to the Royal Institute and endowed in it the Davy-Faraday laboratories; many of his pictures were left to the National Gallery; he gave £20,000 to the Akademie der Bildenden Kuenste in Munich and left another £20,000 for the benefit of the disabled and aged former company staff. He once said that money had not been the object of his life's work, but just one result of it. Although naturalised in 1900, he remained until his death steeped in the German cultural tradition—a perfect product of the emancipation of the Jewish bourgeoisie in Germany.

Alfred Moritz, his son and heir, was in that respect different from his father. Born in 1868 in Lancashire and educated at Cheltenham College and St. John's, Cambridge (where he was ploughed), he was of distinctly Jewish continental appearance and had a harsh, slightly foreign accent, but in outlook and interests he was thoroughly British. He read for the bar at the Inner Temple but in 1895 entered the family firm and soon became its Managing Director.

He was a great champion of rationalisation and

planning and was convinced that Britain's prosperity and progress demanded the consolidation of smaller firms into ever larger enterprises which could maximise resources and optimise efficiency. While opposed to strikes and lock-outs he was, in the tradition of his father, a pioneer of profit sharing and employee share option schemes.

Unlike Schumacher's later 'Small is Beautiful' he believed that 'greater would be better'.



Sir Alfred Mond

In 1926 the greatest of his visions came true. A year earlier the leading German chemical concerns had formed the IG Farben AG, posing a threat to British supremacy in that field in Europe. Travelling home from America together with Sir Harry McGowan, the chairman of Nobel Industries, they hammered out together on ship-board the great scheme of amalgamating the leading four British chemical manufacturers into Imperial Chemical Industries, of which Alfred Mond became chairman and joint managing director. The vast new enterprise was moulded by its two founders in their own image, traditional Liberalism combined with a Victorian type of paternalism.

Mond was not only one of Britain's leading industrialists of his time but was also prominent in politics. A Liberal M.P. from 1906 until elevated to the peerage as Lord Melchett, first Commissioner of Works and then Minister of Health in the Lloyd George Governments, he eventually fell out with the Welsh Wizard over the latter's proposal to nationalise all land holdings and crossed over to the Tories.

Throughout his political career he remained deeply involved in social and economic problems. Co-operation between capital and labour, rather than confrontation, was his watchword. In the aftermath of the traumatic 1926 General Strike he co-chaired with a leading Trades Unionist the Mond-Turner Conference out of which came proposals for a better relationship between the employers and the TUC, which led to the setting up of a Joint Consultative Council of the TUC and F.B.I. Only a few of their other recommendations, unfortunately, were ever implemented.

Through most of his life Melchett had expressed no interest in Jewish affairs. He had been brought up in a wholly secular family ambience; he had married a non-Jewish wife, the future Lady Violet; his children had been brought up as Christians. Unlike another Jewish member of Lloyd George's Government, Edwin Montagu, he had in 1917 not opposed Balfour's undertaking to Lord Rothschild, but he had also not actively supported the Declaration.

Returned to roots

Paul became Saul when in 1921 he met Chaim Weizmann, who persuaded him to go to Palestine to see for himself what the Jews in their early kibbutzim were doing. He went, stayed in Jerusalem with the High Commissioner, his Liberal colleague Herbert Samuel, and was stirred to his depths. 'I do not consider myself as an Englishman' he told Weizmann, 'I am a Palestinian, my heart is in Eretz Israel'.

He made a vow to amass £15 million to bring Jews from all over the world to their home country and expressed the wish to settle one day in a little cottage on the shores of Lake Galilee as a true Jewish philosopher.

It never came to that; he remained too involved in British politics and in the progress of his industrial brainchild, but he remained a passionate Zionist for the rest of his life. When he died in 1930 his Christian son said Kaddish over his grave.

Of the five people sketched here, Alfred Mond, Lord Melchett was the only one who eventually returned to his Jewish roots. But in their different ways all five made material contributions to the progress of their adopted country. Two Jews of German origin, Hirst and Melchett, were the founders of Britain's two largest industrial undertakings, G.E.C. and I.C.I., which, between them today employ 300,000 people and had last year a combined turnover of £16 billions. Not a bad achievement.

"THANK-YOU BRITAIN" FUND LECTURER

First Professor of Psychoanalysis in Britain

This year's biennial series of lectures sponsored by the "Thank-you Britain" Fund will be given at the British Academy, 20-21 Cornwall Terrace (Second Entrance Allsop Place), N.W.1, near Baker St. Station, on November 12, 13 and 14 at 5 pm. The lecturer will be Professor Joseph Sandler, formerly of the Hebrew University Jerusalem, now Freud Memorial Professor of Psychoanalysis at University College London, the first holder of a Chair of Psychoanalysis in this country. The series has been entitled "Between Two Worlds: the Psychoanalytic Psychology of Adaptation". The meetings are public.

HOME NEWS

BELSIZE SQUARE TAPES PROJECT

Irene White of Hendon has had a bright idea for helping Belsize Square Liberal Synagogue's household members. In a series of tape recordings, a short form of the Friday evening service is available on cassette. Songs by Claire Waldorf, Cissi Kramer, Hans Moser and Fritz Massary can also be lent to elderly, sick or handicapped members. It is hoped that future recordings will include High Holy-Day and Shabbat morning services.

QUEST FOR SURVIVORS

Author Anton Gill is seeking survivors from concentration camps willing to tell him their stories. Although a great deal has been written about experiences in the camps, understanding of the means of survival is not so well-defined, Mr. Gill believes. Did certain people learn how to survive or were they always different from their fellows in some way? And how did they cope after 1945? The author is approaching various Jewish organisations in Britain, the US, Europe and Israel to find the answer to these questions. His address is: 30 Flaxman Road, London S.E.5 9DH.

INTER-FAITH OPEN EVENING

Religious education classes at Heath End comprehensive school, Farnham, Surrey, have taken on a truly inter-faith flavour with the study of Judaism and Hinduism as well as Christianity. With all three religions forming part of the O-level syllabus, pupils have been encouraged to take a sympathetic interest in the different faiths, even though there is no Jewish child at the school.

At an inter-faith open evening, Farnham pupils prepared a Jewish section, featuring a succah, a seder table and video films of religious events. Mr. M. S. Curtis of Maidenhead Reform Synagogue was present to explain the significance of Judaism. He and his wife were overwhelmed by eager questioners and a similar event is already being planned for next year.

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REUNION OF BROTHERS

After 46 years in which he believed that all his family had perished in the Holocaust, Samson Altman left London, where he is a taxi driver, to visit Warsaw for the first time since the Second World War. When he went to mourn his family in the overgrown Jewish cemetery, he was astonished to find a new stone on his father's grave. Making enquiries, he found that his brother Jakob, now living in Sweden, had visited the grave the previous year. Mr. Altman's joy was doubled by finding that yet another brother, Srol Moshe, was alive and safe in Sweden. Sadly, however, it was confirmed that still another, Yosef, had died in the Warsaw Ghetto, while their mother, sister and fourth brother had escaped from the ghetto only to be betrayed by someone still unknown, and murdered by the Nazis. Samson Altman escaped from Poland by bluffing his way across the Soviet border. Once in the USSR, he was sent to a Siberian prison camp, but a year later formed part of a batch of Poles who were allowed to go to Britain and fight with the British Army.

IRISH MILLIONAIRE DID NOT FORGET

Irish Jews have benefited under the will of a non-Jewish amusement arcade owner who became a self-made millionaire. John Andrew Currid of Sligo started his business with the help of generous credit from Jewish fancy-goods dealers and at his death he did not forget their kindness. He left the residue of his estate (after family bequests, gifts to friends and charities and a legacy of a million for the poor of Dublin) to the Jewish Board of Guardians "to be used... in particular for the benefit of poor Jews in Ireland". This was stated to be "in recognition of the help and aid which I received from Jews during my life and for the patronage of my amusement premises in Dublin and Bray"

BORIS BENNETT

Boris Bennett, the well-known photographer of family celebrations and Jewish personalities, has died at the age of 85. In the years of Nazi persecution, he joined with other businessmen in buying a house in the Finchley Road, so that young Jewish refugees could be given a home and education.

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REWARDING VISITS

When visiting in my work for the AJR, I sometimes come across the most fascinating people. They are more so, because they are well into their eighties, and completely repudiate any thoughts that anyone over 65 is a geriatric problem. Among those I have met is a lady of 85—who looks about 70—and still works part-time on physical re-education. She says she has been "at it" for 60 years, and gave me a little demonstration of her physical prowess and agility which would create envy in the heart of a mountain goat.

She worked for 30 years with maladjusted children, then with adults. She is now busy writing a book on her approach to physical re-education. In between times she plays her Bechstein grand, and still takes the odd piano lesson. She leads a discussion group on Jewish thought and topics, is on the education committee of her local synagogue and still drives her car. Correct diet is important, she says, but certainly doesn't appear to be a health food disciple. Her opinion that too many people just sit back and let their bodies and minds go to pot, will certainly be borne out by consultant geriatricians.

From servant to lecturer

I found another joy in a lady of 83, a doctor of philosophy and linguistics. Due to ill health, she hasn't been out of her flat for 6 months, but it is filled with enough books to last for several lifetimes. Dr. L. came to this country in 1938 as a domestic servant, having lost her entire family. She got a post-graduate scholarship at Oxford University. During the war, she joined the ATS and finished up as a corporal. Subsequently she took up post-graduate teaching degrees, taught for 10 years, and then worked at University College, London, as a lecturer until the age of 75. Squinting a bit through her smouldering cigarette, she observed that she could cope very well.

A mighty midget is Mrs. M. All of 4' 11", 80 years old, agile and very orthodox. She goes out every day to do her own shopping and visiting, so that she "doesn't rust". A great reader, she also enjoys TV and feels a bit bereft when she can't have it on the Sabbath or the Holy Days. She philosophises that every day is a present from the Almighty, and that He is much better to her than she is to Him!
A.E.

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OBITUARIES

MOSCO CARNER

Mosco Carner, the renowned musicologist, died recently at the age of 80. He was born in Vienna and studied at the conservatory there, taking his doctorate with a dissertation on sonata form in Schumann. He worked as a conductor in Opava and Danzig before emigrating to Britain in 1933, where he continued his conducting career but also began to write criticism for various newspapers and journals. His most famous books, classics on their subjects, are critical biographies of 'Puccini' and 'Alban Berg: the Man and his Work', and his BBC music guide on 'The Songs of Hugo Wolf' is an outstanding piece of work. He was noted for his mastery of English style, for the clarity and succinctness of his writing.

DR. ALFRED GLUCKSMANN

Dr. Alfred Glucksmann, who died recently at the age of 80 in Cambridge, made important contributions to embryology and cancer research and had a distinguished career in medical science. He was born in Upper Silesia and studied medicine at Heidelberg, where, having been appointed a lecturer in anatomy, he made an important discovery which was only appreciated later. He demonstrated that during embryonic development certain cells are programmed for death, which enabled the developing embryo to organise its cells into organs. In 1933 he was dismissed from his post but was fortunate to be invited to the Strangeways Research Laboratory in Cambridge. Soon after his arrival he made an admirable study of mechanical factors in the development of embryonic cartilage and bone, using simple and ingenious techniques. His best known work was a quantitative histological analysis of human tumours before and after radiation treatment, finding that the best results were obtained with those which had a capacity for differentiation in response to radiation. He also studied the influence of hormonal factors on the malignant process. He continued working into his later years and his advice and encouragement were always appreciated by his colleagues.

ALEXANDER BERNFES

Alexander Bernfes died recently alone and in sad circumstances at the age of 76. Neighbours called the police after he had not been seen for some time and his body was discovered only when the flat was broken into.

Before the war, Mr. Bernfes worked for Cunard in the purser's office of the big liners. Returning to Poland against his mother's advice, he managed to escape in 1942, but the rest of his family perished—apart from his mother, whom he did manage to get to America. He worked in London for the Polish Home Army and thereafter began his obsessive search for photographs testifying to Nazi atrocities. His archive also included documents and much of his material was used as evidence against war criminals.

The disordered flat was found to be full of documents and photographs. Mr. Rafael Scharf and Mr. Ben Helfgott were called to the scene and took charge of the archive for the time being.

This invaluable material was about to be removed by dustmen and it was saved only by the efforts of an alert policeman.

JULES MOCH

A link with the Dreyfus trial of 1894 has been broken with the death of the veteran French-Jewish Socialist Jules Moch, aged 92. His father was an Alsatian Jew who resigned his Army commission at the time of the Dreyfus Affair.

Born in Paris, Jules Moch distinguished himself in the First World War. He was elected deputy in 1928 and in 1936 was appointed by Léon Blum to a high position in the premier's office. He remained for a time in Vichy France and voted against plenary powers for Marshal Pétain. This led to a period of imprisonment but, after his release in 1941, Jules Moch joined the Free French in Britain and served with their naval forces. In post-war France he was appointed Minister of Public Works by General de Gaulle and later became Minister of the Interior.

HEINZ KURT FABIAN

Dr. Heinz Kurt Fabian, an expert on restitution law, died recently in New York. Born in Bromberg, he opted for German nationality in the 1920s, when the area was ceded to Poland. In the Hitler years, he ran a self-help organisation for lawyers who like himself, were no longer allowed to practice. After imprisonment in Sachsenhausen, he emigrated in 1939 to La Paz, Bolivia, and spent 17 difficult years there before moving on to New York in 1956. There at last he could take up a legal career once again.

Dr. Fabian was the younger brother of Hans Erich Fabian, the first post-war chairman of the revived Berlin Jewish Community.

VISCOUNTESS FALMOUTH

The death has been announced, at the age of 90, of the Dowager Viscountess Falmouth, the founder of COBRA. Her interest in Red Cross work was born during the First World War, when her parents' house was turned into a hospital. In 1943, the Council of British Societies for Relief Abroad (COBRA) was formed in recognition of the post-war task of rehabilitation. Viscountess Falmouth was appointed chairman of its Civilian Relief Overseas Department and did much to alleviate the lot of DPs and refugees as soon as the war came to an end.

GABRIEL HAUS

Gabriel Haus, a prominent member of the London Institute of Jewish Affairs, has died at the age of 71. Born in Warsaw, he intended to emigrate to Australia as part of the Freeland League for colonising the Kimberleys. However, coming to Britain in 1939, he remained in this country and during the war ran a munitions factory.

At one time Gabriel Haus was closely involved with the Fabian Society: he also worked for ORT and the WJC. However, his major career was in electronics and he was a pioneer of the British hi-fi industry.

Honorary secretary of the IJA public affairs committee, Mr. Haus was an enthusiastic worker for the Institute and its drive for members. He was also a strong supporter of "The Jewish Quarterly" and spent a good deal of his time in furthering the magazine's interests.

SURREAL RECORD OF HIDING

Extracts from the 1942/43 film made of the 14 Jews in hiding above the cabaret "Alcazar" were shown recently on Channel 4. Interspersed with the Resistance film-maker's acted-out vision of the clandestine life were films and photographs of Holland under occupation and modern interviews with Harry Swaab and others.

Swaab told viewers what he had learnt from an SS deserter: "Kill one or two enemies before you are shot, but don't let yourself be deported". When his deportation summons came, the young Swaab tore it up; when the police arrived, he escaped across back gardens and made his way to Dirk Vreeswijk, known as an anti-Nazi and the proprietor of the "Alcazar".

Piet Vreeswijk described how his father refused to put up a "Forbidden to Jews" notice, even after Dutch Nazis descended violently upon his premises; he also made that classic statement echoed by so many of the rescuers, "He wasn't a hero: it had to be done".

Dirk and Marie Vreeswijk were not the only Dutch people who helped Jews. Bep Groenfeld, a Resistance courier, said that her father had taken in anyone needing shelter from the Nazis. She herself carried messages between families in their scattered hiding-places and brought in food from the country to supplement official rations.

Mingled with these reminiscent interviews were black and white film sequences of the hidden Jews. The film, Harry Swaab explained, was made to relieve the tensions inevitable between 14 frightened people herded into a small space. "Hiding," he said, "is too terrible for words".

Yet these scenes—a Christmas sing-song, a home-made New Year's cabaret, grown-ups playing Ludo, two men splashing each other in the bathroom—seemed almost like any other home movie. Other flashes—a stony face amidst jollity, a covert glimpse of Queen Juliana's picture—hinted at the unnatural situation. The "hiding drill" carried out once a fortnight gave some illusion of security, though when the Germans finally arrived, most of the inmates had no time to hide. Still, Harry Swaab, with three others, survived two raids that day. Though five of those who were captured died in the camps, others survived, scarred by their experiences, changing names, suppressing all knowledge of that terrible time.

Perhaps by putting so much into an hour-long programme, the director Ben Elkerbout to some extent diluted its impact: perhaps the black and white film should have been left to speak for itself. Yet to those who did not live through those years, it might have seemed as boring and trite as any neighbour's home movie. It is only when the sense of constant threat is added, when death and torture become palpable, that the frenetic doomed life can be imagined. If surreal means "beyond reality", then this was indeed a surreal film.

TEMPELHOF WITNESSES SOUGHT

The Tempelhof museum in Berlin is seeking information about Nazi persecution in the district. In 1949, it was established that 504 victims of persecution had lived there, but it is now hoped that witnesses can give more detailed information. All material will be treated in the strictest confidence and nothing will be published without permission. The address for sending information is Heimatmuseum Tempelhof, Alt Mariendorf 43, 1 Berlin 42 (Dr. Thomas Hahn).

BIRTHDAYS

HANS GUSTAV CASPARIUS

It must be unique in our long standing happy birthday column to record that one of the residents in our homes himself arranged a birthday party for his friends at the Reform Club to celebrate his 85th birthday. But that is what Hans Casparius of Heinrich Stahl House did on 19 July and we join in congratulating him and wishing him well for many years to come.

The party he arranged was so typical of the happy nature and zest for life of one who has preserved the sparkle of his long association with the film industry.

Born in Berlin, he eschewed the opportunity of joining the family textile business and instead decided to become an actor. A succession of small parts left him plenty of time to pursue his hobby of photography. So successful was he with the camera that the hobby developed into his profession, though without his ever entirely giving up acting.

It was his documentary 'The White Hell of Piz Palü', something quite new in photography with its famous still of an avalanche, that made him famous overnight. From then on the story of his life is one long catalogue of worldwide travel absorbed in the production of photographs and films on a wide variety of subjects and making friends all the time. Emigration to London in 1937 and the war years are but markers in an uninterrupted busy life.

Though resident at Heinrich Stahl House he continues active pursuits, including dictating, regularly twice a week, the story of his life, in the course of which he worked with and knew almost everyone who was anyone in the film world and many other famous people. Among his many interests is membership of the Liszt Society which last year accorded him the rare honour of the award of its gold medal.

May he long continue to enjoy life and all the care we can offer him at Heinrich Stahl House.

C.T.M.

MUNICH PUPILS' HELPFUL PROJECT

The researches of a Munich group of senior pupils into concentration camps located in their district have enabled them to help a French inmate of a local camp.

Earlier this year, a group of 15 to 17-year-olds from the Michaeli Gymnasium presented a play dealing with the imprisonment of Jews. They were inspired by Else Behrend-Rosenfeld's book "Ich stand nicht allein", on her experiences in the camp of Berg am Laim. Further investigation of documents disclosed that more camps had existed in the area, though little was known about them: a work and training camp for women, which was a subsidiary of Dachau, three internment camps for men and women and a home for Jewish children.

The school group traced various people mentioned on the camp lists and wrote to them. A Frenchwoman contacted in this way at once requested more details. Over the intervening years she had been applying for a war pension without success, no proof of her imprisonment having been found. The evidence provided by the Michaeli Gymnasium is likely to end her long struggle.

RUDOLF SCHWARZ AT 80

Rudolf Schwarz, CBE, whose career as an orchestral conductor stretches from Düsseldorf in 1923 to Newcastle in 1973, has just celebrated his 80th birthday. In the years 1936 to 1941, he headed the Jüdischer Kulturbund orchestra in Berlin. Deported to Auschwitz, he survived to be sent to Belsen: at the end of the war he got to Sweden and thence to England.

For ten years, Rudi Schwarz conducted the Bournemouth and Birmingham Symphony Orchestras and then became chief conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Up to 1973, when he was awarded the CBE, he was honorary conductor of the BBC Northern Orchestra in Newcastle on Tyne.

MARCEL LORBER 85

There is a museum-like little flat in Swiss Cottage where many musical treasures are kept. Letters and autographs, posters and programmes are witness to a life full of achievements—yet Vienna born Marcel Lorber, 85 this month, remains a modest and inconspicuous "man of music" who keeps to himself and shies away from public congratulations. A student of the Academy of Music under Professor Josef Marx, he became a well-known pianist, composer and accompanist who toured the whole of Europe with Gertrude Bodenwieser's Ballets, and played for Leo Slezak, for George Thill, the legendary tenor, and dancer Tilly Losch who later, in Britain, became Lady Caernarvon. Having taken Bodenwieser's dancers to Bogota (Colombia) in 1938, Marcel Lorber's greatest successes came during the war when touring Australia, playing for the troops, and in following years touring Japan with a group of Viennese dancers. Back in Britain, he continued coaching singers, among them Murray Dickie, who later went to live and work in Austria. For many years Lorber was accompanist for the Anglo-Austrian Society and toured this country with the Viennese Dancers' groups, thus becoming instrumental in successfully popularizing the music of his native country. He now lives in well-deserved retirement and his many friends wish him the best of health and many happy returns! S.B.

CANADIAN EMIGRANTS HONOURED

Two European settlers in Canada, both now living near Ontario, have received the Yad Vashem Righteous Gentile award for their part in helping persecuted Jews. 87-year-old Mrs. Anna Schiller was a clerk in Bratislava during the war. She was already sheltering a Jewish student, but when she received a letter from her dentist's daughter begging for help, she took the young woman in for a short time before passing her on to Mrs. Gertrud Ondriski, Mrs. Schiller's sister. At the ceremony in Kitchener, Ontario, Mrs. Schiller accepted awards both for herself and for her late sister.

Frederik Willem Kabbes was a Dutch farmer of 47 when the Krukziener family appealed to him. He hid the parents and their two sons in a straw-lined cavity on the farm and later in a chicken coop for the six months up to April 1945.

Both Mrs. Schiller and Mr. Kabbes have remained in touch with those they rescued. The dentist's daughter hidden by Mrs. Schiller and Mrs. Ondriski is now Mrs. Olga Rosenblum, living in Manchester.

MAGNUS HIRSCHFELD EXHIBITION

Fifty years ago, Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld died in Nice on his 67th birthday. From 1919 to 1923 he had headed the Institute of Sexual Science in Berlin. Even for the man in the street, Hirschfeld was in advance of his time with his progressive sexual and political views: for Nazis he was an obvious target and his Institute was vandalised and gutted by them in 1933.

Dr. Hirschfeld went into exile in the same year, his last major work, "Racism", being published posthumously by Victor Gollancz in 1938.

Even today, the Hirschfeld Institute has never been re-established, although there can be little doubt that its founder was a pioneer in sexual reform. Speaking at the opening of an exhibition in Berlin organised by the Magnus Hirschfeld Society, Professor Gunter Schmidt referred to the international influence of this forward-looking physician and scholar, exemplified by the 1921 First International Congress for Sexual Reform and the World League for Sexual Reform, founded in 1928.

Because of the Nazi attack on the Hirschfeld Institute, it has proved particularly difficult for the organisers to find original documents and exhibits. Nevertheless, the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz has been able to display 150 original writings and the exhibition has proved particularly attractive to young people.

One interesting link emerges: Magnus Hirschfeld's father, a GP practising in the Baltic resort of Kolberg, had been a student of Rudolf Virchow, the famous anthropologist, pathologist and Radical politician.

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1985

- 7 Oct. Gerald Guttman: "A Journey through the Netherlands" (with slides).
- 14 Oct. Dr. Kurt Pflueger: "Die grossen Gottheiten im alten Egypten".
- 21 Oct. Dr. Dietlind Bland: "Das Deutsche Märchen und die Brüder Grimm".
- 28 Oct. Dr. R. V. Schulze-Gävernitz: "Eine junge Pilgerin in den Orient (1929)".
- 4 Nov. Prof. J. M. Bruegel: "Karl Kraus (1874-1936)".
- 11 Nov. H. Frank L.D.S., R.C.S.: "The Exodus". A Masterpiece of Psychological Planning and Military Organisation. Part I. "From Egypt to Sinai".
- 18 Nov. George Jaeger M. A., TH.L.: "What is Humanism?".
- 25 Nov. Karin Reinfrank M.A.: "Zweite Heimat. Zweite Fremde. Exil-Literatur in den U.S.A."
- 2 Dec. Walter Lewis: Will speak about the Book of Marion Berghahn "The German-Jewish Refugees in England".
- 9 Dec. Egon Larsen: "Die Waffen Nieder" Bertha von Suttner und Alfred Nobel.
- 16 Dec. Dr. Erwin Seligmann: "Randbemerkungen zu Abba Eban's Geschichte der Zivilisation und die Juden".
- 23 Dec. No Lecture.
- 30 Dec. Peter Seglow: "My Recent Travels in the Orient 1985" (with slides).

1986

- 6 Jan. H. Frank L.D.S., R.C.S. Part 2 of "The Exodus". "From Sinai to the Promised Land".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Another Huguenot Parallel

Sir,—I have read with great interest the article in the last issue of AJR Information about "The Huguenot Experience". There is a continuation of the story

As in the case of the Nazi victims there was a restitution of spoliated property by way of legislation. But in the case of the Huguenots it took nearly 100 years until the relevant legislation was passed in France by the Chambre Constituante in 1790, so that only the descendants of the original victims could benefit from it.

The first laws dealing with restitution (as distinct from indemnification) of property confiscated under the Nazi regime were passed in the again independent Austria in 1946. In the American, British and French Zones of Germany and in the American, British and French Sectors of Berlin the restitution legislation was enacted between the years 1947 and 1949.

Heinrich Stahl House, Dr. C. I. KAPRALIK
The Bishop's Avenue,
London, N2 0BW

Metamorphoses

Sir,—Readers of the interesting article on the Huguenots may like to know that earlier this year Shapiro Programmes Ltd produced for the Council of Christians and Jews an Audio Visual Programme, "In Good Faith", which tells the story of the building on the corner of Brick Lane, which was a Huguenot Church, a synagogue (Machzikei Hadath) and is now a mosque. The story of those who in different generations have used this building brings out the parallels mentioned in the article. We shall be glad to supply further details on request.

I Dennington REV. MARCUS
Park Road, BRAYBROOKE,
London, Executive Director,
NW6 1AX Council of Christians & Jews

The Huguenots

Sir,—Mr. Max Sulzbacher concludes his essay "Some Remarkable Parallels" (August 1985) with two "footnotes", thereby referring to Giacomo Meyerbeer's opera "Die Hugenotten" and to the "Huguenot Society" founded in the U.K. only in 1885.

May I be permitted to add another "footnote"? Some 40 years ago, in April 1946, AJR Information (Vol. I, No. 4) carried an article by the undersigned on the same, for many relevant reasons interesting subject. Under the heading "Does History Repeat Itself?" that article went into even more detail, such as the geographical distribution of Huguenots over Britain, furthermore the trades and professions introduced by those refugees and welcomed by the country, and, above all, both the private relief and the public assistance rendered to those in need of support, whether they lived in London or in the provinces.

However, it must not be overlooked that the parallelism with the Jewish refugees of our time has its limits: the Huguenots were driven from

their country of origin for reasons of religious freedom and not on the grounds of "racism".

Kaun Strasse 33, (Dr) E. G. LOWENTHAL,
D-1 Berlin 37 AJR-co-founder (1941)

Parallels

Sir,—Max Sulzbacher's interesting article calls to mind other parallels. The favourite name of French Huguenots was Isaac, a name which the Nazis used on many a Jewish identity paper in order to turn it into a passport for hell. For the Huguenots of the 17th century the name Isaac embodied blessing, sacrifice and salvation. As Calvinists they believed in predestination and thus their sufferings and persecutions were a test of faith and finally an assurance of their "certitudo salutis".

Our experience as refugees had, unfortunately, very different dimensions and was immeasurably more painful. Our Jewish substance had been eroded by the flood of new ideas and movements unleashed during the last two hundred years.

The invective hurled against the Huguenots and the Protestants in general in the 16th and 17th centuries were hardly audible squeaks compared with the roarings of Martin Luther's attacks against the Jews.

11 Park Lane, Dr. ARNOLD MEIER
Whitefield,
Manchester M25 7PF

ILEA Package

Sir,—The letter from Marianne Hasseck in your issue of August 1985, following on from the item in your issue of June 1985 is worth some additional comment. Marianne discusses (third paragraph): "The package . . . compiled by Shirley Murgraff . . . in conjunction with the ILEA Centre for Learning Resources . . ." Your readers may be interested to learn a little more about the direction and management of this ILEA Centre since its inspiration springs principally from the sensitive and thoughtful approach of Peter Weiss, although I doubt he would wish to be credited personally for its functioning.

In your issue of January 1983 you published details I supplied you about the Weiss family in which I referred particularly to Professor Robin Weiss, the gifted youngest son of the late Hans and Steffie Weiss. Peter Weiss, Robin's elder brother by two years and equally talented in his own field, has run the ILEA Centre for some years and during this period he has been much concerned with promoting the cause of mutual respect between all peoples irrespective of their race, creed, colour or ethnic derivation.

His approach has been to enlist the help of teachers to use their classrooms constructively so that pupils at an impressionable and formative time of their development come to a positive appreciation of tolerance and acceptance of the values of cultural diversity within a society.

Peter Weiss has a general responsibility for the operation of the Centre but he was especially interested in the production of the Holocaust Teaching Material. He was of course responsive to

the insights he had himself gained from his own upbringing as a first-generation-English-born-person of immigrant parents who had, somewhat unusually, fled Nazi Germany at the very outset of Hitler seizing power. He agrees that his personal experience taught him decisively to reject all forms of racism early in his life.

Your readership may also be interested to learn that for some years in the late fifties and early sixties Peter Weiss shared accommodation with a half-brother of the late Princes Leopold and Hubertus zu Loewenstein. It was through these contacts that I gained the information I supplied you concerning their Jewish connections and that you published in your issue of April 1985.

Jewish Historical Soc. Dr. ANTHONY JOSEPH
25 Westbourne Road,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham B15 3TX

Clement Pope

Sir,—In your August issue you reported about the play 'Red Noses' at the Barbican and its presentation of Pope Clement VI as Stalinoid, etc. I assume that the author, Peter Barnes, who clearly knows a good deal about the 14th century, was not pretending to offer a portrait of that particular pope, but uses Clement as a symbol of a secular power, which, in his view, treats humans even more cruelly than the plague or wars do.

Hans Kühner, like most of your readers an emigrant from Germany, writes about Clement VI as follows in his objective 'Lexikon der Päpste' (Classen Verlag, Zürich): 'The luxurious excess, nepotism and extravagance of the court, combined with a taxation policy which upset the whole of Europe, reached a new peak with him, and various accusations are made about the lifestyle of this otherwise generous and helpful pope. He is above all honoured by the fact that during the bloody persecutions of the Jews in France and Germany in 1348 he supported the Jews so far as his power enabled him to do so and gave them refuge in his territory, and his Bulls in their defence were not without success.'

5 Salisbury House, H. G. ALEXANDER
Oakfield,
Somerset Road,
London, SW19 5HY

Devotion Remembered

Sir,—In the August issue of AJR Information you published the fact Mrs. Valeska Buchholz, known as "Dedda", had been awarded a medal for having hidden a Jewish couple, Mr. and Mrs. A. Brieger, during the war in Berlin.

However, besides Israel's Hero's Medal, which will be kept at Yad Vashem as she had no relatives, a tree will be planted for her on the Avenue of the Righteous on the Hill of Remembrance in Jerusalem. My only regret is that I did not inform Yad Vashem and send them Mrs. Brieger's statement during Mrs. Buchholz's lifetime. Whenever I mentioned that I wanted her to have recognition for her heroism, her answer always was: "Lass doch mal, jeder hätte das doch getan." If only they had!

66 Warwick Road, INGBORG SAMSON
Bishop's Stortford,
Herts. CM23 5NW

US ANTISEMITES APOLOGISE

After six years, a Californian businessman has scored a notable court victory over the notorious Institute for Historical Review. The story began in 1979, when the self-styled Institute for Historical Studies in Los Angeles offered \$50,000 to anyone "who could prove that a single Jew was gassed to death during the Holocaust". Mel Mermelstein, a survivor of Auschwitz whose mother and sister were gassed in the death camp, took up the challenge, initially by a letter in the Jerusalem Post.

This evoked an open letter from Lewis Brandon, at that time director of the Institute. Brandon, originally from Britain, is a long-time antisemite and is also known as David McCalden. His open letter accused Mr. Mermelstein of "peddling the extermination hoax"; in response the Institute was confronted with 13 declarations by eyewitnesses from Auschwitz, samples of Zyklon-B gas crystals, human hair and ashes. The antisemitic group then began to evade the issue, but in 1981 a Los Angeles court judicially ruled that "Jews were gassed to death at Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland during the summer of 1944".

Now further proceedings have not only resulted in Mr. Mermelstein being awarded damages of \$100,000, but—something much more important to him—a public statement by a group of organisations (Liberty Lobby, the Legion for Survival of Freedom and the Institute for Historical Review) "officially and formally apologising to Mr. Mel Mermelstein—and all other survivors of Auschwitz—for the pain, anguish and suffering" caused to them by the defendants' denial of the Holocaust.

Mr. Mermelstein's own reaction is that "I will sleep a lot better now. I will even die easier."

VOLKSWAGEN RESEARCH FUNDING

The unique relationship between Israel and the Federal Republic of Germany is a subject which deserves much scholarly study. A specialist in this aspect of modern history is Professor Michael Wolffsohn of the Universität der Bundeswehr in Munich, who is currently conducting comprehensive researches into German-Israeli links from 1948 to 1984. The project is expected to last a further three years and the firm of Volkswagen is to finance it with a grant of about £120,000.

SPASTIC THERAPISTS HONOURED

Two ex-refugee scientists were honoured at the summer meeting of the Berlin Spastikerhilfe when the septuagenarian husband and wife Drs. Bertie and Karel Bobath were given honorary membership as a symbol of gratitude for the help they have given to the handicapped.

The successful Bobath system of treating spastic children has been hailed in the West as "unique". Dr. Bertie Bobath began her career as a neuro-physiologist in Berlin, but was forced to escape to London in 1933. Continuing her profession, in 1944 she founded a society to help spastics at the Princess Louise Hospital for Children, Kensington.

It was during her London years that Bertie met her future husband Karel Bobath. Strangely enough, they had played together as children in Berlin, though their later lives had taken a different course. Karel had also studied medicine in Berlin but his doctoral thesis was refused because of his Jewish origins. Returning to his parents' homeland of Czechoslovakia, he practised at the children's hospital in Brno until he too was forced into exile in 1939.

While Bertie Bobath developed her new system of treatment, Karel studied the theoretical reasons

underlying its success. In 1951, the husband and wife founded a world centre, based in London, for Bobath therapy.

Despite their advanced age, the Bobaths still give lecture-tours throughout the world and continue to teach their system. Many handicapped people have cause to echo the thanks expressed by Spastikerhilfe in Berlin.

FROM HOUSEMAID TO SEX ADVISER

A household name of American radio is Dr. Ruth Westheimer, noted for the frank sexual advice she gives to phone-in callers. As a 10-year-old, Ruth was sent from Frankfurt to Switzerland, never to see her parents again. After the war, she went to Palestine and joined the Haganah, but in 1951 began training as a nursery teacher in Paris. From there she went to America, working in domestic service and studying in her free time. This earned Ruth Westheimer her degree and later a doctorate in family studies.

Dr. Westheimer has already written "Dr. Ruth's Guide to Good Sex", which is available in many translations. Her new book "First Lover", intended for young people, has just been published.

NEW HEAD FOR HASMONEAN

September saw a new head of Hasmonean Preparatory School. After 37 years, Michael Cohen has retired and his place has been taken by his deputy of six years' standing, Esther Ungar. Born in Bombay to a Jewish family originally from Baghdad, Mrs. Ungar is married to Willie Ungar from Vienna, one of the children saved by the late Rabbi Solomon Schonfeld. She first came to Britain to take up a scholarship to the Royal College of Music and her musical experience has influenced many of the entertainments put on by pupils.

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GALLERY ROUNDABOUT

The first really substantial exhibition of Howard Hodgkin's prints is at the Tate Gallery (until 1 December). It covers the period since 1977 when Hodgkin started to develop a new method of print-making, involving colour aquatint and hand colouring. These prints are very rich in colour, tone and expressive power. Hodgkin is, of course, better known as a painter and some of his paintings are on view at the Whitechapel Art Gallery (until 3 November).

Augustus John, the well-known painter, described his elder sister Gwen (1876-1939) as "the greatest woman artist of her age, or, as I think, of any other". A large retrospective exhibition of her work "Gwen John: An Interior Life" is at the Barbican Centre (until 3 November) and comprises over 50 paintings and 75 drawings, some being displayed in public for the first time. Gwen John lived most of her life in France, at first modelling for Rodin. Unlike her flamboyant brother she exhibited rarely and worked with great intensity seeking to develop a painting technique for her favourite subject—a seated model in an interior setting. See it—it is magnificent!

Also at the Barbican (until 3 November) is an exhibition of the work of Roderic O'Connor (1860-1940), an important Irish artist who also spent the greater part of his life in France, being closely associated with Gauguin and his circle at Pont-Aven in Brittany.

An artist of quite a different sort was David Low (1891-1963), the celebrated political cartoonist. It was he who invented the immortal Colonel Blimp and the Trade Union carthorse. An exhibition "Colonel Blimp and Friends: The Cartoons of Sir



Portrait by Adele Reifenberg

David Low" is at the National Portrait Gallery (until 12 January 1986).

Abraham, Rebecca and Simeon Solomon were all members of the same family and were born in the family house at Sandys Street, Bishopsgate. All were successful artists, but the best-known and most disreputable was the good-looking Simeon (1840-1905). Sentenced in 1873 for a homosexual offence, he was deserted by most of his friends and spent the remainder of his life as a vagrant and in the workhouse. But he went on painting. A comprehensive exhibition of the work of these artists, "The Solomon Family of Painters" is being shown at the Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, E.2 (until 31 December). A fully illustrated catalogue of the works exhibited, together with a number of essays on related subjects, is available at the Museum.

The Tolly Cobbold Eastern Arts Fifth National Exhibition comprising works of contemporary art selected from an open competition was shown at the Royal Academy until 22 September. For those who missed this excellent exhibition which gives a good idea of what is going on in the art world, it can still be seen in Bradford (until 10 November) and in Newcastle upon Tyne (30 November-12 January 1986).



Harry's Bar by P. J. Crook
(Eastern Arts Exhibition)

Finally, our old friend Adele Reifenberg, born in Berlin in 1893 and living in London since 1939, is still painting. In 1930 she married the painter Julius Rosenbaum and from 1948 to 1956 they ran their own painting school in London, exhibiting as the Belsize Group. After Rosenbaum's death in 1956, Adele Reifenberg moved to her present home in South Hill Park and has continued to paint. She has exhibited frequently and her work is to be found in permanent collections and also in private ownership in many parts of the world. An exhibition of her work was recently held at the Margaret Fisher Gallery, where some paintings are still available for sale.

Alice Schwab

DUKE'S SCHEME FOR ISRAELIS

Young Israelis are now able to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Forty countries are now involved in the international section. Competitors are required to show self-improvement and self-advancement in community service, expeditions, hobbies and physical recreation.

The Jewish National Fund's youth and education department is co-ordinating entries and hopes to have a good number of participants in this first year of Israel's involvement.

WCC CRITICISM OF UN

The general secretary of the World Council of Churches, Emilio Castro, has criticised the United Nations for equating Zionism and racism. At an important WCC meeting in Buenos Aires, Mr. Castro stressed the "urgent necessity" of fighting antisemitism.

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APPEASEMENT AND ASYLUM

The newest volume in Hans-Albert Walter's history of German exile literature (9 volumes are planned) describes the desperate situation in one of the darkest periods of modern history, in the days when the Western powers changed from mere toleration of Hitler's aggressive actions to active participation in them (*Deutsche Exilliteratur 1933-1950, Band 2, Europäisches Appeasement und überseeische Asylpraxis, 1939-1941. Verlag J. B. Metzler, Stuttgart, 598 pp.*) So far the first—out of print and to be re-published—and the fourth volume, dealing with the exile press, have appeared. A third volume "Die Situation der Exilierten in den kriegführenden Staaten Europas" is to be published soon. The author's single-minded devotion to his self-chosen task, the thoroughness of his approach, his mastery of all available documentation are no less admirable than the spirit of humanity and human solidarity permeating the whole work.

Walter's description of events starts with the annexation of Austria and traces the not always successful endeavours of German writers who had emigrated to Austria and their Austrian colleagues to escape the fate prepared for them. With the chapter on first dismembered and then temporarily extinguished Czechoslovakia the story broadens to the fate of refugees of all categories, political emigrés from Germany and Austria, German opponents of National Socialism from Czechoslovakia and the great mass of victims of Hitler's diabolical race policy who wanted "only" to save their lives. Then Italy, which after a period of some laxness, accommodated herself to the wishes of her axis partner.

A thorough analysis of the situation at the Evian Conference (1938) and all that followed it (or did not follow) shows the futility of negotiations based solely on the wish to pass the buck. What Walter says in this context about the attitude of the Swedish Government applies to all participating states: "Sie suchte mit humanitär-philantropischen Floskeln den schönen Schein zu wahren, um hinter diesem Paravent allen praktischen Konsequenzen aus dem Wege zu gehen."

The following chapters on the reactions of democratic Europe to the cruelty of German National Socialism contain hardly a single fact of which the states in question could be proud, even if one recognizes that the influx of penniless refugees into countries suffering from mass unemployment was bound to create difficulties.

One of the most depressing stories is provided by Switzerland where the "Das Boot is voll" attitude prevailed. France likewise shows a negative picture, while the reality of bureaucratic pig-headedness and the open hostility of some strata of the population towards alleged "war-mongers" created even a worse situation than that described by Walter.

Things were different but not much better in Great Britain where no pretext was bad enough for denying access to refugees and where the first reaction of the Chamberlain Government, even before Austria had been incorporated into the Third Reich, was the abolition of visa-free entry to bearers of German and Austrian passports. Under the pressure of public opinion a slight relaxation of the refugee policy took place after Britain had helped in the case of Czechoslovakia to create an additional refugee problem. Only after the fall of France was free entry to Britain granted to the refugees.

Understatement on Russia

The author's opinion that "die antifaschistische Sowjetunion hat die Asylpraxis der Appeasementstaaten weit hinter sich gelassen" seems to be rather an understatement, because no systematic massacre of helpless and in every respect innocent refugees, as in the Soviet Union during the terror of the late Thirties, took place anywhere else outside the Third Reich. The facts and figures soberly collected by the author, including the names of Jewish and non-Jewish refugees forcibly returned to Germany between 1939 and 1941, are as horrifying as are the endeavours of Communist "historians" 45 years later, to minimize what they cannot deny.

The countries outside Europe again presented a depressing picture of closed doors and closed hearts. Canada and other countries which were then British Dominions or colonies were terrified by the spectre of a "Jewish invasion" (A "Jewish enclave," the Governor of Kenya wrote in 1938, "would be an undesirable feature in a Colony which . . . should be developed on lines predominantly British"). Walter's analysis of British immigration policy for Palestine is a condemnation on familiar lines.

In the states of Latin America the desperate refugees were often robbed of their last possessions by corrupt officials, handing out empty promises. Last but not least: the immigration policy of the United States, again carefully scrutinized by the author, shows only negative features. But at the end of his book Walter is able to pay tribute to the magnificent and successful American action in rescuing the refugees stranded in France in 1940.

FROM NOVELIST TO PROFESSOR

In the 1920s the novel "Torstenson" was published to considerable acclaim and won the award of the Kleist Prize—at that time the most important of German literary prizes. But since that day the author, Hans Meisel, who recently celebrated his 85th birthday, has led a chequered existence.

After literary success and work as the "Vossische Zeitung" fiction editor, Meisel was obliged to emigrate in 1934 and finished up in the USA, where he worked for two years as secretary to Thomas Mann. When this ended, Hans Meisel carved out for himself an academic career. His special subject is the study of political power, revolution and counter-revolution. A number of his works on these themes have been successfully published, despite his feeling that he stands between two languages, German and English: in America, his fictional work is found "too European", while in Germany he finds that his way of speaking is quite outmoded.

As recently as 1984, however, Hans Meisel's memoirs have appeared. "Eine Gondel ganz aus Glas" (Von Hase & Koehler, Mainz) depicts his childhood in the vanished worlds of Riga and Warsaw.

A "CANADIAN WALLEMBERG"

John R. Colombo of Toronto is preparing a book about Charles A. Grant, a Canadian diamond merchant based in London in the 1930s, who organised false passports for Viennese Jews in 1938. Arrested by the Gestapo, he spent the next seven years in prison until Allied liberators released him and he was able to return to Canada. Charles A. Grant died in 1980.

Mr. Colombo is seeking information about this "Canadian Wallenberg" and would be most grateful for contemporary accounts and eyewitness accounts. His address is 42 Dell Park Avenue, Toronto M6B 2T6, Canada.

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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.

Acknowledgment

Bach:—A good New Year to all friends and heartfelt thanks to all who remembered and helped me during my recent illness. Hilde Bach.

Deaths

Baruch:—Alfred Baruch died on 26 August 1985. Deeply mourned by his wife Edith and his sister Marie of Paris.

Bley:—Gertrud Bley (née Hirsch) of 38, Vernon Court, Hendon Way, London NW2, widow of the late Bruno Bley, died on 16 August 1985, aged 86. Mourned by her family in St. Albans and London.

Krett:—Gertrude Krett, on 23 August 1985, in Leicester. Deeply mourned by her loving husband, her daughter

Barbara, her stepsons and all her family. Will be missed by all.

Lewin:—Fritz Lewin, aged 73, died instantly on 12 August, after being knocked down by a motor car. Deeply mourned by his wife Helga, his relatives in London and Israel and his numerous friends.

Reichenfeld:—Klara (Claire) Reichenfeld, aged 88, died peacefully on 21 August at the Whittington Hospital. She will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Ruppin:—Walter Ruppin, of 29 Fugelmere Close, Birmingham B17 8SE, died on 23 July 1985, aged 94. Beloved father of the late Gerald Matthews, father-in-law to Kathleen. "He died as he lived—peacefully".

Schindler:—Gerda Schindler (née Leschziner), sister of the late Werner Lash, died on 26 July, 1985. Sadly missed by relatives and friends.

Schuller:—Eva Schuller (née Schulz) passed away peacefully on Saturday, 10 August 1985, at the age of 94. Her memory lives on in her family Eric and Eva Sheldon, her grandchildren and great-granddaughter, as well as with all those who had the pleasure of being her friends.

Steinhart:—Lotte Steinhart, aged 69, died on 28 August, after a long illness borne bravely. Many will have lost their best friend.

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Personal

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Information Required

ELKINS. The whereabouts are sought of Ingle Elkins, who used to live in the Wembley Park area, and who has two daughters. Box No. 1073.

HALLHEIMER. Would anyone having information about the relatives of Friedel Hallheimer please contact Mrs. F. Laird, 22 Prospecthill Crescent, Glasgow G42 4AN, Scotland.

REICH. Dr. Felix Reich, who was the Director of the Israelite School for the Deaf in Berlin, and brought a group of refugee children to England in July 1939. Information sought for a book and film. Please contact: Marla

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HEINRICH (HENRY) WOLFF, last known address 76 Eric Road, Chadwell Heath/Romford and his sister Minna Wolff, last known c/o Ilford Isolation Hospital, Chadwell Heath, for their cousin Kurt Blumenthal. Please contact F. M. Field, 15 Crundale Avenue, London NW9 9PJ. Tel. 01-204 6749.

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ASPECTS OF RESISTANCE TO THE NAZI EXTERMINATION OF THE JEWS. I am a final year student writing a dissertation on the above subject for a Bachelor of Education degree. Areas to be covered are: Warsaw Ghetto Revolt, escape from Europe, rescue by occupied Governments, survival by hiding, and the International Red Cross. I would be grateful to hear from anyone with any experience of the above willing to talk/write about what they remember. Any such material is encouraged by the examiners, so will be immensely valuable and of great personal interest.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

The administration of the *Salzburg Festival*, which reached record figures this year with 140 musical and dramatic events, compiled a questionnaire concerning the popularity of its international stars. Whilst Mirella Freni, Editha Gruberova and Agnes Baltsa reached top positions among the lady singers, the three great tenors (Domingo, Carreras and Pavarotti) tied for first place; Herbert von Karajan's "first" among the conductors came as no surprise: Carlos Kleiber and Claudio Abbado followed in ranks two and three. **Tit-Bits.** *Bernhard Minetti* had a great personal success in a critically-debated "King Lear" production in Berlin. *Schauspielhaus Zurich* is preparing an ambitious programme for the 1985/86 season ranging from Ben Jonson to Strindberg, Oscar Wilde and Feydeau, and will present their great star-actresses *Agnes Fink* and *Maria Becker* in Schiller's "Maria Stuart". The Vienna State Opera announces November/December revivals of operas that have been missing from the repertoire for a great number of years: Bartok's "Bluebeard's Castle" will be given together with "Erwartung" by Arnold Schoenberg, and Korngold's "Tote Stadt" will return to its original "birthplace" where the opera was called the best contemporary musical work and Maria Jeritza had one of her great triumphs at the premiere in 1921.

Birthdays. *Ernst Krenek*, one of the "greats" in the field of international composers, celebrated his 85th birthday. His jazz opera "Jonny spielt auf" (recently given at Sadler's Wells) broke new ground at the Vienna Opera. German actress *Maria Paudler*, who was much sought after when

acting in Berlin, and who continued her career in Munich after the war, had her 75th birthday. Her memoirs "Auch Lachen will gelernt sein" appeared some years ago. *Charles Regnier*, Freiburg-born, of French parentage, whose intelligent and charming performances made him one of Munich's most prominent actors and who also translated many works from French into German, is 70 years old.

Obituary. The death at the age of 88 is announced of *Wilhelm Reinking* who was a stage designer and in this capacity assistant to Carl Ebert's productions. He was the chief designer of the Deutsche Oper, Berlin from 1954 to 1973. S.B.

JEWES AND MUSIC

Our member Herbert Révész has produced a useful reference book called *Jews and Music: A Dictionary of Jewish Composers and Musicians*, available at £10 from the author at Flat 5, Milton Lodge, 60 Station Road, Winchmore Hill, London N21 3NG. It is done in typescript photocopied on one side of the sheet, but bound up reasonably well in paper covers. Peripheral figures in the music world are included together with the big and middle-range names. The compiler has made honorary Jews of some people, like the Polish pianist Mieczyslaw Horszowski but never mind, they are in good company and wouldn't object. And having mentioned pianist Peter Walfisch and his cellist son Raphael, surely he should have included the cellist Anita of the ECO, wife and mother, respectively. M.S.

HAMLIN'S PUBLISHING COUP

A major development in the world of publishing is the work of Paul Hamlyn, who recently acquired the Heinemann Group. This is the largest British publishing merger to date and Mr. Hamlyn intends to widen the range of Heinemann authors and make the house more international.

Paul Hamlyn came to Britain in 1933 as a 7-year-old from Berlin. At that time, the family name was Hamburger, but Paul changed it to avoid the nickname of "sausage" or "wimpey". His brother, however, Michael Hamburger, the distinguished British poet and critic has retained his original name.

Beginning his career at 15 as an office-boy with "Country Life", Paul Hamlyn quickly rose to the post of correspondence editor: finding readers' letters "boring", he composed quite a few himself. After a stint as a Bevin Boy, he began the first of his two careers (so far!) in publishing, with the English version of "Larousse Gastronomique", published by Hamlyn Books in 1961, as his first best-seller. He then sold his company to IPC, but 15 months later he was back in the publishing business with Octopus Books.

FRESH HONOUR FOR DR. ALTMANN

The well-known scholar and expert on Moses Mendelssohn, Rabbi Alexander Altmann has added another laurel wreath. Already an honorary doctor of the Hebrew Union College, and of the Universities of Munich and Trier, he has now been similarly honoured by the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Although now formally in retirement at 80 years old, Dr. Altmann is still active as a teacher and author. EGL

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