

In search of roots

'Descendants of Jewish Refugees'

New forward-looking venture

The last issue of AJR INFORMATION carried an announcement of some importance to the future of our organisation. It was about the birth of a group calling themselves *Descendants of Jewish Refugees* (DJR). They are the ones who will take up the message borne by a generation still largely rooted in the far off past. They are not refugees and Central Europe is to them mainly the land of the Holocaust. Even the Holocaust must be to many of them a largely unreal thing, as indeed it is to not a few who suffered in it and find it less credible the further removed from it they are.

The thought of it also will be such as to make many of the descendants wish to have nothing to do with the past, preferring to concentrate entirely on the present, the land into which they were born. They may regard themselves as but the latest of the different races that have been merged into each land, even England, as Daniel Defoe put it 250 years ago: 'Fate jumbled them together/God knows how./Whatever they have been/They are all British now'. This is true, yet it is not quite true of the Jews, and oddly enough, precisely in this generation, it is not quite true of those who have come to foster their 'roots'.

The descendants, especially from the still surviving first generation, cannot cut themselves off from the story of their forebears, not the Jewish descendants. They are not themselves refugees but such is the world we live in, they cannot escape from the rock whence they were hewn, much though some may fancy otherwise. The past is part of their identity.

How do they face it? The admittedly few who have as yet joined hands take up the burden. They have already set about canvassing, and though numbers may not be everything and even dedicated few can do a lot, they believe they are supplying a need. Those who are interested should get in touch with Caroline at 579 9906. There are surely enough thoughtful young people amongst us who like to hear of their parents' (or grandparents') experience, and while they are,

and know they are, entirely British, they also feel they must determine the relationship between their Jewish and their English commitment. They are doing this in lively discussions, and indirectly the matter comes up whenever they meet to see relevant plays, for example, or to attend concerts or memorial ceremonies.

Many are horrified at the thought of Germany, even to the point of refusing to speak German

which they remember having heard at home; nor would they spend a holiday in Germany.

In this respect they might agree with their English Jewish friends (whose families came from Eastern Europe), though otherwise they seem to be somewhat apart. 'German' ancestry still sets Jews off from those of further Eastern origin, as did those of Ashkenasi and Sefardi descent, and the tolerance one meets is not always noticeably different from that between orthodox and progressive Jews.

Such are some of the facts of Jewish life. In a way we would not be human if we were not divided. But the great thing is that we should know who we are, heirs to a great heritage, each in our own way, descendants from a thousand years' Jewish history and now descendants of Jewish refugees.

Now it can be told

Potential Traitors in 1940

Some of us may still vaguely remember the wild cries that went up in 1940: 'Intern the lot' – all the aliens, all the refugees, because 'you cannot trust any Boche', as one M.P. memorably put it. They were believed to be the traitors who had delivered Western Europe to Hitler, and it was only after the typical traitor had appeared under the name of Quisling, that at least the *Times* began to realise that 'the aliens in this country' were 'not the only, nor even most probable, material for a "Fifth Column"'; it then became 'difficult to say where sincerity in the advocacy of crazy views ends and downright sedition begins'.

The *Times* must have known what it was talking about and now we too have been told the facts: the real danger in those fateful days came from a very different breed – people as English as Quisling was Nordic. Documents recently released by the Home Office for the first time point a finger at them. The senior general in charge of military security in Kent informed the Home Secretary, shortly after Dunkirk, that there were 'British subjects in my area who are disloyal in thought, and one day, when hostile action takes place, they will be disloyal in deed'. The Kent coast of course was particularly vulnerable to possible landings by German agents under the cover of darkness. Major-General Claude Liardet knew of 'a certain number of people in

Kent with political views in line with Hitler' who would 'do all they can to assist him when the opportunity arises. From a military operational point of view they are a greater danger than aliens. Most of them are educated people and know exactly how far they can go'.

Although they, the General said, 'give me and the police no peg to hang our hats on', some were indeed detained under Defence Regulation 18B. Scrupulous regard for civil liberties ensured that their number never exceeded 2,000.

One case, perhaps the most notorious, did come to public notice even during the war. Captain Archibald Ramsay who complained of having been described in 1940 as 'antisemitic and pro-Hitler' brought a libel action in which he was awarded two farthings' damages to compensate the injury sustained. The court found that 'Hitler would call him friend; he was disloyal, in heart and soul, to our King and Government'. It appears he was just the tip of a fortunately not very formidable iceberg.

On other pages

Indifference to Antisemitism in Germany p. 2
'Stolen Treasures' in Austria p. 3
AJR in Action p. 7

Growing Indifference to Militant Antisemitism in Germany

Antisemitism, even its militant variety, was not rooted out in Germany and the rout of Hitler has taught no lesson. There were hopes of course, and just as the Nazi crimes once seemed impossible to grasp, so any revival of the Nazi spirit now seemed inconceivable. There had been a good many warners but they tended to be poohpoohed as alarmists, neurotics if not paranoiacs. Recent events however have opened new perspectives and those who did not think much of the warners now appear to have been wishful thinkers. Something is rotten in the state of Germany.

The representative paper of the Jews now in Germany (*Allgemeine Jüdische Wochenzeitung*) has noted an 'ominous antisemitism' and the chairman of their Central Council, Werner Nachmann, a man known for his restraint, has described as 'catastrophic and an abomination' recent antisemitic statements by members of Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democratic Union. One, the mayor of a town near Düsseldorf, suggested in all seriousness that to balance his town's budget they would have to 'kill a few rich Jews'. Admittedly, he apologized for 'remarks taken out of context' and he actually resigned when Jewish leaders threatened to have him charged with incitement to racial hatred. Another, a Christian Social Union member of the Bundestag criticised compensation claims by former Jewish slave labourers because 'Jews are quick to step forward as soon as money jingles in German tills'.

'It is again possible . . .'

Nor are these echoes of Nazi mentality the only cause for grave anxiety. Worse if anything is the fact that none of them have aroused an outcry of protest, disgust and indignation. The M.P. later also 'apologised', it is true, but he seemed to think that a little mishap has been put right and he can now carry on as if nothing more had happened. He did not feel that his only course was to resign, hoping that he would never be heard of again. No Parliamentary body saw a need to institute proceedings with a view to purging German public life of such an outrage. Thus the conclusion is difficult to avoid that when an elected representative publicly speaks like this he merely voices what countless others privately think. The fact is, as the German Council for Christian-Jewish Cooperation said, 'it is again possible in Germany to engage in the most scandalous antisemitism'. The Hesse Minister of Education, a Social Democrat, felt antisemitism was in fact becoming 'fashionable' again, so much so that a colleague of the said mayor suggested that any criticism of this type of antisemitism 'might well breed new antisemitism'.

In a comment on this 'shameless' behaviour, the *Allgemeine* felt that 'democratic morality in Germany has declined'. Clearly, the democratically elected institutions such as the political parties, the trade unions, also the Churches and the schools, had failed in their duty towards the

new generation. What sort of a society was it that left this most urgent duty to the Jews, as if nobody else was directly involved? Such a society must stand convicted of having surrendered its very own and immediate responsibility.

It is not very long since the *Jewish Chronicle* said of similar, comparatively minor, occurrences in Germany, they 'must cast a huge shadow over the future of the Jewish community there and raise larger questions about the Federal Republic's future role in the Western comity of democratic nations'. They must also present a test of and a challenge to Jewish leadership in Germany.

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Meanwhile 'Brotherhood Week' was held as usual all over West Germany. In a speech to 4,000 people at Duisburg, President Richard von Weizsäcker referred to the antisemitic remarks which he said had wounded Jews in West Germany and around the world. 'I ask for forgiveness (he said). We cannot excuse these statements. They are irreconcilable with our view of people and democratic humanism, with history and with the honour of our people'.

In the course of a Bundestag debate on 27 February 1986, Chancellor Helmut Kohl (who is 55) referred to 'the mercy of late birth' with regard to his own generation's responsibility for the Holocaust. He said that while his and subsequent generations had no direct guilt for the murder of Jews, they did bear a joint responsibility towards history.

HOLOCAUST TEACHING THROUGH DRAMA

St. Ursula Gymnasium in Freiburg recently presented the children's opera "Brundibar", written in Theresienstadt by the Czech composer Hans Krása and performed for the children in the camp. Krása did not survive his imprisonment.

Sister Maria Veronika, the music teacher, elected to produce "Brundibar" as a means of teaching her pupils about the Holocaust and the sufferings of their Jewish fellow-citizens. Following an appeal for funds towards restoring the Freiburg synagogue, the Gymnasium was able to present over 2,500 DM to the chairman of the Jewish community.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT FROM HISTORY?

'The world, including its Jews, has learnt nothing from the Holocaust . . . We still have not learnt sensitivity in living with each other, and the extent of readiness in combating a future genocide is doubtful'. These views were voiced at a Holocaust seminar organised by the British Zionist Federation. A 29-year old professional thought 'we in Anglo-Jewry don't feel strongly enough about it'. A survivor who arrived in England in 1945 said Jews had 'paid a high price for ignorance and no leadership'.

Another Variation on The 'Protocols of Zion'

A synopsis of the 'Die Weisen von Ararat' [The Sages of Ararat] by Siegfried Deutscher might run: Scene - the summit of Mount Ararat, New Year's Eve, AD 2000. The leaders of the USA, the USSR, Israel and the Christian Churches (all Jews) are in dispute about the political history of the century just past. In this, it appears, Jews played a major part, both as capitalists and as communists. As climax comes a startling new version of the 'Auschwitz Lie' thesis: Bormann, Himmler, Eichmann and Barbie were really all Jews and themselves murdered their brethren in the concentration camps.

Such a farrago of antisemitic, anticommunist, anti-American, anti-Zionist and anticlerical clichés was actually due to be performed a few weeks ago in the auditorium of Aachen University. Billed as 'a poetry reading with mime', 'The Sages of Ararat' would, according to the placards, spread the 'erlösende Wahrheit vom Holocaust', the relieving truth as to the Holocaust. It was not until the VVN (the organisation of Nazi victims), the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation and the SPD mounted a vigorous protest and demonstration that the academic authorities, after consultation with the police, called off the letting of the hall for fear of public disturbances. A spokesman said that the University could not exercise censorship and the title of the piece had not aroused expectations of trouble.

'Siegfried Deutscher' is otherwise known as Helmut Schwab, a 52-year-old tax official who for over 25 years has written verses, essays, tracts and plays, always in the same neo-Nazi vein. He has set up his own 'Arsis-Verlag' and contributed to the neo-Nazi paper *Deutsche National-Zeitung*.

If his exploit can be seen as a variation on the theme of the 'Learned Elders of Zion', that kind of *spiel* is not confined to Germany. A classic forgery in the 'Protocols' tradition was a faked Associated Press story reporting a speech in which Lord Shawcross, the British prosecutor at Nuremberg, was said to have declared: 'Hitler and the German nation did not want war . . . We did not respond to pleas by Hitler for peace. Now we have to admit that Hitler was right', etc. Shawcross of course never said any such thing. The story was found to have been concocted by German neo-Nazis who sought to lend credibility to their swindle by stating place and date of the speech - Stourbridge, 16 March 1984. It so happened that on that day Shawcross was on business in Bangkok.

*

NUREMBERG/HADERA AGREEMENT

An agreement for 'friendly cooperation' between the city of Nuremberg and Hadera in Israel has been signed. Although the Nuremberg authorities had been anxious to enter into this relationship for some years, there was hesitation on the Israeli side because of the city's part in Nazi history. Nuremberg was officially known as 'Stadt der Reichsparteitage' and the Nuremberg Laws did not improve its reputation.

'Stolen treasures in Austrian hands'

In the December 1985 issue of *AJR INFORMATION*, we published a letter from the Minister-Counsellor at the London Austrian Embassy, Mr. H. Wessely, referring to a new law due to come into force on 1 January 1986 to enable art treasures looted in Austria by Nazis to be returned to their rightful owners. The fate of some of these treasures after 1945 was retraced, under the above heading, in a letter by Dr. Madelaine Duke, published in the *Daily Telegraph*, of 27 February 1986, from which the following extracts are reproduced.

In 1945 the American Occupation forces found the loot in salt mines and castles in Germany and Austria. The Americans gave the stolen property to the Austrian Government for return to the rightful owners.

In 1969, 24 years later, the Austrian Government published a list of stolen treasures for the first time, inviting the owners to claim their properties.

In 1977 my book, 'The Bormann Receipt', was published on both sides of the Atlantic. In it I publicly claimed famous paintings owned by my family which did not appear on the 1969 list of loot. I had no doubt that the list was incomplete.

In 1980-81, after some ten years of fighting the Austrian Government in the Vienna courts, 71 items out of some 8,000 were returned to their owners, including myself.

Between 1977 and 1986 I shared the results of my life-long researches into that chapter of history with fellow authors, journalists, radio and television producers world-wide. As a result books on the subject and many articles and programmes followed over the years.

In 1984-85 the American Press, including the *New York Times*, and the media exposed the story yet again. It was taken up by the Press on the Continent and included a devastating condemnation of Austria in *Der Spiegel* (Aug. 26, 1985).

In January, 1986, the Austrian Government, under international pressure, published a new list of looted art. The new list, which is committed to including stolen art treasures which had been sent to Austrian museums and Austrian embassies abroad, has just reached its destinations.

I am in possession of the 1986 list as well as the previous 1969 list of stolen art. My analysis of both lists shows clearly that the two are virtually the same except that the few objects which have been returned to their owners are, of course, omitted in the 1986 list.

On the other hand the new list still omits most important stolen art treasures, some of which I know to be in existence. I have reason to believe that some of them are held in West Germany.

But a number including a Van Lindt landscape reported (*New York Times*, Jan. 1, 1985) to hang in the Austrian Embassy in The Hague, were never listed either in 1969 or in 1986.

The Art and Cultural Property - as the Austrians describe the twice-listed loot - includes

books, small groups of china and glass, silver-plate, furniture, tapestries and carpets.

These pathetic remains bear little relationship to the rooms packed with precious articles looted by the Nazis which I saw as late as 1973 at the Vienna Museum of Applied Arts (*Museum fuer Angewandte Kunst*).

The museum's newly appointed director, Peter Noever, recently deplored the conditions in which objects have been stored (*Profil*, Feb. 10, 1986)

Exodus and Return

A Passover Reflection

As we celebrate Passover this month, we naturally think of the Exodus from Egypt, and in fact this great event is frequently recalled in our prayers throughout the year. Egypt, in our collective mind, seems to be for ever doomed, darkened by the plagues of bondage and oppression, a land existing only to get out of.

This is perhaps a pity and one cannot help wondering whether it is fair. For if Jews went out of Egypt, they also went into it, much as they went into, and out of, many countries. Actually Jews have settled in Egypt throughout history, whenever an opportunity offered and no memory of the cruel Pharaoh ever kept Jews out of the country.

Even among those who had just left the land, many would have gone back, hankering after the fleshpots which seemed desirable in spite of every kind of humiliation, and later Egypt often became, ironically, a haven of refuge for Jews escaping from troubles at home. Jeremiah for example was forced to flee to Egypt, so were the friends of Gedalyah who was murdered by terrorists, and after the destruction of Jerusalem in the year 70, the 'zealots' fled to Alexandria to

and is appalled that neither inventories nor photographs have been made of the art treasures in his museum.

After last year's talks with members of the Austrian government the American Congressmen Benjamin Gilman and Alfred McCandless announced that they expected Austria to make a real effort at restitution (*Artnews*, March 1985).

But if Austria failed yet again they 'would want to pursue the subject a little further'.

At the moment Austria does not seem anxious to clean out this particular Augean stable. The owners of stolen art treasures must apply for their properties on the 1986 list before the deadline, Sept. 30, 1986.

What of the unpublicised loot? Assuming a genuine desire to return looted art treasures to their owners Austria must surely be prepared to accept claims for items which she failed to include on the lists of 1969 and 1986.

seek support among the long established wealthy Jews there whose ancient synagogue was known as 'the glory of Israel'.

A thousand years later Maimonides settled in Cairo where his medical art was much appreciated by the upper 10,000. At that time (says Graetz) Egypt 'became a safe asylum for the persecuted Jews'. The thought of the past never embarrassed them, and when Egypt's fast-increasing and prosperous Hebrews faithfully observed the Seder, no supplementary question was asked, What distinguishes our celebration of this night in Egypt from that in any other country?

There were Jewish officers in the Egyptian army, and to make up for it, King Solomon, in his wisdom, peopled his harem with Egyptians as well as Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites and a bevy of other unconverted foreigners.

More recently Egypt was the only Arab country to treat with Israel, and when the Israeli President Navon visited his neighbour, he brought with him, as a tactfully chosen present, a hand-written scroll telling the story of how Joseph was sold into Egypt.

But of course Egypt is merely a symbol of the fortunes that befall the homeless Jew. In a larger perspective it is the story of man's struggle for freedom, a thing that is timeless and placeless, and in the 20th century it must seem cruel to pick on Egypt rather than on Nazi Germany or Soviet Russia. As later this month we shall remember the evil days in Egypt, let us in fairness not forget the (relatively) happy days our people spent there.

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HOME NEWS

ANNE FRANK EXHIBITION

'Anne Frank in the World 1929-1945' was the theme of an international exhibition held in London February-March 1986 by the Anne Frank Centre at Amsterdam and sponsored by the then GLC's Ethnic Minorities Unit. Life in Nazi Germany and occupied Holland was extensively and effectively illustrated, especially of course the (in part not previously documented) personal history of the Frank family. The story was actually taken beyond 1945 to demonstrate the rise of a new Nazism which the GLC saw exemplified in a widespread racial prejudice in Britain. Among those present at the opening ceremony was Mrs. Elfride Frank-Markovits, Otto Frank's second wife whom he married in November 1953.

"A DANGEROUS INFRACTION"

The Government has rejected the demand by a Labour MP that judges and magistrates should be required to disclose whether they are Freemasons. The Solicitor General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, told Mr. John Fraser, MP, that such a provision would be a "very dangerous infraction of personal privacy". He went on, "There is no evidence to justify the discrimination between Freemasonry and other forms of voluntary association".

FORMER MAYOR OF BRENT TO RETIRE

After 15 years of service, including a term as Mayor in 1982-83, Labour Councillor Ernest Friedlander, who came as a refugee from Berlin in 1936, is to retire from Brent Council at the borough elections in May when he will be 78. The former press officer to the constituent Labour Party will continue to be active in education and community relations work.

VIOLENCE AT UNIVERSITIES

The Example of Weimar Germany

In view of the frequent incidents involving violence at British universities, to the point of threatening academic freedom, it may be instructive to recall the experience of Weimar Germany where professors of views not acceptable to some were denied their basic rights.

A classic case was that of Dr. Ernst J. Cohn, then Professor of Commercial Law, who eventually found refuge in England. He was to start his career in 1932 at the University of Breslau. The fact that a Jew was to teach German law - though by no means the first - was used by the then steadily increasing Nazi students to create a violent uproar. Anti-Jewish songs were chanted and abuse hurled at the man. The Chancellor promptly called the police into the University building and had the demonstrators ejected. Though the Professor left under police escort, the Nazis managed to beat him up. The Chancellor thereupon declared that Dr. Cohn would continue to deliver lectures and that all necessary measures would be taken to protect him. As a result, such a tumult was raised that Cohn could not go on, and the Chancellor ordered the University to be temporarily closed.

The Nazis and their nationalist allies now sent an ultimatum to the Prussian Government demanding the immediate removal of Cohn. The (far Right-wing) Government however was not intimidated. In fact they replied by promoting Cohn to be a member of the University's Examining Board. This, in the circumstances courageous, if not defiant, action did not stop further outbreaks, and in spite of elaborate police precautions, the university had once again to be closed. It was now established that the troublemakers included many non-students (Nazi storm troopers), and they vowed not to rest until Cohn had been dismissed.

At length, the University authorities gave up the struggle. They declared that further activities of Cohn at the University were 'insupportable in the interests of order and unhindered tuition'. The reason, or pretext, was found in a press interview which Cohn had given on the question whether Leon Trotsky was to be granted asylum in Germany. Cohn had described the question as 'one of the many which no objectively thinking person can answer without the most careful consideration of many circumstances'; it would be 'particularly important to know the experience that other countries had had with Trotsky. An intellectual worker will always appear worthy of protection; for we certainly have no lack of agitators and whole-time politicians'.

This statement was regarded by Breslau University's Chancellor and Senate as evidence of Cohn's failure to 'show the required restraint in that he unnecessarily protruded himself into a controversial political question'. Not all professors agreed with the authorities' attitude. They denounced it as degrading to the prestige of its dignity. However, they were unable to reverse the declaration - especially, as a few weeks later Hitler was in power.

CLUB 1943

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1986

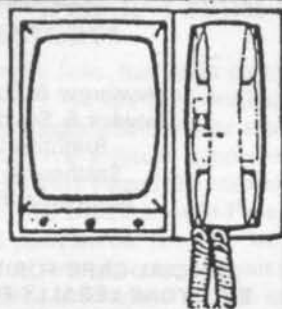
- 7 Apr. Dr. Günther Heidemann: 'Der Mord an Kotzebue (1819): Politischer Terrorismus im Deutschland des 19. Jahrhunderts'.
- 14 Apr. Gerald Holm (Einführung): Schüler der Deutschen Schule, Richmond (Lesungen): 'Tucholsky-Abend'.
- 21 Apr. Dr. Ruth v. Schulze-Gävernitz: 'Drei erstaunliche Frauen der modernen klassischen Zeit: Hester Stanhope, Lady Hamilton, Madame de Staël'.
- 28 Apr. Werner Sabiers: 'Heinrich Böll: Sein Werk und sein Leben'.
- 5 May No meeting (Bank Holiday).
- 12 May Dr. Kurt Pflüger: 'Was verstehe ich unter Geschichtsschreibung?'.
- 19 May Karin Reinfrank: '"Driftwood—An Odyssey in our Time" by Werner Lansburgh'.
- 26 May No meeting (Bank Holiday).
- 2 June Ada Crown: 'Coming Home: The Jews from Ethiopia in Israel'.
- 9 June Clemens Nathan: 'A Background to Fashion: Sociological, Psychological Implications'.
- 16 June Dr. Angela Hobart: 'The Elegance and Humanity of Yoruba Art in Nigeria'.
- 23 June Mitgliederversammlung. Anschließend: Unterhaltungsabend.
- 1 July (Tuesday): Annual Outing. Details from 16 June onwards at Club meetings or by telephone from Mrs. Sterly 01-883 2158.

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'Modern Art 1945-1985'

It is impossible, they say, to square a circle and equally impossible to get two or more art critics to agree on what a representative gallery of modern art should acquire. 'Forty Years of Modern Art 1945-1985' at the Tate (until 27 April) not only shows what that great storehouse of modern art has managed to acquire over the years, but is also a graceful tribute to Ronald Alley, Keeper of the Modern Collection, who is retiring after 35 years with the gallery. He personally selected, hung and catalogued this exhibition. Everyone will have his or her own view: Why on earth did they acquire that? Or, why have they not shown any works by so-and-so? Whatever reservations there may be, this is a jolly good show and must silence any criticism that the Tate is not seeking to expand our national collection over a very broad spectrum.

Prints and Drawings

The British Museum's Prints and Drawings Department has also been drawing on its own resources and its present exhibition (until 4 May) of works acquired over the last five years, shows what can be done with energy and foresight, albeit meagre resources. The finest exhibit is perhaps the Palmer water-colour 'Cornfield by Moonlight with the Evening Star', but there are also stupendous works (Rembrandt, Castiglione) from the Chatsworth sale. The Museum has recently been at pains to build up its already formidable 20th Century Germany collection and the present exhibition shows excellent works by Paula Modersohn-Becker and Anselm Kiefer. Unfortunately there is no catalogue.

The Barbican will also be showing prints 'Print 86' (24 April-26 May), organised by the Print-makers' Council; there will also be demonstrations of printing techniques and a series of lectures.

'Women in Art'

The recent exhibition 'Women in Art' at the Holland Gallery included works by Marika Eversfield who, of Hungarian origin, has lived in London for many years. Her paintings of familiar scenes are charming in their subtle tones and colours.

The latest showing at Leinster Fine Art, 3 Clifford Street, W.1 (until 23 April) is a collection of stunning portraits by that very successful artist Ishbel McWhirter who has held many exhibitions and whose work is included in the national collections. Among the exhibits is a portrait of Prof. Dr. J. P. Hodin, the illustrious critic and art historian, who has just celebrated his 80th birthday.

Photographs at the Goethe Institut

At the Goethe Institut (until 5 April) is an exhibition of photographs by Wols (Otto Alfred Wolfgang Schulze), born 1913 in Berlin, died 1951 in Paris. Although he established a reputation as a printer in the 1940s, his superb photographic work has been much neglected. He did

have a photographic exhibition in Paris in 1936 and was commissioned to undertake the photographs for the Pavilion d'Elegance at the Paris World Fair in the following year, but nothing since. The present exhibition is outstanding. It will be followed at the Goethe Institut by 'Simplicissimus 1918-1933', caricatures from the famous satirical weekly.

'Art in Exile'

This major exhibition of the work of German artists in Britain 1933-1945, is now being shown at the *Neue Gesellschaft für bildende Kunst*, Tempelhofer Ufer 22, Berlin. It will be seen in London at the Camden Arts centre from August to October. A revised version of the enormous and somewhat incomprehensible catalogue has been promised.

Alfred Lomnitz (Eschwege 1892-London 1953), frequently known as LOM, was a commercial artist who gradually developed into an important painter in his own right with considerable Expressionist leanings. In his career in England - he left Germany in 1933, he worked as a commercial artist and, finally, for Swears & Wells as a protégé of Cyril J. Ross, its chairman, whom he taught to paint. Cyril Ross was also Chairman of the Ben Uri Art Society and it was there that his last exhibition was held in 1954. An exhibition of LOM's works was recently held at the John Denham Gallery, 50 Mill Lane, N.W.6 and showed the very high quality of the work of this sadly neglected artist. Those interested can still see some of his work at the gallery.

ALICE SCHWAB

*

UNIQUE ENAMEL MURALS

Does the phrase 'lift doors' convey a striking artistic experience? If not, it is clear that you have never been in the Jerusalem Hilton, the Erie Insurance Group building in Philadelphia or Scorpion House in Chelsea. All these contain lifts with doors designed by the artist Vera Ronnen-Wall, who has fired brilliant yet subtle enamel directly on to the metal doors in abstract patterns.

Hungarian-born Vera was one of the few beneficiaries of Dr. Kastner's negotiations with the Nazis: aged 14, she was sent from Bergen-Belsen to Switzerland in 1944. There she studied the fine arts, emigrating to Israel in 1950. She taught at the Bezalel Academy until 1975.

Although she retains her links with Israel and intends to teach there again, Vera Ronnen-Wall has made her home and studio in Wapping for a number of years. One of her latest works is a large mural in the new IBM headquarters near the National Theatre. Using her own unique methods, she has executed the design (almost 10 x 20 feet) in true enamel, glass colours fused on steel. The work, carried out with only one assistant and two technicians for the actual firing, took her six weeks, sometimes working a 14-hour day.

Vera Ronnen-Wall's enamel murals are also to be seen at Ben-Gurion International Airport, the Israel Tourist Information Office in Paris and at El-Al offices in Europe and Jerusalem.

Israel and the Diaspora

Rights and Duties

A growing tendency of Jewish organisations to engage in 'world Jewish diplomacy' was noted by the adviser to the Prime Minister of Israel on diaspora affairs, Avraham Burg, when he addressed a B'nai B'rith International Leadership Seminar at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem last January. He cited the World Jewish Congress approach to the Soviet authorities on the fate of Soviet Jewry, also the criticism one hears from diaspora Jews of some Israeli policies. Many Jews today (he said) not only feel that they have the right but even the obligation to be involved in such policies, particularly when they affect world Jewry such as the 'Who is a Jew?' issue.

From the Israeli side, Burg said that in place of the former ideological Zionist negation of the legitimacy of the diaspora, there is today an Israeli indifference to the relationship with diaspora Jewry, a lack of open communication and dialogue. Burg deprecated this; what was needed he said was a deeper involvement from both sides - Israel and the diaspora - with each other. Those in positions of responsibility in Israel he thought had the obligation to behave in such a way as not to cause harm to Jews abroad, while Jews abroad had the right to tell Israel what (in their opinion) Israel was doing wrong.

SIR RUDOLF PEIERLS' MEMOIRS

Among the many scientists who came to Britain as refugees, Sir Rudolf Peierls is one of the most distinguished. Now in his late seventies, he came from a German-Jewish family in Berlin and studied physics in the city, as well as in Munich and Leipzig. One of his tutors was Walther Nernst and he also worked as assistant to Wolfgang Pauli (of Pauli Principle fame).

When Hitler took power, Rudolf Peierls came to Cambridge and thence to Manchester and Birmingham. As well as making valuable contributions in quantum mechanics, he may be said to have assisted at the birth of the discipline.

In his recently-published memoirs (*Bird of Passage*, Princeton University Press, £21.20), Sir Rudolf, among many fascinating anecdotes, tells of his ludicrous situation under the 'aliens' restrictions during the Second World War. For example, although naturalised before 1941, he was not permitted to work on radar research. Instead, he studied nuclear fission and, with Otto Frisch, jotted down 'on the back of an envelope' the calculations which showed the quantity of uranium needed to bring about a nuclear explosion. The note was sent to the Government: but Peierls and Frisch were not permitted to work on their own discovery! The ruling was changed when it was pointed out that the 'aliens' could answer questions which no-one else could yet formulate.

After working on the atom bomb at Los Alamos, Peierls returned to Britain, where honours were heaped upon him - fellowship of the Royal Society in 1945, the Max Planck medal in 1963, knighthood in 1968, the Enrico Fermi Award in 1980, to name only a few.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EGON ERWIN KISCH

Sir, - As usual, Egon Larsen ('The Truth about Redl', February 1986) tells an interesting story in a superb manner. I hope he will not be offended if I point out some inaccuracies.

As far as I remember, after Redl's enforced suicide no 'appreciation of his patriotic services' was published by the Vienna papers, only an official communiqué indicating the time of the funeral of the former Colonel Redl.

E. E. Kisch did not 'try to emigrate to Australia'. He was imprisoned in Berlin with many others the day after the *Reichstagsbrand*, but released after a fortnight after a demarche by the Czechoslovak Press Attaché, the German-Jews writer Camill Hoffmann. He then went to Prague and lived later in Paris. In October 1934 he went to Australia as a 'delegate' to a Melbourne Congress of a Communist-front organisation, camouflaged as an 'Anti-War Congress'. When not allowed to land, he jumped overboard from the ship to the quayside (he did not attempt to swim to the shore) and broke a leg. He was in jail only a short time and was not deported from Australia. (His book *Landung in Australien* was recently re-published by *Büchergilde Gutenberg* with an epilogue by H. A. Walter, confronting Kisch's fairy-tales with the facts.)

In March 1946 Kisch returned from Mexico to Prague, expecting to be *persona grata* with his Communist comrades then participating in the government. But at that time the Czech Communists played the role of the most chauvanistic nationalists and had no use for a German-Jewish writer with an insufficient knowledge of the

Czech language. He was kept in a kind of quarantine and was very bitter about it. He died one month after the Communists had taken unlimited power in February 1948. I have never heard the story of the banquet at the Soviet Embassy but rather doubt whether, as an outcast, he would have been invited there. Yet Larsen is certainly right with his assumption that Kisch, had he lived until 1952, would have been liquidated by the Stalinists together with many others of his kind.

J. W. BRUEGEL
Golders Green, NW11

HENRY ORMOND
(PIONEER CORPS)

Sir, - I am writing a biography of my late husband Henry Ormond, formerly Hans Oettinger (1901-1973). He came to England in August 1939, was interned in 1940, first in the Isle of Man and later in Canada. After his return in July 1941 he joined the Pioneer Corps (248th Company) from which he was transferred in August 1944 to Brig. 74, where he served until February 1945. He then became Corporal with the 17 Leaflet Unit, B.L.A., and Amplifier Unit. I met him at the end of 1945 at No. 30 Information Control Unit in Hanover. He eventually settled as a lawyer in Frankfurt. I would be very grateful if any readers who can give information about his service in H.M. Forces would kindly get in touch with me.

Mozartweg 7
6070 Langen/Hessen

ILSE ORMOND

AJR INFORMATION
ON AUDIO CASSETTE

Sir, - I have reason to believe that there are a number of people who are finding it increasingly difficult to follow the written word. They might be interested in a project which I have started to supply AJR INFORMATION on audio cassette.

Several people who are attending the new AJR Day Centre at Belsize Square Synagogue, also in the Leo Baeck House, have expressed interest in the idea, but to make it a viable proposition more potential subscribers are needed. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact me.

122 Sunningfields Road (Mrs.) IRENE WHITE
Hendon, NW4 4RE

*

OTTO HIRSCH MEMORIAL MEDAL

This year's Otto Hirsch Memorial Medal was awarded to Dr. Edgar Winkler, *Ministerialrat a.D.* and Hon. Chairman of the Stuttgart Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation. The Medal was endowed last year and his first recipient was Rechtsanwalt Dr. Kuester, the valiant champion of just restitution. At a special ceremony it was handed to Dr. Winkler by the First Mayor of Stuttgart, Dr. Thieringer, and the *laudatio* was delivered by the first spokesman of the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation, Heinz M. Bleicher. Both speakers paid tribute to Dr. Winkler's courage and helpfulness, qualities in which Otto Hirsch had excelled.

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AJR IN ACTION

Thinking of

THE LONELY and THE HOUSEBOUND

What happens to the lonely and housebound in our Community – have you ever given thought to how you can ease their burden?

May we remind you of the article in April 1984 AJR INFORMATION 'Taking up the Challenge' when it was stated we would provide volunteers for our people. As a result of this article new recruits came forward and together with long-standing helpers have worked admirably helping to cope with the Community's needs. Alas, the daily requests received by this office are numerous and varied, and many more hands are needed.

How You Can Help

We are quite certain that each and everyone can help in this direction for however busy you are, one has always an hour or two to spare. Is it a fear of the unknown which prevents you from contacting us? Then let us enlighten you by mentioning just a few ways in which you can help:

Driving for Meals-on-Wheels, visiting people in their own home, shopping for them, collecting their pension, taking them for a walk, or a ride in your car.

Something for everyone to do

However, although the residents in the CBF Residential Care and Housing Association Old Age Homes in the Bishop's Avenue are well fed and cared for, they are still very lonely. Imagine yourself without family or friends and how you would welcome a familiar face, someone who will take personal interest in you, visit you on a regular basis, and perhaps take you to their own home to participate in a family gathering or even talk to you in your native tongue. This means so much when you are alone.

Although many volunteers do not want to have direct contact with one person, they are prepared to help in a general way in the Old Age Homes e.g. writing letters for residents, assist on Open Days, act as escorts on outings, tending to plants, etc. – yes, there is something for everyone to do. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Sylvia Matus, Volunteers Co-ordinator Tel. 624 4449.

AJR CLUB NEWS

30th Anniversary Bazaar

This year's Bring-and-Buy Sale of the AJR Club on 23 February was its 30th Birthday Bazaar. It was a splendid success. An icy-cold wind on the Sunday of the Sale failed to deter the still active Club chairman Mrs Margaret Jacoby, now aged 103, from attending. Most Club members and friends also came in large numbers. They found a great variety of goods well displayed and, meeting old friends over tea, they enjoyed the occasion.

The Club feels most grateful for the support it has received by way of gifts and donations, of personal assistance as well as attendance. Very special thanks are due to Mrs. Maria Wilson (whose whole family joined forces again with other kind helpers), Mrs. Lolli Walter and Miss Irma Woodman. It was they who organised the Bazaar and whose many weeks' hard work made it possible to hold it. Their efforts have been richly rewarded.

Thirty years ago it was realised that many of our people were in need of a place to meet, make friends and feel cared for. The AJR Club was founded and opened by Dr. Adelheid Levy, Mrs. Margaret Jacoby and Mrs. Gertrud Schachne. It soon came to be an important function of the AJR and has, to this day, been a popular meeting place for its members.

Second Seder

The AJR Club will hold the Second Seder on Thursday, 24 April, at 6.30 p.m. *sharp*, at Hannah Karminski House, 9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3. It will be conducted by Dr. Arnold Horwell.

Please be at the Club not later than 6.15 as it takes time for everyone to find their seats.

The charge for dinner incl. wine is, for members, £8.50, for non-members, £10.50. These charges do not cover our costs and any voluntary contribution will be accepted gratefully. On the other hand, anyone who would like to attend but is finding the cost too high should not hesitate to contact the Club. Would those wishing to take part please book not later than 6 April, together with a remittance. We shall refund payments for bookings cancelled before 14 April.

*

Residential Homes in Israel

The problems of 'our parents' and residential homes were prominent on the agenda of the last annual meeting of the German Jewish immigrants in Israel, *Irgun Olei Merkaz Europa* (IOME). The number of tenants is 744, and there is a long waiting list. The homes need modernisation and extension but are facing financial difficulties. A

considerable sum was received from the Claims Conference but no more can be expected, nor is there any Government assistance. They are now almost entirely dependent on funds raised in Israel.

The 'Jewish Chronicle' Comes to the Day Centre

This report appeared in the Jewish Chronicle's Supplement 'London Extra' of 7 March 1986.

For one regular visitor to the new Day Centre, its opening at Belsize Square Synagogue hall has changed his life.

Mr. H. Lester, aged 75, travels by tube once a week from Tottenham Court Road, a journey he thought he would never be able to make, as he was suffering so badly from depression he shook violently and could hardly walk. Mr. Lester, like many others, was really suffering from loneliness. The people he meets at the twice weekly day centre (it operates on Wednesdays and Thursdays) make the vital difference between happiness and misery.

Another regular attender is 90-year old Edward Bohm, who lives in Dollis Hill. For him the pleasure lies in 'meeting old friends I have not seen for years.' He also had praise for the voluntary helpers – 'very nice people.' Miss S. Friedlander is brought by car with two other ladies from Eleanor Rathbone House in Highgate. She found the discussion group that morning particularly interesting. 'We started with Shcharansky and it led to all sorts of subjects,' she told LONDON EXTRA.

The discussion followed sit-down keep-fit exercises which always begin the day's programme. After exercises, the group splits into the card-players and the talkers. A small shopping stall is well patronised, with continental biscuits the biggest-selling item.

Lunch – substantial and home-cooked in AJR premises just around the corner – is served at 12.30 and the afternoon is given over to entertainment, usually musical and of a high standard. Future programmes include speakers on a variety of subjects, tea dancing and parties. Organiser Sandra Randall said she was very pleased with the progress of the day centre, which now numbers over 60 per day, filling the hall. 'It works like an alternative medicine. But we do need more volunteers and, in particular, more drivers.'

Anyone who can help may phone Mrs. Randall from 9.30 am on 328 6317 on a Tuesday or 435 6931 on a Wednesday or Thursday.

KEEP OUT UNWELCOME VISITORS!

Our AJR Meals-on-Wheels drivers report that they frequently find front doors left open for them, or opened without question at the ring of the bell, thus making it easy for an intruder to walk in. In the interest of their own safety, members are advised to keep their front door fastened at all times and not to admit callers without first making sure of their identity.

NEW VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED TO

Befriend a Resident in the Old Age Homes

Shop and generally assist the housebound

Please phone Mrs. S. Matus at the AJR Office on 624 4449.

LATEST ON THE WANDERING JEW

Before Richard Wagner's son-in-law, the Englishman Houston Stewart Chamberlain, invented the superior Arian race, and before the perfidious fake of the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" poisoned Europe's political atmosphere, it was the old legend of the Wandering Jew which served as a vehicle for popular and theological antisemitism, particularly in Germany, France, and Britain.

The original source of the story may have been an alleged incident concerning Pontius Pilate's door-keeper, who struck Jesus, ordering him to "go on faster" to the court-room, whereupon Jesus replied: "I am going, but thou shalt tarry till I come again."

A later version, however, turned the villain into a Jewish cobbler who refused to let Christ, carrying the cross, rest at his door on the way to Calvary. The ensuing words were the same, but the Jew's name was Ahasverus—strangely, the name under which the Persian King Xerxes appears in the Old Testament books of Ezra and Esther. At any rate, Ahasverus remained the name of the *Ewiger Jude* who was said to have turned up from the thirteenth to the eighteenth century, at least once every hundred years, all over Europe, and each time the story was coloured by local anti-semitic superstitions.

Now we have the latest news about him in a book by the leading East German novelist, Stefan Heym: *The Wandering Jew* (Pan Books/Picador paperback, £3.50). Heym's own life story may have prompted him to choose this subject. Born in Chemnitz in 1913, he emigrated from Nazi

Germany to the U.S.A., where he joined the army. After the war he left America at the height of the McCarthy era and settled in East Berlin, where he wrote a number of successful novels.

But with his famous *King David Report* (1974) he angered the GDR authorities too much when it dawned on them that this "biblical" story was in fact a pungent satire on the ruling clique of East Germany, its personality cult, the biased re-writing of history, the toadyism and lack of freedom in that country. Since then, Stefan Heym, though still residing in the GDR, cannot publish his works in his homeland; their original German versions appear in West Germany, and many have been published in English. He, too, is a wandering Jew.

Heym's Ahasverus turns up first in Luther's time, but the book does not stick to any realistic chronology. The days of Jesus alternate with a present-day correspondence between the East Berlin "Institute of Scientific Atheism" and a professor in Israel. Sometimes the central figure of the book is a young nobleman on his way to Wittenberg; but the constant companion of Ahasverus is a fellow with a humpback and a clubfoot called Leuchtenträger (formerly Lucifer).

The two roam the ages. At one time Ahasverus, far from insulting "Reb Josua", later to be called Jesus, tries to save him from the cross; nearly two thousand years later, he still has his shoe-shop in Jerusalem and invites Reb Joshua to come in, rest, and have a cup of Coca Cola. But is that chap the real Messiah? Will he come again? Has his supreme saved Man and the world from barbarism? Ahasverus, too, sacrifices himself fighting the Nazis in the Warsaw ghetto, but he cannot die and appears again in Hamburg as Sir Ahasverus.

With this weird mixture of historical and invented people and happenings, Stefan Heym's book cannot be taken as a serious contribution to the great discussion about the Jews; yet the questions it raises make the reader think. The Wandering Jew, whether he existed or not, is a symbol: "Since he is a Jew, his attitude and his way of looking at the world are Jewish—his dissatisfaction with existing conditions and his efforts to change them... He is unrest personified."

Heym's book ends on a pessimistic note: perhaps God's act of creating Man—considering what the latter has made, and is going to make, of the world—was a fundamental mistake.

EGON LARSEN

SOCIAL TEACHER REMEMBERED

The life of Dr. Alice Salomon, who died in New York in 1948, has been celebrated by the creation of an Alice Salomon Prize to be awarded for a thesis or book on social work or on a theme specifically dealing with the women's question. Dr. Salomon was the founder and head of the Soziale Frauenschule in Berlin-Schoeneberg; in 1924 this was renamed the Alice Salomon School, but in 1933 the founder was obliged to relinquish all her appointments. The school is now merged in the Fachhochschule für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik and earlier this year a tablet to the memory of Alice Salomon (created by the sculptor Heinz Spilke) was unveiled on the site of her original school.

DISTINCTIONS

Polish Honour for Freeman

A Freeman of the City of London has just been awarded Poland's highest civilian award: the golden insignia of the Order of Merit. Eric Sosnow came to this country from Poland on business in 1935. He extended his stay, writing for Polish-Jewish newspapers.

During the war, Mr. Sosnow was in the Fleet Street Home Guard, but after 1945 he left journalism to set up his own business in a firm which later became United City Merchants. For over 30 years he has maintained commercial links with his native Poland and given generously to Polish charities, showing particular interest in children's hospitals. In this country he has endowed scholarships for students of modern Jewish history.

Sunlight for Publisher

The Edith and Joseph Sunlight literary prize for 1986 is to go to Lord Weidenfeld, the well-known publisher. Mrs. Sunlight, the widow of Joseph Sunlight, a prominent Mancunian, established the award in 1984 to honour 'literary work enhancing Anglo-Israeli cultural relations'.

Sure Sign of Having Arrived

The *Times* columnist Penny Perrick writes: 'I have decided what I want to be when I grow up. I want to be the sort of woman adored by Lord Weidenfeld. What his Lordship really goes for, according to one observer, are 'women who are beautiful and who look like they don't have a thought in their heads, but who turn out to be incredibly intelligent'. . . He would be mesmerised by every pearl from one's scarlet lips'.



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OBITUARIES

ZACHARIAH SCHUSTER

The European head of the American Jewish Committee for 23 years, died recently, aged 84. Schuster left his native Poland for the U.S. in 1927, where he became known as a Yiddish writer. In 1949 he took charge of the new AJC office in Paris whose object was to rehabilitate the fragmented Jewish communities of Europe. Here Schuster came into contact with all the leaders of Continental Jewry. Some years later, he was able to work with Cardinal Bea and other Catholic dignitaries involved in the Vatican Second Council. In 1972, Schuster returned to America, where he continued working with the AJC as a consultant on interreligious affairs.

ULRICH EICHHOLTZ

The first director of the Restitution Office in Berlin, Ulrich Eichholtz, died recently at the age of 92. In the course of his career he worked closely with the Jewish Community in Germany and took a personal interest in alleviating the wrongs of the Third Reich. His part in development of the Restitution Office was recognised by the award of the Grand Cross of West Germany's Order of Merit.

ROGER D. KATZ

The death occurred recently in Brussels of Roger D. Katz at the age of 79. Mr. Katz actively resisted the Nazi occupation of Belgium and was later elected national chairman of the Belgian association of Jewish ex-servicemen and Resistance fighters. He also held several other important posts in the Belgian Jewish community and was several times decorated by his own and other countries.

JEANIE CAPLAN

A founder-member of British Wizo, Mrs. Jeanie Caplan has died in her 94th year. She was involved in many charitable organisations and during the 1930s was active in the rescue of Jewish children from Germany.

HEINZ ELSBERG

The journalist Heinz Elsberg who died in Berlin aged 67 was the son of the distinguished Ullstein journalist, Paul Elsberg editor of the financial section of the *B.Z. am Mittag*. Heinz was crippled since birth but showed remarkable courage in overcoming his physical disability. His pre-war studies in national economy were interrupted by the legislation of the Nazi regime. During the war he worked in Pastor Grueber's office where help and advice was given to racially persecuted people. After this office was closed and Pastor Grueber was sent to a concentration camp, Elsberg worked for the music publishers, Bote & Bock, and after the war he became a music publisher himself for some time. During 1961-1967 he was the editor of *die Mahnung*, an organ for the victims of Nazi persecution. He then became a freelance journalist for various Jewish and other papers and was the Berlin correspondent of the *Aufbau* (New York).

Elsberg was an indefatigable fighter for human rights and for the victims of the Nazi regime. He also stressed the historical aspect and the responsibility which many Germans bear for the terrible events. We shall remember him with respect and gratitude.

DR. T. ZONDEK

BRIGITTE SCHIFFER

Brigitte Schiffer died a short time ago in London, aged 76. Born in Berlin, part of her childhood was spent in Egypt, but she returned to Germany to study at the Hochschule für Musik and at Berlin University. In 1938, she re-emigrated to Egypt.

Mrs. Schiffer came to London in 1960 and from then on reported on the British musical scene to German journals and newspapers. Much of her work, often related to contemporary music, was published in the influential 'Melos.'

H. E. KIEWE

The death occurred on 5 February at Oxford, suddenly, of Mr. Heinz Edgar Kiewe, formerly of Königsberg, at the age of 79. He was a noted authority on wool and its history and an expert on tapestries. A fuller appreciation of his life will appear in the next issue.

*

THE LAST OF FRANKFURT

In the early Spring of 1944, an eleventh deportation transport of 200 Jews left Frankfurt a.M. Ten earlier transports had taken 9,000 men, women and children to their fate.

But this was not to be the last deportation from the city: the Gestapo now mounted a ruthless campaign against "privileged Jews", those with Aryan spouses. Just three months before the end of the war, some 300 people (including one child) received a Gestapo notice ordering them to report "for work abroad". They could take personal property and three days' provisions.

On 14 February 1945, the transport left for Ghetto Theresienstadt. There it was halted because the railway had been damaged by enemy action. By the greatest good fortune, almost all the 300 survived.

ILSE JOSEPH

Ilse Joseph has died at Heswall, Cheshire at the age of 86. During the past twenty years she gave her life to the promotion of Christian — Jewish understanding and was a well known personality in the North East. She aimed at bringing reconciliation between Jews and Germans and worked for peace and the welfare of young people.

She was born in Berlin and emigrated to Holland in 1938, where her children lived in a Jewish Children's Home. In 1940 she came to England and married her second husband Curt Joseph, a research chemist at Polkingtons Glass Company. At the end of the war she found that her children had been taken to a concentration camp and killed by the Nazis. She used her skills as a violinist to raise money by participating in charity concerts. After the death of her husband she directed all her efforts to promote the welfare of young people and Christian — Jewish understanding by combining concerts with appeals for peace and goodwill.

Her concert tours in Germany always began with Bruch's 'Kol Nidre' and included an address about reconciliation, which proved to have a strong appeal to the younger generation. In recognition of her efforts she received the Officer Cross of the West German Order of Merit in 1971, and in 1977 was appointed M.B.E. for services to refugees.

She visited Israel regularly and endowed in 1974 a scholarship for music at Yemen Orde, the Wingate Children's Vilalge in Israel, in memory of her children from monies she received from Germany. When in 1979 she had to give up playing her violin she presented her Dalla Costa violin to the Royal Academy of Music. In the same year B.B.C. Radio 4 presented her life story on the occasion of her 80th birthday in a programme called 'Playing for Peace.'

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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.

Birthdays

Brent:—Mr. Egon Brent, of 19 Ormesby Way, Kenton, Middlesex HA3 9SE, celebrates his 80th birthday on 2 April 1986. Congratulations from all his family.

Rode:—Warmest congratulations and all best wishes to our dear member Mrs. Margarethe Rode on her 90th birthday. THE AJR CLUB.

Deaths

Baruch:—Mrs. Edith Baruch, of 12 Aberdeen Court, Maida Vale, W9, passed away on 25 February. Deeply mourned by her relatives and many friends.

Metzger:—Johanna (Hansl) Metzger died on 14 February in her 84th year. Deeply beloved wife of the late Gustav and mother of Lotte Davies and grandmother of Gillian and Andrew.

Meyerstein:—Ludwig Meyerstein, formerly Rechtsanwalt in Halle/Saale, died peacefully on 19 January at the age of nearly 93. Beloved husband of Alice, née Eisner, father

of John's wife and two granddaughters in Canada.

Nachmani:—Irene Nachmani, née Fried, passed away peacefully in Israel in her 76th year. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her husband Gerhard, her children Irith, Miriam and Raphael, eight grandchildren, her sisters Conny Nerer and Hannah Pinkus, and her brother Ludwig Fried, Im Ettingerhof 8, CH4055 Basel, Switzerland, and all their families.

Turk:—Werner Turk, the writer and author from Berlin, passed away 25 February 1986. Dearly loved by his wife Margot, son and grandchildren. We will deeply miss him.

In Memoriam

Weiss:—In treasured memory of Karl, beloved husband of Lisl, who died 21 March 1982. Also of Tommy, who left us suddenly in March 1956, not quite eleven years old. Both terribly missed and never to be forgotten. To the world they were only grains of sand, to us they were the whole world.

CLASSIFIED

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

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Information Required

ISAAC-HUMPHERSON. Would anyone having any information about Marianne Isaac-Humpherson, born 22.6.1932 in Wuppertal (or Langenberg), who emigrated to England on 6.7.1939, last known

address in 1951 241 Hobmoor Road, Small Head, Birmingham, please contact Norbert Zils, Weststrasse 36, 5620 Velbert 11, West Germany. MICHAELIS. Searching for descendants of Gustav and Ida Michaelis, of Kenton, Middlesex; son Wolfgang and wife Violet (née Clapham), lived in Bradford, Yorks; daughter Ilse Rawson lived in Cambridge, Mass., USA, and her son Robert and daughter Marianne both in USA. Purpose of search is to complete family tree and trace two missing chapters of Gustav's autobiography. Also members of the Magnus family, originally from Strausberg. Please contact Hilfer-Grodszinsky, 5 Broughton Gardens, Shepherds Hill, London N6 5RS.

WIENER NEUSTADT

Austria

Former residents of Wiener Neustadt, who emigrated due to Nazi persecution, and any persons who have information about Jews in that area, are invited to contact Mr. Felix Szolcsanyi, Grazerstrasse 69, A-2700 Winer Neustadt, Austria.

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WALTER SCHWARZ 80

Dr. Walter Schwarz, who recently joined the ranks of the octogenarians, has left his mark as a jurist by his theoretical and practical work in the field of restitution and compensation. Many victims of Nazi persecution owe to him the settlement of their claims. He is also founder and editor of the law journal *Rechtsprechung zur Wiedergutmachung* and co-editor, together with the German Federal Minister of Finance, of a history of restitution, a seven volume work now nearing completion. He himself wrote the first volume, which deals with the Allied restitution laws, and also a highly impressive assessment of the historical and social impact of the enactment of the relevant laws, published as a supplement to the sixth volume and to be incorporated in the seventh volume. Beyond the legal sphere, Schwarz is also actively interested in German-Jewish historiography; his latest essay, dealing with the exotic figure of 'Chevalier' Wollheim da Fonseca (1810-1884), appeared in the 1985 Year Book of the Leo Baeck Institute. His autobio-

graphy, *Spaete Frucht* (1981), is at the same time an important record of the destiny of contemporary former German Jews. We wish Walter Schwarz many years to come of undiminished health and creativity.

W.R.

PAUL BLUMENFELD 85

On 12 April, the 'cellist Paul Blumenfeld will be 85. He is known to wide sections of our community for his performance at functions, especially under the auspices of the AJR, the Leo Baeck Lodge and the Homes. For many years he was a member of the Sadler's Wells Opera orchestra and, later, of the Ballet Rambert Orchestra. In Berlin, where he hails from, he was a member of the Bruinier Quartet as well as of the 'Tobis Film' and 'Funkstunde' orchestras. From 1933 to 1938 he was a member of the Mendelssohn Trio of the Jewish *Kulturbund*. His wife, Lotte, was the longest-serving staff member of URO until she retired two years ago. We extend our sincerest birthday wishes to Paul Blumenfeld.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

A Life for Sigmund Freud. A Munich reporter looking for an interview without glaring stage lights, glamorous dresses and flamboyant hairstyles, visited an old people's home in the Bavarian capital where he found Paula Fichtl, for over 50 years housekeeper to Professor Freud in Vienna. At the age of 86, she radiates with pleasure when remembering the professor and his family to whom she devoted the larger part of her life. She recounts with pride and satisfaction how she used to prepare Freud's meals and opened the door to prominent patients – Stefan Zweig, Thomas Mann and King George II of Greece. Paula Fichtl who in 1980 received the Austrian republic's 'Golden Cross of Merit', speaks with humble reverence of the famous psychoanalyst whom she calls 'the greatest personality of this century'.

London's Goethe Institute at 50, Princes Gate, Kensington, steering a middle course in presenting revivals of German films (older and more recent ones), prepares the showing of 'Effi Briest' (after the novel by Theodor Fontane) in three versions: on April 16 under the title 'Der Schritt vom Wege', a Gruendgens production with Marianne Hoppe and Karl Ludwig Diehl (1939), 'Rosen im Herbst' (1955) with Ruth Leuwerik, Carl Raddatz and Paul Hartmann (April 21), and a modern Fassbinder film of the seventies. (April 23.)

Birthdays. Attila Hoerbiger, head of the 'Hoerbiger Clan', celebrated his 90th birthday with his wife Paula Wessely and their 3 actress-daughters. Also 90 is the Vienna 'Burg' actor Richard

Eybner who still makes occasional appearances at this theatre which he joined in 1931.

Obituary. The death of pianist Marcel Lorber is announced with much regret. An appreciation of this reliable all-round-musician appeared in AJR-INFORMATION (October 1985) when his 85th birthday was recorded. He travelled widely and was a notable collector of oriental treasures; lately, in failing health, he had lived very quietly in his museum-like Swiss Cottage flat. – The Vienna 'Joefstadt' theatre mourns the death of

one of its longest-serving members Heribert Aichinger at the age of 82.

Another volume of recollections. Langen-Mueller Verlag, Munich, has issued a book of reminiscences, 'Curt Jürgens, wie wir ihn sehen', memories by his friends, edited by his widow Margie. Despite the seriously meant attempt to present Jürgens as he really was, most of the contributions by Brigitte Bardot, Nadja Tiller, Günther Sachs and others remain polite and neutral. The book contains many photographs and lists most of the actor's theatre and film parts but must be considered disappointing as Jürgens, the Jet-setter, was one of the few German actors with an international reputation. S.B.

"BIBLICAL ART FOR EVERYMAN"

A museum unlike any other is the dream of Elie Borowski. An antique dealer with a deep knowledge of the art of Biblical times, his private collection in Toronto holds many unique treasures: an ivory figure perhaps representing a temple prostitute like Rahab, a seal from the time of Abraham, a bronze pillar contemporary with the Judges. His art treasures provided the basis for two exhibitions in Israel when the National Museum there was opened and his collection is valued at \$40 million. Mr. Borowski says, "Don't ask what I own, ask what I don't own. You can ask the Metropolitan Museum in New what it owns". And, more modestly, he admits that what drives him on is that he feels "always on the verge of bankruptcy, yet never poor enough to stop".

Elie Borowski's own story goes back to his childhood in Warsaw. His devout father on his deathbed vowed that the boy should be a Talmudist and the 19-year-old Elie was sent to the Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums in

Berlin. But in 1932, he already foresaw the advent of Hitler and emigrated to Florence. In 1936, he returned to Warsaw to warn his family of the Nazi danger: but in vain—that was the last time he saw them.

In Italy, Elie Borowski decided against a rabbinical career and turned his attention to studying the ancient world. Despite his religion, he obtained a post in the Pontifical Biblical Institute in the Vatican as a specialist on Assyria. During the war, he lived in Switzerland and wrote a monograph on the Gilgamesh epic, an extremely early Mesopotamian account of the Great Flood. Through this, he became a recognised authority on ancient art, and it was not long before he was in business on his own account.

Today Mr. Borowski hopes to build his own museum in Israel, to be the greatest Biblical art gallery in the world. Some of his most valuable pieces have regretfully been sold in order to realize this plan at his own expense.

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