

# AJR INFORMATION

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## NEMESIS IN SOUTH AFRICA

### Jewish Refugees' Experience

In the *Sayings of the Fathers*, we are told 'Abandon not the belief in retribution'. The good advice may not always come promptly true; the mills of God notoriously grind slowly but they also grind exceedingly small. The thought springs to mind at the sight of the white South Africans in their present predicament. As the long enforced system of Apartheid is drawing to a close and black power emerges clearly in the offing, many of them are faced with the prospect of having to leave their country, as so many other whites did in the wake of Africa's move out of the colonial era. They are now preparing for emigration, with all the hardships involved in the fate of refugees. They must study the terms of admission to other countries, the restrictions on taking money with them, the difficulties of acquiring citizenship elsewhere, and a regular industry is developing to offer 'complete immigration services for temporary visas and permanent residence' – perhaps in Australia, Canada, U.S.A., Britain, South America or even Switzerland.

Jewish refugees know the situation only too well and profoundly sympathise with the unfortunate people. But they also remember how the same people were behaving when Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany sought admission to South Africa. It is no record to be proud of. A crucial incident happened exactly 50 years ago. Jewish immigration to South Africa at that time was negligible – it reached an annual maximum of 2,550 in 1936 – and though it might have been welcomed as a reinforcement of the white minority, it was in fact resisted by the narrow-minded whites.

#### Afrikaner Agitation

A steady agitation conducted by the largely Afrikaner Nationalist Party grew particularly violent in October 1936 when some 500 German Jewish refugees arrived aboard the S.S. *Stuttgart*, a ship specially chartered to beat new rules which would have made all further German Jewish immigration practically impossible. With these rules the Government hoped to appease the

relentless Nationalist campaign.

Mass demonstrations were now organised in Cape Town where the *Stuttgart* was due to dock. Swastika-waving Afrikaners shouted antisemitic abuse and 'South Africa for the South Africans'. The hostile reception was noted with particular glee in Nazi Germany where Julius Streicher's paper was delighted to see 'the *Stürmer* has set an example for action elsewhere'.

The example was indeed followed even by the leader of the Nationalists, Dr. D. F. Malan, who later, after the war, became Prime Minister and – a friend of the Jews! Now he threatened the

'undesirable', 'unassimilable', 'so-called' refugees who had 'come at their own risk', with 'no guarantee that they would not be deported again'. Time-dishonoured lies were spread, even by reputable universities, about 'Jews flooding the country'. 'More *Stuttgarts* would come', it was said, and normal immigration would be replaced by 'colonization on a large scale'. South African Jewry as a whole were told to oppose the entry of refugees 'if not for love of the land then at least for the sake of their own safety', because, the threats went on, 'the antisemitic movement has already reached considerable dimensions' and may cause 'disturbances'.

The 'disturbances' have now come, but very different ones from those threatened by the Afrikaner antisemites. If ever a biter can be said to have been bitten, it is they. Nemesis has overtaken them.

C. C. ARONSFELD

## THE NAZI OLYMPICS 50 YEARS AGO

### Jewish Athletes' Lack of Self-Respect

THE Olympic Games held in Nazi Germany 50 years ago were a brazen mockery of the Olympic spirit as conceived by their creators, the ancient Greeks. That spirit was consecrated to Zeus of Olympia, 'the common father and saviour of mankind', and when the Games were revived 90 years ago, they were to 'preserve in sport those characteristics of nobility and chivalry which have distinguished it in the past'. So the Nazi Olympics, staged in the fourth year of Hitler's rule, less than 12 months after the Nuremberg Laws, could not be anything but a vast fraud. Yet they were by no means so recognised.

Nazi propaganda had never troubled to disguise the character of Nazi policy, certainly not with regard to the Jews. They were even then pronounced to be fit only for extermination, even a writer on sport described them as 'worse than cholera and syphilis, much worse than famine, drought and poison gas'. Not very long before the Games, the *Times* had prominently reported how the Jews were 'condemned to run around blindly in circles until they die. . . . After being denied the rights of citizenship, they are coming to be denied the right to live'. All this was no longer remembered, and people readily allowed them-

selves to be fooled by the tricks of what the *Jewish Chronicle* called 'a diabolically clever policy' which decreed an 'Olympian pause' where all antisemitic noises were hushed up for the sake of the gullible foreign visitors.

It was the high tide of appeasement, and 'in spite of the atrocities already committed, few foreigners took Nazi posturings seriously' (writes Duff Harg-Davis in his recent book on *Hitler's Games*); there was 'faint amusement rather than alarm or condemnation. People outside Germany still tended to treat Hitler and his henchmen as comical rather than dangerous'. Accordingly, all efforts to organise an international boycott of the Games failed.

This aspect of the 1936 Olympic story has frequently been noticed and we now know how effectively Hitler managed to make fools of a world on which the fear of war was already beginning to dawn. What has less frequently been noticed is the part played in these games by Jewish athletes. At a first glance it must seem strange that Jews should have been involved at all in this manoeuvre staged for the greater glory of Nazi Germany. After all the Nazis had said in so

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Egon Larsen

## A TALE OF LOVE, LOYALTY AND COURAGE

### How Gentile Maids stood by German Jewish Families

The frequently cited symbiosis of German Jews and Gentiles, culminating in the 'Weimar' era, which made Berlin the cultural focus of the Western world before 1933, is not beyond dispute. So distinguished a thinker as the late Gershom Sholem, the historian of Jewish mysticism, claimed there never was a German-Jewish symbiosis. But we who are old enough to have witnessed that era in Berlin must contradict him. However there was one sector of pre-Hitler society to which we paid too little attention, although it was part of our everyday experience: the relationship between the bourgeois Jewish families and their Gentile domestic servants before and during the Nazi period, a symbiosis frequently extending into exile. That gap has now been filled. The initiative of a world-wide enquiry into the whole topic came from Prof. F. G. Friedmann, and it was carried out by Wolfgang Benz of the *Institut für Zeitgeschichte* in Munich. By way of press publications (e.g. AJR INFORMATION, June 1985), a large number of emigrated German Jews were asked what they remembered about their *Dienstboten* in the old days. The replies provide a picture of that symbiosis, of love, loyalty, and often of great personal courage. The Hamburg weekly *Die Zeit* published a large selection of these letters; here are a few characteristic examples:

#### Following them into Exile

A Jewish woman writes from Cambridge: after her husband, a leading paediatrician, had been sacked from his job in Düsseldorf in 1935 and accepted a call to Ankara, their Minna had to be left in Germany – living conditions in Turkey seemed too hazardous. But behind his parents' backs, their little son wrote to Minna: 'We are not well cared for here. You must come quickly!' And despite all difficulties, Minna managed to join the family and look after them . . . until a fierce Nazi became trade attaché at the German legation, and let Minna know that she would not be allowed to return to Germany and her own family if she continued to stay with those Jewish refugees. Minna had to be sent back, heartbroken.

'When Hitler took over, my parents feared for our Anna's life and liberty', writes another refugee housewife from New York. 'She used to tell everybody that she never had it so good as with her Jewish family who treated her as an equal. When our circumstances grew worse, Anna refused to accept her salary and even offered us a loan from her savings'. But the Nazi authorities forced her to leave. After the war, she made her way to London, where the family were staying at the time, and remained with them to run the household. Anna had brought with her some of the family's jewellery which she had hidden from the Nazis at great personal risk. When she had to retire because of her age and return to Germany, she said: 'Now I can die in peace, I know you are all safe and healthy'.

A writer in Tel-Aviv tells about his nurse Antonie who stayed with his family for forty

years. She bought food for them when Jews were no longer allowed to do it themselves, even after the Gestapo had warned her. Then came the order of deportation for the family. 'Instead of taking flowers to her grave', ends the letter from Tel-Aviv, 'I quote from Psalm 112: "Her righteousness endureth forever".'

Paula, a young Catholic, was supposed to work for only four weeks as a temporary help in Sigmund Freud's house in Vienna, but remained with the family and insisted on emigrating with them. 'Never, never shall I leave the Herr Professor!' she used to declare. Alas, Freud died in September 1939. 'Paula had had the chance of returning to Austria before the war, but refused – and was promptly interned as an "enemy alien",' writes Gertrud Dann, who knew the family well.

'Paula's 40th anniversary as a loyal servant with the Freuds was celebrated in great style, and Martin Freud wrote a delightful poem in her honour'.

A letter from Czernowitz speaks of the courage of their maid, Maria, who kept visiting the family and brought them food when the Germans had restricted the Jews to the ghetto during the war. She defied the soldiers physically when they wanted to keep her out.

In 1983, Valeska Buchholz, caretaker of a block of flats in Berlin during the war, was awarded a posthumous Hero's Medal and a tree in the Avenue of the Righteous in Jerusalem. She had been hiding a Jewish couple, who were about to be deported, in her caretaker's lodge; thanks to her, they survived. The refugee woman in Hertfordshire who tells Valeska's story ends the letter with the reply Valeska would always give when she was praised for her great courage: '*Lass' doch mal, das hätte doch jeder getan!*' (Why, anybody would have done the same!) And the writer adds: "If only they had . . ."

## JEWISH ATHLETES AT NAZI OLYMPICS

*continued from front page*

many words that there was 'no place for Jews in German sport' and that the Jews having 'done nothing in the athletic sphere' were 'surpassed even by the lowest of the negro tribes'. But now it suited the Nazi propagandist design to admit Jews – which was not really surprising since it was part of their *Weltanschauung* that anything was permissible if it served to advance their cause.

What must be thought surprising is that Jews were actually found willing to play the Nazi game and so helped to make largely nonsense of any call for a boycott – precisely what the doctor (Goebbels) ordered. The President of the Maccabi World Union, Professor Selig Brodetsky, pleaded that 'all Jewish sportsmen, for their own self-respect, should refrain from competing in a country . . . where our Jewish brethren are treated with unexampled brutality'. But there was little response. The British Jewish sprinter Harold Abrahams thought it 'right for us to show the German people what Britain believes to be real sport'. As if the managers of the Nazi propaganda show cared.

The best known of the Jewish athletes taking part was Helene Mayer, the German fencing champion. Having already emigrated to California, she accepted a Nazi invitation, as did Gretel Bergmann who held the German record for Ladies High Jump, and (says Hart-Davis) 'by this one gesture – so calculating, so cynical, so empty of real intent – the Nazis probably saved their Olympics'. In Helene Mayer's case (writes Paul Yogi Mayer who has made a special study of Jews in sport) 'some Nazi papers stooped so low as to suggest that her (non-Jewish) mother had indicated that Helene was actually born as the result of an affair with an "Aryan"'. Certainly a despicable suggestion. But what is one to think of Helene's own performance who stooped so low as to give the Nazi salute on the winners' rostrum,

wearing the white uniform of the German team with the swastika badge?

Some efforts have been made to explain this disgraceful behaviour. Her family in Berlin is said to have been threatened if she did not return but (as P. Y. Mayer points out) this story cannot be substantiated. Actually the mother informed her in 1936 that she was enjoying full citizenship rights (which, in view of the Nuremberg Laws, was most unlikely as well as irrelevant). Helene then agreed to appear as 'a representative of Germany'. In doing this (remarks a modern German student) she 'proved to the critical American press her officially inspired alibi function to divert attention from the discrimination against Jewish athletes in Germany'.

Other Jewish athletes who joined in the Games were Rudi Ball, the ice hockey star; three fencing champions, Ellen Preiss from Vienna, and Ibolya Czák and Ilona Elek-Schacherer, from Hungary; also a bevy of Hungarian water polo players.

Fortunately there were some who would not play this wicked game. On behalf of the Palestinian Jewish community, the British Brigadier Frederick Herman Kisch, absolutely refused to compete in Berlin, so did two members of *Hakoah Wien*, Ruth Langer and Judith Deutsch. When the Austrian sport authorities threatened to disqualify her for two years if she did not join the Austrian team, Judith replied: 'I refuse to enter a contest in a land that so shamefully persecutes my people'.

Today the considered judgment among historians is perhaps best summed up by K. A. Schleunes, in his book *The Twisted Road to Auschwitz*, that 'the loss of the Olympics would have been a serious blow to Nazi prestige'. But whatever the general verdict on this sorry spectacle, Jews can only feel sad if not ashamed to think that some of their own people should have allowed themselves to be enmeshed in it.

## THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR—A SUMMING UP

*Dr. Kurt Waldheim who in June was elected President of Austria has been variously accused of war crimes and involvement in the extermination of Jews, also of having been a Nazi and/or member of a Nazi organisation. The evidence on which the charges (except the last) were made was found to be inconclusive by so seasoned an expert as Dr. Simon Wiesenthal. We think we can make a useful contribution to an understanding of the situation by stating the essential facts as recorded in an important article by a leader of Austrian Jewry, Dr. A. Friedmann, writing in the official journal of the Vienna Jewish community, Die Gemeinde, 6 June 1986, from which extracts are reproduced below.*

### STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF AUSTRIAN JEWRY

I don't believe Dr. Waldheim was a confirmed Nazi. Neither membership in the various Nazi organisations nor service in the German army would prove this nor do Waldheim's statements and biographical data provide any such evidence. What does seem to be established is that by his family tradition, Waldheim was an Austrian nationalist, an active supporter of the authoritarian corporative system. On the other hand, the fact that such people also suffered persecution by the Nazis makes them neither anti-fascists nor democrats.

In assessing Waldheim's fitness for the highest office of the Republic, his attitudes after 1945 are much more relevant — provided he did not incur any blood guilt under the Nazis, and of this there is, at least at present, no evidence.

#### "Egocentric Ambition"

Waldheim has always managed to remain vague in his confessions, to adapt himself in matters of principle to the prevailing constellations of power. His desires to make a career determined his behaviour. His present attitude basically mirrors nothing so much as his wish, immune against all criticism, to be President of the Republic... Obsessed by this egocentric ambition, Waldheim has sought to conceal a dark chapter of history, even his own. He was seen to be a man who would acknowledge only those things in which he could be proved to have been involved, and this was done in an often embarrassing way, turning and twisting, trying to minimise things and sometimes even in arrogant defiance of the facts.

Particularly nasty were Waldheim's statements in connection with his view of the past and the Jews. I suggest that this man definitely disqualified himself when he publicly pretended not to have known what his Jewish compatriots were feeling during the election campaign, not to know that at this very time a tremendous wave of antisemitism was sweeping over the land... I am truly amazed at the immoderate ambition which will seek to be satisfied even at the cost of immeasurable harm to the good name of Austria.

On the other hand, the TV appearance of the World Jewish Congress' General Secretary, Israel Singer, was by no means beyond criticism. It is true opinions must be free, and the publication of hitherto unknown details in the life of a prominent politician is not only legitimate but definitely a duty. What is not legitimate is to exploit TV publicity for the purpose of excessive indulgence in emotions by those claiming to speak on behalf of the highest collective organ of world Jewry. It is not permissible to prejudge matters before hearing the verdict of historians, lawyers, and to present history in such a way as to suggest

that there is no difference between Waldheim and mass murderers like Eichmann, Mengele and Kaltenbrunner. This could only result in minimising the crimes of these raving beasts and must confuse young people in their view of the Holocaust as well as make it easy for the accused to disregard those charges which can be substantiated...

With their furious reaction, reeking of antisemitism, to the WJC statements, Waldheim and the leaders of the Austrian People's Party made it impossible for us to urge moderation upon Singer. An action of this kind would have been misinterpreted as some sort of defence of Waldheim...

In a recent article in a Canadian paper, Singer wrote he was not going to consider the Austrian Jewish community: we ought to know where we live and it was up to us to leave the country. To this we say clearly, No, Mr. Singer, it is not for you to talk like this. First, because the WJC, by its constitution, is in duty bound to protect Jews wherever they live; second, it is not for you to decide on other people's lives, and third, we Jews accept the principle that we are responsible for one another. These principles, you, Mr. Singer, have flagrantly violated.

However, these and previous declarations by Singer can never excuse those unequivocally anti-Jewish attacks which we have recently suffered. Here it was not a question of creating antisemitism but exploiting it to a shameless degree...

If Austrian Jewry has long kept silent, there were good reasons. For one thing, it has only too often been our experience that our statements were either not published by the media at all or in a mutilated form. Secondly, up to a certain time any reaction on our part would only have had negative consequences. It would only have worked to the disadvantage of Waldheim's opponents, for leaders of the People's Party would not have hesitated to mobilise anti-Jewish emotions in their campaign.

We are fully aware there is not only an unparalleled hatemongering campaign by irresponsible pseudo-patriots but also a by no means small number of people who refuse to be misled. In saying this, we are impelled both by our feeling for what is right and by our status as citizens. Those who regard Austria as an antisemitic country, those who have no hopes of any human relationship in this country, have long since left us. As Austrians and as Jews we are in duty bound not only to be discriminating in our judgment but also to uphold truth, justice and the dialogue with the positive forces — here and now.

### WEST BERLIN RESTITUTION PAYMENTS

#### Improved Rates Proposed

New measures for the improvement of Restitution payments for victims of Nazi persecution were proposed by the West Berlin Senate's Committee for Home Affairs (according to a report in *Der Tagesspiegel*, 17 June 1986). It was also suggested to set up a special fund for all cases of hardship (*Härtefonds*) to fill some gaps in the existing laws. A review of Restitution legislation is to include such cases as e.g. gypsies, all those who were forcibly sterilised and homosexuals (who were not previously eligible). According to the Committee's chairman, Hildebrandt (SPD), it is intended to amend the *Bundesentschädigungsgesetze* so as to delete all statutory limitations (*Ausschlussfristen*).

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Hans Feld

## In Memoriam Hans Casparius

## GLOBETROTTER WITH A MAGIC CAMERA

WE met the first time in 1928. It happened during one of my professional visits to a Berlin film studio. The director, a young and forceful personality, had chosen a political theme with a class-based background. A tall young man was prowling about with a Leica camera, clicking all the time, fast and surreptitiously. He intrigued me and I went over to talk to him. That was Hans Casparius. He was easy to approach and eager to explain how he tried to record visual impressions on the quick. We kept in touch.

His family could trace their history in Germany back to the 17th century. They were successful merchants in the textile trade, and his father, although not particularly observant, played an active part in the Jewish community. Born in 1900, Hans underwent the then usual education in a 'humanistic gymnasium'. At 16 he was apprenticed to one of the highly reputed department stores.

However, a commercial career did not attract him. He used every free moment to draw scurrilous and even surrealistic figures and situations, using the back of the business cards the firm sent out to its customers. Photography and stamp-collecting were and remained his main hobbies. After his father's death in 1924 he for a time joined his older brother Richard in running the family business. In his leisure time – and he saw to it that he had plenty of it – he constructed a photographic study in the attic of their home where he could experiment undisturbed.

Throughout his life, Hans gave way to his impulses. He lived for the day and his fertile brain gave birth to 1001 ideas; toying with them he went his way happy-go-lucky. It was due to his meeting the highly intellectual, albeit rather ambivalent, film producer G. W. Pabst that, in 1929, he was offered the freedom of roaming about during the filming of *The White Hell of Piz Palu*. The result was a vast collection of contact prints which were entirely different from the traditional 'watch the birdie' photos. Actors and action were caught in dramatic situations, the fleeting moment was fixed. For the gala premiere of *Piz Palu*, in the prestigious flagship of UFA, Zoo Palace, the art director of the firm had decorated the whole of

the vast entrance hall with sensational enlargements of selected shots – and with them Hans Casparius was established.

However, the newly acquired fame did not prevent him from accepting an offer by the internationally known travel writer Arnold Hoellriegel. He wanted Hans to accompany him on one of his periodic peregrinations which he reported for the *Berliner Tageblatt*. The offer was accepted on the spur of the moment and within 48 hours the two were off on a journey which took them, via London, to Madeira, Cape Verde, French West Africa, Sierra Leone, the Cameroons. Thanks to his newly acquired technique, Hans came back with a rich harvest of glimpses of people caught unawares in revealing reality. An explosion of life hit one's eyes.

Pabst produced in 1930 the *Drei Groschenoper* ('Beggar's Opera') amidst complete chaos. The ongoing feud between Bert Brecht and Kurt Weill, their common fight against the producing firm, inside and outside the courts, was the constantly changing background. Author after author came and departed having had a stab at the scenario while filming was supposed to be going on. Unaffected by the *tohuwabohu* surrounding him, Hans and his Leica went on producing. I watched him with amazement. In the same year he worked in the film *Ariane* with Elisabeth Bergner. From that day on dated his deep friendship with her; it lasted up to the last moment of their lives.

## News in the Desert

In 1931 another trip with Hoellriegel took them to Canada, to Montreal, Quebec, Vancouver, also Alaska. In the following year the two joined in an ambitious expedition to Mussolini's recently conquered Libya. The two leaders of the team were an Austrian aristocrat, Count Almasy, and Commander Penderell of the Royal Air Force. The films Hans made here have not survived. A few months later, Hoellriegel was a guest speaker at a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society in London. He then spoke under his real name, Dr. Richard Behrmann, and gave details about the discovery of the pre-historic drawings on the walls of the caves in Uvenat and the results of the map-making. He gave a glowing account of the work of his photographer whom he described as his favourite travel companion.

Abroad, in the middle of the desert, they heard over the radio that Hitler had been made German Chancellor. Hans immediately returned to settle in Vienna and made arrangements for his photo archive to be sent there. In 1934 he accepted a commission to take the photos for a book on Palestine which became an incisive human document, portraying *Alt-Neuland* on the way.

In Vienna he met and married Monika and started to study colour photography. In 1935 the young couple came to London. Monika took over the organisation of a small studio, housed in an attic in Soho – where else? During the war, Hans was official photographer of the exile govern-

ments of Belgium, Czechoslovakia and Luxembourg. He was also a member of a team which prepared a post-war exhibition, 'The Rebuilding of Britain' (1942).

Shortly after the war he was struck with the idea of publishing a series of books for children. The theme was the kind of houses and their change throughout British history. Regrettably, this project which had the approval of educational authorities came to nothing; it was perhaps too far advanced for its time. It was not until 1949 that Hans found his way back to films, this time as a director, with Monika acting as editor, supervisor and finally producer.

Within the next 30 years Hans shot no fewer than 18 films, covering a widely different range of varying importance. He began with a monochrome experiment, Albrecht Durer's *Apocalypse*, accompanied by music of Bach. This was followed in 1956 by a charming short, following children's games on London's Hampstead Heath. This film, *Simon*, won first prize at the Film Festival at Padua. The music was by Elisabeth Lutyens, and the young director, Peter Zadek, is today one of the leading *intendanten* in West Germany.

In 1964 Hans changed track and told the story – this time in colour – of 'Gayaza', a high-school for girls in Uganda. This earned him in 1966 a diploma; awarded in Vienna, it stressed the value of the documentary in promoting international cooperation. *Children of our Conscience*, made in 1965, was backed by the Children's Society of the Church of England.

During the 1970s Hans followed up his dream of a fusion of sight and sound. His first attempt was in joining together Franz Liszt's variations of Dante with medieval book illustrations from the recently discovered *Codice Dantesco Urbinatense*. In 1977 Hans was one of the presidents of the Liszt Society.

His last venture, produced by 'Music in Vision' (1979), where I was a member of the team, showed the ceiling of Michelangelo's frescos in the Sistine Chapel, 'The Last Judgment'. For the first time millions of filmgoers had the opportunity to see in their local cinemas details of this titanic work.

The archives 'Photo Casparius', the fruit of his work, were used as a base for a retrospective exhibition in Berlin in 1978, mounted on a large scale by the *Stiftung Deutsche Kinemathek*. They are going to be exhibited again next year.

Hans Casparius, who died a few months before his 86th birthday, was a character *sui generis*. In the 19th or 18th century he would have been termed an eccentric. It is a breed dying out fast, and the world is the poorer for it. Many people win friends by their outgoing attitude. Hans had certainly his share of the gift. But, more than that: not only did he win friendships, he had the even greater gift of keeping them in constant repair.

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Art Notes by Alice Schwab

S.B.'s Column

## Oskar Kokoschka 1886-1986

The centenary of the birth of Oskar Kokoschka has been marked by two major exhibitions. The Tate Gallery is showing a large selection of his works (until 10 August); it is a great achievement to have gathered together so many fine pictures, and many of them are illustrated in the catalogue. The exhibition and catalogue have been sponsored by United Technologies Corporation. From London the exhibition goes to Zurich and next year to the Guggenheim Museum in New York. Marlborough Fine Art has also been showing a selection of Kokoschka's important works on paper. There was a good catalogue for that exhibition, too, but the exhibition has now closed and will be shown next at the Marlborough Gallery in New York.

The Clarendon Gallery, 8 Vigo Street, has been holding (until 1 August) a lovely exhibition entitled 'The Art of the Pastel'. Work in this medium is not easy, but it can achieve wonderful results. The exhibition included some really delightful pictures, including a portrait by Anton Raphael Mengs (1728-1779) of his father Ismael who was Court Painter to August II of Saxony. Although the young Mengs was not apparently an official Court Painter, August III of Saxony commissioned several pastel portraits from him.

### Sculpture in Britain

The Fine Art Society also had a good exhibition (until 1 August), entitled 'Sculpture in Britain between the Wars'. It included works by Benno Schotz (1891-1984), Epstein, Polia Chentoff (1896-1933) who married the painter Edmond Kapp, Arnold Auerbach and many others.

An exhibition still to be seen (until 13 September) is at the Goethe Institut. It is entitled 'Berlin Cityscape' and has been organised by the Berlin Senate to celebrate the 750th anniversary (in 1987) of the city's foundation.

There is also still time to see works by two artists of the *November gruppe*, Georg Tappert and Richard Ziegler, at Leinster Fine Art (until 15 August); and an exhibition 'From Two Worlds', showing the work of artists who have their roots in more than one culture, at the Whitechapel Art Gallery (until 7 September).

Peter Ringel and Regina Unger-Aukin are showing water-colours and sculptures at Burgh House, New End Square, NW3 until 28 August. The exhibition is not open on Mondays or Tuesdays and the opening hours are 12-5 p.m.

The important 'Art in Exile' exhibition opens at the Camden Arts centre on 20 August and will be fully reviewed in our next issue.

## EUROPEAN SUMMER FESTIVALS

It was 1920 when the remarkable trio Max Reinhardt, Hugo von Hofmannsthal and stage designer Alfred Roller succeeded in creating the Salzburg Festival which - apart from Bayreuth - is still considered No. 1 in Europe and attracts music lovers and theatre enthusiasts from all over the world. Glyndebourne, the unique product of John Christie's undefatigable energy, came next in 1934 and has (except for the war years) maintained continuity and artistic supremacy right from its very beginnings. Third in the list is Edinburgh where, in 1947, Rudolf Bing (now Sir Rudolf) was instrumental in providing brilliant and varied programmes of opera, drama and ballet; these three ventures have endured, outlasting many national and international summer events. This year, with 33 European Festivals on the calendar, with the arena in Verona among the leading ones, August programmes also include Bregenz, Bad Hersfeld (with Brecht and *Fiddler on the Roof*), Dubrovnik (opera and Shakespeare), Hanover (*Merchant of Venice*) and Ljubljana (with special Verdi productions).

### Minor Sensation at Budapest

The Hungarian Capital had its minor sensation when the Szinhaz theatre, known for its love of

originality and freely admitted eccentricity, performed 'Hungarian dice', a mixture of play, cabaret and circus, critical of national particularities and even - discreetly - of the political system within the framework of the hexagonal 'Rubik', a Hungarian invention (like the Biro pen) which won world-wide interest but - due to financial mishandling - did not bring in the valuable foreign currency. The invention itself - probably as popular as Yo-yo and the hoola hoop - created mass hysteria all over the globe and became Hungary's great disappointment. The spectacle ends in puzzling accusations and a court case.

### Birthdays

Hans Beirer, the Wagner tenor whose first steps as singer of operetta began at the Berlin *Theater am Nollendorfplatz* and whose roles ranged from the great Wagnerian parts sung at Bayreuth, Hamburg and Vienna to modern operas by Henze and von Einem, is 75 years old. Soprano Anneliese Rothenberger, called the German 'Housewives' Favourite', particularly remembered as Sophie in *Rosenkavalier* and in London first seen in the late Eric Robinson's TV show *Music for you*, had her 60th birthday.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SPEAKING NOT ONLY ENGLISH

We all know the funny little story about the English tourists in the Rhineland who overhear Germans remarking, 'They are foreigners'. Whereupon the English indignantly turn round and say, 'No, we are English - you are foreigners'!

The story well illustrates a still widespread insular outlook which was recently attacked by the Education Secretary when he pointed out the need for English people to learn foreign languages. Britain, he thought, has a damagingly small proportion of people who understand and speak any language other than English. The reason is occasionally found in the very simplicity of English which, in this respect, has proved a great disadvantage. Most people can learn to speak English, very many do, and so English people feel they have no need to bother, but they have, and the Government feels Britain's reputation as the laziest major country in Europe when it comes to learning foreign languages, is due for a vigorous shaking.

The main reason, characteristically, is considered to be economic. Britain needs to boost her trade prospects in the long term. If we are to sell rather than buy, it is (says the *Daily Tele-*

*graph*) certainly 'not a tactful assumption that a customer ought to understand a proposition put to him in a language not his own simply because ours has a wider currency'. If many export companies conduct their business in English only, they must not be surprised when their opportunities shrink. Britain's competitiveness must benefit from learning not just French but German, Spanish and Russian.

Oddly enough, the trouble is by no means new. As far back as 100 years ago, the British Consul in Moscow had 'often heard of commercial travellers from England arriving in Moscow unable to speak anything but English'.

German houses were in the habit of sending young men all over the world to acquire knowledge of languages and business customs. A 'fair number' of such German clerks who would 'render valuable assistance when they return to their fatherland', were reported in 1898 by the British Consul in Warsaw, and he wondered: 'Cannot young Englishmen be found to study the market in this way'?

The question remains, and it must be hoped that economic necessity will help to break down a national resistance to learning foreign languages.

## VOLUNTEERS

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### 'The Church and the Jews' A Catholic Exhibition

An exhibition on the theme 'The Church and the Jews' was recently held at Westminster Cathedral. It was organised by the Sisters of Zion, a Catholic society of nuns originally (140 years ago) founded for the purpose of converting the Jews to Christianity but now devoted to the purpose of enlightening Catholics about Jews. This change is one of the consequences of the Second Vatican Council. The exhibits included illustrations of the sufferings of Jews, especially under the Nazis, without attempting to disguise the responsibility of 'Christian' antisemitism through the ages. A glance into a better future was provided by a picture of the Pope's visit to the Roman synagogue last April.

Even more interesting perhaps than the exhibits were some of the comments in the Visitors' Book. The great majority were positive: 'It's time', many said: 'Very moving', 'Peace for the Jews', 'Very important: sad that it has taken Christians so long to see how blind we have been', 'Should show more on what Catholics have done to the Jews. Only our sense of guilt will lead to reparation', 'We should be ashamed of what was done by the Nazis'. One was so carried away he (or she) wrote: 'The Messiah has Come'. Some thought, more realistically, 'Now it's time for the Vatican to recognise the State of Israel'.

There were also of course samples of the old spirit (mainly among oversea visitors); a Chinese wrote: 'May Jewry be converted to the truth of Holy Church'. Others though few, were unashamedly antisemitic.

#### THE ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES seeks EDITOR FOR AJR INFORMATION

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## AN EVENT OF 'HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE'

### ST. JOHN'S PASSION IN JERUSALEM

An event described as 'of historic significance' was the first performance of Bach's St. John's Passion in Israel. It was (writes the Israel Correspondent of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, Bernhard Heimrich) 'an event in the history of music but perhaps even more in political if not indeed religious history': 'For the first time the Passion was performed at the place where it all had started'.

Up to now, both the St. John's and St. Matthew's Passion had been taboo in Israel, much like Handel's *Messiah*, and when, on Christmas eve, an Israeli police orchestra, in Bethlehem's Nativity Square, plays a passage from *Judas Maccabaeus*, it is (said to be) invariably 'Daughter of Zion rejoice'.

The objection to the Passion is much like the objection to Richard Wagner, and (remarks the German correspondent) little notice is taken of the fact that the first conductor of *Parsifal* was Hermann Levi, son of a (Giessen) rabbi. Zubin Mehta, the Indian conductor of the Israel Philhar-

monic Orchestra, once, in 1981, tried to smuggle in the overture to *Tristan and Isolde* but was soon cut short.

The St. John's Passion, performed by an ensemble from Bamberg, was part of the Israel Festival, an official State function, which was a feature of Jerusalem's cultural life. It was broadcast by *Kol Israel* under the technical direction of Gidi Boss, the Sabra son of immigrants from Breslau.

Before making the choice, it was considered to replace the word 'Jews' by 'people' but eventually this was felt to be unnecessary, and that fact (according to Heimrich) showed that things must have changed in Israel, at least in Jerusalem - since the days in 1968 when an attempt to play the Passion was frustrated by 'ultra-orthodox' objectors who bought up all the tickets. Now tickets had been genuinely sold out long in advance, and instead of the three planned performances five were given at the Dormition Abbey on Mount Zion.

### 'KADDISH FOR TEREZIN'

A liturgical oratorio entitled *Kaddish for Terezin* had its world premiere when it was presented at the B'nai Brith Music Festival, in association with the Council of Christians and Jews, in Canterbury Cathedral on 18 June. The music was by Ronald Senator, a professor of music and composer of several operas; the libretto by Rabbi Dr. Albert Friedlander, commemorating victims of the Holocaust by using poems and diaries from the children in the Camp.

The performance was attended by two musicians who had not seen each other since their days as prisoners at Terezin. Karel Berman is now an operatic bass with the Czech National Theatre, while Edith Kraus, a Vienna-born pianist, lives in Israel. Before the *Kaddish* both played music that was composed at Terezin.

An opera composed at Terezin is to be staged in Vienna during the 1987-88 season. It is entitled *Der Tod dankt ab* ('Death's Abdication'), and its authors are Viktor Ullmann and Peter Kien (librettist). Both were deported to Auschwitz where they perished in 1944. Ullmann, born in Moravia in 1898, was the most prolific of the several Jewish composers held in Terezin. He

claimed that Terezin has 'served to enhance, not impede, my musical activities; by no means did we sit weeping by the waters of Babylon: our endeavour with regard to Art fully matched our will to live'.

### JEWIS IN FRANKFURT

Jewish life in Frankfurt now was the subject of a German TV feature entitled 'Quitting? Staying?' Members of a Jewish youth centre were shown to feel distinctly different from 'normal' Germans - if only because they must wonder at the heavily armed police guarding their building. Are they really threatened?, it was asked. Well, being called 'dirty Jews' is nothing unusual, and many shy away from contact with non-Jewish children; their parents are said to be even encouraging them to mix only with 'their own'.

A new communal centre, with windows of 'reinforced glass' (*Panzerglass*), to be opened this summer, is hoped to be a symbol of the Jews' belief in their future in Germany.

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## A SELF-HELP GUIDE

for those with problems

Eugen Heimler, a Hungarian Jewish survivor of Auschwitz, packs a very great deal into his short book: *The Healing Echo* (London. Souvenir Press. 1985. £8.95). In essence it is a self-help guide for the individual with problems, and will be of value to counsellors. Many of us are prone to feelings of depression or anxiety, and even more experience occasional uncertainties about their purposes or goals. This is particularly true of those who suffer unemployment, increasingly common in these times, and this book has especial relevance for them and their families.

Heimler's methods apply not only to those having to adapt themselves to being without work, as in retirement, but to anyone who is having to re-appraise their situation and their self-concept. He has an unusual perspective which emphasises viewing one's problems creatively, as springboards for personal growth, rather than as crushing burdens.

The ancient advice to 'know thyself' is easy to give, but very difficult to follow. Heimler gives systematic and practical modes of finding out about oneself, in his approach to Human Social Functioning, a concept which he has pioneered. The methods which are intended to aid understanding, experiencing and observing oneself are down-to-earth, and could be very valuable to people who become obsessed with just one part of their lives or one imagined weakness in their personalities.

The way of helping others by careful listening, for example, can be valuable for the one who listens as well as for the fortunate person who is really listened to, a rare experience.

Heimler's approach to education is stimulating. He would have teachers spend time with each pupil, helping him or her to discover the nature of their 'life-task', and making it possible for the pupil to move towards that achievement which is consistent with his inner nature. This is a challenge to educators of all varieties, and could be extended to parents, and indeed to managers and others who have responsibility for the lives of their fellow-men, such as politicians.

As for unemployment, Heimler suggests that voluntary agencies should be funded by the government in order to enable them to provide worthwhile occupation for the unemployed. He instances the satisfactions which many of the latter would derive from participation in the arts, in drama, for instance. The contrast with soul-destroying idleness is striking. Creative or social activity would have many benefits beyond those enjoyed by the unemployed who discovered satisfying occupation: we would all gain.

While very readable, *The Healing Echo* will be found thoughtful, balanced, and provocative.

SIDNEY JONES

## AJR in ACTION

At the Day Centre

### ENTERTAINMENT FOR AUGUST

*August 5 (Tuesday):* All day outing to Westcliff on Sea. Lunch, tea and transport provided. Please book early with Sandra Randall at the Day Centre.

*August 6 (Wednesday):* Daphne Lewis and Sheila Gamse present a lovely afternoon of songs at the piano.

*August 7 (Thursday):* Rev. Larry Fine will entertain us with his accordion.

*August 13 (Wednesday):* The Sobell Choir conducted by Edie Klempner.

*August 14 (Thursday):* Surprise speaker to be announced.

*August 20 (Wednesday):* Margueritte Rap and Harry Branton provide a wonderful afternoon of music.

*August 21 (Thursday):* Alice Sommer, famous concert pianist.

*August 27 (Wednesday):* Edna Connolly will play the accordion and sing Israeli folk songs.

*August 28 (Thursday):* By popular demand - Hans Freund and guest artists.

### FRED DUNSTON SHOWED THE SPLENDOURS OF SPAIN

What is to be a series of colour slide shows was introduced by Fred Dunston who took us on an exciting journey to Spain. From the horticultural delights of the familiar surroundings of Golders Hill Park we were soon transported to the magnificent sights encountered on a Spanish holiday a few years ago. Those who perhaps knew only the sun, sand and sea offered by the travel agents, now set eyes on the spectacular architecture of Córdoba, Granada and Seville. Nor was this all. At regular intervals Fred revealed striking close-ups of exotic and even everyday flowers. Gasps of delight greeted these miracles of nature now appearing on the screen. There were touching human scenes too - little Spanish children playing happily and young men and women on horseback during a local festival, dressed in traditional, colourful costumes.

Having been given deservedly warm applause and an invitation to return with more slides, Fred was treated to a final surprise: it was his birthday and Sandra Randall had arranged for a splendid cake to mark the occasion.

### OPEN DAY AT OSMOND HOUSE

It was Fathers' Day, and all the fathers present were entitled to take credit for the brilliant sunshine which favoured the Open Day at Osmond House on 15 June. The devoted effort which went into the preparation of the event was amply rewarded. A large crowd turned up; the ornaments, bric-a-brac, jewellery, glass work, books, linen, plant and cake stalls found liberal customers, and the only disappointment to be noted was among those whose raffle tickets did not come up to expectation. The very satisfying sum raised will help to support the Osmond House Amenity Fund which finances outings, birthday parties, a choir class, concerts and other treats for the residents.

### YEHUDI MENUHIN SCHOOL CONCERT

Osmond House monthly Sunday afternoon concert in June was given by eight pupils of the Yehudi Menuhin School. Their average age was about 14 and their performance was indeed a credit to the Master who recently celebrated his 70th birthday. Five of them were British, one Japanese-German, one Malaysian and one Russian-Jewish. The ambitious programme included Beethoven, Faure, Ravel, and the audience appeared to be particularly taken with the rendering of Liszt and Brahms though the *Elfin Dance* by Popper and Saint-Saens' *Rondo Capriccioso* were close rivals. Thanks to the artists as well as thoroughly deserved appreciation of the work done by the Music Committee were expressed by the chairman of the House Committee, Dr. Lore Stein.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Traumatic Experiences in  
Nazi Prisons

Sir - I wonder if any of your readers can assist me in my research into experiences of an illuminative nature in Nazi camps and prisons. May I briefly explain what I mean. Traumatic experiences - mystical, spiritual, religious - sometimes stop the normal chitter-chatter that goes on endlessly in our heads and 'Something Other' breaks through.

'Such experiences, when they happen to a man, revolutionise his outlook, often change his life. He may carry on with his normal occupations as before. To his friends he may seem the same as he always was, but to himself he is changed. He feels he has received a pure direct vision of truth. Nothing can be the same again'. (F. C. Happold)

If, while you were imprisoned you ever experienced states of illumination, would you write and tell me about it?

Please write to: Mrs. A. WETHERALL  
4 Osborne Close  
Oxford OX2 8BQ

Max Delbrück and Dietrich  
Bonhoeffer

Sir - May I correct some mistakes on page 6 of the May issue. You have misspelt two famous names, the spelling is *MAX DELBRÜCK* and *DIETRICH BONHOEFFER*. Further, Dietrich Bonhoeffer (my mother's twin-brother) was never married, but his engagement to Maria von Wedemeyer was announced after the Nazis imprisoned him in 1943. Max Delbrück's sister Emmi married Dietrich Bonhoeffer's elder brother Klaus Bonhoeffer. Klaus and his brother-in-law Rüdiger Schleicher were imprisoned by the

Nazis after the failure of the plot of July 44. Klaus Bonhoeffer, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and their brothers-in-law Rüdiger Schleicher and Hans von Dohnanyi were all murdered by the Nazis in April 1945.

The Delbrücks and the Bonhoeffer were neighbours in the Grunewald in Berlin and the children grew up together and were great friends.

MARIANNE LEIBHOLZ M.A. Oxon  
23 South Hill Park Gardens  
Hampstead  
London NW3

## Information on Max Cassirer

Sir - The Museum of Local History at Charlottenburg, West Berlin, intends to hold next year an exhibition on the social history of Charlottenburg during the early years of the 20th century. Part of it is to be devoted to Max Cassirer, a prominent member of the city council at that time. Cassirer was forced to emigrate after 1935 and went to Britain. He died in 1943, according to some in London, according to others in Dublin.

We are anxious to contact descendants, friends, neighbours of his who might be able to provide us with more detailed information. Any data will be gratefully received by

Otto Suhr Alee 96 BEZIRKSAMT  
D-1000 Berlin 10 CHARLOTTENBURG  
HEIMATARCHIV

\*

## PETER HERTZ—A CORRECTION

It is much regretted that, through an editorial oversight, the first name of Peter Hertz, the distinguished West German Jewish theatre producer, was wrongly stated in last month's article on his 60th birthday.

MENGELE'S SON KNEW BUT 'WOULD  
NOT BETRAY' HIS FATHER

The 42-year old son of Dr. Josef Mengele, acknowledged (on US television) having secretly visited his father in Brazil two years before the Auschwitz 'selector' and 'medical experimenter' was reported drowning there in 1979. He said he had helped to conceal the fugitive war criminal because 'I would never betray my father', though he was ashamed of him and repelled by the killings he committed.

Rolf Mengele, a West German lawyer, provided family material for a new biography of his father based in large part on Dr. Mengele's diaries (*Mengele. The Complete Story*. By Gerald Posner, a New York lawyer, and John Ware, a British TV journalist). This, he said, was done on condition that 20 per cent of the proceeds be donated to Auschwitz survivors and victims of his father's experiments. He also stated that because of his contribution to the biography, he had been ostracised by his relatives and cut off from any share in the lucrative Mengele farm machinery manufacturing business in Günzburg, Bavaria.

## WAR CRIMINALS IN AUSTRALIA?

The Australian Government announced a formal inquiry into claims that war criminals entered the country after the Hitler war. The inquiry will have full access to all Government files.

A prominent Australian Labour MP, Garry Hand, had claimed to have obtained, from the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation and from British and US national archives, documents showing that many Nazis arrived during the early post-war years.

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## FOUR SCORE YEARS AND TEN

### KURT MAY

On 15 August Kurt May, the General Manager and Chief Executive of the United Restitution Organisation (URO), will celebrate his 90th birthday. URO continues to function, with its head office in Frankfurt, and branch offices in Berlin, Cologne, Munich, in Israel and in a number of countries where refugees from Nazi Germany live. The work of URO consists in the main of long drawn-out *Lastenausgleich* proceedings, claims to social security pensions, and claims against the 'Hardship Fund'. But URO continues to look after claimants whose claims under the indemnification legislation were satisfied, but where changed circumstances require a re-opening of proceedings.

Kurt May's grasp of the complexities and intricacies of all aspects of the legislation with which URO has to concern itself in the interests of its clients, is unparalleled and is of inestimable value for all who work at URO's various offices and, indirectly, for URO's clients.

The writer has had the privilege of listening for a number of years to Kurt May's annual report to the Board of URO about developments in the field of indemnification and the impact thereon of political events in Germany, delivered without notes, and yet in a style which can only be described as *druckreif*. All who work with Kurt May and all who have benefited from the work of URO over which he presides, will wish to send him their good wishes and express the hope that

he and his wife, Vera, will continue their active lives in undiminished vigour and good health.

O. E. F.

### BERTHA KAHN-ESSINGER

The 90th birthday on 16 July of Bertha Kahn-Essinger was a great occasion not only for family members who had assembled from various parts of the world but also for the many students and staff who knew her as the Matron of Bunce Court School in Kent (writes Martin Lubowski, himself a graduate of Bunce Court).

Mrs. Kahn, a native of Ulm, left Germany for Grenoble in 1933. After the death of her husband in 1935 she joined her sisters Anna and Paula Essinger in the running of Bunce Court School (previously *Landschulheim Herrlingen*) in Kent. Whilst Anna led the school taking care of the education of the students, Bertha as matron organised the daily running of the boarding school and looked after the very individual needs of students and staff. At a time when the educational curriculum had to adapt to British requirements, Bertha ensured some German-Jewish continuity and understanding for a large number of students.

Today Bertha Kahn is happily ensconced in Osmond House. In addition to a very active family life she takes a deep interest in assembling an archive of Bunce Court School history to be deposited in the Wiener Library. An outstanding memory enables her to recall the life histories of all who passed through the school. She enjoys the visits of former students and staff, all of whom meet the same ever helpful, lively and well organised lady who once looked after them in Bunce Court.

### LOTTE JACOBI

Lotte Jacobi who is 90 this month, can look back on a remarkable career. Born into a photographer family in Thorn (then Western Prussia), she studied art and theatre history and soon established herself in Berlin during the 1920s as a photographer not only of well-known actors and actresses but also of such outstanding figures in cultural life as Max Liebermann, Gerhart Hauptmann and Kaethe Kollwitz. Her work appeared in Berlin's leading illustrated magazines such as *Dame*, *Uhu*, *Querschnitt* and *Funkwoche*. After 1933 she first intended to emigrate to England but eventually settled in the U.S.A.

This second period of her life led to her marriage to publisher Erich Reiss, and the fruit of expanding social contacts now were portraits of Albert Einstein, Thomas Mann, Theodore Dreiser and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Lotte Jacobi now lives in Concord, capital of New Hampshire, where she received the honorary doctor diploma. Her photographs were shown in major exhibitions (including one in Hamburg), and the University of New Hampshire owns thousands of her original photographs. An enthusiastic traveller, she also visited the Caribbean area and Peru. All her friends will wish her well on her 90th birthday, admiring her professional achievement as much as her amazing personality.

### PROF. BERNHARD BRILLING 80 Historian of Silesian and Westphalian Jewry

Professor Dr. Bernhard Brillung who celebrated his 80th birthday last June has established himself as a historian of the Jews of Silesia and Westphalia. Born in the Prussian province of Posen, he received his rabbinical diploma at the famous Breslau Jewish Theological Seminary, and after 1933 his research in the archives of the Breslau Jewish community produced valuable studies which won him the Seminary's Graetz prize for Jewish history. In 1939 he emigrated to Palestine where his talents were used in the documentary section of Tel Aviv's municipality. In 1957 he accepted a call by the University of Münster, enabling him to finish a history of Breslau Jewry in the 16th and 17th century. He now began to devote himself to the affairs of Westphalian Jewry, and since 1966 he has been teaching German history, also Hebrew palaeography, at Münster, both at the University and the *Institutum Judaicum Delitzschianum*.

### AUSTRIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PRESS RESEARCH

For the purpose of research into the *Feuilleton* of the Austrian Social Democratic press during 1927 to 1934, biographical data are required about a large number of contributors including novelists, poets and reporters many of whom went into exile in 1938. Those of our readers who may have information on the people concerned, are asked to contact Evelyne Polt-Heinzl, Obermüllnerstrasse 4/21, A-1020 Vienna, Austria.

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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

**Kahn:**—Bertha Kahn (née Essinger), of Osmond House, The Bishop's Avenue, N2, celebrated her 90th birthday on 16 July. All the best for many years to come from family and friends and especially from her eight great-grandchildren.

**Schiller:**—Heartiest congratulations to Mr. Frederik Schiller of 126 Castelain Mansions, London, W9, on his 85th Birthday on 23 August. His TV performances, specially in the Col-ditz Story, have made him widely known, and we remember gratefully his many pleasant recitals in our circle. We send him our very best birthday wishes. AJR Club.

## Deaths

**Baumann:**—Marianne Baumann, aged 91, passed away peacefully on 21 June. Deeply mourned by her daughter Bridget, son-in-law Len, grandchildren Susan and her husband Richard, Jenny and Steven, great-grandchildren, family and

friends. A bright and wonderful person — an example to us all.

**Fehr:**—Mrs. Irma Fehr, widow of Dr. Adi Fehr, died in Vienna on 15 June at the age of 88.

**Katz:**—On 30 June 1986, suddenly at her home, Anneliese Katz, of London NW6 and formerly of Bruchsal, Cologne and Letchworth, dear companion of the late Dr. Kurt Jacobi.

**Kossmann:**—Henry Kossmann passed away peacefully on 8 June. So deeply mourned and sadly missed by his wife Erna, daughter Jennifer, son Ralph, daughter-in-law Shirley and dotting granddaughters. May he rest in peace.

**Schlesinger:**—Miss Kaethe Schlesinger, of 59 Ashbourne Avenue, passed away after an illness courageously borne. She will be deeply mourned by all who knew her — relatives and her many friends.

We announce with regret the death of our members Mrs. Wilma Kohut of 14 Bracknell Gardens, London NW3, and Mrs. Paula Kerker of 118c Rowley Way, London NW8. AJR Club.

## CLASSIFIED

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## Personal

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## Information Required

**GROESCHLER.** Looking for Walter Groeschler who left Israel for Manchester in 1943/44. Mrs. Marianne Carmon (née Schiff), 3 Palmach Street, 34557 Haifa, Israel. Tel. 04-242 150.

**HERZFELD.** Herbert Herzfeld, last known address Houston, Texas. Would anyone knowing his whereabouts please contact Sir Eric Weiss at 3rd Floor, 1/6 Ely Place, London EC1N 6RY. Tel. 01-405 5092.

**STRUSSMAN.** Henry Strussman, born in Egypt, journalist Jewish Brigade 1944 Palestine, to solve medical problem of descendants in Israel. Neustadt, POB 8 Kiriat Haim, Israel 26103.

**TSCHARNEY.** Mina (née Tscharney), born ca. 1912 of Russian Jewish parentage; School Wickersdorf lived in Berlin till ca. 1931, then studied medicine in Palermo (Sicily), arrived in England probably 1940/1955. Would she or anyone knowing her

whereabouts please contact Rudolf Jaray, Flat 75, Byron Court, Byron Road, Harrow Central. Tel. 427 0520. Reason: "Ihr [himmlischen Mächte] lasst den Armen schuldig werden, dann überlasst ihr ihn der Pein" (Goethe).

Former JAWNE pupils and Jewish Residents of Cologne are requested to contact Chairman of the Committee David Alster-Yardeni, 41 Rechov Eder, Haifa 34752, Israel, re Memorial Fund for Dr. Erich Kli-bansky, principal of the Jawne School, who was instrumental in maintaining the high scholastic standing of the school and saved the lives of over 100 people, whilst he and his whole family perished in the Holocaust. Also list of people in the above category from all over the world would be appreciated.

**DAVID.** Would anyone knowing the whereabouts of **SUSANNE DAVID**, born 1920 Vienna, came to England 1939, address in 1949, 26 Compayne Gardens NW6, worked as a dental nurse for Dr. P. Berger, 5 Devonshire Place in 1946, sought by friend in Australia, contact Jewish Refugees Committee, Drayton House, Gordon Street, London WC1 0AN.

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## DJR News

## WEIMAR HISTORY ON THE STAGE

Since the last issue of AJR INFORMATION appeared, members of our group had the memorable experience of seeing *Mephisto* at the Barbican. The slow, inexorable first half turned out to be good preparation for the horrendous events portrayed in the second, set in the 1920s and early 1930s in Germany. The final, desperate cry from the actor/manager Hendrik Höfgen (or, Gustaf Gründgens): 'What could we do? We are only actors?' caught only too well the dilemma that thousands of ordinary people must have been trapped by, as democracy in the Weimar Republic bled slowly away.

A large party also went to see a play concerned with journalism, *Pravda - a Fleet Street Comedy* which had all the ingredients of an absorbing theatrical evening as it is not only a comedy.

Our third discussion group meeting considered our experiences as Jews abroad, particularly in Germany. All those present had much to contribute about how our particular Jewish background affected our perceptions when outside England.

On the social side, our regular buffet supper in June was hosted by Colin Dunston. We were especially pleased on this occasion to welcome so many new members.

## Bond with the AJR

Our bond with the AJR was strengthened by the visit of Geoff Strum and friends to the AJR Day Centre, where they provided a most enjoyable hour of entertainment - singing, piano, violin. Another DJR member, John Dunston, is currently arranging a series of regular visits by young musicians to Heinrich Stahl House, beginning in

the Autumn, and will be taking a small choir to Osmond House in November. Yet another, Anne Salinger, often plays the violin accompanied by one of the AJR Day Centre members.

Future events for the DJR include visits to 'Brighton Beach Memoirs' and perhaps to a Refusenik concert, also a summer ramble and picnic. Our first AGM is on 20 September in Hannah Karminsky House at 8.00 p.m. There are now nearly 100 DJRs on the list, and it would be wonderful to see them all.

This is a group in which everyone seems to feel completely at home, as if the particular blend of understanding, informality and warm friendship that exists here had not always been found elsewhere. We have had great fun, and many memorable occasions, already in our first few

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months, and would be pleased to welcome any new members who are aged about 20-32, single, and conscious, even if only slightly, of their background as children of Jewish refugees. For further information, please ring Caroline on 01-579 9906.

## AWARD TO PROF. E. G. LOWENTHAL

Professor Dr. Ernst G. Lowenthal, the well-known authority on the history of German Jews and a frequent contributor to this journal, was awarded the Dr. Leopold Lucas Prize by the Protestant Theological Faculty of the University of Tübingen. His address on this occasion was devoted to modern German Jewish historiography, more especially the question whether Jews were to remain for ever the objects of history, the actually or potentially suffering victims, or whether they should not also be seen as the creative minds who, by their achievement, made vast contributions to the countries in which they live, notably Germany.

## FRIEDRICH KOCH

Friedrich Koch who died recently aged 64 was born in Frankfurt, the son of Prof. Richard Koch, a leading historian of medicine. He emigrated with his parents to the Soviet Union in 1936 when he was 14, went to school in the Caucasus, and studied German philology at Moscow university. At the age of 19 he was drafted into the Soviet army; he later received the order 'For the Defence of Stalingrad'. He specialised in research on modern spoken German (*Umgangssprache*), a subject on which he published many papers. He taught at the Caucasian Institute of Modern Languages; his students are now found all over Russia and Eastern Europe.



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## A FAMOUS HISTORY OF FRANKFURT JEWRY

Now in English

The famous *Stammbuch der Frankfurter Juden*, published in Frankfurt am Main in 1907, by Alexander Dietz, is to reappear – in English: *The Jewish Community of Frankfurt. A Genealogical Study, 1349–1849*. Translated by Frances Martin, edited by Isobel Mordy (Vanderher Publications).

A prospectus explains that the English translation has improved on the original in a number of ways: 'It contains a short history of the Jewish community in Frankfurt by Professor Robert Liberles of Yale University. It is also amply illustrated with full pages of street scenes, notable buildings in the Jewish quarter and important artefacts fashioned by the community's craftsmen and artists. There are also interesting statistics relating to taxes paid by the Jews, to their estimated capital and, of particular interest to the family historian, to emigration from Frankfurt and immigration from other localities'.

At a sale of Jewish books, MSS and works of art held in New York by Sotheby's, the Jewish Museum of Frankfurt paid £97,000 for an illuminated *Haggadah*, dated 1731, by the scribe Jacob ben Michael of Frankfurt. The most expensive item, at £137,000, was a Hebrew MS on vellum illustrated with drawings of animals by a Bohemian scribe, Meshullam Zeimel, 1721.

### DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL TALENT TO ENTERTAIN OUR ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCE AT THE AJR DAY CENTRE?

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