

# AJR INFORMATION

Volume XLI No. 5 May 1986

£2 (to non-members)

Lessons of the Past

## HOLOCAUST DAY

### The Tragedy of Errors

This month, on 6 May, a Holocaust Day has been appointed in Anglo-Jewry, and the Yad Vashem Committee of the Board of Deputies has made a special effort to ensure that the occasion will be observed with the solemnity due to it. The survivors of course need no reminder; their whole life has been stamped by the still incredible event, much like those who survived the destruction of Jerusalem. But then they soon will pass into history, and those who come after them will be asked to ponder the 'lesson of the past.'

What is that lesson? Not all will learn the same lesson, but one certainly is, as a correspondent of the *Jewish Chronicle* remarked, that 'education and civilisation are no safeguards against man's bestiality,' even 'a cultured nation like Germany' could be guilty. Yet as we know from the Haggadah, the wicked and the wise sons are not the only *dramatis personae*; there is also the 'simple one' and the one who does not know how to ask. Few of us are either wise or wicked, most are, in varying degrees, simple souls and when faced with a great challenge, we do not always know how to ask the right questions. We like to hope for the best without preparing for the worst. It is clearly vital to learn what the evil people did but it is just as important to know what the good people did not do, and as the old truism has it, all that is required for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.

They were educated and and civilised and by no means willing to be partners in bestiality. The millions who voted for Hitler did not all approve of the 'final solution', and we have the testimony

of a British observer present at the November 1938 pogrom that, had there been freedom, 'those in power would be swept away by a storm of indignation if not put up against a wall and shot.' No doubt a great majority of the 'simple' people first did not mind 'respectable' antisemitism and then found themselves hoist with their own petard, no longer able to escape the logical conclusions. First they were free, now they were slaves.

But if these normal people did not resist evil in the first place, the reason was that they were fooled and/or doped by a demagogue of demonic charisma who knew how to exploit the prevailing social and economic ills; others again refused to believe that Hitler, while able to provide 'work and bread,' would or indeed could carry out the more extravagant parts of his programme. A popular saying was, 'nothing is eaten as hot as it is cooked.'

Such was the state of mind among the majority of Germans and such it was too in the rest of the

world. In its obituary on Hitler, the *Times* thought 'much of his earlier success was due to the fact that other peoples could not believe that any human being could be so pitiless and so malevolent.' The German Jews certainly, in the words of one of their leaders, 'could not expect a government even to think of abrogating the idea of the equality of all men.' At the very worst, they had no doubt that, even if the Germans allowed themselves to be fooled, 'the world' (*das Ausland*) would never tolerate any kind of persecution, let alone progressive lawlessness.

This tragedy of errors which neither education nor civilisation can apparently relieve is an aspect of the crime that is often neglected. An effort to realise it may help to restore a proper perspective of an otherwise all but incomprehensible story. Holocaust Day is a suitable occasion on which to appreciate this.

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### Full U.K. Tax Relief for

### German and Austrian Pensions

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his Budget, proposed total exemption from income tax for the tax year 1986/87 and subsequent years for pensions payable by the Federal Republic of Germany and Austria to Nazi victims. The pensions proposed to be exempt are those Social Security Pensions and Public Service Pensions which up to now were taxed to the extent of one-half. The AJR has made the strongest possible efforts for a number of years to obtain this tax exemption, and we are extremely pleased and gratified that our efforts have at long last borne fruit.

The second instalment of the income tax liability 1985/86 due on 1st July next will still be payable.

In the Tax Return form 1986/87 (income of year

to 5th April 1986) which readers will have received for completion, it is suggested to insert under the heading of 'Pensions': "German (or Austrian, where appropriate) pension paid to Nazi victim exempt as from 1986/87". We are advised by the Treasury that there will be no increase in the assessment previously made for the years 1985/86 and 1984/85 which may have been possible under the Tax Acts.

The new relief is not available where the recipient of the pension is not domiciled in the U.K. or is a British subject not ordinarily resident in the U.K. In those cases, the liability will be — as in the past — on the pensions remitted to the U.K.

FRANK E. FALK

#### AJR AGM on 17 July

The AJR Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 17 July 1986, at the Hannah Karminski House, 9 Adamson Road, London NW3 at 7.30 pm. A lecture will be delivered by Professor Heinz Wolff.

## GERMAN REACTIONS TO HOLOCAUST PUBLICITY

Characteristic German reactions to Holocaust publicity are revealed in letters printed in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* of 27 March. One reader says that while there can be 'no forgetting or forgiving of the terrible crimes,' nevertheless 'no people can constantly, over half a century, go about beating its breast, crying *Mea culpa, mea maxima culpa* and sinking in shame - least of all the new generation which can admit of no guilt.' The 'Old Testament curses to the third and fourth generation' and the 'excessive *ad nauseam* continued treatment by the media of Auschwitz and the persecution of Jewry' was 'bound to arouse resistance,' there would be a 'boomerang effect,' certainly this was 'not the way to prevent a new antisemitism.'

Another reader also urges that 'more than 40 years after the war we must avoid accusing ourselves publicly time and again and humbling ourselves before the Jewish people.'

A 21-year old demands that all must know about the atrocities; the schools must tell about them 'with merciless insistence,' but it must also be understood, 'we are not guilty, I am not,' and those who did not understand this should consider the possible consequences.

### Opinions at the Time

An almost inexhaustible source for research into the Third Reich has appeared in the form of a 17-volume compilation of SS-Sicherheitsdienst (Security Service) reports, edited by Dr. Heinz Boberach and published by Pawlak-Verlag in Herrshing. Twenty years ago, Dr. Boberach issued "Meldungen aus dem Reich", a selection of SD reports, but this new work (bearing the same title) comprises all the secret SD reports on public opinion held by the Bundesarchiv Koblenz, occupying over 6,000 pages, as well as an introductory volume.

The reports tellingly reveal attitudes of the German public throughout the years 1938-1945. Designed to keep the Nazi leaders informed as to their subjects' opinions, so that propaganda could be skilfully applied, they paint an unvarnished picture of ordinary people. They show that up to 1943 there was complete confidence in victory and that only so late as March 1945 did a report openly state that "doubt concerning the leadership does not spare even he Führer's person".

According to these SD reports, persecution of minorities (including Jews) awakened overwhelmingly positive responses—from the Nazi point of view—among the mass of the people. Propaganda films had the desired effect: "Der ewige Jude" was box-office hit and "Jud Süß" met with general approval throughout Germany.

The war brought complaints about rationing but little pity for the so-called "enemies of the people". The regulation that Jews were to wear the Yellow Star was received with "indifference if not exactly approval". As to prisoners of war and foreign workers, Germans complained that their work was bad and they were given too much to eat. People were concerned about their own fate in the ever-approaching diaster and did not trouble themselves about Nazi victims.

Resistance efforts were also mentioned by the

SD, who found that misgivings about "final victory" and the leadership of the country were very frequently expressed by practising Christians. The reports speak of a "religion-based popular opposition". Yet even Protestant Christian groups and devout Catholics still declared their faith in Hitler himself.

Dr. Boberach's vast work will surely be welcomed by all historians interested in the Third Reich.

### BERLIN JEWS IN HIDING

#### A Video Film at AJR Club

On March 19, members of the AJR Club and their friends were given the opportunity of seeing a video of the German TV documentary *Zuflucht - Berliner Juden im Versteck*. Mr. Heiko Roskamp (Berlin), the producer, was present at the performance. He was welcomed by Mrs. Lotte Saenger, Vice-Chairman of the Club, who paid special tribute to the courageous non-Jews who had given refuge to the persecuted at great danger to themselves. Dr. Werner Rosenstock referred to Roskamp's manifold activities aimed at keeping the memory of the Nazi past alive as a warning.

The film carried reminiscences of survivors, speaking mostly from places where they had been in hiding. One of these places was the Weissensee cemetery and, among the spots where they literally went underground, was the vault in which the famous opera singer Joseph Schwarz had been laid to rest. Hans Rosenthal, Berlin TV entertainer and chairman of the *Repraesentantenversammlung* of the Berlin Jewish community, owes his life to a poor woman who hid him in a wooden cabin. A family of four, including the present organist of the West Berlin Synagogue, shared one room provided for them by a Gentile friend. All Jews had either forged identity cards or none at all, and Roskamp reported that out of the 5,000 who went into hiding, only 1,000 survived. Their helpers, who often shared their meagre rations with them, also had to expect the worst when caught, and quite a few were instantly shot.

After the show, Roskamp stated that the number of eye-witnesses was constantly decreasing and that it was therefore urgent to find people

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who could speak about the Nazi period from first hand experience. In the light of several recent incidents, he stated, the present situation in the Federal Republic was not free of danger, and any anti-democratic and antisemitic symptoms had to be countered effectively. This included the need for adequate teaching of the Nazi period in the schools.

Several members of the audience raised the perennial question how this could happen in the country of Goethe and Beethoven. Yet while nobody expected this problem to be dealt with at a brief gathering, all present were grateful to Heiko Roskamp for having produced and shown them this record of the darkest period of our history.

W.R.

### AJR AT HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MEETING

The Association of Jewish Refugees is associated with a number of Anglo-Jewish bodies including the Board of Deputies, AJEX, B'nai Brith, in commemorating the Jewish martyrs of Nazism and the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. This Holocaust Memorial Meeting will be held on May 4 at 3 pm, at the Savoy Theatre, Strand, London WC2. The principal speaker, Lord Willis of Chislehurst, will be supported by the chairman of the AJR, Mr. C. T. Marx. Admission free; tickets can be obtained from the Secretary, AJEX, East Bank, London N6.

### JEWISH GUESTS OF GERMAN CITIES

In 1985 the number of former citizens invited by the Mayor of West Berlin rose to 1,443 guests, almost attaining the 1980 record of 1,447. Visitors included Israelis, Latin Americans, North Americans and Commonwealth citizens. One group consisted of former students of the *Französisches Gymnasium*. Since 1969, when the project began, 17,557 Jewish former refugees from Berlin have come to the city by invitation.

### BRAVE WOMEN HONOURED

Two distinguished German women who bravely ran the risks of helping Jewish fellow-citizens in the Nazi era are Helene Jacobs and Hildegard Arnold. Frau Arnold, a psychologist, took four Jewish women from Berlin into her home in 1943, keeping them safe until the end of the war. Three of them are still living in San Francisco. For many years, Hildegard Arnold worked with the Senator for Youth and Sport and even now, at the age of 70, is a lecturer in the project 'New Education'. Recently, she was awarded the West German Cross of Merit.

Helene Jacobs, who founded the Permanent Project for Jews and Christians in Berlin, recently celebrated her 80th birthday. As a member of the Confessing Church in the Third Reich, she worked hard to save the victims of racial persecution and was imprisoned. In 1983, she was awarded the Buber-Rosenzweig Medal for her endeavours towards Christian-Jewish understanding.

Wolf S. Matsdorf

## German Jewish Heritage on Display in Jerusalem

The permanent exhibition at Jerusalem's Israel Museum of the traditions and heritage of Jewish communities in the Diaspora is the largest display of Jewish ethnography anywhere. It has brought together material from vanished Jewish communities such as Kurdistan, Morocco, Libya, Bukhara, Afghanistan, Yemen. A sharp contrast to their homes and daily life styles is provided by a German Jewish sitting room from the middle of last century with the treasures and the heritage of the German Jewish Ortenau family, donated to the Israel Museum by Erich Ortenau from Munich.

Referring to this particular room the Viennese-born Mayor of Jerusalem Teddy Kollek suggested that one area of the new display should be dedicated to European Jewry, in order to commemorate a way of life which was all but destroyed by the Holocaust. 'The Ortenau Room will offer the generations to come a picture of the life of German Jewry in the century preceding the Second World War. For those of us who grew up in this milieu, the Ortenau room has a special meaning: It brings back sound, tastes and smells. It also helps us to impart to others the essence of our heritage.'

Next to a colourful North African salon, a luxurious Louis XVI room, donated by the Rothschilds, or a stylish English dining room of the 18th century, the significance of the Ortenau Room's modest Biedermeier style becomes evident only by the study of the lovingly preserved details of furniture, pictures, photos and utensils which accompanied this family. One of the pieces is a writing desk used by the poet Heinrich Heine.

The room illustrates a German Jewish family's life and customs as it would have looked during the traditional afternoon tea; it contains all the furniture and objects for a period of more than 150 years, and the accompanying portraits complement our knowledge about the people and their life style. This family collection shows also that the Jews, while absorbing elements of their surroundings, remained distinct as a group. Clothes, furniture and household items were influenced by their environment, but ceremonial objects such as the Hanukkah Menorah, the Kiddush Cup or the Spice Box gave the home a

Jewish stamp. Paintings and heirlooms in the family's living room tell us something about the atmosphere of a Jewish middle-class home in Germany between 1830 and 1938, between Emancipation and Holocaust. The Biedermeier portraits of the Ortenau family were painted in 1830, the year when Heine's writing desk was made. His one-time doctor, Dr. Leopold Wertheimer, Ortenau's great-great uncle, inherited the desk after the poet's death and left it to Erich's father, a doctor who used it in his consulting room for nearly 50 years, taking it with him when he emigrated.

In an Israel Museum publication Erich Ortenau tells the history of his family and the moving story



The Ortenau room at the Israel Museum, with Heine's writing desk in the background

of how many years after the War their belongings were recovered from various hiding places.

His father's devotion to the sick was repaid by the citizens of his home town Bad Reichenhall, when the objects on display survived the *Kristallnacht* pogrom of 9 November 1938, because the people prevented the destruction of Jewish homes. Erich left Germany in 1939 after having had the pieces of the family collection stored, not believing that he would ever be able to see them again.

Six years later he returned with the Jewish Brigade and found the storerooms destroyed by bombs. The owner had however ignored Nazi orders to hand over Jewish property, and transferred it to his private home. In this way the valuable historic belongings of the Ortenau family were saved by courageous human decency.

'This exhibition', writes Erich Ortenau, 'of my family's living room with its collection of bygones, means bidding farewell to the history of four generations of German Jewry who had dwelt in its surroundings. It means looking back in pride and sorrow, remembering a period of history which had started as a springtime of humanity and ended so terribly in the insanity of the Holocaust.'

W. M. Finkelstein

## Our People in Argentina

It is now over fifty years since the vanguard of Jewish emigrants from Germany came to Argentina. They found themselves outcasts in a totally strange environment and were able to acclimatise themselves only after great initial difficulties. Attempts at organising settlements failed: they followed the example of Baron Hirsch, who wanted to open up agriculture for German Jews in the village of Avigdor in the Entre Rios province. Such endeavours were unsuccessful because in the first place no farmers were among those arriving and, secondly, the Jews who had been German city-dwellers were given no support to provide themselves with the necessary equipment. It was at best an experiment - with many setbacks - so that only a few managed to make any profit from farming; the majority left their weary endeavours to make their way back to the great cities.

Meanwhile, four Jewish communities had arisen in Buenos Aires, three of them German Conservative and the other fully Orthodox. There were also two associations for sport and culture (one of them being in sympathy with Bar Kochba and so linked to the old homeland), as well as purely Zionist groups, such as the KKL and the Theodor Herzl Society.

### New Generation

In the course of years, the German language as used in sermons and prayers was supplanted by Spanish, since the former refugees had become parents and grandparents of children born in the country and brought up Spanish-speaking. Moreover, many of the communities recruited members from among Jews who had found a cordial welcome here after escaping from the Russian and Polish pogroms. Community development led to the provision of sports grounds and camping, where today German is heard only among older members. Conversation with children and grandchildren naturally passes into Spanish, even though the memorial tablets in the synagogues still display the names of their founding members from Germany and Austria. At present, one rabbi from Germany is still officiating, Rabbi Hanns Harf of the *Nueva Comunidad Israelita*. Ministers for the remaining communities are the descendants of immigrants, but they have graduated from the Rabbinical Seminary founded twenty years ago in Buenos Aires: this follows the Conservative school of thought.

One of the most striking achievements of the German-speaking Jews in Argentina is the Adolfo Hirsch old age home, established by the former *Hilfsverein*, now the *Asociación Filantrópica Israelita*; it may well be described as a model for the whole of America. This modern, dynamic institution gives proof to Argentina of the German-Jewish community's creative ability.

Mention should also be made in this short report of the *Semanario Israelita* as the voice of Jewish immigration. Although the paper's subtitle *Unabhängige jüdische Wochenschrift* appeals to a wide readership, in the natural course of events it cannot look forward to a long continuance.

The author is Editor of *Semanario Israelita*

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## Lola Hahn-Warburg at 85

By the time we ordinary mortals reach our 65th birthday, we look forward to the coming years as a time of personal leisure without the pressures of a structured time-table.

Not so Lola Hahn-Warburg, although she will celebrate her 85th birthday on 19 May. Her capacity for work and dedication cannot be measured by an ordinary yard-stick. She continues her activities with an intensity which is by no means in keeping with her age. She considers her frail health as a challenge which she meets with a mix of will-power and a rare sense of humour. She won't allow her reduced physical strength to interfere with her commitment to Jewish affairs and to the educational movement and international projects which were initiated by her brother-in-law, Kurt Hahn, to whose spiritual legacy she is deeply devoted.

The eldest daughter of the banker Max Warburg, Lola grew up in an assimilated family in Hamburg, but her concern about the culture, affairs and welfare-work of the Jewish community became very early a dominant factor in her personal life. A founder-member of the *Hilfsverein der Juden in Deutschland*, Max Warburg introduced his daughter to the tasks the organisation was fulfilling with and for the Jews who had come to Germany from Eastern Europe. Through her activities and initiative she became familiar with Zionist ideologies and was drawn to the outstanding personalities of the movement.

Her compassion and deep-rooted love for young people kindled her interest in the work done for children. When Dr. Siegfried Lehmann, later to become the founder of Ben-Shemen, opened an orphanage in Kovno, he expressed his gratitude for Lola's support by naming one of the houses after her.

### Work for Youth Aliyah

It was quite natural that Lola Hahn-Warburg was asked to take her place among those who guided German Jewry in the years after 1933. She was to work in one of the most vital spheres where immediate action was imperative: organised emigration. One of the most significant parts of her work was certainly her guiding influence in the setting-up of the *Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder und Jugendaliyah*.

The years of continuous crisis revealed Lola's full potential of resourcefulness and drive when she was invited to serve on the Jewish Refugee Committee in this country. She was one of the initiators of 'The Movement for the Care of Children from Germany and Austria' which saved 10,000 children by bringing them to England.

Lola Hahn's friends and colleagues in 'Self Aid for Refugees', Youth Aliyah, Central British Fund, Atlantic College and United World College, to name some of the organisations privileged to count her among their Honorary Presidents, need no special occasion to remind them of her achievement and fervent dedication: they enjoy the benefit of her strong presence and performance. But they do want to join us in wishing Lola 'Many Happy Returns of the Day' - and above all, to take this opportunity of saying 'Thank You' to a great Jewish woman for the work of a lifetime, carried out in the spirit of her late friend Wilfrid Israel's legacy: The Iron Obligation to Serve.

L. SCH.

Sidney Jones

## Retirement - as faced by Men and by Women

A great volume of research, writing, and thinking has gone into the subject of retirement in recent times. The great bulk of this has, however, been devoted to men's retirement. Whenever women have been referred to there is a very common assumption that they have no real problems, that 'they never really retire.'

It is true of course that the demographic and social changes or upheavals as some regard them, have affected both sexes, but in different ways. It is a truism to say that people are living longer than ever before, on average. The fact that women still retain the advantage, if such it is, of outliving men, for the most part, is still a fact, and one which creates its own problems in some cases.

The retirement age for many is getting earlier and earlier. Thus, school-teachers, for example, can now retire at 50, and some do. More and more people are being encouraged to retire, where this is a matter of choice, whether to make way for younger employees, or, as is common, as a way of reducing the number of those employed. We are generally healthier than our forebears, and are thus more likely to be fit and active in retirement, especially as this is experienced at a younger age than in previous times. In fact, our fathers and grandfathers were much less likely to retire at all. Because of inadequate State and private pensions they would often work, literally, until the end of their lives.

One big change which is highly relevant is the fact that many women now work, at least part-time, and many full-time, in their middle years. 60 per cent of married women do some form of paid work, and this proportion is likely to grow. With changing family patterns and differing expectations for girls' education and occupation, there is an increasing number of women who have careers outside the home. This is a feature of growing importance, as women expand their range of experience beyond caring for husband and family. This can be considered as an aspect of women becoming persons in their own right, economically, socially, and, what is more, psychologically.

The meaning of retirement for women may thus be very different from the expectations of men. This is not to suggest that male retirement is completely unproblematic. Much here depends on a man's perception of his work. If this has given him purpose, interest, status, companionship, and a high income, then separation from his employment or profession obviously carries severe penalties. He may often find compensation for these lacks in new ways, and always gains one advantage which may or may not prove a blessing: a new-found freedom.

The common pattern for most men of a lifetime of employment or business, of leaving home each day and returning to relax, to eat, and to exchange conversation with the wife is a very straightforward routine, and it goes on for many years. A couple's relationship has often been structured by the mutual expectations which have been built on this routine: the man works; the woman looks after the home and family. That is a very established pattern. The only problem is that it is no longer true, and retirement emphasises this.

### Traditional Roles Reversed

When the man retires, relatively young, fit, but no longer working, the home becomes his base. Where the wife works - an increasing trend - a couple may well find a reversal of the traditional roles. The man is at home, while the wife is out. The solution, it may be thought, is for the wife to retire also. There are two possible strands in this scenario. One concerns the meaning that work has for the wife. The other involves their relationship. And the two strands are intertwined.

A woman's work may have a number of 'spin-offs': companionship outside the home; new purposes which compensate for the 'empty nest' left after she has reared her children; an outlet for her energy, widening the range of her interests; and a relative economic independence. All these may yield a blossoming of her life in her later years, a liberation from a known and restricted routine. In these circumstances, to give up work is to give up a part of living.

The relationship of a married couple in the later years becomes more important, not less. When the husband retires, and when eventually the wife does also, great pressure is placed on their marriage. An increasing proportion of couples are splitting up, it is now being revealed, in their later years. The psychiatrist, Pearl Hattiararchy, was quoted in *The Times* recently as saying that 'elderly people are wanting much more from life . . . including marriage.' The earlier routine of work and family life may have cloaked an unsatisfactory relationship, the flaws in which may be laid bare in retirement.

Facing retirement may be fraught with possible problems. It is also illuminated by the prospects of a change in life-style, one with new interests, new relationships, and with new purposes which it can inspire. Facing retirement is facing life.

*The author is Administrator of the University of the Third Age in London.*

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## Art Notes

## SIMPLICISSIMUS AND CECIL BEATON

Hitler's face with a shadowy Frederick the Great in the background with the inscription: 'Hail Prussia! In my state every man can be happy only in my way!' is a caricature by Karl Arnold (1883-1953) which appeared in the 15 May 1932 issue of *Simplicissimus*, the outspoken political journal which was started with liberal, anti-imperialist tendencies in Kaiser Wilhelm's empire and succumbed to the Nazis in 1933. This is only one of a hundred caricatures selected from thousands which appeared between 1918-1933 in *Simplicissimus* and are being shown at the Goethe Institut (until 10 May). Works by ten artists are represented, all of whom worked regularly or occasionally for the journal. Several clever drawings by George Grosz (1893-1953) are shown with typical inscriptions. 'Throne and altar declare their support for the Republic - it's as simple as that!' And Marcel Frischmann (born Lodz 1900, died London 1951) with his drawing of three hard-headed businessmen entitled 'A Pleasant Surprise. Well, Gentlemen, with God's gracious help we have at least achieved one thing: every State can now begin re-arming as much as it likes!' (9 October 1932). There is an excellent illustrated catalogue with an essay by Fritz Arnold (in German and English).

Following Pope's famous dictum: 'The proper study of mankind is Man,' we turn from satire to the sublime to see Marlborough Fine Art's exhibition 'Studies from the Nude' (until May 1986). It includes fine representative works by Auerbach, Bacon, Blake, Hockney, Kitaj, Moore, Pasmore and several others.

Cecil Beaton, fashion photographer and theatre designer, held a central position in London Society from the Twenties to the Swinging Sixties. His first major Retrospective Exhibition is at the Barbican (until 20 July). It includes over 700 items, photographs, paintings, drawings, designs and illustrations. The famous black and white costumes for the Ascot scene in 'My Fair Lady' have been re-made specially for the exhibition.

The 1986 Hayward Annual Exhibition 'Falls the Shadow' (until 15 June) presents as usual a picture of contemporary British art, but set alongside it for the first time it also shows contemporary work from France, Italy and West Germany.

## Two Fairs

And, finally, two fairs. The second London Original Print Fair at Burlington House (13-15 June) will have eighteen exhibitors (six more than last year) including some of the best-known firms in the business, all of whom have made special efforts to keep their best stock for the fair (admission £1 which includes the catalogue). The Third International Contemporary Art Fair will be held at Olympia (29 May-1 June). If last year's fair is anything to go by, this one should be even bigger and better.

ALICE SCHWAB

## Theatre and Opera in

## VIENNA and WASHINGTON

The Vienna theatre scene contains at present some 20 fringe theatres, often experimenting but, in some cases, providing a regular repertoire of modern (mainly British and American) plays, usually translated, but also in the original language. Recently, the 'International Theatre' (Porzellangasse) produced Tennessee Williams' *Glass Menagerie*, as well as *Of mice and men* by John Steinbeck. Vienna's 'English theatre' attracted audiences to *The Unexpected Guest* by Agatha Christie. The Volkstheater presented Hochwaelder's satire *Himbeerpflücker*, the story of a strange visitor to a country inn who is supposed to be a former high-ranking Nazi official and received with honours and reverence. When the man is finally revealed as an ordinary thief, he is insulted with unequivocal antisemitic remarks.

Washington, better known for political than stage achievements, seems nevertheless to attempt rivalling New York in the artistic sector. Its Opera House is preparing the world premiere of the opera *Goya* by Carlo Menotti which will take place in the autumn and is to be conducted by Rafael Fruehbeck de Burgos. Victoria Vergara, a most attractive soprano, will have Placido Domingo as title role partner in a costly production. Several European opera houses have already started negotiations with the composer about performing rights.

Much has been written on the occasion of Wilhelm Furtwängler's 100th birthday. The aim of Fred K. Frieberg's *Kraftprobe-Wilhelm Furtwängler im 3. Reich* (Brockhaus-Verlag, Wies-



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baden) is to demonstrate the conductor's attitudes during the 12 years of Nazi rule. Many critics accuse him, even Thomas Mann calls him 'Furchtwängler.' The reproach of collaboration with the Nazis is launched with strong words against a conductor who did not want to leave the country where he had reached the position of a musical giant. Perhaps, this book is to be read not only because of Furtwängler, the controversial character who did complain about the 'Jewish press' but, on the other hand, gave assistance to Jewish friends; it is a study of Nazi intrigues with Goebbels on one side and *Kulturverwalter* Hinkel on the other, with Rosenberg interfering and the Führer obtaining his reports. Furtwängler had a Jewish secretary, Berta Geissmar, who had to be removed because she was denounced by Winifred Wagner though she was later re-instated.

## Birthdays and Obituary

Producer Boleslav Barlog who was the first to 'resurrect' the theatre in Berlin in 1945 and became *Generalintendant* of the Berlin State theatres, a post he held until 1972, is 80. Marianne Hoppe, the distinguished German stage actress, celebrated her 75th birthday.

It is belatedly learnt that the German film actress Dorothea Wieck died earlier this year. She was 78. Having started acting at an early age, she reached the height of her career playing a school teacher in *Mädchen in Uniform*, back in 1931, her greatest success.

S.B.

Ronald Stent

## THE "SECRET OF LIFE"

### Advancing the Knowledge of Heredity

'When I worked as an assistant to Otto Hahn and Lise Meitner at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Chemistry in Berlin in the early thirties I was the only trained physicist in the place. I was not particularly effective at my job which turned out to have been a great blessing. Had I done a better job Germany might have solved the problem of releasing atomic energy and made an atom bomb before anybody else'. This is what Max Delbrueck, the guru of molecular biology, said many years later to a friend in Pasadena. Max, son of the historian Hans Delbreuck and scion of an old and famous Prussian family (his sister became Dietrich Bonnhöffer's wife), was not a Jew but many of his disciples and other contributors to the birth and development of molecular biology were.

Although trained as a physicist Delbreuck became interested in biology and tried to fathom out the secret of life when working for a time in Copenhagen with Nils Bohr, a half-Jew, and along with Planck and Einstein one of the three greatest physicists of this century.

The term molecular biology came into use in the 1940s and was then meant to describe a somewhat utopian project rather than an existing scientific discipline. But its roots go back to the 1860s when a Silesian monk Mendel in a Moravian monastery who was cross-breeding various strains of garden peas postulated that an organism transmits to its offsprings certain hereditary elements or 'genes'. But the time was not yet ripe for people to appreciate the significance of his published work. His results were ignored as so often happens with premature scientific discoveries. It was only in the early part of this century that genetics gradually became one of the most exciting fields of biological research, particularly after it had been established that the genes which nobody had ever seen and whose mechanism of self-replication was a total mystery, were capable of undergoing sudden permanent changes or mutations.

#### Revolutionary Lessons

By the late 1920s the quantum theory developed by Planck and Einstein had led to a fundamental revision of our understanding of the nature of matter. These revisions had put the study of atomic physics on an entirely new basis and Nils Bohr thought that the revolutionary lessons of the quantum theory were also applicable to biological phenomena. In 1930 Bohr delivered a famous speech entitled 'Light and Life' in which he conjectured that living organisms might not be explainable in terms of conventional laws of physics and chemistry and that to reach a proper understanding of life new physical laws might have to be found. Delbrueck was fascinated by Bohr's ideas and on his return to Berlin began 'moonlighting' into biology, whilst at the same time holding his day-time job as Lise Meitner's assistant. As a Jewess Meitner soon lost

her job, whilst Delbrueck went on a Rockefeller fellowship to the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. In 1937 he became a full-time biologist.

In 1945 Erwin Schroedinger, the great Austrian physicist, who had left Germany after the Nazi *Machtübernahme* and was then working in Dublin, published a seminal book entitled *What is Life*. Inspired by Delbrueck, he proposed that the gene must be considered the information carrier transmitting encoded genetic instructions as an irregular sequence of a few repeating molecule elements; just as the information contained in the article can be encoded in an irregular sequence of Morse Code dots and dashes.

At the outbreak of war Delbrueck refused to go back to Germany. He continued to work at Cal-Tech. on the self-replication of bacterial

viruses. These are ultramicroscopic particles, each one of which, once having infected its bacterial host cell, produces 100 identical progeny viruses within 30 minutes. Delbrueck thought that each virus particle must carry some information which specifies how this trick is to be performed. He attracted a number of disciples and it was this 'Phage' group which established that nucleic acid molecules are the information carriers postulated by Schroedinger.

One of the nucleic acids is D.N.A. (*deoxy-ribonucleic acid*), a very long chain molecules built up of thousands of repeating elements called Nucleotides. There are four different kinds of these nucleotides, which, it was believed, followed each other in a regular and unvarying order. D.N.A. therefore could not possibly be the genetic material. But in the early 1950s, at New York's Columbia University, a Viennese refugee chemist Erwin Chargaff proved that the sequence of these nucleotides in the D.N.A. chain is in fact irregular, varying with the source and relative proportion of the four kinds of nucleotides. Thus the possibility had opened up that the genetic information might well be encoded in D.N.A. in specific nucleotide sequences.

### Galaxy of Jewish Scientists

Molecular biological research was not confined to Columbia and Cal. Tech. Many scientists elsewhere were also contributing to the basic understanding of the structure of the genetic molecules. There was Salvador Luria, a Jewish refugee from Mussolini's Italy, who was working together with Delbreuck at the Cold Spring Harbour laboratories on Long Island and with him clarified the nature of the genetic mutation process and how genes are arranged in viruses. The two received their Nobel prizes jointly and belatedly in 1969. Then there were Elie Wollman and François Jacob, French Jews at the Pasteur Institute, who made critical contributions to the understanding how genes are arranged in bacteria, and the Rumanian Jew Martin Schlessinger working in Frankfurt before 1933, an early pioneer in applying methods of physical chemistry to the study of viruses. (He took his own life in London just before the outbreak of World War II.) There was Curt Stern, a German-Jewish refugee who had been at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Biology in Berlin and later became Professor of Zoology at the University of California at Berkeley. He demonstrated the existence of somatic mutations which are not passed on the offsprings, which is critical for an understanding of the mechanism of embryonic development.

There was Joshua Rosenberg, Stern's student and son of a Rabbi, and Norton Zinder, another American Jew who discovered the transfer of cellular genetic material by viruses from one host cell to another which became a central technique for genetic engineering. Seymour Benzer, also an American Jew and one of Delbreuck's disciples, redefined and clarified Mendel's original concept of the gene. They all contributed to the advancing of the frontiers of knowledge of how heredity works, but the decisive discovery still had to be made, a discovery which would have been impossible without all the pioneering work done by so many others.

And that was the epochal discovery of the structure of the D.N.A. molecule in the form of a double helix. It was the fruit of the collaboration of a British scientist, Francis Crick, and a young American, James Watson. They published their findings in the British magazine *Nature* in April 1953. Their paper created a sensation. Two different schools of molecular biological research contributed to their success. One was the informational school as exemplified by the Delbrueck group, interested in the nature of the genetic information; the other was the structural school of crystallographers, interested in the structure of the biological molecule. Research in the latter field flourished at several U.K. locations. One was the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge where another Viennese refugee, Max Perutz, and John Kendrick, both pupils of the director Laurence Bragg, worked, also Kings College, London with two other outstanding crystallographers Maurice Wilkins and Rosalind Franklin, an English Jewess. In 1962 Perutz and Wilkins shared the Nobel prize in chemistry whilst Watson, Crick and Wilkins were awarded the Nobel

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concluded on p. 9

Samuel Wolf

## MANY WAYS OF HELPING

Loneliness, that scourge of urban existence, is the basic problem I deal with as an official social worker for AJR. When I go to see a client who is alone and isolated my visit is the first step in providing some much needed contact with people who understand the pain of loneliness and want to help. Even those who are not all that lonely welcome me as someone whom they can talk to. I am a sympathetic listener and what I am told remains confidential.

My clients see me as a personal contact with the AJR and my visit is rightly interpreted as a sign that the Association cares about them.

I always mention the new Day Centre and if a

Finally I should like to mention three more examples of the practical help that can be given. A lady asked me to effect a reconciliation with a relative whom she hadn't spoken to for many years. I'm glad to say I was successful. One client was worried about an approach from her landlord asking her to move to another flat. I contacted the landlord and ensured that this elderly lady could stay in her familiar home. One gentleman was keeping a cheque from Germany as 'savings,' not realising its validity had long expired. I arranged for the cheque to be returned and a new one issued so that it could be put straight into his bank account.

## AJR in ACTION

client would like to go I give his or her details to Sandra Randall, the Centre's organiser. I'm glad to say that in this way many of my clients have escaped from their loneliness and made new friends.

Another resource I draw on to attack isolation is the panel of visitors which is ably organised by Sylvia Matus. If a client would like to have a regular visitor I ask about his or her interests (e.g., bridge, classical music, opera) so that Mrs. Matus can try to find someone who shares them.

Occasionally I visit someone who has recently been bereaved. I listen as I am told of the anguish of the loss. I explain that sadness and tears are natural in such a situation. I point out that grief cannot be avoided, it is a sign of love for the departed. If the grief seems more than my client can bear I suggest that I arrange for a trained bereavement counsellor to visit.

On a happier note, some of my clients are entitled to payments from the Department of Health and Social Security and either don't realise this or don't know how to go about making a claim. In such a situation I offer advice and help in contacting the local DHSS office. If necessary I write a supporting letter. Another matter in which I have acted on behalf of clients is in obtaining a much needed home help from the local council social services department. Other clients have wanted to employ a home help privately. Here too I have been of assistance. Their requests have been passed to Ilse Kurnik who very efficiently maintains a file of applicants for such employment.

Another service of the AJR which I introduce and pass on requests for is meals on wheels.

A remarkable way in which I was able to help a client concerns a lady who hadn't seen her sister or been in contact with her since 1938. She had last heard of her as living in New York in 1956. Using the little information she gave me I was able to find out that the sister was still listed in the Manhattan phone book. I gave my client the phone number and she made a transatlantic call which enabled her to speak to her sister for the first time in 48 years.

### At the Day Centre

#### Purim Party with a Swing

Purim was celebrated with gusto at the AJR Day Centre. A party of more than 70 was entertained by the justly popular Hans Freund who not only produced a series of hit songs which found a ready echo among his listeners but also knew how to make everybody present a member of what he called the Day Centre's Choral Society. Everybody loved and joined in such famous lieder as *Sah ein Knab ein Röslein stehn*, and many a weary heart must have been stirred by the warm rendering of Brahms' *Guten Abend, Gute Nacht*. Mr. Freund's very considerable repertoire also included Gilbert & Sullivan, and after he had donned a police helmet to demonstrate that 'A policeman's lot is not a happy one,' we were treated to a most amusing parody applied to the top-hatted synagogue warden:

*When the Rabbi's trying hard to find the Parsha,  
And the Chazan's busy twanging on his fork,  
Or a baby cries aloud during the Drasha  
And the congregation all begin to talk . . .  
A Warden's lot is not a happy one.*

All enjoyed the accomplished accompaniment by Sheila Games who also played Schumann and Brahms, and linguists in the audience supported Barry Davis whose Yiddish songs reflected much



A Happy Trio

(from right to left: Hans Freund, Sheila Games and Barry Davis)

of the often sombre story of the Jews which he rightly said we should never allow to be forgotten – even amid the joys of Purim.

#### Sweet Singer from South Korea

An unusual as well as most pleasant feature of another musical entertainment arranged by Hans Freund was the appearance of Mrs. Hae-Young Han, a pupil of the Musical Academy of Seoul, the capital of South Korea. Her magnificent voice captivated the large audience as she treated them to Mozart (*Così fan tutte*), Rossini (*The Barber of Seville*), and Handel (*The Bride's Song* that was heard at Prince Charles' and Lady Diana's wedding). Together with Hans Freund she sang a charming duet from *Don Giovanni*, and a solo from the *Magic Flute* was actually performed in German (*Bei Männern, welche Liebe fühlen*). Mrs. H.-Y. Han is studying with her husband at the Guildhall School of Music and hopes to be joining the Seoul Opera ensemble. Hans Freund is to be congratulated on having secured this fine singer. The sensitive accompanist was Rosa Buttwick.

#### Much-loved Melodies

Vienna went to Belsize Park on March 6 when pianist-singer Barbara Jacobson's and soprano Helen Mignano's programme brought a warm response. Barbara's *schlager* and piano pieces brought back nostalgic memories, while Helen was in excellent voice with much-loved melodies.

#### Day Centre's Forthcoming Events this month (May)

- Wednesday, 7th: The famous London Ladies' Choir.
- Thursday, 8th: Daphne Lewis and Sheila Games present a lovely afternoon of songs at the piano.
- Tuesday, 13th: All-day outing to a country farm. Lunch, tea and transport provided. Please book early with Sandra Randall at the Day Centre.
- Wednesday, 14th: You will enjoy an afternoon of songs with Flora Somers and Jack Marks.
- Thursday 15th: Our own Mr. Tichauer promises an original afternoon with tapes from films of the 1930s.
- Wednesday, 21st: In the morning Zena and Miriam are selling quality blouses and knitwear at very low prices. In the afternoon Helen Mignano and Barbara Jacobson will entertain.
- Thursday 22nd: Anglia Jenshill and Happy Branston provide an afternoon of wonderful music.
- Wednesday, 28th: Elsie Harding speaks about her fascinating experiences as a Tour Guide.
- Thursday 29th: Fred Dunstan will talk about his interesting collection of slides.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Frank Auerbach

Sir, Concerning the article about Frank Auerbach in your February issue (p. 12), I should like to say that there was no cousin whatsoever who could have brought up Frank. He came over to England via Dovercourt, the assembly camp for German-Jewish children. From there Miss Anna Essinger, the head mistress, brought him, together with others, to her Refugee School and Home which was at Bunce Court, Kent. There he grew up from Spring term 1939 until Autumn term 1947. These were his most formative years. Bunce Court had children from 1933 onwards until 1948. The school was recognised by the Ministry of Education in 1937. I was there the Matron for 15 years and have still the record of the children for each term.

London, N2 BERTHA KAHN-ESSINGER

\*

## Author, Author

Sir, I have long been haunted by the following lines quoted from memory:

*Was wir lieblich fest besessen  
Schwindet hin wie Träumerein,  
Und die Herzen, die vergessen,  
Und die Augen schlafen ein.*

Who wrote this poignantly beautiful verse, and where does it occur? If one of your many readers knows the answers they will be gratefully received.

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## Jewish Film Festival

Shoah ('Holocaust'), a film produced by the French Jew Claude Lanzmann, was the centre piece of this year's Jewish Film Festival. It aroused considerable public interest. Special attention also was given to the films by the Dutch Jew Rudolf van den Berg whose work was featured in an article (by C. C. Aronsfeld) in a booklet entitled, *Film, History and the Jewish Experience. A reader*, edited by Jonathan Davis (The National Film Theatre. 1986, 96 pp.). The Jewish Film Festival which was launched in October 1984 is funded by the Spiro Institute, the recently established Jewish Film Foundation and the (then) Greater London Council. The role of the Festival is to enable British audiences to see films that, for the most part, are outside the commercial mainstream and therefore unlikely to find their way into local cinemas.

## 'Stolen Treasures in Austrian Hands'

In a letter on the above subject published three weeks after Dr. Madeleine Duke's (quoted in our April issue), the Minister Counsellor of the Austrian Embassy, H. Wessely, states (*Daily Telegraph* 21 March 1986) that after a law was passed in 1969 which included a complete list of objects hitherto unclaimed, 'no efforts were spared to reach potentially interested persons all over the world in order to allow them to submit their claims. Since, however, a still considerable amount of objects remained unclaimed (Mr. Wessely continues) a second law was enacted now and objects can be claimed until September 30, 1986. The then still unclaimed objects will be sold by auction and the proceeds will go to victims of the Nazi regime'.

Erich Wolfsfeld  
Painter and Etcher

A recent exhibition of English watercolours (at the Alpine Gallery) which featured early 19th century and modern British works, also included studies by Erich Wolfsfeld (1885-1956), the well-known German Jewish painter and etcher. His stature as a painter has recently been growing, partly supported by his standing as a first class etcher - his work in this field was catalogued in 1979 by Elizabeth Furness. In his painting, there was scarcely a medium that he did not use - watercolour, oil, chalk, graphite and even boot polish! His range of subjects was similarly wide but he is best known for his powerful portraits and studies of people and animals in day-to-day life. His work can perhaps best be described as that of a realist with an acute appreciation of the human condition. Although much of his subject matter is emotive in content, his treatment is always dignified.

Born in Prussia in 1885, Wolfsfeld studied in Berlin, Paris and Rome before becoming Professor of Painting and Etching at the Berlin Academy in 1920. He worked extensively in Northern Europe and the Mediterranean, whence he drew much of his inspiration and subject matter. His career was interrupted by both World Wars, particularly the Second. He reluctantly left Germany in 1939 and came to England, settling here after a period of internment. A major exhibition of his work was held at the Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield, in 1939 and another one-man show was held at Derby in 1953. He first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1943 and showed there regularly for the following ten years.

CAROLINE STROUDE



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## DESCENDANTS OF JEWISH REFUGEES

The DJR is growing from strength to strength, with ever-increasing number and new ventures. Since our report in the March issue of AJR INFORMATION, we have had two well-attended and most enjoyable buffet suppers. The third Saturday of every month has now been established as a regular date for our social gatherings, which take place in members' homes. At our March meeting, supper was combined with a most interesting and entertaining talk by Mr. Martin Goldenberg on 'The Polish-Jewish Moslem' - a fascinating account of his brother's conversion to Islam.

There is a definite enthusiasm amongst members to discuss our common links and backgrounds. After a most stimulating meeting, we decided to continue these discussions on a regular basis. At our second discussion group, reactions were shared to the question: 'Do we identify more strongly with the English or with the Jewish community?'

### Links with the Day Centre

We are also keen to establish links with the AJR Day Centre, and three of us visited the centre recently to find out in which ways we could best be involved.

Our theatre visits are proving to be very popular, usually ending up in some 'gourmet' establishment afterwards. Outings have been arranged to see *Yonadab* and *The Threepenny Opera* at the National Theatre, and to the film *Colours of Love*, documenting the life of Chagall, showing at the NFT as part of the Jewish Film Festival. Other expeditions are planned, catering for a variety of interests.

We would like to hear from single people aged approx. 20-32, whose parents came to this country as refugees. Please contact Caroline, on 01-579 9906.

## MARGARET JACOBY

on her 104th Birthday

What would a stranger meeting Mrs. Margaret Jacoby think is her age? 80? At the most. Her clear blue eyes and unwrinkled skin could indicate less. But she will be 104 on 22 May.

She has remained her kind, charming, cheerful self ever since AJR INFORMATION first started to write about this remarkable lady and her achievements. Her friendly smile is what it has always been. She has kept her warm concern for her fellow-men and her lively mind.

Her interest in her baby, the AJR Club, is as keen as ever. When I, its vice-chairman, visit her, we start with some personal chat, but soon her thoughts turn to the club. Then conversation goes somewhat like this: 'We have not had the *Kol Rinah* Choir at any Club function for almost a year: do ask them to come soon again.' 'Has Mrs. X still not paid? Something must be wrong. I shall ring her.' 'Have you sent flowers to Mr. Y? He is still in hospital. Be sure to remember.' 'I need more birthday cards. There will be many birthdays next month.' 'Anything else? No? Get the scrabble.' Which we then play and which I lose: my partner plays better. The game must be finished in time for the 6 o'clock News.

Though now confined to her chair, she is keen to keep track of events in the world at large and stays in close touch with the wide circle of her family and friends. She has a large correspondence and visitors every day. Her guests enjoy her company as she enjoys theirs. They have many mutual interests and there is always something to talk about. Time passes quickly and all are happy. Who could ask for more?

May Margaret Jacoby continue in this way for a long time to come! Together with her family and friends all over the globe, the AJR Club extend to her their very best wishes for further Health and Happiness.

L.S.r.

## 'Secret of Life'

concluded from p. 6

prize for medicine, all for their joint efforts and crucial roles in the rise of molecular biology. Rosalind Franklin had tragically died too young to receive proper recognition for her work. But her last student, a South African Jew Aaron Klug, was to become a Nobel laureate some years later for his own seminal contribution to the study of molecular structures.

Jim Watson had come to the Cavendish as a post doctoral fellow to work on the D.N.A. molecule and paired up with Crick. Together they hit on the double helical structure; two complementary chains, wound about each other, serving as a template for the synthesis of replicas of polynucleotide chains and providing a constant flow of structural instructions from the D.N.A. to the Protein molecules, the building blocks of life. The nucleotide sequence in the D.N.A. double helix is related via the genetic code to the structure of proteins. An American Jew, Marshal Nirenberg, received his Nobel prize in 1961 for the cracking of that code.

Watson and Crick's discovery has been hailed as one of the most important scientific discoveries of the century. Since then there has been much further progress in understanding the process of heredity. From mere understanding has now come manipulation, the new and controversial technology of genetic engineering, raising a spectre which frightens many people because of its 'Brave New World' and '1984' implications, and cheers others who see it as a key to eradicating mongolism and hereditary illnesses, even if they do not subscribe to the creation of a race of blonde, blue-eyed supermen. But the real, so-called 'Secret of Life', how it all began and whether it can ever be recreated out of amorphous material has not yet been solved . . . and may well never be.

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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.

**Birth**

**Lester:**—Mr. H. Lester announces with great pleasure the arrival of a grand-daughter, Natalie Rochelle; second daughter for René and Ruth, sister for Louise. Second grandchild of the late Mrs Elizabeth Lester.

**Birthdays**

**Jacoby:**—The AJR Club sends its love and warmest congratulations to its Chairman Mrs Margaret Jacoby on the occasion of her 104th birthday on 22 May.

**Reimann:**—Mrs Elly Reimann, widow of Prof. Albert Reimann, of 11 Hillcrest Avenue, London NW11, celebrates her 94th birthday on 8 May 1986. Warmest congratulations from all her family.

**Deaths**

**Collin:**—Mrs. Olga Olly Collin, of 172 Grove End Gardens, London NW8, died peacefully on 14 March at

the age of 100. A president and co-founder, with her husband, of the Bonn B'nai B'rith Lodge, esteemed for her courageous and devoted personality, a loving and beloved mother, she is deeply mourned by her son and daughter and by her sister, granddaughter, nephews, nieces and all who knew her.

**Goldschmidt:**—Clara Goldschmidt, of 44 Vernon Court, London NW2, formerly Offenbach am Main, died on 7 March in her 89th year. Sadly missed by her relatives, friends and neighbours.

**Hanbury:**—Hanni Hanbury died December 1985 in the Morris Feinman Home. Shalom - Anni Linton.

**Levi:**—Gertrude (Trudel) Levi died suddenly at the Royal Free Hospital on 26 March. Mourned by her sister Marei, nieces and nephew and her many friends.

**Oettinger:**—Trude Oettinger died suddenly on 19 March. Greatly missed by all her former colleagues.

**Salinger:**—Teddy (Gerhard) Salinger, of 50 Viceroy Close, Bristol Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, died peacefully on 7 March, aged 88. Missed with great sorrow by his devoted wife Hilde and all the family. Remembered with affection and admiration by all who knew him.

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**POLAK.** Miss Erwi Polak, born about 1914 in Austria, worked in a jeweller's in the Kaertnerstrasse in Vienna and emigrated to London in 1938, where she was a jeweller. Would she or anyone knowing her whereabouts please contact Ubaldus J. M. Overmars (third cousin), Frans Duwaerstraat 2, 4333 CV Middelburg, Holland.

**GESUCHT:** Die Sexta Mädchen 1937-38 Privatschule der Jüdischen Gemeinde, Wilsnackerstrasse 3, Berlin-Moabit, von ihrer Klassenlehrerin Sophie Friedlander, 3 Park Drive, London NW11 7SG.

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## OBITUARIES

### EUGEN GERSTENMAIER

One of the founding fathers of the Federal German Republic and a former Bundestag Speaker, died in Bonn, aged 79. As a theological student in 1934, Gerstenmaier was already strongly opposed to Nazism and later joined the oppositional Confessing Church, where he worked in the Foreign Department. A member of the Resistance group *Kreisauer Kreis*, he was imprisoned after the abortive attempt on Hitler's life in 1944. As part of his post-war statesmanlike activity, he was anxious to further normal relations with Germany's former enemies. In particular he visited Israel in the hope of reconciliation with the Jewish community.

### ALICE GOLDBERGER

How well do I remember when we brought, with the permission of the Home Office and the Jewish Refugee Committee under the Central British Fund, 800 children from concentration camps to this country, among them a group between the ages of 3 and 16 who had emotional problems due to their shattering experiences. I knew to whom to turn - to Alice Goldberger who had worked under Anna Freud in wartime nurseries for difficult children. Sir Benjamin Drage put his house at Lingfield at our disposal.

My first meeting with Alice left an indelible mark, the expression on her face, her soul in her eyes.

Alice became a true Mother to all these children, she had this deep understanding for each individual child. No Mother could have been closer to her own child, all of them received her undivided love. All the members of Alice's family had perished in concentration camps so this little family became her own new world.

Wherever the children were after they grew up or emigrated they kept in touch and visited her regularly - Alice was their life-line. The birthday parties, the engagement and wedding parties and the Jewish festivals were truly unforgettable and so was the joy of the children.

My last visit to Alice and Sophie remains in my mind, she even took me immediately into her arms. She was at peace in Osmond House, her closeness to Rabbi Hugo Gryn gave her strength until she closed her eyes. Whenever I visited Alice I felt blessed and serene.

The love she gave to all of us should keep us united to dedicate our lives to giving as she did.

Lola Hahn-Warburg

### TRUDE OETTINGER

Mrs. Trude Oettinger died on 19th March 1986 at the age of 78. Born in Nuremberg, she emigrated to London in 1934, working initially as a dress-maker, but soon turning to office work, where she could maximise her considerable administrative ability. In 1966 she joined the AJR to take charge of the Association's Membership Department, a key position in the Organisation which she filled with exceptional energy for eighteen years.

Trude Oettinger was blessed with an engaging personality and an exceptional understanding for people's personal problems. The fact that over the years the Association's membership continued to increase, owed much to her personal devotion to our cause.

She retired from the AJR in 1984, hoping to devote more time to her interests in the theatre and arts. She enjoyed the respect and esteem of her colleagues and the love of her wide circle of friends.

L.S.

### HEINZ EDGAR KIEWE

As already reported, Heinz Edgar Kiewe died suddenly in Oxford on 5 February, a few months before his 80th birthday. A native of Königsberg, he became a recognised authority on wool and the history and design of knitwear, embroidery and tapestries. Having obtained a scholarship at the Reimann School, Berlin, he travelled widely in Europe, Russia and the U.S.A., all the while furthering his specialised interests and working for the trade paper *Textil Woche*.

He came to England in March 1933, and six months later launched Art Needlework Industries Ltd ANI with the object of encouraging the development in England of modern textile craft hitherto imported from the Continent. Internment in May 1940 interrupted this work, but he made use of the tremendous scientific, literary and artistic talent in the Onchan camp by organising the *Popular University* whose programme of lectures and debates contributed in large measure to the maintenance of camp morale.

Released in 1941, he rejoined his family who had moved to Oxford. There, in Ship Street, he reestablished ANI and maintained it for more than 40 years. Through mail order he built up a world-wide clientele, but would not let the demands of business interfere with his scholarly interests which led to the discovery of ancient Eastern origins of patterns and designs not only in remote parts of the world but also, he was greatly pleased to find, among the Jews in biblical times. He lectured frequently and in many countries; he

also published a number of books, among them a copiously illustrated volume on 'Civilisation on Loan.'

It is not given to many to combine the demands of everyday work with the intensive and enthusiastic pursuit of a hobby, but Kiewe achieved it to the full. By his deep knowledge of his chosen subject he made a contribution to life which, in its quality, was typical of the refugees who came to this country from Germany in the 1930s.

C.T.M.

### LEOPOLD SZONDI

Regarded as the founder of whole-life psychoanalysis, the son of a Hungarian cobbler died in Küsnacht, Switzerland, aged 83. He was Professor of Psychopathology and Psychotherapy in Budapest until 1941, when he lost his post on racial grounds. In 1944 he was sent to Bergen-Belsen, but a few months later escaped to Switzerland, where he established the *Internationale Forschungsgemeinschaft für Schicksalsanalyse*.

### PAUL FALKENBERG

An assistant director and film editor to such names as G. W. Pabst, Fritz Lang and Carl Theodor Dreyer on works like 'Pandora's Box' and 'M,' died recently in New York, aged 83. After emigration Falkenberg worked in several European countries until eventually settling in the U.S.A., where he joined Luis Buñuel in Hollywood.

\*

*Dr. Ernst Rathenau*, a member of the famous German-Jewish family, died in Bad Nauheim in his late 80s. An art expert, his commentaries on modern graphic works are widely respected.

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Persons combining relevant management experience with a strong, yet warm personality, and having a nursing qualification, and/or CQSW/CSS, are invited to apply.

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M. Ross, CBF Residential Care and Housing Association, Central Offices, Osmond House, The Bishops Avenue, London N2 0BG. Tel: 01-209 0022.

### Jasha Heifetz at 85

The legendary violinist has just turned 85. After 12 years of retirement, he now lives quietly in Beverly Hills, taking a few chosen students and occasionally lending his support to environmental causes.

### Master Mind

To be a winner in the BBC Mastermind's contest is no mean achievement. The distinction fell to the son of a Jewish refugee from Czechoslovakia, Andrew Turek, who will probably go into the finals.

### Yekkes' Conceit

Chaim Bermant, in the *J.C.*, about Fred Worms, chairman of the Hillel Foundation: 'He is a self-confessed Yekke, and what is insufferable about Yekkes is that the good conceit they have of themselves is usually justified. It is abundantly so in the case of Fred, especially as he has a talent - unknown among Yekkes - for tempering earnestness with geniality.'

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