

AJR INFORMATION

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SOVIETS AND JEWS

Myth and Truth

As we watch, with admiration and not a little pride, the struggle waged by Jewish, as well as non-Jewish, dissidents against the injustices of the Government of Soviet (Bolshevik) Russia, many of us will remember that once upon a time Jews were thought to be the supporters if not the begetters, of Bolshevism. Indeed Bolshevism was said to be 'Jewish' because so many Jews were involved in the Russian Revolution of November 1917. It was not only Nazi propaganda that spread, to the point of madness (though madness with a method), the untruths of 'Jewish Communism'. Many otherwise normal people, even in this country, suffered from similar delusions. Diehard Conservatives were foremost in denouncing Bolshevism as 'a 100 per cent Jewish conspiracy'; the *Times* discovered that there was no better way of arousing public indignation against Bolshevism than by calling it 'Jewish', and even Winston Churchill's judgment was temporarily unhinged.

Of course Jews were prominent among the Bolshevik leaders, none more so than Leon Trotsky who was later murdered by Stalin, and a long list could easily be drawn up. It would be surprising if it had not been so, seeing the persecution Jews had suffered under the pogrom-ridden Tsarist regime. If we honour the struggle of the present dissidents, we must also respect those who rose in furious revolt against the Tsar, doing away even with the democratic Kerensky Government. Their volcanic passions could not stop short of violent revolution.

They were not religious Jews nor Zionists, but they were determined to avenge themselves of the indignities and iniquities inflicted on them as indeed on the whole of Russian society. No wonder many of our people in the West went far to sympathise with them. The *Jewish Chronicle* was actually pleased to think that many of the ideas of Bolshevism were close to the ideas of Judaism. This was a little, possibly more than a little, exaggerated but in the circumstances of the time, it was perhaps pardonable, all too hopeful, euphoria.

Certainly it was not foreseen that Bolshevism would prove itself the old iniquity writ large. The

new rulers had brought about a revolution, yes, but not of the roots and the essentials of life. One set of Tsars had been replaced by another, and there were good reasons why no one ever impressed Hitler as much as did Stalin, another Ivan the Terrible. Though 'antisemitism' was outlawed in the Soviet Constitution, it could easily, and 'legally', be practised under the name of 'anti-Zionism' – quite apart from such arbitrary charges as 'parasitism', 'anti-State propaganda', 'defaming the social system' etc. Therefore, so far as Jews were concerned, the struggle had to be taken up again. They were joined by others, for the issue were human rights in the widest sense, although Jews had their special concerns now

inspired by a force that did not exist before – the State of Israel. Admittedly, not all care for Zionism but, sure of themselves, they want to be rid of a system, Bolshevism, that, whatever hopes might have been cherished at the beginning, could soon be seen to have no regard for the rights and the dignity of man.

Now it is obvious that Bolshevism never was 'Jewish', any more than any other movement in which Jews may once have been prominent. It was just an agent of rebellion against tyranny – only to turn into tyranny itself. That's why Jews were led to welcome it at first, and that's why they are now foremost in resisting it. All honour to those engaged in this struggle. By their courage and resolution, however tenuous their condition, they have won for themselves (and for us) the freedom that was given to our forefathers in Egypt by the signs and wonders which we remember at Passover this month.

THE Daily Telegraph LOOKS IN AT THE AJR

Under the heading 'The Swastika's Indelible Shadow', the *Daily Telegraph*, 25 February, published a lengthy account of the AJR's work. A staff writer, Guy Rais, stressed particularly the social concern of 'a voluntary group dedicated to erasing the enduring loneliness of refugees'. For many (he said) the highlight of each week was a visit to the Day Centre where 'in an informal, warm atmosphere, the men and women chatter in their native tongue, reminiscing over old days and a way of life that is long gone'.

Attention was drawn to the new Day Centre soon to be available in West Hampstead, thanks to a donation from the Paul Balint Charitable Trust. The purpose-built house in Cleve Road would be open more frequently than the present twice a week schedule.

All the considerable work involved (it was stressed) is done by volunteers. The AJR's 'indefatigable administrator', Mrs. Lydia Lassman, was quoted as saying: 'Volunteers are our life blood. Without them, we couldn't function with any success'.

Particular mention was made of the Meals on Wheels service run entirely by volunteers. Mrs. Ruth Anderman who founded the service 20 years ago told the writer: 'At first we cooked and froze meals. It was so much appreciated by our members, many of whom couldn't get about, that

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THE DAY CENTRE

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in

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See Advert on Page 5

Television Review

NAZI REFUGEES IN BRITAIN

by D. L. Maier

The Jews who found a refuge in this country from Nazi oppression, have good cause to say, and have often said, 'Thank you, Britain!' It may come as a surprise to them that their gratitude may well be shared by a number of their persecutors who also found shelter in these islands. How these men were able to save themselves, when retribution pointed their finger at them, was the subject of a television documentary recently shown on Channel Four (*Report Britain - the Nazi Safe House*).

The film reminds us that, at their meeting in 1943, the Allied leaders adopted a formal policy, committing their nations to the pursuit of Nazi criminals. Churchill had a list of the hundred 'worst Nazis' who, if caught, were to be shot 'humanely and swiftly', though the indictment would be read to them first. But then the climate of political opinion changed. Once the war was over, there was less urgency to seek out war criminals; and, even during the Nuremberg trials, enthusiasm for indicting anyone not actually before that tribunal waned. As Greville Janner (Joint Secretary of the All-Party War crimes Group) points out, with the beginning of the cold war era there came a feeling of 'having had enough' of war trials; looking round for new enemies made it logical to look more kindly on those who had, after all, fought the 'real enemy', Russia. The past was to be disposed of as soon as possible and Nazi-hunting was to be stopped.

And thus it came about that some non-German nationals were allowed to come to Britain, to live here in safety and die here in peace, notwith-

standing the fact that they stood accused elsewhere and, in some cases, were tried, convicted and sentenced for acts of horrifying brutality. That they eluded their accusers was due to the assertion of successive British governments that, firstly, no extradition treaties existed with either the U.S.S.R. or Israel and, secondly, too much time had elapsed since the alleged acts had been committed. The makers of the TV Report take leave to contrast the 'public face' of official Britain - expressed most recently and most memorably by Mrs. Thatcher's obvious pain and horror after her visit last year to *Yad Vashem* - with its 'private indifference' to the prosecution of Nazi war crimes.

Some of the documents at the disposal of investigators are still top secret. Others are in the public domain and constitute, in their eyes, at least *prima facie* evidence of participation in crimes against humanity. Perhaps the most bizarre chapter in this bizarre story is the astonishing career of Dr. Dering, the plaintiff in the famous 1964 libel action in which, after a hearing of five weeks, he was awarded contemptuous damages of 1/2d against Leon Uris in respect of certain passages in the latter's novel *Exodus*. Not only did Dr. Dering find sanctuary, first in Scotland and then in England, he was awarded an OBE for his work as a doctor in the Colonial Service. By the time he brought his case, he had established himself in a lucrative practice in London.

The Report makes no attempt to spare feelings in its endeavour to throw light into dark corners.

Government taking no Action

The British Government decided to take no action against alleged (mainly Baltic) war criminals said to be still living in Britain. Such action was demanded by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles, but it was considered that the evidence offered was not sufficient. On this point, the Government was in agreement with members of the Board of Deputies whose executive vice-chairman, Eric Moonman, warned against an 'indiscriminate campaign' of allegations because of 'the serious way it will affect individual human beings'. Also since some of the material appeared to have been gathered in Eastern Europe, Moonman feared possible manipulation by the Soviets who might use the issue both to point a finger at the West and to divert the attention of world Jewry from their own restrictions on Jewish rights, particularly emigration to Israel.

With this view, Moonman differed from a distinguished fellow-member of the Board, Greville Janner, Labour MP, who named a number of people under parliamentary privilege.

The Government was supported in a *Times* editorial which made the following points: British

'laws enshrine principles of justice tempered with mercy, not vengeance. . . . If the practice of those principles means that some of the guilty go free, that is how it must be'. Being in a psychological situation different from that of Germany, Israel and the former Nazi-occupied countries, Britain had 'no common will to settle old scores'. In the absence of conclusive evidence that a serious war criminal was harboured here, it was 'wise and humane to let matters rest'.

There is also perhaps another consideration. Whatever the evidence, it was bound to be qualified by the fact that more than a lifetime has passed since the crimes were committed, and in any legal proceedings it would be virtually impossible to establish a case beyond reasonable doubt. The result would be that while the facts of the crimes would be usefully recalled, the accused would appear the victim of a witchhunt, and having hitherto been left in wretched obscurity, would now receive public sympathy. On reflection, it seems unlikely that such a result would be desirable from a Jewish point of view. It would rather appear to be both morally questionable and realistically unfortunate.

NO REPRIEVE IN HOLLAND

Two German war criminals are still held in Holland - Franz Fischer, 86, and Ferdinand aus den Fünten, 78. They were responsible for the deportation and death of at least 80,000 Jews. The original death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. Professing to be deeply affected by what they had now learnt from TV programmes, and deeply regretting their part in the crimes, they have appealed for mercy, but a public opinion poll (reported in the *Times*) indicated that any hint of leniency would be extremely unpopular. It was surprising to find that considerably fewer Dutch under 35 were prepared to be merciful than their elders who lived under German rule. The Minister of Justice confessed he did not realise memories of wartime suffering were still so strong. An expert on the Nazi occupation was quoted as saying: 'Looking back, it would probably have been better to have shot those men in the first place. But at least keeping them locked up until they die will provide us with something to remember about the nightmare years in the Netherlands'.

*

Dossiers for prosecuting up to 70 suspected Nazi criminals living in Australia are being prepared by the Australian Government. The Attorney General (Senator Lionel Bowen) promised every effort to ensure that people alleged by Nazi-hunting groups in Israel and the U.S.A. to have been responsible for 'serious war crimes' were brought to justice.

Daily Telegraph

concluded from front page

it grew rapidly'. Each meal costs £1 - or less to those who can't afford £1. Two meals are delivered every Monday and Wednesday, with three on Friday for the weekend.

Volunteers were also stated to be helping refugees fill in complicated forms to reclaim what had been stolen from them by the Nazis. The AJR played a large part in influencing the Government's decision to free from income tax those pensions received by German and Austrian victims of Nazi persecution.

Refugees (it was noted) still seek information through the columns of their magazine about friends and relatives they have never seen since fleeing. 'Against all logic, they cling to the slender hope that perhaps one of their family might have escaped the holocaust. A few have received miraculous news from America and Israel'.

Notice was also taken of the fact that many of the refugees' children, while integrated into British society, 'do not - and cannot - forget the events that destroyed their parents' heritage'. The secretary of the Association of Children of Jewish Refugees, Anne Salinger, 30, a violinist, whose parents escaped from Berlin in the mid-thirties, explained: 'We are interested in preserving our roots. It is a rewarding experience to be with people who share our backgrounds'.

LUDWIG SPIRO AT 75

Initiative and Energy

When Ludwig Spiro talks about himself, as he—infrequently—does, he is apt to volunteer the self-deprecating observation that he is after all 'only an engineer' and what he really understands best is—pumps. Some of us will suspect that this, while true, is perhaps not the whole truth, but if one may say so, it will do, because, as we all know or can easily ascertain, pumps are 'machines for raising, driving, exhausting fluids'. In fact, according to the Oxford Standard Dictionary, the idea of pumping is to 'cause to move vigorously up and down'. Not many of our friends will fail to see the connection between Ludwig Spiro and the chosen object of his expertise, and few only can be those among the staff of the AJR who have never felt his power of driving and exhausting and causing all concerned, in whatever state, fluid or solid, to move vigorously up and down.

His 'drive and energy' have been described in this paper on his 70th birthday, and his 'youthful vitality' then noted has not grown less in the five years since. I do not intend to rehash the story that was then extensively told as I do not belong to the historians who repeat one another just because history is supposed to be repeating itself. We all know what Ludwig Spiro stands for, what he has accomplished and is likely to accomplish yet, and at each AGM we must be impressed by the broad and steady sweep with which he surveys the affairs of the AJR.

If he was 'one of the mainstays of our organisation' five years ago, he has conspicuously remained so, undismayed by the handicap of recent ill-health. I don't know whether he did Latin at school in Trier—the very name Spiro must have inspired some curiosity—but in that ancient Roman city he was almost certainly taught the grand lines of Virgil, 'As for you, never be daunted by troubles, but stand up to them, even more daring'. Each time a difficulty presents itself he seems eager to meet the challenge, as he did many times over the administration of the Homes and, more recently, over the Day Centre's move into a place of its own. True, no one can take care of the for ever elusive future, and many forecasters have had cause to blush (though they didn't), so no one will know what may be in store for the AJR, but so long as men like Ludwig Spiro are at the helm, there is every reasonable assurance that we shall, in the best English tradition, muddle through.

The city of Trier, his birthplace, has produced, in Karl Marx, one who excelled in theory that never matched the practice. In Ludwig Spiro it gave us a man of practice who made short shrift of theory. If now, on his 75th birthday, people will ask where is the monument of what he has achieved, he may well say, 'Look around you', and the messages of his friends which we publish below bear honourable witness to it.

May he, restored to good health, long flourish, for our sakes as much as for his, and may he enjoy the fruits of his labour, sustained by the love of his wife Anna and all his family as well as the respect and affection of his friends and all those who have the good fortune of being associated with him in his all-important work.

C. C. Aronsfeld

MESSAGES from FRIENDS

C. T. MARX

Ludwig Spiro's 75th birthday is a splendid opportunity for saying a few words to and about a man who knows what needs to be done and gets on with the work called for. To have known him for more than 40 years, first as a fellow-internee on the Isle of Man and then becoming a close neighbour, a good friend, and an active collaborator in the affairs of the AJR, is also to admire him for the dedication that accompanies all that he attempts.

He came to this country as a young, fully qualified engineer and can now look back on a successful career in industry, most of it spent with Scottish manufacturers of heavy engineering equipment. He specialised in industrial pumps on which he is an acknowledged expert. The combination of an extensive knowledge of all aspects of their design, manufacture, and performance with a supreme negotiating ability enabled him to secure important and valuable contracts at home and abroad for the benefit of his employers, as well as British industry as a whole.

With such a background it is not surprising that

AJR found in Ludwig Spiro more than just a treasurer concerned with finance. When some years ago administrative problems beset our operations he personally took charge, reorganised the office, changed staff, modernised equipment and methods, initiated new projects, and generally ensured a better service to our members and the community. At the same time he doubled as chairman of the management committee for the old age homes, now constituted as the CBF Residential Care and Housing Association.

To his varied activities for the AJR Ludwig Spiro has brought an industrialist's wide range of experience, an engineer's appreciation of the importance of precision and detail in planning, and above all a caring warmth and unerring feel for the needs of our people.

We, the members of AJR, express our grateful thanks for all he has done for our Association and join his numerous friends at home and abroad in wishing him many happy returns of the day and continued good health and happiness.

MAX M. KOCHMANN

When Ludwig Spiro took on the job of Honorary Treasurer of the AJR I was impressed by the energy and enthusiasm which he devoted to this task. I was also attracted by his personality and competence, his personal warmth and straight talking. It made me respond to his challenge to build a new and important future for the AJR, as an organisation serving the needs of former refugees and their families. When I joined the executive in 1977 and worked with him on the execution of his ideas, I found Ludwig Spiro's strong leadership, backed by his wide experience in management, soon achieved results. In a relatively short period the AJR and the CBF Homes have been transformed into effective organisations serving our people. This is undoubtedly due to Ludwig Spiro's unique blend of professionalism and enthusiasm. He brought us together and forged a team working as friends. He created a foundation on which we all can build to improve the service to our community.

I am delighted to have this opportunity of expressing my thanks to Ludwig Spiro on the occasion of his 75th Birthday for having given me the chance to join him and reap the benefits of his friendship and leadership. I wish him good health and future happiness and look forward to the continuation of our friendship for a long time to come.

OWEN FRANKLYN

As a member of the Council and Management Committee and as one of the Honorary Officers of the CBF Residential Care and Housing Association of which organisation Ludwig Spiro is the Chairman, I have had the privilege of working with him to advance a cause which I know is close to his heart, namely the old-age homes in The Bishop's Avenue and Eleanor Rathbone House. The distinctive feature of his chairmanship is the combination of a broad vision expressed in plans for extension of the homes with the details of care for the problems of residents and their needs. Nothing illustrates this attitude better than the fact that he considers it vital for the performance of his duties to serve on (and in fact to be the Chairman of) a House Committee.

I feel sure that all who are privileged to work with Ludwig Spiro in the CBF Residential Care and Housing Association and all residents of the Homes and of Eleanor Rathbone House will join me in welcoming this opportunity of expressing heartfelt gratitude for the immense amount of work that he has done and continues to do for the organisation and sending him greetings and good wishes on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

CARL F. FLESCH

There will be so many tributes to Ludwig Spiro that I feel tempted to emulate the man in the age-old story who, faced with the task of sending a congratulatory telegram on a similar occasion, simply wired 'Ditto - Cohn'. The unfortunate fact that his was the first message to be read out at the celebratory dinner, does not detract from the soundness of the underlying idea - avoiding repetition. So, after saying - and meaning it! - that Ludwig is one of the men I most admire for his many obvious qualities and, not least, his

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Egon Larsen

SEVEN YEARS' GRACE

Germany's Exiled Writers in France

Very little has been published about that great upheaval in Germany's cultural and artistic history, the mass emigration of intellectuals, writers, journalists, painters and so on after the Reichstag fire of February, 1933: Jews as well as prominent anti-Nazis. Where did they go, what happened to them, how did they fare in their new homes? We know some of the answers so far as Britain is concerned, though the comprehensive work about the refugees' history is still missing. Only individual experiences have been published by writers who sought asylum in other countries such as Czechoslovakia, Scandinavia, Switzerland, and a splendid English-language book, *Strangers in Paradise* by John Russell Taylor (reviewed in 1983 in AJR INFORMATION), told us all about the emigrants in Hollywood.

But the shortest exile, though perhaps the most important one – in France – has only now been dealt with in a German book, *Exil und Engagement: Deutsche Schriftsteller im Frankreich der dreissiger Jahre*, by Albrecht Betz, an academic at the Aachen philosophical faculty. Munich, text + kritik, 338 pp., DM 48.

'This study', wrote a leading West German newspaper, 'is not a comprehensive history of the German exile in France'. Of course not, since it deals only with one sector of emigrants, the writers, and concentrates on their political engagement; and it has not been compiled by someone who was himself a refugee, but by a diligent scholar who had to collect his raw material painstakingly from publications and documents. If an ordinary reader wants to find out what happened to some refugee writer, he has to wade through seven appendices, altogether nearly as long as the preceding main text: annotations, bibliographies, a chronology and an index of names, most of them referring only to the other appendices.

What emerges from the main text is that Paris was in those seven years the main refuge of

Germany's literature and journalism in exile. Among the names we find the whole Mann family, Feuchtwanger, Walter Benjamin, Toller, Werfel, Tucholsky, Manès Sperber, Alfred Döblin, Theodor Wolff, Georg Bernhard, Jacob Wassermann, Vicki Baum, Hermann Kesten, Ödön von Horvath, Anna Seghers, Arthur Koestler, René Schickele, Annette Kolb and a few hundred others. But we also find their opponents, Germans who had started as exiles and ended by gliding or hurrying to the new Nazi masters after the occupation – Otto Abetz, Friedrich Sieburg, Gottfried Benn, Ernst Jünger.

Only in one of his appendices Professor Betz registers the first *Internierungswelle* of 1939, when Daladier had 20,000 'enemy aliens' put behind barbed wire – but no word about the German anti-Nazi intellectuals, mostly Jews, interned under Pétain. Vichy France had to hand them over to the Gestapo; some escaped: Heinrich Mann, Feuchtwanger and Werfel fled on foot across the Pyrenees to Spain, while Walter Benjamin killed himself at the frontier. Other suicides among the refugees were Walter Hasenclever, Carl Einstein, Willi Münzenberg, Ernst Weiss, Toller (in New York), and of course Tucholsky (in Sweden). Exiles who killed themselves after 1940 are only mentioned by Betz before they ended their lives, like Klaus Mann, Stefan Zweig, Alfred Wolfenstein.

The book acknowledges the unexpected, liberal help with which the French enabled the German refugee writers and journalists to publish no fewer than 300 books and 1,300 articles, mostly translated, during those seven years of grace. The exiles had their own German-language newspaper, the *Pariser Tageszeitung*, Leopold Schwarzschild established his *Neues Tage-Buch*, the *Neue Weltbühne* found a new home in Paris when Hitler's troops marched into Prague. The *Dépêche de Toulouse* opened its regular columns to exiled writers; so did many French journals. Quite a number of book publishers gladly accepted fiction works from the homeless novelists (even after some of them had settled in Sanary in unoccupied France, or languished in the concentration camp of Gours, waiting to be deported by the Gestapo – two places which Professor Betz does not seem to have heard of). Alfred Döblin even got a job at the French Ministry of Information during the *drôle de guerre*, the 'phoney war'.

The list of the refugees' publications, of dates and venues where each of them addressed some meeting, occupies 100 pages. However, what you will look for in vain in this book are three-dimensional descriptions and impressions of these victims of world history, what kind of people they were, what they looked like and how, as human beings, they managed to bear their lot. One feels there is still another book to be written – preferably by another author who was *dabei*.

Ludwig Spiro Birthday Messages

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talent for friendship, let me turn briefly to the one 'but for whom . . .' – his wife Anna.

Not only has she, in her capacity as spouse, mother, housewife, cook and admirable hostess unflinchingly given him the backing he needed (in addition, incidentally, to performing a demanding job of social work in her own right); but above all, it is she who, through her common sense attitude laced with the driest of humour, manages to bring Ludwig down to earth should he risk flying too high. In this way she smoothes the edges of his outstanding personality and allows his innate charm to shine.

One might call Ludwig and Anna an enjoyable 'Double Act'. They complement and bring out the best in each other. It has made them what they are today – a wholly delightful couple to whom one can only wish the very best for a great many years to come.

H. ROTHENBERG

Since joining the Executive Committee of the AJR some four years ago, I have had ample opportunity to witness the fact that Ludwig Spiro is the key person in ensuring that all runs smoothly and in an orderly fashion in what is a complex and sometimes difficult administration. It demands a great deal of patience, and also an understanding of people; Ludwig is rich in the possession of both these qualities.

He is creative in his concepts of what is required from the AJR and is a source of inspiration to all those who are associated with him.

Ludwig leads by example in the application of compassion, consideration, wisdom and judgement. His imagination, sense of innovation and ability to administer coolly and competently an organisation such as ours, are characteristics much admired by his many friends.

My very best wishes go to Ludwig on his 75th birthday, and may he enjoy an active life with good health and happiness for many years to come.

MARGOT WILLIAMS

Whilst wishing Ludwig Spiro health and happiness for his forthcoming years, I also congratulate the AJR for having his co-operation, his enthusiasm, and his leadership which have guided them all through the last years, and from which I myself benefited greatly.

DERYK PAUSCH

Pausing for reflection on Ludwig Spiro's 75th birthday, I realised that I have known him for half his life and have seen him cope with the demands of international business, relax in the delights of gardening, music and football and apply his energies in support of those in need. To a colleague, friend and mentor, best wishes for a very happy birthday.

NEW PRESIDENT OF TRINITY, OXFORD

Sir John Burgh

The director-general of the British Council since 1980, Sir John Burgh, is to be the new president of Trinity College, Oxford. Sir John is the son of a Viennese Jewish lawyer and was brought to England in 1938 by a Quaker organisation. He went to the Friends' School, Sibford, where he won a scholarship to the London School of Economics. In 1950 he joined the Civil Service as an assistant principal at the Board of Trade and subsequently served in several Government departments. He is a lover of the arts, especially music, and for eight years was assistant secretary to the board of directors at Covent Garden.

AJR

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To be read with the 4 Seder cups in mind

JEWES AND THE VINE

by Ronald Stent

The association between the Jews and that most aristocratic of beverages, the wine—*in vino veritas*—may not be one that springs to mind quickly but it is an ancient one, going back 5,000 years to biblical times. Palestine in fact may have been the cradle of the vine. The Bible is full of references to viticulture which was considered of such vital ritual importance that, in times of conflict, the vintner was in a reserved occupation. The Jews who remained in Palestine after the destruction of the Temple continued to cultivate the vine and of those who were led into slavery in foreign countries many worked as labourers in vineyards.

When, in the wake of the conquering Roman legions, Jews began to move into the valley of the Rhine and settled in places like Worms, Speyer, Mainz and Trier, they soon began to plant vines. Until then it appears, the ancient Teutons had known nothing about the delights of imbibing this nectar. The Jews therefore, together with their Roman masters, are the creators of German (and also French) viticulture.

By the time of Charlemagne (around 800), a number of prosperous Jews had settled along the whole length of the upper Rhine so that Worms was sometimes called the *Jerusalem am Rhein*. In 1084 the reigning Bishop of Speyer specifically granted the Jews the right to own vineyards and to grow and market their products. Some of it was grown for religious purposes only and to qualify as being properly kosher had to be handled throughout by Jewish hands only, but most of it landed on the tables of the good burghers of the country.

The House of Hallgarten

As the 19th century progressed more and more Jews in the valleys of the Rhine, and its tributaries, as well as in Franconia and Baden, became involved in viticulture.

One of the families who have played such a leading part are the Hallgartens from Winkel on the Rhine and it is to the research of one of their members that this reporter owes most of the above information. Fritz Hallgarten, one of the doyens of the British wine trade, founder of the House of Hallgarten, leading expert in the intricacies of the German wine laws and author of many books on the wines of Europe has just published yet another and highly topical book called *Wine Scandal* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson £10.95). It relates in highly readable form, even if it does sometimes dazzle with technical details, some of the famous scandals which have rocked the wine fraternity during the last few decades in Germany, Austria, Spain and Italy.

Hallgarten explains not only with some relish the sordid details of some of the most recent scandals such as the Austrian anti-freeze case with its ramifications stretching into Italy and Germany, the scandals of false labelling in Spain,

Unfortunately the halcyon days for the Jews soon came to an end. The crusades starting in the 11th century wrought havoc amongst the Jews settled along the Rhine and its tributaries. It is estimated that in a particular period of three months some 12,000 Jews were massacred. From time to time some Jewish communities enjoyed brief periods of security. The emperor Henry IV for instance issued a *Schutzbrief* to the Jews of Speyer and Worms granting them the right to sell 'wine, vegetables and medicines to Christians'. But such periods of relative safety inevitably led to further repression and persecution; yet the amazing stamina, anchored in their faith, enabled them to survive as communities.

Throughout the next centuries few Jewish families remained either as planters of the vine or as wine merchants and it was only at the end of the Thirty Years War in the 17th century that Jews were again permitted to earn a living in occupations other than moneylending. In 1713 the town council of Frankfurt decreed that they could import kosher wines and sell them to fellow-Jews but could not handle other vintages.

Even that enlightened monarch and friend of Moses Mendelssohn, Frederic the Great, decreed in 1750 that Jews could not own any land and engage in any trade other than the lending of money. As Mendelssohn commented later: 'They tie our hands and then accuse us of not making use of them'.

It was only in the wake of the French revolution and the Napoleonic wars that German Jews were gradually allowed to own land and to return to the agricultural occupations which they had freely enjoyed 100 years before.

France and almost all other wine producing countries, the spurious use of the *Liebfraumilch* label, but also how often, particularly in Germany, the authorities deliberately shut their eyes to cases of patent deception. He gives none of the supervising bodies or professional associations in any country a clean bill of health but it is the government of the state of Rheinland-Pfalz, its supervising as well as its prosecuting arms, that he is most concerned with. As a leading expert in the German wine-laws he cites chapter and verse of cases of fraud and deception which were not properly investigated and prosecuted, wine bottles with labels falsely claiming that the wine had come from a particular vineyard or even district or giving the wine a higher quality description than it deserved.

Fritz Hallgarten's book can hardly have been received with much joy by the German wine fraternity but for those of us who enjoy their occasional bottle of Hock, Moselle, Claret, Chianti, Champagne or whatever else one may fancy, the book is a most useful and interesting compendium.

'JEWISH CULTURE' FESTIVAL IN FRANKFURT

'Building bridges between the Jewish and non-Jewish citizens of this city' was the slogan of Frankfurt's annual 'Days of Jewish Culture', a joint venture of the city council and the local Jewish community. This year, between 8 and 21 February, Jewish literature, theatre and film were featured. Foremost was a performance by a Berlin theatre group of An-Ski's *Dybbuk* in a version which the English producer Bruce Myers managed to reduce to a cast of two. Another Yiddish play, *Mirele Efros*, was performed by the Bukarest Yiddish Theatre.

A new film produced in Israel by Peter Lilienthal, *Das Schweigen des Dichters* ('The Poet's Silence'), was based on a story of the Israeli author A. B. Yehoshua, showing life with a mentally handicapped son. Several authors read from their works—Dr. Hans Mayer from his memoirs *Ein Deutscher auf Widerruf* ('German until further notice'), and Cordelia Edvardson, daughter of the Catholic poetess Elisabeth Langgässer, from her autobiographical novel *Gebanntes Kind sucht das Feuer* ('Once burnt but keen on the fire'). Milos Sperber read from the writings of his father Manès Sperber.

The Villa Nussbaum in Osnabrück has been acquired by the city and is to serve as a municipal centre for exhibitions and social inter-group functions.

TV FILM

Holocaust Remembrance

On Remembrance Sunday last year an ITV programme acknowledged that Jews have more to remember than most. Entitled *They Never Touched My Bread*, it was a last testimony of two Theresienstadt survivors, pianist Edith Kraus and Karel Berman, bass, who were re-united after 40 years, in a concert in Canterbury's Old Synagogue, of music composed in the camp. Edith Kraus played some of the music she studied with Viktor Ullman and Pavel Haas who both perished at Auschwitz.

The film also showed a Jewish choir, singing in Hebrew in a Christian Cathedral. It was made in the summer during the B'nai Brith Jewish Music Festival when the Dean of Canterbury was host to a vast congregation of Jews and Christians and welcomed them with warmth and sorrow to a performance of a *Kaddish for Terezin* (reported in AJR INFORMATION, August 1986). The television film has now placed this act of reconciliation between Christians and Jews on record.

The concert in the old synagogue was devised by Dr. David Bloch, Head of Musicology at Tel Aviv University where he teaches a course on Music in Terezin. Songs by Berman, Haas and Ullman were combined with Gideon Klein's piano sonata and string quartet.

A book on *Music in Terezin* by Josa Karas is available and viewings of the film and hearings of the *Kaddish for Terezin* can be arranged through B'nai Brith Jewish Music Festival, Hillel House, 1/2 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DS, or ring 387 5278 or 907 1905 (evenings).

Sophie Friedlander

BLUEPRINT FOR SPIRITUAL RESISTANCE

The Herrlingen School

Erziehung zum Geistigen Widerstand ('Education for Spiritual Resistance') is the title of the history written by Lucie Schachne of the Jewish *Landschulheim* ('Country Boarding School') at Herrlingen, near Ulm, S.W. Germany, 1933-1939 (Frankfurt. 1986. 266pp. £8.50). Mrs. Schachne, a trained teacher and journalist, for many years associated with the Camden Committee of Community Relations for Racial Minorities, once was a pupil at that unique school which became a 'spiritual oasis' in a hostile environment, however beautiful the countryside. With broad strokes, she draws the historical backcloth of the life of German Jewry in the 1920s, from the assimilated Jewish Germans to recent Eastern immigrants, from the decline of Jewish schools on the one hand to the revival of Jewishness through the Jewish youth movement and Zionism on the other. The Jews steeped in Jewish culture and tradition are shown to have been among the first to give a Jewish answer to Nazi rule.

With profound religious convictions and steeped in an intimate knowledge of both Jewish and German culture, a Jewish educationist, Hugo Rosenthal, was fully equipped to start a Jewish boarding-school able to impart to its pupils the idea of German-Jewish symbiosis. It was to become a refuge for Jewish boys and girls who had been expelled from the state schools, and to give them a new cultural home in Judaism, a new self-confidence and dignity, at a time when parents and children alike had lost all ground under their feet.

A Lively Community

The school was run on the lines of a German *Landschulheim*, trying to develop the *whole* of the child through the medium of a simple community life close to nature, with active participation in the running of the school by *all* its members. A rich selection of children's and staff contributions, as well as Rosenthal's own comprehensive records, show what a lively community was created from humble beginnings. In this respect Herrlingen was similar to other community schools. What gave it a special distinction was Rosenthal's unerring demand for a thorough Jewish education which was to reach all branches of the widespread school life.

Since staff and pupils came mainly from assimilated backgrounds, with little or no knowledge of things Jewish, this was no easy task. The increasingly intense preparations for the festivals were given ever greater attention, until eventually the *Lernzeiten* took up six whole weeks of teaching time.

You can imagine how Martin Buber, a close friend of Rosenthal's and a frequent visitor to the

* Ms Friedlander, with a Berlin University degree in English and Geography, was teaching, from 1933 to 1937, at the *Landschulheim Caputh*, near Potsdam, which has been described as 'the Herrlingen of the North'.

school, enhanced the Jewish atmosphere of the place with his presence. The conscientiously drawn up curriculum for each subject included every possible reference to matters of Jewish concern though Rosenthal's honest records also tell where they failed in practice, for practical subjects, however elaborately planned, were all too often taken up by the less able children because parents still preferred the academic side of schooling.

All this is well mirrored in the book. For the researcher there are detailed footnotes, a bibliography, short biographies of pupils and staff. Between them they tell the story of a courageous enterprise with a life span of only five years.

Mrs. Schachne's book has appeared in a series *Pädagogische Beispiele in Institutionsgeschichte*, edited by Professor Hildegard Feidel-Mertz, and there is much to support the view expressed by the writer of the introduction, Shlomo Han, that the *Landschulheim Herrlingen* 'could be a model of every Jewish school and every effort to provide a general education inspired by the ideals of humanism'.

The book is obtainable in this country from Mrs. Ruth Scharon, 11 Templars Avenue, Golders Green, London N.W.11. An English translation is expected in the early summer.

YOUNG FASCIST JEW'S FORTUNES

Dan Vittorio Segre tells the unique story of a man who would be the first to admit that its uniqueness owes more to circumstances—family circumstances, to be precise—than to any personal merit. The Segres were Piedmontese Jews whose past services to Italian Unification, together with their wealth, gave them an entree to court circles. The author's father was a gentleman farmer, huntsman, and mayor of 'his' village. In the Great War he felt dutybound to volunteer while putting pressure on his tenants to do likewise; since many of them got killed he became deeply unpopular. After the war he supported Mussolini and became an officer in the Fascist Party—seeing no contradiction between that and his observance of traditional Jewish customs. The author's convert uncle was a factory owner whom Mussolini inveigled into a project to industrialise backward Sardinia. In recognition of his services he was about to be made a Count when the antisemitic laws of 1938 wrote *finis* to his snobbish ambitions—as well as to centuries of Jewish-Italian symbiosis.

The antisemitic legislation totally ruptured the life of 16-year old Vittorio Segre, a life which had hitherto oscillated between school and Fascist youth camp, riding stables and tennis court. Obligated to attend a Jewish school in Turin, he rediscovered his roots and became a Zionist. The outbreak of war found him bound for Palestine, where he was to attend an agricultural college.

"Sandpaper Caresses"

In the wartime Yishuv he witnessed, and was disconcerted by, the bitter contention between Zionist and Revisionist, secularist and Orthodox, pragmatist and fanatic. He inhabited a land of 'sandpaper caresses', where 'people laughed in Hebrew during the day and cried in many languages at night'. He joined the British army and took part in the invasion of Italy, where he was reunited with his family. His uncle had survived in the Vatican, his mother in a convent, and his father in the village none of whose 700 inhabitants had given him away.

This goes some way towards explaining the book's title. In his heart of hearts, though, Segre does not feel fortunate. Too much has happened to sadden him—from the trauma of the antisemitic decrees, to the wartime divisions of the Yishuv, and the growing pains of the State of Israel. In addition, though most of the family had survived, few had remained Jews. (When the mother died in Israel it was in a convent; when the uncle was terminally ill his wife wrapped the white stockings once worn by Pope Pacelli's maid round his neck). The *Memoirs of a Fortunate Jew* comprises all manner of misfortunes, private and public, individual and collective. But for all that it is an engrossing tale, deeply felt, imaginatively conceived and memorably expressed.

RICHARD GRUNBERGER

* *Memoirs of a Fortunate Jew*. (London, Peter Halban £12.95)

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New German Books

A UNIQUE FAMILY

New Volume of the Mendelssohn Studies

The history of the Mendelssohn family, now covering over 200 years, is unique. Descendants of one genius have retained the creative power of their progenitor. Though having left the Jewish fold very early, they are free of the defects of renegades. A recently published collection of essays and letters pertinent to the Mendelssohn saga is a most valuable further contribution to this fascinating theme – *Mendelssohn-Studien, Band 6*, edited by Cécile Lowenthal-Hensel and Rudolf Elvers. Berlin. Duncker & Humblot, 1986. DM 65.

Only one essay (by Gisela Gantzel-Kress) expressly refers to the Jewish origin of the family. It deals with an exchange of letters between Otto Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, on the occasion of his ennoblement in 1907, and his cousin, the eminent Professor of Law, Albrecht. Both were grandsons of the composer, but whereas Otto, the banker, lived in the conservative Prussian atmosphere of Potsdam, Albrecht's outlook was shaped by the liberal approach of South-West Germany where his father, the historian Carl, had been a university teacher. 'Bearing the name of the great-great-grandfather is incompatible with a position within the Prussian nobility', Albrecht writes. The problem was not new in the family. Similarly, Abraham Mendelssohn reproached his son Felix for calling himself simply Mendelssohn and disregarding the adopted added name of Bartholdy. On the other hand, it appears that the two heads of the banking firm, Franz Mendelssohn and Ernst Mendelssohn-Bartholdy had no qualms in this respect when they were ennobled in 1888 and 1896 respectively.

The position of the family under the Nazis is reflected in two contributions. An essay by Cécile

Lowenthal-Hensel quotes letters of condolence on the occasion of the death of Franz von Mendelssohn in 1935. The writers include some personalities who had retained their positions, like Minister of Finances, Schwerin von Krosigk, and the Lord Mayor of Berlin, Sahm, as well as Weimar politicians like ex-Minister Hermann Dietrich (after 1945 a co-founder of the FDP). Franz von Mendelssohn was for many years President of the Berlin *Industrie- und Handelskammer*, the German *Industrie- und Handelstag* and of the International Federation of Chambers of Commerce. At the same time, he was a munificent and actively involved supporter of many cultural and scientific ventures. Though baptised in the second generation and only half-Jewish by origin, he always proudly owned up to the values of his antecedents and was aware of the obligations incumbent upon him as a descendant of Moses Mendelssohn. This was also acknowledged within the Jewish community as letters of condolence by Leo Baeck and other leading personalities, as well as obituaries in the *C. V.-Zeitung* and the *Jüdische Rundschau* affirm.

Another phenomenon of the family's status in the twilight of the first Nazi years is the role played by the banking firm in financing the oil industry of Estonia, a scheme commenced in the twenties. The minutes published in the essay of Manfred Rasch repeatedly refer to negotiations conducted in 1935 and later between the firm's partners Rudolf Loeb and Dr. Paul Kempner and officials of the *Reich* which was a party to the scheme especially in order to secure oil for the Navy.

Moses and Felix

New assessments of the life and work of Moses Mendelssohn again evoke admiration for this man of humble background who managed to acquire a knowledge which put him on equal level with leading thinkers of his time. Brought up in the Judaic-German speaking milieu he became outstanding in mastering the German language. Thus, the next generation of his family was more proficient in its style than most of their Jewish contemporaries. The letters of Moses Mendelssohn's daughter, Henriette, from Paris, where she was the governess of a general's daughter, to her niece Fanny Mendelssohn-Bartholdy bear witness to it. The versatility of Felix, the composer, becomes evident in this correspondence with his cousin, the painter Philipp Veit, Director of the *Städelsche Kunstinstitut* in Frankfurt. It reflects his understanding of visual art, a field in which he was also creative. Life of the upper, and in many cases baptised, stratum of Berlin Jewry is vividly described in the letters of Felix's other sister, Rebecka.

There were repeated intermarriages within the Mendelssohn family with two Gentile families, Westphal and Wach. The letters published in the book reveal the strong feelings of kinship between the relatives. It is interesting to note that in the past people devoted much more time to their – handwritten – communications, in spite of their manifold other commitments. Felix Mendelssohn is the shining example. It is also gratifying that the store of family letters which have survived the upheavals of our time seems inexhaustible.

The new volume of the *Mendelssohn-Studien* adds to the knowledge of descendants of Moses and Fromet Mendelssohn, who gained eminence in the fields of arts, scholarship, industry and commerce. It is also to be commended as a piece of excellent editorship. There are explanatory notes to the text of the letters, and footnotes are placed at the bottom of the pages and not at the end of the book as now becomes increasingly customary. Equally helpful is the index.

SAD STORY

The present trend in German literature to deal with the Jews realistically, has led at least one writer to wonder whether the public has rid itself thoroughly of the Nazi lies. Julius H. Schoeps, a West German Jewish essayist specialising in Jewish remigration, doubts that there has been a real change of attitude to the extent of making a genuine co-existence of Germans and Jews possible. In a volume containing 22 of his articles compiled under the title *Über Juden und Deutsche* (Stuttgart-Bonn, Burg Verlag, DM 24.80), he argues that Nazi propaganda has not yet completely evaporated, that antisemitism has begun to grow again, and even among civil servants, says Schoeps, remigrants are disliked. He tells the sad story of Erich Maria Remarque, author of 'All Quiet on the Western Front', whose endeavours to have the Nazi ban against him officially lifted did not succeed. Shortly before his death in 1970 Remarque complained that the new German Republic 'was unable, during the last 20 years, to make me a German citizen again'. Re-naturalisation, concludes Schoeps, 'has not been a glorious chapter in the history of the Federal Republic'.

Jews of Bohemia, Moravia

Before Hitler raped Czechoslovakia, Bohemia and Moravia formed the easternmost wing of central Europe's Jewish culture. Due to 300 years of Habsburg rule, it was more influenced by Austria than by Germany. Now a West German publisher, C. H. Beck in Munich, has brought out a comprehensive work, *Die Juden in Böhmen und Mähren*, a 'historical primer' by Wilma Abeles Iggers, born in Mirkov and now Professor of German Philology in Buffalo, U.S.A. She does not write about the famous Jews from that region – Freud, Mahler, Kafka, Werfel, Brod, Kisch, Meyrink – but traces the background of that enormously creative Jewish minority throughout its history, beginning with Empress Maria Theresa's expulsion of the Jews from Bohemia (1744). Yet they returned, and what happened to them, how they lived, suffered and rejoiced, is reflected in dozens of fascinating original documents.

The most shattering of them is the very last one: after eleven alleged conspirators had been executed at the end of the infamous Slánský trial of 1952, the new editor of the party paper, *Rudé právo* – his predecessor, a Jew who had returned from his London exile, was among the eleven – wrote 'The destruction of the subversive plotters' centre, of the Zionist agency of imperialism in our Republic, of that reactionary, hostile ideology and organisation, is a victory of humanity over barbarism . . . To the dogs – a dog's death. To the Jews – a Jew's death!'

Wilma Iggers' book, crammed with information on almost 400 pages is an indispensable reference work. Unfortunately, the publishers, like most German ones nowadays, have omitted to add an index of names, places, events, etc., which would have greatly increased the book's value.

E. L.

YOUNG GERMANS LOOKING BACK

The 'Blessing of Late Birth'

Chancellor Kohl was only fifteen at the end of the war, a fortuitous circumstance that prompted his use of the phrase 'the blessing of a late birth'. Uttered on a visit to Israel, the phrase has been taken to mean that, in his opinion, the new Germany did not bear the responsibility for the old. Whatever Kohl did actually mean, his description of postwar Germans as 'blessed' does not entirely accord with the self-perception of that generation. This fact emerges from 'Born Guilty' (*Schuldig geboren*. Cologne. Kiepenheuer & Witsch. DM 16.80), a book of interviews with 15 children of Nazi families by Peter Sichrovsky, the postwar Austrian Jewish author. In it an (admittedly random) sample of young Germans show themselves unable to come to terms with a legacy bequeathed by parents who told them neither what they had done, nor why they had done it. There is one exception; Egon, a medical student, expresses admiration for his father, an SS doctor at Dachau: 'Just as a doctor saves a patient by cutting out an appendix, so can he protect the body of the people by removing a large ulcer'.

The rest are all deeply troubled. One interviewee recalls urinating on the grave of his parents after they were killed in a car crash. Another, a girl called Anna, tells of stumbling upon a family secret when she was thirteen: far from having served as a soldier at the front, her father had actually been a concentration camp

guard. She says 'Naturally I knew there'd been concentration camps in which six million Jews were killed - but nobody ever told us it was done by our own parents'.

Anna's parents, in fact, never told her anything, never attempted an explanation. There was no guilt, no mourning, no feeling of being affected. This atrophy of the emotions afflicts Anna, too. When her grandparents died recently, within a short time of each other, she discovered she could not mourn either - and she foresees herself reacting to her parents' eventual death with similar indifference.

The 'inability to mourn' - *Die Unfähigkeit zu trauern*, the title of a famous 1960s study by the psychologist Alexander Mitscherlich - is an important component of the contemporary German consciousness. However, the reception accorded to *Schuldig geboren* gives grounds for cautious optimism: pre-publication serialisation in *Der Spiegel* led to a flood of orders from the bookshops.

R.G.

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TOLERANCE An Example

The news that the Pope will canonise 40 heroes of the Catholic resistance to the Protestant Reformation in England 300-odd years ago, is unlikely to meet with great interest among Jews. It might have been expected to arouse critical attention in the Church of England, making for feelings hostile to the Catholics. But in fact nothing of the kind happened, and this is where the Jewish interest comes in.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Runcie, explained that whereas in the past this announcement would have provoked controversy, 'today we together deplore the intolerance of the age', and Cardinal Hume thought the fact 'should inspire us to pursue the path of reconciliation and reunion with even greater understanding and effectiveness'. The *Times* pointed out that Anglicans had come to recognise that the Martyrs had acted in 'obedience to conscience' and this was 'an occasion for the Christian churches to repent their respective contributions to the religious fratricide'.

It is when they read of such sentiments that Jewish leaders might pitch their ears. Not many unfortunately will be found equally willing to understand and forgive the quarrels of the past, for the tolerance which we demand from Gentiles is not regarded as a Jewish virtue to be practised among fellow-Jews. The modern story of the English martyrs may well carry a lesson for the student of Jewish life. Here too is an example of how it is possible to kindle a 'light unto the nations'.

THE RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS

Yad Vashem's Records

About 7,000 individuals who saved Jewish lives during the Holocaust have so far been honoured by the Yad Vashem authority in Jerusalem which preserves the memory of the 'Righteous among the Nations'. In about 25 per cent of the cases the honour is awarded posthumously and accepted by children of the actual rescuer (says an article in the *Jerusalem Post* on which this information is based). The majority of those recorded between 1962 and December 1986 were Dutch (2,972), followed by Poles (2,074). Oddly enough, the figures are much lower for France (429), Belgium (415) and Germany-Austria (290). In France the reason may be the absence of an official body pushing the matter. In Germany, it is believed, there must have been many more; in Berlin alone a few hundred Jews, perhaps even 1,000, survived in hiding. Italy (136) and Rumania (29) are also definitely under-represented. The Poles appear to have made a great effort to collect testimonies and to cooperate with Yad Vashem.

Special appreciation has been shown of the work done by foreign consuls, e.g. the Portuguese consul in Bordeaux after the fall of France, Aristide de Sousa Mendes, who issued visas to several thousand Jewish refugees, and the Japanese consul in Kovno, Sempo Sugihara, who

similarly, in 1939, helped about 4,000 Jews reach Japan via Russia. Unforgotten too is the Swiss police officer Paul Gröniger, of St Gallen, who turned a blind eye to German Jews entering his country 'illegally'.

Strictly speaking, these Government officials were not covered by the Israeli law, but 'we must be generous in interpreting the law', is the opinion of Supreme Court Justice Moshe Bejski, chairman of the Yad Vashem committee handling all applications; he regards his work as 'a sacred duty' discharged as 'a moral debt' which the Jewish people owes to its rescuers.

According to him, about \$500,000 are required to support those in need, and he regrets that the Claims Conference budgets only about \$100,000 a year in monthly pensions of \$20 for those in Poland, DM 250 for those in Germany and \$100 for some cases in U.S.A.

In a book shortly to appear under the title of *Martyrs of Charity* (Washington, 1987), a Polish scholar, W. Zajaczkowski, has assembled 749 cases of executions involving over 3,000 Christians who endeavoured to save Jews. More than 90 per cent of the cases concern Polish Catholics, 22 of them priests.



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ALICE SCHWAB

SB's Column

ART AND DESIGN IN EUROPE AND AMERICA

The Victoria and Albert Museum has just opened two completely refurbished rooms as the new gallery of Art and Design in Europe and America, 1800-1950. This opening is the gallery's contribution to the celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne. At the moment the British Museum has not opened a new gallery, although important works are in hand, but they have published an invaluable *User's Guide to the Department of Prints & Drawings* (price £10) and accompanied it with an exhibition (until 25 May) comprising a variegated selection from its collection of over two million items. The exhibition is a great delight, even if some of the objects displayed are no more than trivia. But even more fascinating is the *User's Guide*. You name it, they have it! Here are a few random selections from the alphabetical list of contents: extra-illustrated books, auction catalogues, calligraphy, bookplates, blockbooks, cartoons - and that is just a beginning. Each entry gives a short description of what the Museum holds and where it can be found. Just the book to browse through in the long winter evenings.

On 1 April the Queen is officially opening the Clore Gallery at the Tate, thus making it possible to reunite the whole collection of works by

Turner, Britain's most celebrated painter. The construction of the Clore Gallery was due to the generosity of the Clore Foundation, established by the late Sir Charles Clore; and it should not be forgotten that the Turner Bequest which it now houses was previously kept in the Duveen wing of the gallery, which owed its origins to the famous art dealer, Lord Duveen.

And now for a few other exhibitions worth seeing: watercolours by Beuys, Palermo, Polke and Richter at the Goethe Institut (until 11 April). Beuys died in 1986, Palermo in 1977, but Polke and Richter live and work in Cologne. More watercolours, that most favoured British medium, are to be seen in an exhibition *The Art of Watercolour*, organised by Manchester City Art Galleries in association with the Arts Council. It is at Norwich (until 17 May) and then goes to Manchester (until 28 June). Manchester was also host to an exhibition *The Private Degas* which shows the full range of the artist's work; it has now gone to the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge (until 3 May). In London Leinster Fine Art is showing paintings by Karl Korab. Korab was born in 1937 in Falkenstein, Lower Austria and has had many exhibitions in Europe and the U.S.A.

Jewish Artists' Exhibitions

Naum Gabo (1890-1977) was born in the Orel district of South West Russia, of Jewish parentage. His father was a mystic, possibly attracted to the doctrines of Chassidism. Nevertheless, he was brought up as a Christian. In 1904 he was expelled from school for composing a rude poem about his headmaster and was sent to Tomsk to join his elder brother who was studying engineering there. From that journey and the revolution in 1905, his political ideology emerged. In 1910 he was sent by his father to Germany to study medicine which he abandoned after two years and then flirted with engineering, philosophy and art history at the *Technische Hochschule* and Munich University. At the outbreak of war in 1914 he and his brothers, Antoine and Alexei, fled to Norway where he produced his first *Constructed Head*, but in 1917 he returned to Russia and lived in Moscow until 1922, during which time he published *The Realistic Manifesto*, which remained his constructive approach to art until the end of his life. From 1922-32 he lived in Berlin, from 1932-36 in Paris and from 1936 in London where he married Miriam Israels, an American painter and grand-niece of the renowned Dutch artist Josef Israels. In 1947 he settled in the USA with his wife and daughter Nina.

The present exhibition at the Tate Gallery (until 11 April) includes over a hundred works, largely from his own estate; many of them have never before been seen. His constructions are an exciting art form - three-dimensional curves, rhythm and lines in space. An exhibition of Gabo's drawings may be seen (until 4 April) at Annely Juda Fine Art.

Charles Spencer, 24a Ashworth Road, London W9 is holding an exhibition of designs by Yolanda Sonnabend for the new production of *Swan Lake* at Covent Garden (until 20 April). Paintings by Shmuel Brand and Joe Rose based on the symbolic meaning of the Hebrew alphabet are being shown at the Sternberg Centre (until 9 April). Joe Rose will be having a major exhibition at the Ben Uri Art Society later in the year. Suzanne Lackner has recently had an exhibition of her sculptures at the Loggia Gallery.

Finally, an exhibition I sadly missed, although I have the excellent catalogue (courtesy of the curator, Derek Gilman). It was held at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Art, University of East Anglia, and ended on 2 March. The exhibition dealt with political and social themes in German Art, 1918-1933 and was entitled *Icon and Revolution*. Many of our old friends appeared in the wide-ranging collection of exhibits: Pechstein, Beckmann, Dix, Felixmüller, Schmidt-Rottluff, Feininger, Kollwitz, Grosz and many others.

*

The Federal Grand Order of Merit was conferred by the German President on Kurt Weitzmann, emeritus professor of the History of Art at Princeton University, in appreciation of his learned researches into Byzantine art. Since his emigration from Berlin in 1935, Weitzmann, now 84, has published more than 100 books.

'The Abdication of Death' - A Miracle

The opera 'The Abdication of Death' (*Der Tod dankt ab*) by Viktor Ullmann, written entirely in Terezin concentration camp, rehearsed there but (not surprisingly) unperformed there, will be given its Austrian premiere this season by the Vienna *Kammeroper*. It will be produced by George Tabori, himself a notable author whose dramatic work *Mein Kampf* is due to be shown at Vienna's *Akademietheater* this year. Ullmann, as well as his librettist Peter Kien, a young painter and architect, perished in Auschwitz in 1944. The opera which is said to derive from the Mahler-Stravinsky-Weill tradition, had its first performance in 1975 in Amsterdam; it created a profound impression when given in Stuttgart 10 years later. Not only was the music praised but appreciations of the work's pacifist message, as well as the circumstances in which it was written, added to the miracle of its survival.

A Great Tenor Remembered

Austrian Television devoted an evening to the life of Polish tenor Jan Kiepura (1902-1966) whose first appearance in Vienna in 1926 became the sensation of the year when he was the first Kalaf in Puccini's *Turandot*. A truly great tenor of his time, Kiepura became equally successful as film star singing hit tunes (*Heute Nacht oder nie, Ob blond ob braun, ich liebe alle Frau'n*). His widow, singer Martha Eggerth (75), interviewed at the occasion, told the story of their lives together in America since 1938 and their intensive touring all over the United States singing Lehar's *Merry Widow*.

Birthdays

Contralto Marian Anderson, the first coloured American to obtain a permanent engagement at New York's Metropolitan Opera House, celebrated her 85th birthday. She retired in 1965 and described her life in a book of memoirs which she called *My Lord, What a Morning*.

Austrian actress Kaethe Gold who started playing children's rôles in 1914, and has played at Vienna's *Burg* since 1947, was honoured on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

Vienna-born American conductor Erich Leinsdorf attained the age of 75. In the Thirties he was assistant to Bruno Walter and Toscanini; at the *Met* he conducted from 1938 onwards, and again from 1958 to 1962. He is particularly well known for his work with the Cleveland and Boston Symphony orchestras.

Obituary

The death of Serge Lifar is regretted by Ballet lovers all over the world. He died in Lausanne aged 81. Born in Kiev, he was one of the most prominent dancers and choreographers of this century who began his career at the legendary *Ballets Russes* under Diaghilev whose traditions and neo-classical style of dancing he continued. He was director of the Paris Opera Ballet for nearly 30 years.

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Walter A. Eberstadt, a Frankfurt-born British partner in the New York investment banking firm of Lazard Frères & Co., was recently made an O.B.E. for 'services to British business interests in New York' where he has lived since 1951. Born in 1921, he came to London in 1936 where his father founded the banking firm of G. Eberstadt. He is vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees of the New School for Social Research and chairman of the Visiting Committee of the Graduate Faculty, the direct successor to the University in Exile which was founded and attended by many prominent European academics. During the war, he served first with the Pioneers, then, as an officer, with the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, was wounded in Normandy and later helped establish the new broadcasting station in Hamburg. His mother, 91, has been a member of the AJR for many years.

Concert at Osmond House

In Memory of Dr. Gerard Stein

The regular concerts at Osmond House are normally given on the last day of the month. The February one was in every aspect outstanding. The well known soprano Ilse Wolf had offered to sing in memory of the late Dr. Gerard Stein. Like Janet Baker she had been his patient and friend. In collaboration with the dedicated Doris Mainzer, she arranged a concert of high artistic merit. Her fellow artists were the baritone Stefan Paul Sanchez, the clarinetist Terry Tricket and the equal partner for all, the excellent pianist Diana Wright. Dr. Lore Stein had suggested the date. It would have been the 39th anniversary of their wedding.

Spirited Performance

The baritone started with a spirited and convincing performance of Manuel de Falla's seven Spanish folksongs. Terry Tricket then played colourfully and brilliantly, Francis Poulenc's Sonata for Clarinet and Piano. Two modern composers were perhaps a bit too demanding for some of the residents. However they were compensated by Ilse Wolf's charming and authentic rendering of three well known songs by Schubert, *Der Wanderer an den Mond*, *Die Forelle* and *Seligkeit*. Her diction being perfect, it was a pleasure to hear every word clearly.

Many years ago, Ilse Wolf had sung Schubert's 'The Shepherd on the Rock' (for voice and clarinet) at Dr. Stein's house. He himself had accompanied her. It was a moving tribute to end this delightful concert with the same work.

PAUL LICHTENSTERN

EMIGRATION FROM ISRAEL

Emigration from Israel is no longer considered a cardinal sin, according to a study by a Tel Aviv University sociologist, Yinon Cohen. In fact, he says, having been for so long the major taboo in Israel, it appears to be gaining acceptance. While emigrants are criticised by political leaders and sections of the press, society at large does not always agree. It appears that 'emigrants have become less ashamed of their behaviour and those remaining are less critical of them'. A belief that emigration is encouraged by the threat of war was seen supported by the fact that men aged 25-35 who are more likely to be called up than others, are also the largest group of emigrants.

Sometime in September 1983, the two Chief Rabbis of Israel (the Ashkenasi and Sefardi) ruled that (according to *halachah*, rabbinical law) emigration from Israel is equivalent to idolatry. They held that the Torah prohibited emigration from the Land of Israel.

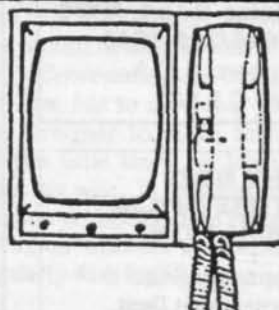
E. GERMAN SPYMASTER
RETIRED

A high-ranking Jewish official in the East German Government, Markus Wolf, recently retired at 64. As their intelligence chief, he was considered to be one of the world's most skilful spymasters. He received the highest civilian award, the Order of Karl Marx. His master coup probably was the recruitment of a Bonn Chancellery spy, Günter Guillaume whom he groomed to become a top aide to Chancellor Willy Brandt. Guillaume's arrest in 1974 forced Brandt's resignation.

Wolf is the son of Friedrich Wolf, the Communist doctor and dramatist (1888-1953), author of *Cyankali* (a novel, 1928), *Professor Mamlock* (a play 1935), *Zwei an der Grenze* (1938, autobiography), etc. In 1933 the family went to Switzerland, then to France, and in 1934 they left for the Soviet Union where Markus studied at Moscow's Comintern school for international emigrés. After the war, he settled in East Berlin where he first worked as a radio commentator before joining the intelligence service. A brother of his, Konrad, a film producer, was for many years President of the East German Academy of Arts.

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HOPEFUL NEO-NAZIS

German neo-Nazis seem to be scenting the morning air. They scored an undoubted success in the recent general election. The National Democratic Party (NPD) actually trebled its strength—from 0.2 per cent in 1983 to 0.6 per cent (22,298 votes). They now want to go all out in local and state elections (in Hesse where voting takes place on 5 April; Baden-Württemberg and Bremen).

They enjoyed the support of the German People's Union led by the notorious demagogue Dr. Gerhard Frey, publisher and editor of the *Deutsche National Zeitung* (circulation 100,000), who was glad to note that 'even optimistic expectations were surpassed'. The programme of the Frey-NPD coalition called German People's List includes the following main points: 'Germany for the Germans' (anti-foreigner policy); 'Germany first' (militant nationalism), and 'Equality of rights for the German people' (which was Hitler's slogan at the outset of his foreign policy, 1933).

National Europeans

Ludwig Bock, 43, head of a solicitors' firm in Mannheim, is presiding over a National European Youth Foundation dedicated to 'the European ideal and the role of the whole of Germany in a united Europe of free nations'. With this resounding programme, the Foundation wishes to be regarded as an 'Institute for Political Education', presenting itself as 'free, independent, constructive, undogmatical and without blinkers'.

Bock's credentials for engaging in so ambitious an endeavour were acquired in a busy past defending 'innocent members of the armed

forces' accused of 'so-called war crimes'. He was for example in action during the Maidanek trial where he defended so innocent a person as Hildegard Lächert, a camp guard known as Bloody Brygida because of her brutality. As a lawyer specialised in this sort of defence, Bock also practises as a 'revisionist historian' suggesting that the gas chambers 'might have been built only after the war' when they were 'probably used for cleaning garments'. Once (in 1972) he unsuccessfully stood as candidate for the NPD.

*

Anne Frank School in Belsen

A months-long dispute in the town of Bergen-Belsen has been ended by the naming of a local school after Anne Frank. Last May, Social Democratic members of the town council suggested that the street leading to the camp where the young Dutch Jewish girl died, should be renamed in her memory. Opposition came from CDU council members and from local people who felt that it was 'time to end German penitence.' The matter was settled when Bergen Protestants offered instead to commemorate Anne Frank in the name of their school.

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PETER C. RICKENBACK

REFUGEES in Western Europe

Switzerland has 20,000 pending cases of asylum seekers — half of them Turkish. Government policy is such that a religious spokesman has dubbed a newly opened reception centre for them a 'deportation centre'. The Federal Parliament is revising the law on asylum for the second time — to be followed by a referendum. According to the same spokesman, the proposed law will be the most restrictive in West Europe but he hopes that the referendum will generate debate and awareness of the problem.

In France the debate is in full swing. Great difficulties were created by 90,000 refugees having arrived alone from Indo-China by 1985 to face the prevailing unemployment. The country has 55 reception centres with no more than 3,000 places. 1986 saw a sustained campaign to sensitize public opinion to the specific problems of refugees and asylum seekers. In its course the Commission for Safeguarding the Right of Asylum achieved a remarkable increase (from 29 to 179) in the number of local associations affiliated to it.

— and North America

Illegal immigrants, mainly from Latin America, are creating difficulties in the U.S.A. Their number is estimated at several millions and stricter legislation is intended to reduce it. For the first time, employers face fines and possible imprisonment for knowingly hiring illegal immigrants. As a result many are trying to get into Canada which in turn has begun to impose restrictions. In the first six weeks of 1987, more than 6,000 people claimed refugee status in Canada, nearly as many as the total number of refugees arriving in the whole of 1985.

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EAST GERMAN BOOKS ABOUT JEWS

Sir - May I take exception to the ill-informed statement by your contributor, Egon Larsen, on the subject of the German Democratic Republic (February 1987) where, he writes, 'hardly any books about the Jews - historically or fellow-citizens - have been published'.

I have a shelf of books proving the contrary. I should like to name just a few, in no particular order: *Herr Moses in Berlin* and *Meine liebste Mathilde*, by Heinz Knobloch; *Suche nach dem gelobten Land*, by Inge Unikower; *Die Bilder des Zeugen Schattmann*, by Peter Edel; *Patria Israel*, by Rudolf Hirsch; *Schwerer Sand*, by Anatoli Rybakow; *Die Hauser-Chronik*, by Günter Wirth; *Die rote Dahlie*, by Isak Samokovlija; *Aus dem Ghetto in die Welt*, by Mishket Liebermann; *Hiob*, by Joseph Roth; various works by Kurt Tucholsky and Anna Seghers; *Bohemia-mein Schicksal*, by Jan Koplowitz; *Gesichte und Geschichte*, by Lea Grundig; *Zu wahr, um schön zu*

Letters

to the Editor

sein, by Curt Bois; *Kisch war hier*, by Klaus Haupt/Harald Wessel; *Der Sohn des Kantors*, by Scholem Alejchem; *Das Buch vom Paradies*, by Itzik Manger; *Der Selmenianer*, by Moische Kulbak; *Die Legende vom Zicklein*, by Anatoli L. Kaplan; *Jüdische Friedhöfe in Berlin* (illustrated) published by *Institut für Denkmalspflege*.

I am sure other readers will be able to add more titles to the list.

47 The Burroughs CHARLOTTE FRAENKEL
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DOCUMENTATION ON MANNHEIM
JEWS

Sir - To mark the opening later this year of the new Jewish community centre, the Mannheim Municipal Record Office (*Stadtarchiv*) plans to publish an illustrated volume on the life of Mannheim Jews up to 1939. We would be most grateful if all our former fellow-citizens were to lend us their assistance by placing at our disposal such documentary material as may still be in their possession.

We are thinking of diaries, letters, private photos. Personal reminiscences would also be welcome (either in writing or on tape). The localities we are thinking of are the several synagogues, schools, hospitals, the old age home, cemeteries; also ritual objects and any information about ritual baths and *shechita*, about Jewish shops and restaurants. Finally any material relating to Nazi persecution, flight, emigration, deportation. All original material which we shall be glad to reproduce will be returned on request.

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6800 Mannheim 1 DR. SCHADT

JEWS OF NORTH BERLIN

Sir - I am a teacher and together with a colleague and our pupils, we want to do research into the lives of Jews in North Berlin (Tegel, Reinickendorf, etc.) during the years 1933 to 1945. We have found only a few of them, so we are anxious to hear from eye witnesses of that period. I would be grateful if any of your readers who may be able to assist us were to contact me at the address below.

Elstergasse 15 a ECKHARD RIEKE
1 Berlin 27, BRD

FRIEDRICH HEER

Sir - I am working in Vienna on an intellectual biography of Friedrich Heer, the distinguished, very pro-Jewish Catholic Austrian writer, historian and publicist. A number of his books, among them his most important work about Judaism, *Gottes erste Liebe*, was translated into English. For my work I would be most interested in reports about his sphere of activity and influence. If any of your readers could assist me, I would be most grateful to hear from them.

Marktgasse 8-10/41 EVELYN ADUNKA
1090 Vienna

* An article by Miss Adunka on 'Friedrich Heer und das Judentum' appeared in the 224 pp. annual *Das Jüdische Echo*, published by the Association of Jewish Academics, Vienna, October 1986, pp. 73-75.

GERMAN AS SHE IS NOT SPOKE

Sir - My granddaughter who studies German (in Bombay) wrote me a letter in German with hardly a mistake except when she enquired after my health: *Wie füllst Du Dich?* It so happened she was not far wrong as I had recently put on quite a lot of weight.

Eleanor Rathbone House (Mrs) E. GLASS
5 Avenue Road, N6 5DS

Der Allerwerteste

Sir - Mr. Albert Meyer's amusing anecdote reminds me of a story I once heard from my mother. A boy who had come from England to Germany with his mother shortly before the outbreak of the first world war had become stranded there. He came regularly to my mother for lessons since she was a teacher and spoke English. He made a point though of taking in German whenever possible. On one occasion he tried to teach her a card game. Pointing out a card he explained that since that was the most important card in the game it should be kept till the last: *Du musst dir deinen Allerwertesten bis zuletzt aufheben*, he told her. But, just to show that you do not have to be a foreigner to make funny mistakes, let me tell this little story: A Jewish friend complained that his wife, in hospital for some seven weeks, had not yet been visited by any Jewish minister of religion whereas a Catholic priest went round regularly with his 'Rosemary'.

63 Northways (MRS.) M. STERN
NW3

PIONEERING SEX STUDIES

In a generation obsessed with sex, it is perhaps salutary to be reminded of the serious and responsible study of the subject which was introduced by a German Jewish physician, Magnus Hirschfeld (1868, Kolberg - 1935, Nice). His memory has been revived and the significance of his work reassessed in a biography by the late refugee scientist, Dr. Charlotte Wolff (*Magnus Hirschfeld: A Portrait of a Pioneer in Sexology*. Quartet Books. £25. 494 pp.). It is worth recalling that as far back as 1918 Hirschfeld founded in Berlin the first Institute for Sexual Science to conduct research into all forms of human sexuality and provide medical and psychological treatment as well as marriage guidance.

GUIDANCE BY 'DR. RUTH'

Human sexuality is the special study of Dr. Ruth Westheimer who recently began, on Channel Four, a series of talks entitled 'Ask Dr. Ruth'. She is an American and has to her credit a string of programmes at Columbia University Teachers College, Long Island Jewish Medical Center and Cornell University Medical College. She was born in Germany in 1928, sent to Switzerland in 1938 by her parents who both perished. At 16 she left for Palestine where she served in the Haganah and in 1952 she began to study psychology at the Sorbonne. Four years later she settled in the U.S.A. where she worked for the Planned Parenthood Federation and became a student of Dr. Helen Singer Kaplan, the well-known sex therapy teacher. She started broadcasting with 'Sexually Speaking', a late-night programme on a New York radio station. She has written three books - *Dr. Ruth's Guide to Good Sex*, *First Love* and *Dr. Ruth's Guide for Married Lovers*. Married for almost 30 years and the mother of three children, she was named 'Mother of the Year' by the National Mother's Day Committee of America. She is at present writing her autobiography.

*

NOT THE WAY TO ADDRESS THE
VENERABLE ARCHDEACON

This letter appeared in *The Times*: My late husband, while Archdeacon of Canterbury, received a letter addressed to 'The Vulnerable Bernard Pawley'. His characteristic comment was, 'How did they know?'.

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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.

Acknowledgement

Eden:—Mrs. Edith Eden and family would like to give their warmest thanks for the many expressions of sympathy in their recent bereavement.

Birthdays

Rosenberg:—Dr. Alfons Rosenberg, late of the BBC German Service and a highly esteemed contributor to AJR INFORMATION for a number of years, celebrated his 85th birthday on 20 March. With best wishes from the AJR.

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Spiro:—Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Ludwig Spiro on a very special birthday. The Fairfax Fan Club.

Steiner:—Most cordial congratulations to our dear treasurer, Mr. Kurt Steiner, on his 75th birthday and warm thanks for his work for us. The AJR Club.

Tauber:—Sincere congratulations to Miss Mizzi Tauber on her 90th birthday and all best wishes for her full recovery. The AJR Club.

Deaths

Bendhem:—on 12 February, peacefully in her sleep, Liselotte, widow of Henry Bendhem, much loved mother of Ralph and Tom and late daughter Carrie. A beloved grandmother and great-grandmother.

Fuss:—Ilse Fuss, formerly of Hannover, Germany, passed away on 17 February in her 84th year. Will always be remembered by all her friends in Glasgow.

Katz:—Mrs. Malwine Katz, widow of Hugo Katz, Evering Road, London E5, formerly of Vienna, died peacefully on 5 January. Mourned by her sons, daughters-in-law, brother, grandchild and many friends.

Neumann:—Louise Elkish Neumann died 24 February, aged 93, in a nursing home, Birkenhead, Merseyside, England; formerly of Essen and Berlin. The interment took place at the Old Segeroth Cemetery, Essen, West Germany, on Tuesday, 17 March.

Velden:—Dr. Eva R. Velden (widow of Dr. S. Velden) of 28, Kingsmill, Kingsmill Terrace, NW3, died on 31 January, three days after her 86th birthday, after a long illness. Deeply mourned by her relatives and numerous friends.

Tombstone Consecration

Kossmann:—The consecration of the tombstone in loving memory of Henry Kossmann will take place at Willesden Cemetery, Pound Lane, on 5 April at 11.15 am.

CLASSIFIED

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Information Required

KILIMNIK. Jakob (Iakov) born 1910 and brother Alexander born 1908 in Kishiniev. Sons of Leib. Said to have resided in London in 1941.

Would anyone knowing the whereabouts of the above please contact the Jewish Refugees Committee, Drayton House, Gordon Street, London WC1H 0AN.

SEGER. Ulrich Seger of Essen, possibly half Jewish, born 9.4.1926, emigrated to England in 1939, presumed to be a teacher. Information required in connection with a study of the Jews of Essen. Please telephone 459 5350.

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DR. OTTO NATHAN

Dr. Otto Nathan, an economist who was executor and co-trustee of the estate of Albert Einstein, died last January in New York aged 93. A native of Bingen, he was economic adviser to several Weimar Governments and German delegate to the World Economic Conference in Geneva in 1927. In 1933 he fled to the U.S.A. where he joined the economic department of Princeton University. It was there that his friendship with Einstein began. He was naturalised in 1939, vigorously championed the cause of civil liberties, and in the 1950s, during the McCarthy hearings, he became a target of the Un-American Activities Committee but completely vindicated himself. Among the several books he wrote are *The Nazi Economic System: Germany's Mobilization for War* and *Nazi War Finance and Banking*, both written in 1944.

*

Berlin-born *Alfred Lion* who died in California early in February aged 78, left Germany in the mid-1930s to found a recording company which became one of the most effective patrons of American jazz musicians. The company which he called Blue Note was celebrated for its insistence on high standards both aesthetic and technical. In 1965, Lion sold the company to a multinational entertainment corporation, remaining in charge until ill health forced him to retire two years later.

*

Dr. Herbert Rosenfeld, the well-known psychoanalyst, born in Nuremberg and educated in Berlin, died aged 76. He qualified as a doctor in 1935, then emigrated to London where he worked at the Tavistock Clinic. In 1972 he was elected fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

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HANS ROSENTHAL

One of the most popular quiz-masters and producers on German TV and radio, Hans Rosenthal, died in February aged 61. He was loved like a member of a closely-knit family (said the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*) because with all his great gifts as an entertainer, 'he never gave people a feeling of inferiority; he only asked, never answered'. Small in physical stature but big in polished professionalism, he always tried to be as inconspicuous as possible, a 'man of the people'. The title of one of his earliest quiz shows, in 1954, was 'He who asks wins': he proved it. He also played an active part in German Jewish communal life.

He was born in Berlin in 1925, the son of a bank clerk. He lost his father in 1937, his mother in 1941; his brother was murdered in Riga, and he himself just managed to survive forced labour and underground life. Yet he did not grow bitter as he explained in his volume of reminiscences *Zwei Leben in Deutschland*, published in 1980. He

Obituaries

joined the Berlin broadcasting station in 1945, and by 1977 an opinion poll showed him to be the best-liked TV entertainer. The Mayor of West Berlin, Diepgen, praised his 'ability to appeal to all that is good in man', and 'by his positive attitude he carried others along with him'. The chairman of the West Berlin Jewish community, Heinz Galinski, paid tribute to him as 'one of our most valued representatives who had a substantial share in the rebirth and the further development of Jewish life in Germany'.

*

Ernest Eden who died in February aged 77 will be sadly missed not only by his family and wide circle of friends but also by the many aged and frail members of AJR to whom he was a true helpmate. He was a member of the Heinrich Stahl House Committee and active in the Leo Baeck Lodge. Having arrived from Vienna in 1938, he served in the Pioneer Corps, later on the Control Commission. After the war he built up a successful furrier business. He took a lively interest in art and painting was his hobby.

DR. FREDERIC BERGER

Dr. Frederic William Berger, a native of Breslau, who died in London aged 86, would not have thought that, having studied medicine at the Universities of Munich, Berlin and Frankfurt, he would one day be personal physician to the House of the Aga Khan, also to His Highness the Sultan of Muscat and Oman. But this is just what happened when the British would accept him as a refugee in 1933 only on condition that he went to work in India. There he established himself, during 19 years, with his wife Eva, as an authority on the tropical lung disease *cosinphilia*. His specialised training secured him a Fellowship from the Royal Society of Medicine and from the London Institute of Tropical Medicine. He was held in the highest esteem in Bombay, enjoying the trust of local doctors by the unusual courtesy of not seeing patients without them.

Having acquired British citizenship, he was honorary consultant to the British Army in India, later also to the U.S. forces. In 1952 he moved to New York and then to Zurich, as a pharmaceutical industry consultant. On retiring in 1965, he returned to Britain.

*

WHERE MARX WAS BORN

Karl Marx's birth house in Trier, now converted into a museum and a research centre for Marxist philosophy, is attracting increasing numbers of visitors. In January last there were for the first time more than 1,000 people a month. Ever since Willy Brandt, then chairman of the Social Democratic Party, in 1968 handed the building into the safe-keeping of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, there have been about half a million visitors.

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Synagogue Now a 'Cultural Centre'

On 25 September 1986, a Cultural Centre was opened at Gelnhausen, Hesse, in what was once the local synagogue. Built in 1601, it escaped destruction because it was sold to an 'Aryan' when the last members of a once thriving congregation of over 200 left in 1938. It contains a magnificent baroque Aron Kodesh, the only one left in Germany and possibly in Europe. Everything has now been faithfully restored down to the last detail. In front of the building a Memorial has been erected, depicting a half open door, showing the three rings of Lessing's 'Ring Parable'.

Ten members of the former congregation and their spouses were guests of the town for five days while festivities included theatre plays, concerts and a civic reception. The visitors came from England, France, Israel, U.S.A. and South Africa. They donated a Ner Tamid in memory of their families who perished. The Centre will be used for concerts, lectures and exhibitions. The theme of the occasion was 'Reconciliation', and the town council and all concerned endeavoured to make the event as pleasant as possible.

There are no Jews left in Gelnhausen now.

A.H.

EXHIBITIONS IN MANCHESTER

Jewish life in Germany and Austria between the wars is portrayed in an exhibition at the Manchester Jewish Museum. Entitled 'Before the Holocaust', it illustrates in particular the rise of Nazism and the experience of those who came to Britain as refugees. A striking feature are the photos

which have been contributed by refugees in Manchester, showing how closely Jews were integrated into German and Austrian cultural, social and political life. The period of persecution is covered by evidence of the discriminatory legislation such as the Nuremberg Laws and the ultimate lawlessness of the nation-wide pogrom in 1938. Much space is devoted to the story of refugee migration generally and the attitudes of host societies.

*

The Anne Frank Exhibition in Manchester, sponsored by the City Council, drew over 1,000 visitors in its first few days last February. In his opening address, the Lord Mayor stressed the need to set an example that will inspire children now to fight the hatred that destroyed Anne Frank. On the same occasion, paintings by Jewish refugees were shown, notably (for the first time in Britain) some of Felix Nussbaum loaned by the Osnabrück Museum. (The painter was murdered at Auschwitz). There were also sculptures by the late Fred Kormis and works by British war artists recording the horrors of the Nazi camps.

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