

AJR INFORMATION

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1987 — A PRIME YEAR

In preparing our annual report for 1987 it is perhaps permissible to reflect on the significance of that number in the field of mathematics where it is a prime number, that is to say, a number which has no factors except itself and 1, and of which there are only thirteen this century. We may truly say that in the dictionary sense of most important or first rate 1987 had certainly been a prime year for the Association. The highlights of the year have been the opening of the Paul Balint-AJR Day Centre in its new premises at 15 Cleve Road, the move of our offices to our Hannah Karminski House, and a considerable extension of our social welfare services.

None of this would have been attempted if it were not our view that the services of the AJR would continue to be in demand for many years to come. Our concern must be not merely to maintain present activities, but to retain the ability to extend them, both in scope and quality.

To this end we must, as ever, rely on the loyal and devoted support of our members. It is significant that the extension of our services has brought a distinct, even if as yet a relatively small, increase in the number of new members joining. It is a trend we shall promote further, but coupled with it must be the realisation on the part of all members that our aims can only be achieved by their generous financial support of our organisation. There are yet to come this century three more prime years in the sense of our opening remarks. But there is no reason why the AJR should not put itself into the position of celebrating more years than that in the dictionary sense, if all members join together in fully supporting those whose dedicated efforts, whether professionally or voluntarily, have enabled us to present so satisfactory an annual report as now follows.

ANNUAL REPORT

SOCIAL SERVICES

The Social Services department continues to be at the centre of our activities. Referrals from outside agencies increased during 1987 and the demand on our resources has reached a very high level. Loneliness is still the biggest problem amongst our ageing refugee community and the maintenance of regular contact is essential. To help us take care of our elderly we rely on volunteers who can visit regularly, listen patiently and provide sympathy and understanding. Our social workers, led by Mr Samuel Wolf are constantly liaising with outside agencies, community workers, doctors etc. to help our elderly cope with the pressures of day-to-day life. However, in view of the numbers that we look after, we must rely on our volunteers to supplement this work and we look to our members to answer our appeals and come forward to help.

PAUL BALINT — AJR DAY CENTRE

We started the year with our Day Centre activities continuing to operate at the Belsize Square Synagogue and we express sincere thanks to its Chairman and committee for allowing us to occupy the hall on a temporary basis. In June we

moved into our splendid purpose built premises at 15 Cleve Road and at the official opening in September we were proud to have amongst our guests the Deputy Mayor of Camden and Sir Geoffrey Finsberg MP. Many and well deserved tributes were paid to all those involved in the project and the significant financial contribution made towards it by the Paul Balint Charitable

Trust. Dr Andrew Balint and his wife Danielle were also present. Mrs Balint formally declared the Day Centre open following a moving speech about Paul Balint, uncle of Dr Andrew Balint, after whom the centre was named. An excellent large photograph of Paul Balint and a bronze

Continued overleaf

The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain
reminds Members and Friends that the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on Thursday, 2 June 1988 at 7.30 p.m.
at 15, Cleve Road, London NW6

AGENDA

Annual Report 1987
Hon. Treasurer's Report

Discussion
Election of Executive Committee

The meeting will be followed by a talk on
Identity and Integration: Jews and German-Jewish Refugees in Great Britain by
Professor W E Mosse

ANNUAL REPORT—continued

plaque recording the opening date now face every visitor on entering the building.

Another plaque in the corridor leading to the domed assembly hall recalls the devotion to the project of our former treasurer, Ludwig Spiro, and the architect, Lucas Mellinger, both of whom attended, as did representatives of the contractors, sub-contractors and various Jewish communal organisations. The ceremony closed with the installation and blessing of the mezuzahs performed by Rabbi Rodney Mariner of Belsize Square Synagogue.

The success of the Day Centre can be measured by the fact that within six months of moving into Cleve Road, we are now operating on four days per week. We take great pride in the many comments we receive from members who feel that the Day Centre has provided them with a life-line which they never want to be without. Old friendships have been re-kindled and new ones established and we offer our thanks to Mrs Matus, organiser, and Mrs Lee, her assistant, together with catering staff and volunteers, for their enthusiasm and support which has contributed to the success of the Centre.

RESIDENTIAL CARE

We continue to maintain close ties with CBF Residential Care and Housing Association responsible for the administration of the four homes for elderly refugees from Nazi oppression and the sheltered flats at Eleanor Rathbone House. At the end of the year under review a new Chairman succeeded Mr Ludwig Spiro, who had presided over the housing association for several years and successfully saw it through a major re-organisation a few years ago. We welcome Mr R W Mattes in his new appointment. He is a member of AJR and will have the support of several other members on the housing association's Council and Management Committee and as honorary officers.

Our Homes Department, under the direction of Mrs Ruth Finestone, is responsible for the selection and eventual admission of applicants. Apart from dealing with all the pre-admission work, our Homes social workers, together with voluntary helpers and members of the House Committees, help to settle the residents into their new surroundings and to overcome the anxiety that is sometimes present when adjusting to a new lifestyle. A new 17-room extension to Heinrich Stahl House, named the Charles Jordan Wing, was commissioned during 1987. Its accommodation provides individual shower and toilet facilities. Plans for extending other homes to meet increased demand are at present under review.

Matrons and staff combine their caring skills with the practicalities of running the residential homes and House Committees provide support by arranging functions and social activities to enrich the lives of the residents. The work of the House Committees, composed almost entirely of members of AJR, remains of paramount importance to the residents.

SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION

It is pleasing to report that the eight flatlets at 15 Cleve Road are fully occupied. The well designed and spacious accommodation provides bedsitter, kitchen and bathroom/wc. Bedsitter accommodation in Otto Hirsch House in Finchley and Hannah Karminski House near Swiss Cottage continues to be available.

SELF AID

The AJR administers Self Aid of Refugees, a charity which provides a measure of financial support for the underprivileged in our community.

The annual Self Aid Concert, the fortieth in the series, was held on 29 November. We were delighted with the performance of the Diverimenti who, together with Raphael Wallfisch, the eminent cellist and son of refugees, played pieces of Britten, C P E Bach, Tchaikovsky and Dvorak. For several years we have promoted the concert not only as a musical attraction accompanying the refugee community's sole annual social gathering, but also as a family event to which members bring their children, grandchildren, as well as friends. We seem to have succeeded in this endeavour for not only was the concert completely sold out, but the artistes commented on the large number of young people in the audience, which they found lively and appreciative.

The next concert will be held on Sunday 9 October, and we look forward to another bumper assembly of members, their relatives and friends in the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Success of this annual event helps us to finance our essential work with needy refugees.

MEALS ON WHEELS

The provision of meals on wheels continues under the management of Mrs Ruth Anderman and her team of helpers and drivers.

THE AJR CLUB

In June 1987 the club moved into our new premises at 15 Cleve Road, offering a programme of social activities and lectures arranged by Mrs Lotte Saenger, Chairman of the Club.

AJR INFORMATION

Now in its 44th year AJR Information has continued to maintain the high standard for which the journal has long been known. Under the editorship of Mr C C Aronsfeld our contributors have produced articles covering a wide range of subjects and this has frequently resulted in the publication of 16 page issues.

The increased activities of the AJR have generated a great deal of interest amongst our readers and the journal has continued to give special emphasis to the social needs of the community together with the reporting of matters of historical interest. We have received many appreciative comments from readers who have noted that the articles and contributions make well balanced reading.

MEMBERSHIP

In view of references to membership already made above we confine ourselves to three important points on this subject.

First, there are still numerous refugees or, as some may prefer to be known, former refugees, who are not yet members of AJR. We urge all members to seek out such among their friends and persuade them to join our ranks. We need their adherence not just for the satisfaction of solidarity, but to secure through their support the future of our work the need for which, as already shown earlier, will continue for many years yet.

Secondly, we have observed with interest the growing activities of the Association of Children of Jewish Refugees. By joining together as a group, quite independently of the AJR, they have demonstrated their affinity to the values we have brought with us to this country and shown that they are compatible with their British birth and the fact that this island is their homeland. In expressing the hope that their contact with us will deepen as time passes we ask our members to extend the suggestion made above to swell our membership by encouraging their sons and daughters, their nephews and nieces, to join the AJR, be it in the category of Members or Friends.

In this connection it is pleasing to record that the Executive Committee already includes three "second generation" members, including John Dunston, the Chairman of the Association of Children of Refugees.

Thirdly, the demand for the continuation of our care for the elderly and provision of improved and updated facilities will consume ever increasing amounts of money, both for capital expenditure and thereafter for maintenance of the services thus created. Members' spontaneous voluntary increases of subscription will go some way towards these needs. Covenants and bequests through testamentary dispositions in favour of the AJR Charitable Trust will go further.

ACCOUNTS

This annual report reflects the considerable changes that have taken place in the work of the AJR over the past years. The main purpose of the AJR is now to look after the welfare of our members and all those who came to this country as refugees. Our welfare work and social activities have been considerably extended requiring increased expenditure and staff in our enlarged social welfare department. The financial report of the AJR reflects the increased expenditure in those areas and more than half of the total expenditure related to our social and welfare activities. Without the contributions of the AJR Charitable Trust we would not have been able financially to support our work on that scale. We again urge our members and friends to make donations and contributions to the AJR Charitable Trust so that we can continue to provide these activities, and even extend them further in future.

Copies of the balance sheet and accounts for the last year to 31st December 1987 will be available at the Annual General Meeting and members wishing to study the accounts beforehand should contact the office so that a copy may be posted to them. Tables 1 and 2 below provide an abstract therefrom.

ANNUAL REPORT—continued

Table 1
Summary of Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1987

	1987		1986	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
(Less depreciation)		14,822		3,502
CURRENT ASSETS	49,113		57,835	
(Including Staff Retirement Fund)				
CURRENT LIABILITIES	21,832	27,281	48,396	9,439
		42,103		12,941
Reserve for Staff Retirement Fund		37,041		20,414
		5,062		(7,473)
<i>Represented by:</i>				
<i>General Fund</i>				
Balance as at 1 January 1987		(7,473)		(8,004)
Net Income for the Year		12,535		531
		5,062		(7,473)

Table 2
Income and Expenditure Account Year to 31 December 1987

	1987		1986	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Allocations Committee (CBF)				16,000
Contribution from AJR Charitable Trust		107,000		80,500
Membership Fees and Subscriptions				
Donations		55,501		53,107
		162,501		149,607
Less: Expenses				
Overheads (Rent, Rates, Postage, Telephone, etc.)	23,980		22,690	
Salaries	89,902		86,106	
Allocation to Staff Retirement Fund	16,000		5,000	
Reserve for Property repairs	(15,000)		6,000	
General Expenses	35,084		29,280	
		149,966		149,076
Net Income for Year		12,535		531

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The honorary treasurer for many years, Mr Ludwig Spiro, retired at the time of the annual general meeting in July. His work for the Association over a long period of time extended well beyond the range of duties normally associated with that office, and warm appreciations of his manifold services have appeared in recent issues of *AJR Information*. The vice-chairman, Mr Max Kochmann was elected to the additional office of honorary treasurer, and Mr O E Franklyn was elected honorary secretary. Dr Lore Stein retired from the committee in October and we express our gratitude for her contribution to the committee's deliberations over many years. Happily both she and Mr Spiro still actively participate in our affairs as chairmen of the house committees of Osmond House and Heinrich Stahl House, respectively.

Because of heavy commitments elsewhere two other members of the committee, Messrs F W Odell and R B Tait resigned at the end of the year under review. We greatly valued their participation in our work and record our thanks for the interest they showed in our affairs.

The committee co-opted three new members, and we welcome Messrs J H Dunston, A C Kaufman and W D Rothenberg whose arrival had the desirable immediate effect of substantially reducing the average age of members of the committee.

We conclude our report with a "thank you" to all those who have contributed to the work of the Association during the year. These brief and simple words are not just a perfunctory acknowledgement of services rendered but represent a warm appreciation of the competence and interest of all members of our staff, so ably led by Mrs Lydia Lassman. Their work is augmented by our numerous volunteer helpers to whose activities, co-ordinated by Mrs Laura Howe, we likewise pay tribute. Their contribution is an essential complement to the day-to-day work of our permanent staff, and we make no excuse for repeating again previous invitations to our members to come forward to join our group of volunteers in their worthwhile and rewarding ministrations.

My final word is reserved for my fellow honorary officers and the members of the executive committee who throughout the year have given their time and experience and to whom I am grateful for advice and encouragement in furthering the activities described above.

C T MARX
Chairman

Election of Members of the Executive Committee

The following members have served on the Executive Committee since the 1987 Annual General Meeting and will be proposed for re-election at the AGM on Thursday, 2 June.

Mr C T Marx (Chairman), Mr M M Kochmann (Vice-Chairman and Honorary Treasurer), Mr O E Franklyn (Honorary Secretary), Mrs K Gould, Dr A R Horwell.

The following members have been co-opted since the last AGM and will be proposed for election to the Executive Committee at the AGM on Thursday, 2 June 1988. Mrs M Brook, Mr J H Dunston, Mr A C Kaufman, Mr W D Rothenberg.

REFUGEES IN BIRMINGHAM AREA

The story of the Jewish refugees who came to Birmingham and the West Midlands is presented in a new book by a local historian, Mrs. Zoe Josephs. It describes the problems that were encountered by the refugees, some of whom were children, in adapting to life in wartime Britain, the hardships encountered by those who were interned as aliens, and the eventual successful lives and careers that many achieved.

Survivors: Jewish Refugees in Birmingham 1933-1945 (224pp, illus. £7.50) is the third volume in the series on Birmingham Jewry prepared by Zoe Josephs and members of the Birmingham Jewish History Research Group. It will appear on 6 June and can be obtained from Meridian Books, 40 Hadzor Road, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands B68 9LA.

Our lecturer
at The Annual General Meeting...

PROFESSOR WERNER MOSSE

Werner Mosse is a descendant of the distinguished German-Jewish family that gave its name to the Mosse Verlag, publishers of the *Berliner Tageblatt*, his own reputation rests on his work as an historian (in which, incidentally he resembles his U.S.-based cousin George L. Mosse).

Werner E. Mosse was born at Berlin in 1918. He came to the U.K. in 1933, studied at Cambridge and served in the British Army during the war. After holding academic posts at London and Glasgow he became Professor of European History at the University of East Anglia, Norwich. He is the author of *The European Powers and the German Question 1848-1871*, *Alexander II and the Modernization of Russia*, and *Liberal Europe: The Age of Bourgeois Realism 1848-1875*.

He is also a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. In addition Werner Mosse has shown abiding interest in Jewish history. He is chairman of the London board of the Leo Baeck Institute and has been involved, either as author or editor, in the publication of the following works: *Zur Judenfrage in der Endphase der Weimarer Republik*, *Deutsches Judentum in Krieg und Revolution 1916-1923* and *Juden im Wilhelminischen Deutschland 1890-1914*.



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THE ANSCHLUSS REMEMBERED

at Jewish Book Week

The anniversary of the *Anschluss* was one of the main features of the 1988 Jewish Book Week programme. The event was recalled in words and music to a capacity audience which filled the Adolph Tuck Hall of Woburn House.

The opening remarks by George Clare, author of *Last Waltz in Vienna*, were followed by Joseph Horowitz's introductory comment on his own String Quartet No. 5, composed in 1969 as a birthday present for Sir Ernst Gombrich O.M. It represents what the composer described as an artistic distillation of his childhood experience in 1938 Austria.

A broader canvas appeared in Richard Grunberger's lecture which encompassed in a wide sweep the whole of Vienna's glittering artistic life in the *belle époque* before the *Anschluss*. The historian, author of several books, including *A Social History of the Third Reich*, recalled the immense debt owed by both imperial and republican Austria to its Jews for their great contribution to the country's cultural life. For example, over one-half of Austria's best-known authors were Jews. The speaker paid particular tribute to the giants among them: Stefan Zweig, Franz Werfel, Joseph Roth, Arthur Schnitzler, Hermann Broch. Some, like Zweig, were committed internationalists, others super-patriots, all gave Austrian literature a unique dimension. Then there were the art critics and coffee house *literati*, the Jewish-owned *Neue Freie Presse* with its much-praised *Feuilleton*, a quality newspaper of the highest order. No less important a role was played by the literary salons: presided over by Jewish ladies of culture and affluence. The speaker also described the specifically Jewish aspects of the Vienna of his childhood: its vibrant religious life, its Zionist activities, its youth movements.

The AJR was among the sponsors of a lecture entitled *The Creative Libel: Wagner, Mahler, Hitler and Beyond*. The speaker, Norman Lebrecht, journalist, author and biographer of Gustav Mahler, dealt with Wagner's antisemitic libels which he thought contributed much to the 'carnival of *Anschluss* savagery'. These libels (the speaker explained) stuck. They were to be used against Milhaud in Berlin, Aron Copland and George Gershwin in the U.S.A., and they haunted the 20th century's greatest composer, Gustav Mahler.

Lebrecht developed two theses — first, that Jewish artists reach heights of achievement only when they are in effective communion with the intellectual environment outside the narrow confines of the ghetto, physical or mental; secondly, there is every justification for the artistic convention of composers borrowing from each other, a practice which Wagner himself did not eschew. Indeed, far from being a 'deplorable' Jewish subterfuge, the mixing of the new with the existing is part and parcel of modern music, eclecticism being an essential attribute of the best

of contemporary composition. Mahler's ninth symphony with its clear allusions to many sources, from *Kol Nidrei* to Bohemian tavern songs, was, Lebrecht concluded, irrefutable evidence for the all-embracing nature of truly great art.

Exhibition at the Wiener Library

The *Anschluss* Anniversary Exhibition at the Wiener Library (March 9-24) contained a skilfully arranged collection of captioned photographs; among unusual items were personal letters sent by inmates of concentration camps. The centrepiece of the display was a specially commissioned 35-minute video documentary entitled *Facing the Anschluss: Jewish Memories 50 Years On*. While much of the material has, of course, been seen before, the personal reminiscences of 14 Jewish refugees release the flood of memories. Their eyewitness accounts confirm, if confirmation were needed, the shameful betrayal of Jews in Austria by their former friends and neighbours, who, with few exceptions, turned on them. Even after 50 years, the pain is plainly to be seen and heard as these men and women remember that which they cannot forget.

DAVID MAIER



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Antisemitism in Austria

Recent polls revealing traces of antisemitism among a third of Austria's 7½ million people and a 'marked dislike' of Jews among seven per cent, were mentioned in an ITV ('This Week') programme. In a telling comment, the leader of the Vienna Jewish community, Paul Grosz, remarked: 'After the Holocaust, even one per cent would be too many'.

According to the ITV reporter Denis Tuohy, most people felt that antisemitism had become more prevalent and overt in the wake of the Waldheim affair. Business and academic leaders were reported to have formed an association to combat intolerance which was considered to be even more serious for the people of Austria as a whole than for its few Jews — 10,000, as against 200,000 before Hitler.

SWEEPING GENERALISATION

For sheer smug self-righteousness, it was probably difficult to beat a *Times* columnist who referred to Kurt Waldheim as one who 'like most of his fellow Austrians, lacked the moral fibre to oppose Hitler from day one'. The writer, presumably born some time after it was all over, clearly had no idea what anti-Nazi opposition entailed or she might have hesitated to defame those who, like most Austrians (or perhaps most Britons), were not born to be either heroes or martyrs. One would not like to enquire what that unreflecting lady would have done in comparable circumstances, but she might have known that there was an Austrian resistance movement and thousands suffered for their convictions. They at least deserve not to be forgotten, even if denied an honourable mention. Opinions on Waldheim may legitimately differ, and the feelings of those who do not wish to visit Austria must be respected, but sweeping generalisations can never serve a sensible purpose—as we Jews at least must know.

ANSCHLUSS IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Everyday antisemitism in Vienna during the *Anschluss* period is documented in a new volume edited by two young Austrian students of contemporary history, Hans Safrian and Hans Witek — '*Und keiner war dabei*'. *Dokumente des alltäglichen Antisemitismus in Wien 1938*. (Vienna. 1988. 207 pp.). The material reveals (says a review in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*) Austria's double role as both the victim of Nazi aggression and a perpetrator of crime, 'the paradox of persecuting innocence'.

Actually, what stands out is a 'pogrom antisemitism baring its face of mass murder even before *Kristallnacht*'. Carl Zuckmayer, the author, who was there found Vienna 'changed into a nightmare painting of Hieronymus Bosch. Ghouls and semi-demons seemed to be crawling out of filthy eggs and rising out of mud-covered holes in the ground'. Such were the countless unbridled outrages that even old Party members (naively) asked: 'Is this National Socialism?'.

After 1945, in a by no means untypical court action, one of the criminals was found to have been 'a willing tool of the Nazi movement even though, personally, he had acted with integrity'. The editors' comment is: 'Those who could not be proved to have, by their own hands, murdered Jews, did not have any major problems'.

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JOSEPH IN EGYPT

and the King who did not want to know him

Everybody knows the story of Joseph . . . Joseph of Egypt, the boy who was a little forward and talkative, perhaps vain, whom his jealous brothers sold into 'slavery', and who then made good. In fact, he became Pharaoh's right-hand man and saved the State of Egypt from disaster after first parrying a dangerous sexual entanglement with his previous employer's wife, the Mrs. Potiphar who has become an archetype of a seductress as her victim became a byword for chastity. Whose heart has not been lifted, and many an eye moistened, when Joseph forgave and helped his brethren in their hour of need and brought joy to the last days of his aged father Jacob. It is all in Genesis, and it ends when the Children of Israel, under the leadership of Moses, take Joseph's body home with them to the Promised Land, 430 years later, as he had requested (in fact, prophesied).

Not so. His name is Yuya and he lies in an anthropoid coffin — that is, the lid resembles a human form, usually idealised — on the first floor of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo — next to his wife Tuya, similarly placed. Their mummies, within a nest of three coffins in his case and two in hers, have been seen and studied, and that is part of the story and we shall come to that. For we have now arrived at the book written by Ahmed Osman, entitled *Stranger in the Valley of the Kings* and subtitled 'The identification of Yuya as the Patriarch Joseph' (Souvenir Press. 171pp. £15.95).

The Valley of the Kings, on the West bank of the Nile opposite the town of Luxor, is a solemn and solitary spot among the desert hills. When the tourists have departed for their hotels it reverts to what is left of the resting places of the rulers and ruling class for about three-and-a-half thousand years. For as long again other rulers had been buried in other places, the pyramids included. A little way apart from the royals, the tomb of the vizier Yuya (with wife and grave goods and furniture) was found in 1905 by a rich and knowledgeable American, Theodore M. Davis, among whose helpers was Howard Carter, the later discoverer (with Lord Carnarvon) of Tutankhamun's tomb.

Back to Mr. Osman. For twenty years he has worked to prove that Yuya was Joseph, and the book is the result of his labour. Originally it was a flash of intuition which set the author on his way. In the Genesis story Joseph soothes his anxious brothers that it was not their misdeed, but God's will that brought him to Egypt, and to power as the Provider of the Two Kingdoms, the great agrarian reformer. He tells them that he is 'a father to Pharaoh'. Now nobody was 'a father to Pharaoh' in any political or allegorical sense, for Pharaoh was God on earth in his lifetime, and a god after death still. So far as is known, nobody in ancient Egypt has ever claimed this . . . except one non-royal father-in-law. And Yuya was the father-in-law of Amenhotep III, the ancestor of Tutankhamun.

Yuya and Tuya were the parents of Tye who, though a commoner, became the great Wife of Amenhotep III, the Magnificent. From this central point outwards Osman draws his circle, and though one feels resistance to the disturbing of such a perfect plot and narrative as informs the Old Testament Joseph story, the arguments give you pause.

There are the usual contradictions in the Genesis account . . . who saved young Joseph, Judah or Reuben? Both are credited. The Koran tells a less dramatic but psychologically more convincing version of the Mrs. Potiphar story. In it Potiphar (of course, that was not his name, but let that pass) is well aware of his wife's sexual and general instability and knows of his excellent servant Joseph's probity. But he must support his wife, a great lady and a pillar of society who mobilises the opinions of other true blue Egyptian ladies. Potiphar must be seen to do the right thing, and he does, obtaining a trusty's job for Joseph in a remand prison for high-up suspects (remember the Cup Bearer and the Royal Baker of the first dream interpretation which led to an introduction for Joseph to the Court after two years).

Now these dreams! Osman says the Pharaonic dreamer of the fat and lean kine (cattle) was Thutmosis IV, himself a visionary as evidenced by his inscriptions on a scarab (huge sacred stone beetle) which lies between the paws of the Great Sphinx at the Giza pyramids. Joseph confirmed the main dream Thutmosis dreamed there . . . that he would become Pharaoh, and when he did he took Yuya-Joseph with him to glory. He did not rule long, but commended Yuya-Joseph to his son Amenhotep, who made Joseph 'his father'.

And so Joseph brought his family to Egypt, and Pharaoh gave them a good piece of land, and they prospered and multiplied. The Egyptians I talked to did not like Osman's interpretation much, though he is an Egyptian himself; the word heresy was used. But my mind went off on another tack. Is this not the story of the Jews over and over

again? One might almost say: if only it had never been written down! For soon there were 'too many of them'. And then there was a ruler who knew not Joseph. And then the persecution started, and the attempted genocide by extermination of male babies. And the Exodus, and vengeance, and endless repetition of the cycle.

While contemplating these matters as a consequence of concern with Osman's book, I happened to watch BBC 2's repeat of its excellent production of George Clare's *Last Waltz in Vienna*. It was a splendid backcloth to the *Anschluss* commemorations. And it reinforced the point I just mentioned. There was a civilisation that gave ITS children of Israel as much leeway as the rulers who knew Joseph. Literature, thy name was Jewish authors. The list of achievements of this symbiosis is well known . . . as long as the good 'Pharaoh' Franz Josef lived, though the jackals could be heard to howl from time to time. And then . . . well, we all know.

Almost at the same time I read an article in *The Times* by Bernard Levin in which he endeavours to soothe the ruffled feelings of people who received through their letter boxes copies of the neo-Nazi *Holocaust News*. He derides it as nonsense that can no longer hurt the dead. That is so. But I thought he was a little too optimistic about the safety of Anglo-Jewry. He is right enough for now, as are all of us who enjoy life in Britain. But I could not get the story of Joseph-Yuya out of my mind.

Ah yes, I promised to mention the mummies. Well, Osman saw them, and he finds that the male looked markedly Semitic. The Lady Tuya doesn't. She was Joseph's Egyptian wife (that is in Genesis, too). On this I really disagreed with Osman. Yuya just looks dead. And there are two other points. If this is true, then the Eighteenth Dynasty was *jüdisch versippt*. Maybe that accounts for the misfortunes of Tutankhamun. The revolutionary monotheism and iconoclastic vandalism of Akhenaten (Amenhotep IV) have been blamed on Joseph and his Brethren before now.

John Rossall, who has previously contributed to our paper, recently returned from a study trip to Cairo and Luxor. His book on Tutankhamun is due to be published at the beginning of 1989 by Ashford Press.

Ravings of Lunatics we disregard at our peril

In his above review of a new Joseph Legend, John Rossall refers to an article by the *Times* columnist Bernard Levin who had dismissed the British neo-Nazi publication *Holocaust News* (claiming the Holocaust was a myth) as the 'ravings' of 'loonies we can safely ignore'. Nor did he think that the law could help. In which he differs from the Board of Deputies: they want a group libel law which would enable minorities to strike back.

But this is perhaps a secondary consideration. The more important point would seem to be that a prominent moulder of public opinion such as the *Times* writer referred to (who happens to be Jewish) refuses to take this hate propaganda seriously. Antisemitism, he says, was admittedly

bad before the 'Hitler war but now it is different; people know better: The truth is (according to Levin) that the Nazis demonstrated for all time what that poison can lead to and it shocked almost all into abandoning it'.

Such is a time-honoured state of mind and it has been revealed on many occasions. Shocking things might have happened in the Dark Ages but not now. The King who elevated Joseph was thought to be a permanent institution, ensuring that as things are they must remain. On some such lines, Levin would have written a typical column in the *Berliner Tageblatt* or the *Vossische Zeitung*

continued page 6

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of the 1920s; when Dr. Goebbels started his paper *Der Angriff* in 1927 the German-Jewish weekly *C.V. Zeitung*, the only one to take any notice at all, made this comment: 'The articles are brutal to the point of cynicism . . . The new paper will probably have the effect of convincing serious-minded readers of the emptiness of Dr. Goebbels' doctrine'. As late as October 1930, after Hitler's first big success, the usual 'well informed' observers assured the *Jewish Chronicle* that it was 'impossible for the Jews to be treated as Hitler threatens, seeing they have become so interwoven with the German social fabric'.

This perhaps is an outstanding feature of the all too human mentality of our time: the utter inability, at least the resolute refusal, to grasp or credit the power of what seemed hopelessly irrational. This does not mean that no effort was made to expose and refute the brazen nonsense of Nazism — the vast *anti-anti* literature compiled by the *Central-Verein* is the classic evidence — but, basically, the assumption was that people are open to reason and certain things simply could not happen. So far as the Nazi crimes were concerned, that unbelief went on long after they had begun and became known, because (Nahum Goldmann, a President of the World Jewish Congress, later remarked) 'our fantasy was too poor to foresee those events'. People were still dedicated to the 19th century notion of an irreversible progress which a German-Jewish leader (Dr Kurt Alexander) summed up in the rhetorical question: 'How could one expect a government even to think of abrogating the idea of the equality of all men?' — let alone of the abstract logic implied in such action.

Only a few weeks ago, we were told by Simon Wiesenthal who certainly had every reason to know better that at first even he had not believed in the gas chambers, even after arriving at the death camp in which he managed to survive.

The natural and persistent unbelief current among Jews was just as widespread among others, both inside Germany and outside, and those who claim it are entitled to our sympathy, seeing that we ourselves were (in a manner of speaking) 'slaves in Egypt'.

So if Levin believes he may 'safely ignore' the subversive implications of *Holocaust News*, he can only plead that after all Britain is not Germany, and of course it would be foolish to suggest anything like a parallel between Britain in 1988 and Germany in (say) 1928. The parallels of history are rarely like the parallels of mathematics. What is relevant however is the static mind that sees things only in their present well-ordered setting and cannot fathom a possible descent into wholly changed circumstances where the 'ravings' of 'loonies' will suddenly seem to make sense.

JEWS IN BAVARIA

An exhibition entitled *Geschichte und Kultur der Juden in Bayern* is to be held in Nuremberg for three months starting on 25 October. The sponsors are, jointly, the local *Germanisches Nationalmuseum* and the House of Bavarian History.

HELP FOR REFUGEE SCHOLARS

The Work of Gilbert Murray

The great concern shown for the fate of refugee academics by Professor Gilbert Murray is featured in the recent biography of the famous Oxford scholar — *Gilbert Murray OM, 1866–1957*, by Duncan Wilson (Clarendon Press, 1987, 474pp.). One of the first Germans to appeal to him personally is stated to have been Thomas Mann who, in April 1933, sought his advice about finding opportunities for Klaus to teach and study in England. Shortly afterwards Murray received a request from Dr. Leo Szilard, of Berlin University, to discuss the situation of German inventors and scholars under the Nazi regime.

As an associate of the Committee of Intellectual Cooperation (founded before 1933) he agreed to help in coordinating international action, particularly in drawing up a list of scholars who should be helped. He contacted for this purpose the American Emergency Committee and more especially William Beveridge at the London School of Economics who had proposed a cut of salaries at the School in order to contribute to an international fund for the relief of scholars in distress. He joined Murray in setting up what became the Academic Assistance Committee (later known as the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning).

While doing his best to obtain funds from scholarly institutions in Britain, Murray soon learnt that there was little hope of any financial help from the Government. Nor was the University of Oxford more generous. Nevertheless as late as 1939 Murray was trying to interest colleges in establishing travelling lectureships for refugee scholars.

Murray always took a lively interest in the work of the League of Nations though he was not involved in the setting up of the High Commission for the Refugees from Germany. He is stated to have 'drafted a powerful letter to the German League of Nations Society, asking how "men of good will", in the light of what had been done to the Jews in Germany, could be expected to trust Hitler'. It is not said whether the letter was actually sent or what if any reply was received.

Among those who enjoyed Murray's generous hospitality was Rudolf Olden, the political editor of the *Berliner Tageblatt*, for whom he obtained a two-year appointment as Assistant Professor of History at the College of Social Science in New York, but unfortunately Olden and his wife were drowned in August 1940 when the ship on which they were travelling was torpedoed.

At that time, Murray was particularly active on behalf of the internees, and moving tributes to him and his wife, Lady Mary, are printed. Wilson also records an episode which seems to him characteristic of the time. In April 1944, Rose Macaulay, the author, wrote to Murray: 'The resentment against us among our refugee guests is terrific. . . . They are met (in Britain) by blocks of ice, faces of wood. I wish that there were more houses (like yours) who will throw open their doors to *Mittleuropa*'. Murray replied: 'It is sad about the Central Europeans. The truth is . . . we do not much like them and that is what they cannot forgive'.

But of course this was a bit of an overstatement. A refugee, Marianne Grafe, is quoted as having said: 'Lady Mary's interest for all kinds of human beings is simply a sacred miracle'.

DR. CURT C. SILBERMANN 80

Our greetings go out to Dr. Curt C. Silberman, Joint Chairman of the Council of Jews from Germany and Chairman of the Board of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe, who will be 80 on May 23.

Born in Würzburg, he was a *Referendar* when the Nazis came to power and later acted as the trusted adviser to fellow-members of his community on emigration and transfer matters. The reputation he had attained at a young age is reflected in his election to the *Gemeindevorstand*. After the November pogroms, during which he was imprisoned, he emigrated to the United States. There he became a successful lawyer, admitted to the Bar of New Jersey and to practise before the U.S. Supreme Court. He is an authority on Corporation Law and has many publications on legal subjects to his credit. He is also on the German Consulate's register of international lawyers. Last but not least, he gives lectures in the U.S. and in Europe and not long ago addressed the Faculty of the *alma mater* of his home town.

Silberman is deeply rooted in the values of German Jewry and constructive in tackling the variety of tasks incumbent on it after its dispersion. He became President of the Federation in 1963 and last year, on his retirement from this office, Chairman of the Board. The beneficiary of his gifts on the super-national level is the Council of Jews from Germany whose Joint Chairman he has been since 1974.

Endowed with an instinct for the evaluation of political developments, he often takes the initiative for action. By his skill as a negotiator, he has established contact with many organisations and personalities, thus enhancing the reputation of the Council and achieving its objectives. As the representative of the council at the 'Claims Conference', he sees to it that the Homes and welfare organisations built up by the Council's constituents obtain an adequate share in the — unavoidably limited — funds available.

A sincere and helpful personality, Silberman has endeared himself to his fellow-workers on the Council who wish him many more years of undiminished vigour and health. W. R.

SURPRISE IN THE ATTIC

4,000 paintings by the late Ernst Dryden, the Austrian-born artist and Marlene Dietrich's dress designer (see *AJR INFORMATION*, November 1987) were sold for £69,000 in London. They had been stored in an attic for 40 years and after their owner died were dumped in a heap of rubble where they were rescued by Mr. Anthony Lipmann, a commodity broker, who thought they might be valuable.

Fred S. Worms

WIEDERSEHN IN FRANKFURT

Conclusion

The only famous Jewish building that has remained virtually unscathed is the Liberal Synagogue in the *Freiherr von Steinstrasse* over which Rabbi Salzberger had presided for so many years. It too was used by the Nazis as a warehouse. It is now the only major synagogue in Frankfurt, where the Orthodox, Polish-Ashkenazi *Minhag* applies. There is also a small *minyan* in the *Baumweg* where they try to maintain the *Minhag* Frankfurt, but I understand they have a struggle.

The interior of the *Freiherr von Steinstrasse* Synagogue is decorated in what I can only describe as Marie Laurencin style watercolours; light blue, light pink, light gold and silver. Its vast glass dome and the huge chandelier give it an air of unreality and transcendence. The acoustics are appalling and the Israeli *Chasen*, who has been with the community for 18 years, has to work very hard to make himself heard. On the Shabbat when I visited the synagogue the Torah was read by an old gentleman. He made no effort to convey the message to anybody who was not literally within five yards of the *Bimah* and the community settled down happily to their private conversations. I was told that on a normal Shabbat one could expect between 50 to 100, but on this particular day they had two or three times that number because of a *Bar-Mitzvah*.

In pursuance of my quest I enquired of the Warden whether there was anybody in the community who was born in Frankfurt and he referred me to a Herr Wolff, a benign gentleman in his 70s. He was a mine of information. He told me, for example, that the three men sitting in the row behind us were the owners respectively of the Hilton, Plaza and the Carlton hotels on the Tel-Aviv seafloor. They conversed in Yiddish. The young Rabbi, who came from Czechoslovakia, read his sermon in a stilted German. He found it difficult to make any real contact with his audience. During the last five years the community has had four different rabbis. It was only when the young *Bar-Mitzvah* boy himself spoke from the pulpit that the irony of the tragedy of the situation became apparent. Here was this boy of 13 who, in his perfect, unaccented German, represented the new generation that could well start the cycle of the rebirth of German Jewry all over again.

Hats for men were out, *yarmulkes* were in, but no-one except me wore a knitted *kippah*, in spite of, or possibly because of, the fact that quite a number of congregants were former Israelis.

Before the war there were 30,000 Jews in Frankfurt. Now there are no more than 5,000. Mr. Wolff thought that those who were strictly kosher would number less than one hundred. Some two years ago the new community centre in the *Savignystrasse*, not far from the *Bahnhof*, was opened. The money came from restitution funds. The complex itself is most attractive. It is built in light coloured stone and one vast tablet soaring to

a height of four floors shows a zigzag crack to commemorate the tragedy of *Shoah*. The centre contains a kosher restaurant, meeting hall and an ultra-modern primary school.

In looking at the older Germans and thinking the inevitable 'what did you do during the war?' one must be careful not to generalise. There are some remarkable exceptions. One of these is Walter Hesselbach, the eminent banker, architect of the phenomenal growth of the *Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft*, and one of the leading City Fathers. Both Hesselbach and his parents were trained at a Jewish bank and at the age of 18 he became a member of *Poale Zion*. Two of his three daughters are married to Israelis; he himself has a distinguished record as an anti-Nazi. He is, amongst other things, the Chairman of the Friends of the Hebrew University in Germany which raises some \$8m per annum.

A GERMAN PLATFORM FOR REFUGEE WRITERS

Exil (Goethestrasse 122, 6457 Maintal 2) is a German literary magazine devoted to refugee writers and their work. Now in its 7th year, it has become a recognised forum for 'research, discovery and achievement'. Its founder and publisher, Frau Edita Koch, discovered emigré writings as a student of German literature, and, she says, being herself of Jewish descent stimulated her interest.

Exil, now appearing twice annually, had many teething troubles. It took a whole year to bring out the first issue. As Frau Koch recalls, 'It was very difficult at the beginning to obtain any contributions. Academics of note were reluctant to entrust their efforts to an obscure publication; established research workers acted with suspicion and reserve'. Nevertheless, the first issue was ready in December 1981. Of the 300 copies run off, many were distributed free. But the response was highly encouraging. Clearly a gap had been filled, since no other literary magazine had so far concerned itself primarily with refugee writing.

Now, too, the academic establishment began to take it seriously. No longer were contributions hard to get: even unsolicited material arrived in growing volume. This allowed concentration on the treatment of specific areas. Thus one issue was devoted to the work of some lesser-known writers of Austrian origin. Another issue contained a number of poems by the lyricist Emma Kann, who, having returned from the United States, now lives in a retirement home near Lake Constance. Since other publishers had been indifferent, she was here given a new opportunity to become better known. In another issue, the Viennese writer Stella Rotenberg describes her flight to Holland and then to Britain, while Eugen M. Brehm reported on his internment in Huyton.

On occasion, *Exil* cooperates with the *Archiv Bibliographia Judaica* in Frankfurt. An article

about the psychiatrist Artur Kronfeld who committed suicide in 1941 in Moscow, derives, for example, from a lecture given under the auspices of the *Archiv*. A special issue carried the proceedings of a symposium organised by the Hamburg Centre for Refugee Literature, and a regular feature are the reports of the PEN Centre of German-speaking Authors Abroad.

Exil now has an established readership, mostly among members of the learned professions. Frau Koch is anxious to enlarge its scope so as to embrace the whole of the 'intellectual emigration'. To this end she frequently travels abroad, seeking contact with fellow-researchers as well as individual refugees. She has found much unpublished material including personal reminiscences, particularly in the United States; and she hopes that by making these contacts, she can bring a little relief from the feeling of isolation from which, she believes, not a few of the refugee writers suffer.

BERND HÄUSSLER

The author is a freelance journalist resident in Frankfurt.

And More About Frankfurt . . .

PHILANTHROPIN MEMORIAL

The building of the famous teaching institution in Frankfurt, *Philanthropin*, is to be converted into a Citizens' house (*Bürgerhaus*). The local Jewish Museum will establish there a permanent exhibition which is to serve as a Memorial of the college. For this purpose an appeal is directed to all former pupils, requesting documentary material such as photos, school reports, school uniforms, school magazines. They will be gratefully received by the *Jüdisches Museum* ('*Philanthropin*'), Schaumainkai 35, 6000 Frankfurt am Main 70.

The *Philanthropin* was founded in 1804 by Siegmund Geisenberger and at one time had as many as 900 pupils. It was closed down in 1941.

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THAT'S LIFE

Follow on of a Television Programme

The Souls that were Saved

The work done by a London stockbroker, Nicholas Winton, who helped some 660 children escape from Czechoslovakia in 1938-39 was presented in Esther Rantzen's *That's Life* programme on BBC-1 and also described in some detail in two issues of the *Sunday Mirror*. Shortly before Christmas 1938, Winton, then 30, went to Prague with an agent of the newly formed British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia for the special purpose of saving as many children as possible. It was of course difficult to make a choice but the greater problem was to find homes, sponsors and new parents in England. Serious obstacles also were a widespread apathy and a slow-moving Home Office — not merely here but in the U.S.A. too as Winton discovered when he pleaded for help there.

As the pressure of events mounted permits were more readily issued and Winton had cards printed each with the pictures of six children plus their names and ages. 'People could just make their choice', Winton said, apologising for the 'horribly commercial-sounding' project, but the 'selling power' created really worked. The climax came on 21 July 1939 when 241 children arrived in Liverpool Street Station to be received by 241 foster parents.

Among the children saved by Winton was Alfred Dubs, later Labour MP for Battersea (see AJR INFORMATION, June 1987), also Milena Fleischmann, now Lady Grenfell-Baines, wife of an eminent architect. C.C.A.

One of 'Mr. Winton's Children'

Susanne Medas describes her current occupation as 'using my acquired skills'. This modest comment does not quite do justice to the work she has been doing since she retired from full-time employment in 1983. Nor does it hint at the story she can tell of how, as a child, she was snatched from the brink of disaster by the courage and ingenuity of a young stockbroker called Nicholas Winton. Her story starts in Berlin in 1923, the year she was born to Jewish parents of Austrian and Sudeten origins.

The father had studied chemistry in Vienna, but being an ardent Socialist, he threw himself into a career in politics and journalism. For some years he worked on a local paper in Bohemia. Then he was appointed to an editorial post on the German Social Democratic Party's newspaper *Vorwärts*. In 1933, the family left Berlin for Prague and, in due course, acquired Czechoslovak citizenship. At the time of Munich her father was foreign correspondent of the *London Daily Herald*. He was at pains to convince his employers that it was not 'peace in our time'. But when he appealed to his political friends in England for assistance to leave Czechoslovakia, his pleas fell on deaf ears.

However, for his teenage daughter help was at hand. Among the offers Winton had received was one from a youth organisation affiliated to the Cooperative movement: Twenty families were prepared to take that number of children belonging to the Czech Socialist 'scouts', and one of the lucky ones was Susanne.

Thus, in the Summer of 1939, she came to live in Cambridge. She was found a place in a teachers' training college, but had to leave before qualifying. She became a governess in a family who had befriended her, continued her teacher training with financial help from the Union of Jewish Women, taught in private schools during the war, looked after Jewish child survivors of the camps, married and had children of her own. Then she took up secretarial work in a medical charity.

Unlike the other rescued children, she soon discovered who it was who had saved her life. By pure chance she met Winton's mother who was also very active on behalf of refugee children. Susanne received from her the encouragement she needed to make her way alone in a strange country.

For her parents had remained behind. They did manage to escape to Norway, but when that country, too, was occupied, they were arrested and put aboard two ships: her father on one carrying all the Jewish men, her mother on the other with all the Jewish women. At sea, the latter struck a mine and all were drowned. The 'cargo' on the other reached its destination — Auschwitz.

When Susanne Medas speaks of her gratitude to Nicholas Winton she links it with the memory of her parents and recalls the words of one of her refund companions of the children's transport: 'Mr. Winton did not save only us, he also saved our unborn children; and our families live on.'

D.L.M.

LENI URSELL

A figure well known to and beloved among patients in Cambridge hospitals recently passed away, shortly before her 95th birthday. Mrs. Leni Ursell was often seen riding her bike along the Cambridge lanes, with her baskets full of provisions for those in need as well as for herself. She was known even to have taken into her home those of her friends who required special care and comfort.

She came from Düsseldorf where her husband had enjoyed the respect and appreciation of his numerous patients. The Ursells arrived here in 1939 and soon settled down in Cambridge where they played a memorable part in refugee circles.

*

An active member of the AJR Club in the Southgate-Cockfosters area, London, Ben Frankel, passed away on 2 March. The Club is still small and AJR members living in the area are invited to contact Mr. H. Révész, 5 Milton Lodge, 60 Station Road, Winchmore Hill, N. 21 3NG (tel. 360 9702).

ERIC WARBURG PRIZE

Eric Warburg, 87, a member of the Hamburg banker's family, was the first recipient of the Eric Warburg prize which was presented to him in Bonn by the German President, Richard von Weizsäcker. The prize will from now on be awarded every other year by the *Atlantik Brücke*, a non-political society for the promotion of German-American relations.

Warburg had served this cause already in the United States where he emigrated in 1938 and helped in the launching of the American Council on Germany. After his return in 1945 as a member of the US Army, he soon took a part in the affairs of the *Atlantik Brücke*. As a Lt.-General in the US Air Force intelligence service, he was able to exert some influence on US policy as when he managed to persuade his Government to revise an early map which would have allowed the Soviets control over the North-Baltic Sea Canal and thus over the Scandinavian countries. He also pleaded for an end to the dismantling of German industry and for careful consideration of Germany's part in the defence of Western Europe.

LEADERS OF SOCIETY

It is not likely to be much of a society where leaders excel in making a lot of noise, being 'pushy, loud-mouthed and attention-grabbing'. Teachers were rightly sceptical when they heard that, according to research by the University of Ulster, it was people like this who were 'destined to become leaders of society'. Those leaders (the assistant secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers thought) would be precisely those 'anti-social and disruptive' elements that 'don't respect others' because they only know how to 'shout them down'.

A striking example was Hitler who noticed his brutal talents early on, as he explained in his book *Mein Kampf*. He 'always sought the company of the toughest boys', those hooligans who like him were 'always out for a fight'. Boasting of his 'gifts of an orator', he said he engaged in 'never-ending arguments' that soon 'turned him into a little rabble-rouser' who was 'difficult to handle'; as for the 'bluntness of language' which was rather below what was 'normally considered acceptable' (as the Ulster scholars put it), he was certainly difficult to surpass.

AJR NEWS

PAUL BALINT — AJR DAY CENTRE

Entertainment for May 1988

Monday 2nd	Closed
Tuesday 3rd	Wizo Singers with a Programme of Hebrew, Yiddish & English Songs
Wednesday 4th	Presentation of Rare Puppets and Ventriloquists' Dolls by Stella Richards
Thursday 5th	B'nai B'rith Jerusalem Choir
Monday 9th	'Songs from the Shows' by Valerie Albert & Happy Branston
Tuesday 10th	Talk & Demonstration on the History of Magic by Bert Meredith
Wednesday 11th	Tessa Newman — Pianist
Thursday 12th	Alternative Medicine by Jack Goodman
Monday 16th	'Sophie Tucker — Her Life & Music' by Joan Sheridan
Tuesday 17th	English & Continental Songs by Marguerite Rapp & Peggy Wilding
Wednesday 18th	Music Appreciation by Yacov Paul
Thursday 19th	'Lorenzo Sings for You — Accompanied by Marie'
Monday 23rd	Closed
Tuesday 24th	'Henry Kissin Entertains'
Wednesday 25th	(i) Outing to Theatre (ii) Alice Sommer — Concert Pianist at the Day Centre
Thursday 26th	'A Trip Up The Nile' by Inge Munro
Monday 30th	Closed
Tuesday 31st	'With the Magic of the Musicals' by Leonie Page

THANKS FOR FLOWERS

Grateful thanks to Galton Flowers, of Golders Green Road, for the beautiful flowers which they donate every week to the Day Centre. Not only do they give immense pleasure to all the people who attend, not least to the art class who produce wonderful flower pieces through their inspiration; they also are given with such grace that it is a particular pleasure for our voluntary workers to collect them.

VOLUNTEER DRIVER wanted to drive elderly gentleman from home in Oakwood to Southgate Day Centre on Wednesdays at 10.30 a.m. **Contact Laura Howe 483 2536.**

Can you spare some time to entertain our members attending the Day Centre? If so, please contact Hanna Goldsmith on Wednesdays between 9.30 a.m. and 3 p.m. 328 0208 or evenings 958 5080.

THE SCHLESINGER SISTERS

There were four Jewish sisters in a comfortable home in a small town of Upper Bavaria, Germany. When Hitler came to power, they realised they would have to leave their parents and family, but it was not till 1939 that they got their permit to enter Britain.

Used to working for their living, they immediately started domestic and war work in turn. When the war was over, they had saved some money to afford a house in Ealing and they let the rooms they could spare.

The youngest sister unfortunately had to be admitted to a mental home in Epsom as were so many other Jewish immigrants. Bertha and Rosa, already advanced in years, undertook on their own to visit and care for Jewish patients in St. Bernard's, Friern Barnet and Epsom hospitals. They befriended them, searched through records, made arrangements for unclaimed pensions and restitution to be paid, traced lost relatives, made funeral arrangements — no task was too daunting for them.

They eventually moved to Kingston to be nearer their youngest sister. Some time later they took on the J. W. B. home, Fenton House, Ealing, where their third sister had to be admitted.

Now Bertha and Rosa carried on their admirable task, also taking part in the activities of the community, like synagogue and B'nai B'rith, in Surrey. In Ealing and Kingston they went early to the markets for the freshest fruit, to bakers and kosher butchers, got each time 20-30 parcels ready individually, setting off the next day to spend the whole day distributing these goodies to the unfortunate inmates.

Only a few people are aware how much time and heavy carrying was involved. They were not deterred by wind and weather when they could not get transport from volunteer drivers.

Now Rosa is the only remaining sister. Bertha, who had already been in delicate health has sadly passed away. Rosie is looking forward to a quiet retirement in the Leo Baeck House: she so richly deserves it and all who know her will wish her peace and contentment for many years to come.

PAULA EISNER

Paula Eisner, née Schmoller, celebrated her 90th birthday. Her father founded, together with Schocken, a chain of department stores in Germany. She was a trained opera-singer and kept her interest in music throughout her life. The head of a family of seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, she is intellectually and physically in a remarkably active state.

Her late husband, Fritz Eisner, came from an old family who 150 years ago established the important Berlin Textile Firm of Eisner & Kirchheim.

Although active in the family firm, he was a great bibliophile and devoted as much time as he could spare to a special study of Heine. He was responsible for the complete edition of the letters in the *Säkularausgabe* for which he wrote an exhaustive commentary.

MRS FRIEDA KOCHMANN — 90

Whoever sees the trim, slim and erect figure at the Shabbath Morning Services of Belsize Square Synagogue would not believe that 'Friedel' will celebrate her 90th birthday on 16 May. Her youthful vigour and energy would seem to remain unchanged. She has been involved in our community life for many decades. Her work for the Otto Schiff House especially has been of inestimable value to every resident for about 32 years.

Even at 90, *Friedel* still takes a principal part in the sacred work of the Synagogues' *Chevrá Kadisha*. The Leo Baeck Women's Lodge has made her a Life Member of the Council in appreciation of her devoted work. Her hospitality at Sedarim and many other occasions is legendary.

In spite of losing her husband at a relatively early age *Friedel* brought up their children in the best spirit of Jewish tradition, and she is now enjoying the experience of a third generation growing up.

Her many friends in our community wish Frieda Kochmann many more years of personal happiness, good health and continuing activity.

F.E.F.

Ruth Gawthorpe

A party for Miss Ruth Gawthorpe took place at Osmond House on 24 March to mark both her retirement after many years as Matron, successively at Heinrich Stahl House and Osmond House, and to celebrate her engagement to Mr. Charles Rath.

Mr. Ludwig Spiro recalled her years of devoted service. Residents were grateful for the spirit of comfort and goodwill which she had spread among all associated with her. She had sometimes thought of retiring but did not do it — until the right man came along whom she could not resist.

The grateful thanks expressed by Mr. Spiro were echoed by Mr. R. W. Mattes, chairman of the CBF Residential Care & Housing Association, and by Dr. Lore Stein, chairman of the Osmond House Committee. To the many presents, including presentations from the staff, were added musical tributes provided by those stalwart supporters of the House causes, Johanna and Paul Lichtenstern.

FINCHLEY, SOUTHGATE AND BAYSWATER NEED VOLUNTEERS!

There are three people in the Bayswater area whose needs we have been unable to meet. Local members, please ask yourselves, your friends and relatives, if you can help. **Contact Laura Howe 483 2536**

CAMPS INTERNMENT—P.O.W.— FORCED LABOUR—KZ

I wish to buy cards, envelopes and folded post-marked letters from all camps of both world wars. Please send, registered mail, stating price, to:
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The World of Art

Round the Exhibitions with Alice Schwab

George Grosz, Käthe Kollwitz and others

The Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations in Stuttgart has arranged an exhibition of Prints and Drawings of the Weimar Republic. The exhibition has been put together by Eberhard Roters and Weiland Schmied and comprises 146 works by 24 artists including, among others, Beckmann, Dix, Grosz and Kollwitz. It has been shown recently at the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, and will be at the Camden Arts Centre (14 June–10 July). It will also be shown in Belfast, Leeds, Glasgow and Aberdeen. An illustrated catalogue containing a great deal about the period and the artists concerned, is available at £7.50.

At the Goethe Institut there is a selection of non-figurative works on paper by five German women artists of today: Margitta Aberls, Ulla von Gierke, Bettina Mauel, Elisabeth Vary and Isolde Warwin (until 11 June).

Heinz Koppel

Gillian Jason in her gallery at 42 Inverness Street, London N.W.1 was showing works by Heinz Koppel (1919–1980), until 30 April. Koppel was born in Berlin and studied there under Professor Falileff, also in Prague under Feigl. In 1937 he settled in London and attended Martin Bloch's painting school. In 1941 he started teaching at Stoke-on-Trent, but returned to London in 1942 and was bombed out of his studio in 1943. He moved to Wales where he exhibited and taught, establishing the Dowlais Art Centre. In 1964 he became Senior Lecturer at the Liverpool College of Art. The thirty paintings in the exhibition are from his middle period and are comparable in some ways to those of his teacher Martin Bloch. His work has not been exhibited in London since 1963.

Portrait Photography

The recent Karsh exhibition at the Barbican (recently reviewed) showed what portrait photography can achieve. It might however be fair to say that Karsh's work is excelled by that of Robert Mapplethorpe (born in Long Island, U.S.A., in 1946). *Mapplethorpe Portraits* is the subject of an exhibition of his work at the National Portrait Gallery (until 19 June). His portrait subjects are wide-ranging and include, among the British subjects, Lord Snowdon, Marianne Faithfull, David Hockney, Jasper Conran and Peter Gabriel. A fully illustrated catalogue in duotone with an essay by Peter Conrad is available (price £12.95).

Another photographic exhibition is at the Victoria and Albert Museum (until 29 May). It is entitled *Chris Killip in Flagrant. Photographs of Britain 1975–1987*. These fifty photographs give a desolate view of Britain in the eighties, reflecting the reality of an industrial society in decline. Sculpture by Joan Miro is at the Fabian Carlsson Gallery, 160 New Bond Street, until 7 May.

Russia and Australia

Forthcoming attractions include French Paintings from the U.S.S.R. — Watteau to Matisse which will be at the National Gallery (15 June–18 September). This exhibition comprises 38 paintings from the Hermitage and Pushkin Museums.

As part of the Australian Bicentennial celebrations the Hayward Gallery will be showing paintings by Arthur Boyd, Sidney Nolan and Albert Tucker. Entitled *Angry Penguins*, reflecting the name of an important Australian Magazine, the exhibition runs from 19 May to 14 August. Late works by Pablo Picasso will be shown at the Tate Gallery (23 June–18 September).

George Eisler

Our old friend Margaret Fisher has recently shown watercolours and graphics by George Eisler. Eisler, the son of the composer Hanns Eisler, was born in Vienna in 1928 and, after

many vicissitudes, arrived in Manchester in 1939 where he studied at the Manchester and Salford Schools of Art. In 1945 he met Kokoschka and became his pupil. He had his first exhibition in Manchester in 1946, but then returned to Vienna. It was a small exhibition, opened by Professor Dr. Hodin, but showed Eisler's mastery of large compositions with many figures, his skill as a portraitist and as a painter of the female form.

Jewish Art

The Manor House Society is holding an exhibition of works by the Halter family (3 May–1 June). Roman Halter (born in Chodecz, Poland, in 1927) was in concentration camps during the war and was brought to England from Theresienstadt in 1945. Since then he has had an eventful career with his own architectural practice and has designed many stained-glass windows, as well as the gates and portals to the Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. Ardyn Halter was born in London in 1956 and now lives in Israel with his wife and family. He has produced large-scale oils and a series of commissioned portraits. In 1986 he started work on a series of *Keutbot*. Aviva Halter, the youngest of the Halter children, was born in 1964 and has worked with her father on stained-glass windows and Royal Coats of Arms. She also works in ceramics.

SB's Column

OPERETTA RESURGENT

During the month of March when, under the heading '50 years after', a wide range of subjects was thrown open for discussion on Austrian Radio and Television, one whole evening was devoted to 'Light Music', viz. the operetta which until 1938 occupied favourite place among music lovers. The fact emerged that, owing to the number of lyric writers and composers unacceptable to the Nazi regime, entertainment was decimated and many theatres closed. Kalman's and Abraham's works had to disappear, equally the operettas by Oscar Straus, Ascher, Granichstädten, Edmund Eysler and Leo Fall. There were no works by Offenbach, nor could a 'pure German' audience be confronted with librettos by Beda Loehner, Brammer, Grünwald or Victor Leon. What was left were the operettas by Küneke and Paul Lincke, by Fred Raymond (*Maske in Blau*), Lehar, and Johann Strauss. Even here, there were snags: Lehar, who had a Jewish wife, requested (and obtained!) honorary 'Aryanisation' for her; the musical scene of the Third Reich could not have functioned without the works by Johann Strauss, and this was why the Jewish origin of his second wife Adele was deliberately overlooked.

Sie kamen durch, a gripping book by Senta Radax-Ziegler (published by Überreuter, Vienna), is a collection of short biographies. All the ten characters are Jewish children who in their very early years witnessed the events of 1938 in Austria and — as indicated by the title — it is their fight, their conflicts, their unshakable optimism (and some luck) that eventually leads them into freedom and — in some cases — to comparative happiness. One of the 'ten' is Sigmund Nissel who found asylum in Britain and

became the violinist of the famous Amadeus Quartet. The book does not necessarily make pleasant reading but is full of goodwill, family love and faith in the good of mankind.

Birthdays

Rex Harrison, the brilliant actor whose activities have extended far beyond the limits of the British stage, is 80. Having been acclaimed as leading character actor in Britain between the wars, he set out on a film career in Hollywood (the late Lilli Palmer, his second wife, shared that period with him), and crowned his career as Professor Higgins in *My Fair Lady*.

Herbert von Karajan, the renowned conductor, also had his 80th birthday — Eric Frey, faithful member of Vienna's *Josefstadt* joined the octogenarians, playing in Neil Simon's *Sonny Boys* at that theatre which he joined in 1935.

Gottfried Reinhardt, one of Max Reinhardt's sons, was 75. Despite some successes as director and producer of films and plays (he even ventured a Salzburg *Jedermann* in 1961) he has always remained in the shadow of his illustrious father. — Hanne Hiob, daughter of Bertold Brecht, an actress of repute, who played major parts in Berlin, Hamburg, Zürich and Munich (very often in her father's plays) is 65.

Obituary

Kurt Herbert Adler, the Austrian-born conductor, Director General of the San Francisco opera house 1953–1981, has died at the age of 82. The German actor Peter Lühr has died in Munich, aged 81. He had been a member of the *Kammer-spiele* ensemble for over 40 years.

Letters to the Editor

WIENER LIBRARY — KRISTALLNACHT EXHIBITION

Sir — The Wiener Library is preparing an exhibition on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the *Kristallnacht*. We should be very grateful if any of your readers who possess any personal or public documents (such as personal letters, unpublished autobiographical material, official announcements, photographs etc.) connected with this event would get in touch with us. We should also like to hear from eye-witnesses willing to be interviewed for a video film to be shown on this occasion.

4 Devonshire St.
London W.1

WALTER LAQUEUR
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EMIGRATION FROM SOVIET RUSSIA

Sir — With reference to your note on 'Emigration from Soviet Russia', quoting the Soviet Ambassador to the Vienna Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, who stated that 33,000 adults and children had emigrated from the Soviet Union in 1987, may I make the following comment:

While there are still a large number of Jews being refused visas, alarmingly there is a growing number who are unable even to apply. The seemingly insurmountable hurdles that the Soviets are using to quell their requests are:

1. The necessity to have a first degree relative send the invitation, i.e. father, mother, son, daughter. Even sister or brother is not necessarily considered first degree.
2. The non-delivery of invitations.
3. The arbitrary manner of defining the period of time during which a person is prohibited from emigrating on the grounds of security considerations.
4. Relatives who are remaining must sign a waiver that the emigrants leave behind no financial obligations. Many are unwilling or afraid to sign.
5. A new clause that may soon be introduced into the emigration regulations prohibits applications from men aged 16-27 because they have not fulfilled their National Service. If this clause becomes official policy, 16-year old male Jews will effectively be unable to emigrate for at least ten years.

If we do nothing about campaigning to eliminate these sort of obstacles, the Soviets can then say truthfully there are no people applying to leave and they will have successfully formed the 'Silenced Community'. *We must not let this happen.*

Do not forget our brothers and sisters who need our help.

LINDA ISAACS
'Exodus': Reform Synagogues of Great Britain Soviet Jewry Campaign
Manor House Centre for Judaism
80 East End Road
London N3

TOURIST GUIDE IN VIENNA

Sir — I was very interested in Franz Peter's experiences as a Professional Tour Guide. I too am a Tour Guide and a member of the International Association of Tour Managers. Unlike Mr. Peters, I am not qualified to guide in this country. My usual sphere of activity is Austria. As I have been engaged in this type of work for well over twenty five years, I can look back on many humorous experiences. It is however the battle of conscience that I want to reflect on.

To many people, the very word 'Austria' brings to mind pleasant images. It is my job to make sure no one is disappointed. At first, I found it difficult to welcome people to 'my beautiful homeland'. I almost felt immoral when I said this as we crossed the border from Switzerland. Now, I don't give it very much thought. That is what people want to hear, and that is what I tell them.

Even so, the memories of all the suffering are still there. Driving through the *Taborstrasse* on the way to the *Prater*, I often think of my late parents and sister as we pass the house where we used to live. I must be very convincing, for one day my firm received a letter from one of my passengers: '... for us, the highlight of the tour was the way our courier Otto showed us his home town with such great pride ...' If only they would have known how I really felt.

Oh well, it is all part of the job. Vienna is still a beautiful city, and the scenery in Austria is superb. Perhaps I could not enthuse in the same way about the Cotswolds, Stonehenge, Stratford-upon-Avon, the cities of Salisbury and Bath, etc. Though, no doubt, my conscience would be much clearer.

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OTTO DEUTSCH

MIS-TRANSLATIONS

Sir — What about these samples: (a) On the recent TV showing of *Liebelei*, the subtitles turned *Der Wurstelprater* into 'The sausage stand in the Prater'. (b) A multilingual guidebook referred to *St. A., die Schutzpatrone der Stadt*.

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'OASIS OF PEACE' FOR NOBEL PRIZE

Neve Shalom ('Oasis of Peace'), the well-known cooperative agricultural village in the hills above Latrun, half-way between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of its work by an equal number of Jewish and Arab families (Christian and Muslim) living side by side in perfect harmony.

In what is considered a unique experiment, the children are taught in a kindergarten and then a primary school by an equal number of Jewish and Arab teachers. They are thus bilingual and learn to respect each others religions and cultures.

Another important activity is the School for Peace. Here groups of young Jews and Arabs spend a few days in intensive workshops, carefully supervised by sympathetic counsellors. By the end of the course, each group has a better understanding of the attitudes and prejudices of the other. Over 8,000 youngsters have attended the School for Peace and returned to their respective communities as ambassadors of Peace and Goodwill.

Last year a second Open Day was held and a crowd of 20,00 people of all ages and denominations attended.

45 Brompton Grove
London NW4 4AH

RENA GAMSA

POLES AND JEWS

Sir — I rather belatedly came across Mr. C. C. Aronsfeld's article 'A Sentimental Journey' in your issue of December 1987, and I feel that I cannot leave it unchallenged.

He is obviously not aware of the great wave of antisemitism which the Poles displayed throughout this century. I lived as a child before the First World War with my family in Krakov, the capital of Galicia. My brother was denied a High School education, because it meant going to school on Shabbat and *writing* on Shabbat. This was the Poles' policy of excluding Jewish boys from attending the *Gymnasium*, and at that time the majority of the Jews was orthodox.

Fate intervened, we came to Berlin as refugees at the beginning of World War 1, my brother was admitted to a High School, did not have to write on Shabbat and this led him to a career of a distinguished Professor at Princeton University.

Mr. Aronsfeld obviously also does not know that before World War 2 Jewish students in Polish Universities had to sit on special benches assigned to them and that another great wave of antisemitism some 30 years ago forced Jewish academics to emigrate. Most of them went to Israel.

39 Norrice Lea
N.2

FANNY RABINOW

Mr. Aronsfeld writes: *I am fully aware of what happened in Poland during this century. I know all about the antisemitism there, but I will generalise on this score no more than on the friendship that they once showed us. I said in my article that 'they are a proud people and an unhappy one', as I explained, and I stand by that. There are ups and downs in Jewish history wherever you look (e.g., Egypt, Germany, even England), and if we were to judge people only by their worst features (and ourselves only by our best), I fear our judgment would not be very balanced.*

BERLIN A-Z

I am not perhaps the best qualified reviewer of this book. I am not a born Berliner and though I grew up there I have not learnt how to be a Berliner which I understand is a skilled occupation. I suppose it is because my roots are elsewhere that I never cared for the much vaunted Golden Years, and I had no difficulty in removing myself from the city at the earliest opportunity.

But of course time is, in many ways, a healer, and I am sure not a few of our friends, especially natives of Berlin, will relish this book which has been compiled by devoted experts who know their subject from A to Z: Karin & Arno Reinfrank, *Berlin. Two Cities under Seven Flags. A Kaleidoscopic A-Z*. Illustrated by J. Bettenstaedt. Oswald Wolff Books. Berg Publishers. Leamington Spa. 1987. 254pp. The kaleidoscope swings from Architecture to the Zoo, with Jewish *Yortzeit* in the middle, and two telling Ks present *Kneipe* and *Ku-damm*.

Mr. Reinfrank was actually born in Berlin and though he has spent most of his 53 years in London he still has to be restrained from falling into Berlin cockney — *Hamse Worte*? An index of names will serve as a useful guide though I am sorry to see that Josephine Baker whose throbbing posterior I remember was carefully noted by the *Berliner Tageblatt* reporter, is allowed only 15 years of age; I also had no knowledge of a 'Chancellor' von Hindenburg.

While usually we are told about the benefits England drew from Germany, here we learn of the traffic the other way round. Coal, iron goods and cloth were imported from England, and Berlin actually had to wait for 'that nobler English innovation, the W.C.'.

Berlin recently reached the mature age of 750, and this lively volume, with its light sketches of some of the landmarks as well as odd corners, will be an entertaining companion down the centuries.

C.A.

Lord Weidenfeld, the publisher, has been appointed a trustee of the National Portrait Gallery.

JEWS OF AUERBACH

Erinnerungen an die Juden in Auerbach (Hesse) is the title of a 104 pp. illustrated booklet published by the four-year old (Christina) *Auerbacher Synagogenverein* whose aim is to 'preserve the memory of the local Jewish population' and to 'promote the understanding of Judaism and the Jewish people past and present.' The subjects covered in several articles include the history of the synagogue, the role of Jews in the Hesse economy, Jewish rites, the Jewish family, etc. There are no Jews in Auerbach now; there probably never were more than about 40. The synagogue which (in 1934) had been converted into a repair shop for agricultural machinery has since been restored, one of the 70 surviving synagogues in the Darmstadt area, but in the absence of a congregation it serves merely as a building of historical interest.

WHITEWASH PUBLISHERS

Literature abetting, if not directly indulging in, the whitewash of Nazism is being disseminated by several West German agencies, both publishers and book clubs. There is the notorious weekly *Deutsche National Zeitung*, the monthly *Nation Europa*, and a whole ratbag of *Verlage* subscribing to the slogan 'The Führer is always right.' One of the less well known of them that recently came to our notice is *Arndt Buch Dienst* in Kiel.

The name itself is a programme — Ernst Moritz Arndt, a German nationalist militant in 1813 who denounced the Jews as a 'thoroughly alien' element that was 'corrupting the Teuton race'. Accordingly, one of their books presents an illustrated history of the Wars of Liberation 1813-15. Hitler is presented by an 'at long last unbiased' biographer as 'Revolutionary, Statesman, Criminal?' — note the question mark. He, says the author of 'A World War being Programmed', was the victim of U.S.-Soviet manipulations; he, poor fellow, was 'systematically driven into a two-front war' which forced him to take 'preventive action' by invading Russia, says another. Another again, an old Nazi, one time ADC to Dr. Goebbels, blames that invasion on Franco because he would not allow the Nazis to march through Spain in order to attack Gibraltar. But the main culprits are that 'plotter in the White House', Roosevelt, with his 'insatiable hunger for power and limitless egotism', and of course Churchill who had deservedly been punished by 'destroying the Empire and making Stalin master of half of Europe'. There is more of this stuff in the 'Arndt' publishing list — but these samples will perhaps do.

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DRAMA IN SOUTH AFRICA

While South Africa is now in the centre of world attention, there is a little drama being played out within it that is not often noticed. It is a plot of paradox and irony that might have appealed to the classic Greek dramatists showing us the gods' confounding intervention in human affairs. The drama is that of the present ruling National Party which has enjoyed power for the past 40 years. They used to be the friends and well-wishers of Nazi Germany. They frankly hoped for Hitler's victory, and General Smuts, the leader of the then ruling United Party, accused them of having 'made common cause with our enemies to the uttermost extent that they dared and to the uttermost extent it was physically and geographically possible for them to do so'.

In fairness, they were behaving so not because, though antisemitic, they shared all of Hitler's ideas but because they reckoned a German victory would free them from the link with Britain and help establish the longed-for Boer Republic. Even so, when they came to power in 1948, Jews were sufficiently worried to prepare for the worst, but surprisingly the leader of the Nationalists then made a prompt U-turn, disowning his previous hostility and stressing the 'common ties' between Afrikaner and Jew.

At the same time, the Nationalists fully maintained their traditional policy of *Apartheid*, with the result that the relatively liberal opposition (i.e. the United, later 'Progressive', Party) virtually disappeared. But now another opposition began to arise, not to the Left but to the Right of the political spectrum — the 'Conservative Party' and a more radical *Reconstituted National Party* who accused the Nationalists of being insufficiently uncompromising. Moreover a regular Nazi movement was launched, the Afrikaner Resistance Movement (*Weerstandsbeweging*) which regarded the present Establishment in exactly the way that the original Nazis regarded the Weimar Republic; their swastika flags, their fanaticism and wild oratory are only too familiar from the TV screen (especially to us).

So now the Nationalists' pro-Hitler sympathies are coming home to roost. Now they are being told that, with their modest attempts at reform, they are 'selling out to the blacks', 'betraying the white man', 'acting as tools of the international Jewish Money Power'. Such propaganda has been heard as yet mainly from the Nazi 'resisters', but it may well prove infectious and (if only for reasons of competition) find favour with that faction which has now emerged as the main opposition party, the Conservatives led by Dr. Andries Treurnicht, a parson.

The two bodies must not be regarded as practically identical, though, any more than the *Deutsch-Nationale* were identical with the Nazis. But the question now facing the rising Conservatives is whether they will be tempted to strike a bargain with the wild militants of the *Weerstandsbeweging*. The example of the *Deutsch-Nationale* trying to come to terms with Hitler should be a warning — but do (can) people ever learn from history?

DISTORTIONS OF HISTORY

Professor Nolte, the Nazis and Chaim Weizmann

Professor Dr. Ernst Nolte is an honourable man. His 'impeccable standing as the author of scholarly works on the subject of fascism' was noted in a previous issue of this journal. He was born in 1923 and therefore could, with luck, claim the rightly much coveted 'grace of late birth', for who knows what the professor might have professed had he been born a few years earlier? The thought is not as gratuitous as might appear, for Professor Nolte has recently indulged in the most surprising sort of ideas about what he called 'The Third Reich in the Perspective of the 1980s', and it is perhaps worth considering one particular idea which is as unbelievable as any one might encounter in the record of Nazi history.

Nolte does not deny that the extermination of several millions of Europeans (Jews and others) was 'without precedent in its motivation and execution', and 'the quasi-industrial machinery of the gas chambers created an unparalleled sense of horror'. At the same time he cannot help being attracted by the British 'revisionist' David Irving whose 'goal (he says) is undisguisedly a vindication of Hitler'. This strikes a chord in Nolte's fancy. Admittedly, some of Irving's 'theses' can be 'set aside easily', but enough is left to intrigue the Professor who senses an opportunity of whitewashing some at least of the black record.

So he argues if Hitler wanted to exterminate the Jews, it was because they wanted to exterminate him, or as Nolte puts it, 'Hitler had good reasons to be convinced of his enemies' determination to annihilate him' — even before the truth about Auschwitz was known. He quotes a pamphlet by an obscure American Jew (Theodore B. Kaufmann: *Germany must perish*) which would never have been heard of had it not been played up by Nazi propaganda, and — this is important — he seriously cites as evidence 'Chaim Weizmann's official declaration according to which Jews in the whole world would fight on the side of England'.

He had not known about this statement until 1963 though it was published in September 1939, and this statement, Nolte now says incredibly, 'might justify the consequential thesis that Hitler was allowed to treat the German Jews as prisoners of war and by this means to intern them'.

Now this 'argument' was first used, after (not during) the war, by one of the Nazis' chief propagandists, Helmut Sündermann, who described Weizmann's letter as 'the formal basis for the arrests of Jews in Germany and the occupied countries' — as if, in Nazi eyes, the offence of the Jews was in any of their actions and not rather in their mere existence. If Weizmann, as chairman of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, had the right to commit all Jews as a power waging war — which is doubtful both in law and in fact — the Jews could perhaps be treated as prisoners of war, i.e. interned, but it clearly needs an unsound mind to suggest that therefore such prisoners of war also could be deported and murdered — a suggestion truly on a level with those who claim that Hitler 'never knew' of the extermination of

Jews (which he had demanded ever since he entered politics).

The Nazis of course put all the blame on the Jews as soon as they were in power. It was part of Hitler's 'rational antisemitism' from the very start which was war to the finish, far from any 'emotions' which might distinguish between 'good and bad individuals'. So it was one of his big lies when he claimed to be acting 'in defence' against Jewish 'aggression' on Boycott Day 1933. The 'evidence' then was a melodramatic headline of the *Daily Express* 'Judea declares war on Germany'. Actually a report of a London Jewish protest meeting stated that 'all Israel is rising in wrath against the Nazi onslaught on the Jews', to 'strike back' at 'the German persecutors' who were waging a 'campaign of violence and suppression directed against the Jewish minority' and staging a 'revival of medieval Jew-baiting'.

Nolte who is a bit slow in his researches has probably not yet discovered this shameful episode of Nazi behaviour, so he has invented another tale of Hitler's 'defensive' action: 'The so-called (!) annihilation of the Jews', he writes, 'was a reaction (to the Russian revolution) and not a first act or an original'. That is to say, the Russians are the criminals and Hitler merely 'reacted' by murdering — the Jews. If this sort of 'argument' is put forward by neo-Nazis, it may seem typical of neo-Nazi propaganda; it is after all in accordance with the doctrine of *Mein Kampf*. Since it is presented by a scholar of some reputation, it augurs ill for the future of the Germans' understanding of their history.

History of Cologne Jewry

Documents relating to the history of Cologne Jewry, especially for the years 1918–1945, are sought by the Cologne Municipal Document Centre (*Stadtarchiv*). The documents are to be used for an exhibition at the end of 1988 where special attention will be given to the 50th anniversary of the November 1938 pogrom.

The exhibition is to illustrate not only the Nazi persecution but also Jewish life in general and what is called Jewish self-assertion (*Selbstbehauptung*). Among the material chiefly required are photos of family life, schools, sports, religious observance, occupations, dealings with the authorities, etc.

Great importance will be attached to eye-witness accounts of which a large number have already been collected. Many personal interviews have been secured too. Extracts from this material are contained in a publication, *Das Schicksal der Kölner Juden*, which first appeared in 1985 and is now reprinted in a third edition. It is hoped to compile a list of all Cologne Jewish victims of Nazi persecution, with details of birth and death, last address and data about emigration or deportation.

Much of the city's documentation was lost during the war, especially towards the end when the criminals destroyed the evidence of their record; a great deal was lost after the war too. All communications are to be addressed to *Historisches Archiv der Stadt Köln*, Severinstrasse 222-228, 5000 Köln 1.

BERLIN JEWISH HIGH SOCIETY 200 YEARS AGO

The wealthy educated Jewish women prominent among the intellectual elites of Berlin between 1780 and 1806 are the subject of a new book, *Jewish High Society in Old Regime Berlin* (320 pp. illus.) by Deborah Hertz, assistant professor of history at the State University of New York. A blurb in the Yale University Press catalogue says: 'However advantageous and stimulating these salons were for their participants, they were the product of a transitory convergence of social and cultural structures.'

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FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in this column are free of charge, but voluntary donations would be appreciated. Texts should reach us by the 10th of the preceding month

Birth

Fried:—Ilana Batja, bonny daughter to Dr. Ronald and Claudine Fried, sister of Michael, Aviva and Dina, granddaughter of Marianne and Ludwig Fried. Im Ettingerhoff 8, CH 4055 Basle, Switzerland.

Birthday

Jones:—Dr. Rudi Jones, MA, PhD, celebrated his 75th birthday on 13 April. Best wishes from Eva, Annette, family and friends.

Engagement

Dunston/Shiffman: The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Mr. Fred Dunston and the late Mrs. Liesl Dunston, and Susan, only daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Shiffman, granddaughter of the late Dr. Felix and Mrs. Else Rosenthal. **Goldstein/Kleeman:**—Julie Goldstein, daughter of Miriam and Henry Goldstein, to John Kleeman, son of Avril and Harry Kleeman.

Deaths

Goldstein:—Johanna Goldstein, dearly loved mother of Anita, Ilse and Henry, in her 90th year, on 20 February. Sadly missed by all her family.

Meyer:—Gabriele Meyer died peacefully after a long illness on 26 February. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends, as well as by all those who knew her through her work at Heinrich Stahl House.

Pollak:—Irene Pollak passed away on 21 March. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her loving sister Ethel Mahler and by all who knew and loved her.

Rabl:—Frederick, beloved husband of Bobby, father of Marion, died Sunday 6 March, aged 88.

Weil:—Emma Weil died 28 March, aged 95. Deeply mourned by her nieces and nephew and all the family.

CLASSIFIED

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Miscellaneous

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Personal

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Information Required

LIPPERS. Seeking Ellen Lippers, believed to be living in London and now married. Sought by school friends from the Lyceum, Schwerin (Meckl). Please contact Margret Hinz, in June. Tel. 01 941 1254.

RASCHDOWITZ. Would Ernst Raschdowitz, born 1910 in Vienna, arrived in U.K. 1938, wife Edith, or anyone knowing his whereabouts, please contact the Jewish Refugees Committee, Drayton House, 30 Gordon Street, London WC1 0AN.

ROSENBLUTH/STRASSE. Czechoslovak refugees who served in the Pioneer Corps during the war, Lou Rosenbluth, P.C. No. 13803722,

discharged on medical grounds in 1942, and Freddie or Arthur Strasse, also discharged in 1942. Would they or anyone knowing their whereabouts please contact the Defence and Group Relations Department, Board of Deputies of British Jews, Woburn House, Tavistock Square, London WCH 0EP.

ROSENTHAL. Isidor Rosenthal from Essen. Arrived in England August 1939, his wife Anna and daughter Ruth Morris (née Rosenthal) arrived in England in 1947. Please contact Jewish Refugees Committee. Tel. 01-387 3925.

WINTER, Emil Winter, wife Laura and daughter Ruth Frankel (née Winter), all from Velbert, North-Rhine-Westphalia. Arrived in England 1939. Please contact Werner Zils, Weststrasse 36, 5620 Velbert 11, West Germany.

All those who arrived in England by any Children's Transport, please contact Norbert Zils, Weststrasse 36, 5620 Velbert 11, West Germany.

Would all those who left for England by Special Transport from Wuppertal-Elberfeld, especially those later accommodated in Glasgow orphanage or in boarding schools, please contact Norbert Zils at the above address.

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A Tribute to Gabriele Tergit

It was a gratifying undertaking of Egon Larsen to record the life and work of a personality who shared and interpreted the destiny of the German Jews (*Die Welt der Gabriele Tergit — Aus dem Leben einer ewig jungen Berliner*). Munich 130 pp. Verlag Frank Auerbach). In a particularly skilful way Larsen gives a vivid account of Gabriele Tergit's achievements and setbacks and exemplifies them by well selected extracts from her books and essays.

For those who are actively associated with the community of former refugees, *die Tergit* was a household word. Beyond this, she was a very good friend to many in our midst. Her gifts as a writer were enhanced by her unreserved sincerity and reliability. She was born in Berlin in 1894 as Elise Hirschmann and married to the architect Heinz Reifenberg. In 1920 she commenced her career as a contributor to the *Berliner Tageblatt* and became that paper's law court reporter in 1923. She tackled her task not from a legalistic viewpoint but, as Larsen rightly states, depicted the 'criminals' as human beings. In 1931 she published her first novel *Käsebieter erobert Berlin*, a widely acknowledged *roman à clef*, which reflected the twilight situation during the last years of the Weimar Republic. She also contributed courageous and critical articles to the *Weltbühne*.

On 4 March, 1933, one day before the Reichstag elections, she left Berlin, after a futile attempt of storm troopers to enforce entrance into the family's flat. Together with their young son Peter, the Reifenburgs first fled to Czechoslovakia and later settled in Palestine. Yet they could not adapt

their lives to that country and came to London in 1938. There Gabriele Tergit completed her novel *Effingers*, conceived as a Jewish *Buddenbrooks* and based on her own family chronicle. Originating from a small Swabian town, members of the next generation became successful in Berlin until the decline set in in the 1930s. The book, *Tergit's Opus Magnum*, as Larsen calls it, was written in 30 furnished rooms in Czechoslovakia, Palestine and England. Among the extracts from it, the detailed description of the November 1938 pogroms in the Swabian townlet is one of the numerous examples of Gabriele Tergit's imagination and power of expression.

In addition to being a writer she was also a diligent and efficient organiser. For 24 years, from 1957 to 1981, she was the Hon. Secretary of the *PEN Zentrum deutschsprachiger Autoren im Ausland*. In this capacity she also compiled and published three editions of biographies and bibliographies of its members, an invaluable contribution to refugees' historiography.

Her close relationship with the AJR is affirmed by her numerous articles in *AJR INFORMATION*. It is also a particular privilege that the largest single reprint in Larsen's book is the full text (translated into German) of the essay 'How they resettled', which appeared in the brochure *Britain's New Citizens*, published in 1951 to mark the tenth anniversary of the AJR. Her colourful presentation of our position and problems during the first years of our stay in this country has not lost its impact.

Gabriele Tergit died in 1982, mentally alert up to the end. Her constructive role in our commun-

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ity was matched with that of her husband, who was the architect of Otto Schiff House and Heinrich Stahl House.

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THROUGH POETS' EYES

This anthology in English with German prose translations, (Günther Blaicher, ed., *Germany in British Poetry since 1945. An Anthology*. Regensburg. Friedrich Pustet. 1987) comprises the works of about 30 poets, mostly British but also some of German origin — Karen Gershon, Michael Hamburger and Michael Hofmann. Its purpose is to reflect the role Nazi Germany played in European consciousness. The editor seems to have forgotten that Britain is not the whole of Europe and, more especially, that the views of poets of German origin cannot be typical.

Poetic merit aside, some of the contents are of special interest. Karen Gershon wonders about the present reaction of Germans to Jews. So do we all, but we might have a good idea! Thom Gunn's 'Epitaph for Anton Schmid' strikes a special note. Schmid, a Viennese-born Sergeant in the German army, organised, between 1941 and 1942, the escape of some 350 Jews from the ghetto. His activities revealed, he was court-martialled and shot. As the editor remarks: 'He is almost unknown in Germany. There are strange lacunae of memory in the German consciousness.' Actually, Anton Schmid's story was told by Abba Kovner at the Eichmann trial and reported by Hannah Arendt in her book *Eichmann in Jerusalem*.

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According to the Department of Employment giving figures for 1984 to 1986, it appears that they concentrate in certain industries and regions. Twenty-seven per cent of ethnic men were in hotels, catering and repairs, compared with 16 per cent of white men. The proportions of Pakistani or Bangladeshi, and men from other ethnic groups, are especially high in this sector. Twenty per cent of Indian men are in retail distribution. A large number also are employed in transport and communications, health services and some parts of manufacturing.

Ethnic minority women are more likely than white to be working in the health service and manufacturing. White women were more likely to be in education and banking.

The regions with the highest non-white working populations were the South East (597,000), West Midlands (145,000), North West (84,000) and West Yorkshire (43,000).

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