

AJR *Information*

Volume XLV No. 6

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Don't miss . . .

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Anniversary thoughts

Statutes of limitation

Fifty years after the Great War, away from Whitehall, the two minutes' silence on Armistice Day tended to be honoured more in the breach than the observance. Fifty years on from the Holocaust the wailing sirens on *Yom Hashoah* bring the whole of Israel to a standstill; at the same time ceremonies in London's Hyde Park and elsewhere give expression to all Jewry's grief. And it is right that we should grieve for so long, since our loss was greater than that of any other people – not excluding the Armenians and Cambodians.

Grief can, however, be carried too far. The proximity in time of the Israeli Independence Day *Yom Haatzmaut* to *Yom Hashoah* – only a week separates them – could almost be interpreted as a symbolic antidote to overmuch grieving.

If sorrow must have bounds set to it so, alas, must joy. The euphoria triggered by last year's upheavals in Eastern Europe looks, on closer inspection, to have been somewhat misplaced: the

lifting of the heavy stone of Sovietisation has revealed a teeming mass of worms. In ex-Ceausesculand veterans of the interwar Peasants Party regurgitate the notion that Jews can't be proper Romanians; the Hungarian Democratic Forum won the recent elections with a gut appeal to Magyar nationalism; Croatia's 'coming man' Franjo Tudjman says the wartime Ustasha – mass murderers of Jews, Serbs and gypsies – 'represented the historic desire' of the Croatian people for an independent state. One of the byproducts of the accelerating merger of the two Germanies is the conflation of two forms of xenophobia: anti-Turkish in the West and anti-Vietnamese in the East. (Regimented Vietnamese *Gastarbeiter* have long augmented the dwindling labour force of the DDR.)

Not that the picture looks noticeably brighter in those other founder members of the European Community, Italy and France. Italy has latterly seen lynch mobs baying for the blood of unlicensed Black immigrant pedlars. In France Le Pen's National Front makes inroads into the constituency of the moderate right, and canny local political bosses like the Mayor of Nice are climbing aboard the racist bandwaggon.

By contrast the United Kingdom appears – *pace* the recent parliamentary vote on visas for the Hong Kong Chinese – to be fairly resistant to the incubus of race hysteria. On the other hand a poll in April showed two out of every three Britons opposed to admitting more Jews into the country. Considering that we form 0.6 per cent of the U.K. population, and are declining in numbers, such poll findings provide a less than salutary shock to the system.

Only marginally less worrying is the House of Lords' protracted resistance to the new Commons-approved War Crimes legislation. Is one being ultrasensitive in suspecting that the Lords' championing of timehonoured juridical practice masks – at least in part – a subliminally persisting prejudice against Jews?



Seed for sowing shall not be ground, by Kaethe Kollwitz.

Athens reverses direction

The newly elected Greek government under Constantine Mitsotakis is to establish *full* diplomatic relations with Israel. Under the previous Pasok administration Greece was the most overtly pro-PLO member of the EC and NATO. □

Delayed reaction

The first freely elected East German parliament has admitted joint responsibility for 'humiliating, expelling and murdering Jewish men, women and children'. The authorities are paying DM 6.2 million (£2.2 million) into an Israeli fund for Holocaust survivors. An additional DM 100,000 was set aside for Jews in East Germany. □

Slipping

The Westinghouse Talent Search compiles annual league tables of academic performance by America's diverse ethnic groups. In the 1960s Jews (3% of the US population) garnered 17% of the best exam results. In the intervening years their score has dwindled to a mere 7% while students of East Asian origin have climbed to the top of the league table with 20%. The explanation for this slippage, according to an eminent sociologist, is that the present generation of Jews *lack insecurity*. □

WHO Fund warning

The USA announced, on 24 April, that it intends to end its \$78 million contribution to the World Health Organisation, which represents 25% of its total budget, as well as suspending a \$25 million donation to the global Aids programme, if the WHO assembly votes to admit Palestine as a member state. □

'In-flight' movies

The Israeli bus company Egged plans to equip its 500-strong fleet of long-distance buses with videos. Passengers will be able to follow the films, commercials, etc., shown on the screen by means of ear phones. □

Rabbi in the House

The newly elected Hungarian parliament includes Rabbi Thomas Raj, a member of the Association of Free Democrats (SZDSZ), the main opposition party. During the elections the SZDSZ charged the now governing Democrat Forum with using antisemitic innuendos. □

'War on the wrong people'

On the 50th anniversary of mass internment



Cutting from London Illustrated News, May 25, 1940.

THE ALIENS, TOO, MOVE UNDER GUARD: Since the new alien regulations were enforced, such scenes as this have been of regular occurrence at stations. Aliens, whether friendly or on the doubtful lists, have had to conform to the new situation which has made internment necessary.

Was the decision to intern upwards of 27,000 enemy aliens resident in Britain in the summer of 1940 a sudden knee-jerk reaction to the prospect of a German invasion of this country from across the Channel; or was it prompted by meaningful, if misguided, military considerations? Or was it the result of xenophobia, fuelled by a section of the Press, and tinged with more than a suspicion of antisemitism?

Opinions differ: there is some evidence for all these explanations, and, regrettably, the baser motives cannot be excluded from an assessment of the policy which resulted in the detention for internment here or overseas of most male, and several thousand female, Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria with, in some cases, tragic consequences.

The bare sequence of events is not in doubt. Soon after the declaration of war in September 1939, 112 special tribunals categorised some 74,000 civilians of 'enemy nationality' into three shades of perceived loyalty to Great Britain and its cause: those who were beyond suspicion, in fact the overwhelming majority (including over 55,000 who were granted the status of 'refugees from Nazi oppression') were marked 'C' and kept

exempt from all restrictions other than those normally imposed on foreigners; another group, labelled 'B', was held to be less trustworthy and made subject to some limitations; and those who appeared to constitute a security risk were placed in category 'A' and interned at once. This latter group did not exceed 1,000 and contained a number of left-wing activists as well as Jewish refugees whose anti-Nazism should not really have been questioned.

As spring turned into summer and the fortunes of war turned against Britain, Home Secretary Sir John Anderson ordered the internment, first of about 2,000 refugees living in those coastal regions lately declared Protected Areas, then of all male category 'B' aliens, lastly of all the women in that group. On June 25, 1940, practically all the rest of male refugees between 16 and 70 years of age were swept into the net.

Some sought to escape by leaving home early and returning late, but most of these were picked up in the street, a park, or a public library. Some who were seemingly overlooked offered to go so as not to risk indefinite separation from a father or a son.

As a rule, police stations served as initial collecting points. Then followed a

period, sometimes no more than a day or night, at a transit camp, like Kempton Park or Lingfield. From there on, the War Office took over, and the internees were transferred to one of the various camps whose names, like those of the two racecourses, still linger in the minds of those who were there for painfully frustrating weeks or months: Huyton, a council housing estate near Liverpool, Prees Heath, a complex of tents in Shropshire, Warth Mill, a factory near Bolton, were on the mainland; and in each of them conditions varied from simply bad to quite appalling.

Less physical hardship was imposed upon the inmates of the camps on the Isle of Man. They consisted by and large of terraced streets of peacetime boarding houses surrounded by barbed wire fences: Central Promenade, Hutchinsons, Mooragh at Ramsey, Onchan, Peel and Sefton for men, Port Erin and Port St Mary on Rushden for women and children.

Remarkably in all of them a special kind of camp culture developed almost at once. Provision for the daily needs was organised efficiently by the internal self-administration set up by the inmates. Once the basic necessities had been met, the camp leadership took it upon itself to tap the intellectual and artistic resources available in each of the camps in order to establish programmes of cultural activities extraordinary in their range and sophistication.

There were study classes in any number of subjects and at all levels. Musical and dramatic performances were staged regularly, cabarets flourished. Camp newspapers appeared: *The Camp*, *Sefton Review*, *Central Promenade Paper* were some of the crudely produced but excellently written titles. Altogether there was a good deal of literary activity and painters, sculptors and craftsmen expressed themselves as best they could with the limited materials at their

disposal. Perhaps most credit should go to those who set themselves the task of seeing to it, against all the odds, that at Rushden there were schools and a kindergarten for the children who had been unfairly deprived of normal educational processes.

All in all, those who could stay in Britain were the lucky ones. In June and July 1940, over 4,000 internees – German and Italian civilians, German P.o.W.s, Jewish and non-Jewish refugees – were deported to Canada. One of the transport ships, the *Arandora Star* was torpedoed by a German U-boat 250 miles to sea, and 700 of her human cargo were drowned. Eight days later, the troopship *Dunera* carrying, in excess of her maximum complement, 2,732 internees, including 444 *Arandora Star* survivors, set off for Australia from Liverpool. They endured shocking conditions during their long voyage, and, of course, internment at the end of it. It was the darkest chapter in a dark and ugly story.

But some good was to come of it. When Churchill had given the order to 'collar the lot', few voices had been raised in protest. But those that could be heard were loud and clear and they grew stronger. And, in the end, the government had to listen. By October 1940 the 'categories of those eligible for release from internment' had been extended to include actual and potential war workers, key scientists, practising doctors and dentists, employers of labour, ministers of religion, culturally eminent persons, students at British universities or technical colleges. They also provided for the release of those enlisting in the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps and about 4,000 took that route. Others declined on principle, claiming, albeit with scant success, the right to volunteer for one of the combatant services.

By October 1941 only just over 3,000 refugees in category 'C' were still behind barbed wire. □ D.L.M.

Warth Mill remembered

Conditions at the Warth Mill internment camp in the summer of 1940 were utterly appalling. Warth Mill was a typical Lancashire cotton mill – a huge rectangular brick building, three or four stories high, with regular rows of large windows, many of which were broken. It stood in its own grounds by a river (water power was still in use) just outside the town of Bury in Lancashire.

When I arrived, Warth Mill had been in operation as an internment camp for just a week or two. First arrivals had a horrendous task, clearing the floors of oily cotton waste, sludge and general filth. We were given coarse canvas palliasses and two blankets and taken to the store to collect straw; we filled the palliasses and joined the throng – row upon row of palliasses stretching the length of the mill floor. We also collected a mess tin each, spoon, knife, fork and a tin mug. A new life had begun.

The building held 2,000 people, we learned, and these were served by twenty taps and basins, and twenty latrines.

Food was abominable – one day I remember a large barrel was rolled in – it contained salt herrings. That was our dinner. On questioning this 'meal' we were told by the guards that they thought Germans liked herring. The attitude of our 'guards' – soldiers of the Lancashire Regiment, I believe, was understandable though upsetting. The average non-commissioned soldier was not blessed abundantly with knowledge or education; he had been given the job of guarding Germans, and we were at war with Germany, that was all he knew.

Who were 'we' anyway? The majority were German and Austrian Jews,

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continued from page 3



Warth Mill as it is today, a paint factory.

intelligent, educated, volatile middle class people from school boys to the old and infirm; from penniless refugees to men who had already established successful industries and businesses. There were groups of Chasidim with forelocks, prayer shawls and hats standing in various corners, chanting prayers. Part of one floor was given up to the 'University' where a large group of professors and lecturers from Oxford, Cambridge and other centres of learning got together to give lectures and lead discussions on mathematics, philosophy, history, science and English – whatever you fancied. There were a few German merchant seamen and ordinary German civilians

who had found themselves in Britain when war was declared; also some typical public school boys who had been in the care of English relations and had no idea where they were or why they were there.

I was very lucky. I was young, unattached, without responsibilities, had lived in this country for some years and had acquired a little understanding of English ways and attitudes. I had packed my rucksack with a few essentials as I would have done for an extended summer holiday, which indeed I now experienced, albeit in unexpected surroundings – and free of charge. It was a fascinating new experience.

The depressing side of it was being

exposed to the acute suffering of others. Most of the older men, particularly the recent arrivals from Germany, had arrived in city suits with one suitcase containing literally all their possessions, including jewellery and, in many cases, the most highly prized article of that time: an American visa. They had been taken from their wives and families soon after leaving Germany en route for a new life in the U.S.A. and were understandably in a state of shock and distress. They spent their days queueing at the camp office where the few British officers tried to deal with innumerable urgent requests and demands for special treatment or consideration. Everbody wanted to be released for special reasons. Everybody was a special case. Communication with the outside world depended on a slow mail service, delayed even further by censorship: the fiction that there might be Nazi spies amongst us was still official establishment thinking.

I mentioned above the suitcases which accompanied many of the internees on arrival at the camp. These had to be put into storage, quite correctly, apart from personal necessities. What we did not know during our time at Warth Mill, fortunately, was that many of the internees were never to see their belongings again. On release from internment they had 'disappeared'. The Major in charge of Warth Mill was, after the war, charged and convicted of theft and embezzlement of internees' property. The only time I remember seeing the Major was when I happened to be in the office removing boxes of tinned sardines into the kitchen. When we came to the last box the Major's voice rang out: 'this box stays here, my wife likes sardines too.'

I spent my time pleasantly enough – meeting people, talking and sharing experiences, listening to lectures, trying to help where possible by translating and writing letters in English. More and more often I was drawn into attempts to organise a semblance of structure into the amorphous mass of individuals, so that common interests and concerns might be given expression. However, our time at Warth Mill was cut short – after only a few weeks news broke that the camp was to be dissolved. Lists appeared and new destinations for continued internment were discussed. I do not remember whether I opted for, or was drafted to, the green fields of Prees Heath in Shropshire.

□ Kenneth F. Sheridan



The prisoners' sleeping quarters, now used as a paint store. Photos: Selwyn Newman.

John Rossall

Slippery slope

Amos Oz THE SLOPES OF LEBANON translated from the Hebrew by Maurie Goldberg-Bartura, Chatto & Windus, £13.95

This is an important book. It makes no pretence to the literary excellence of Oz's fictional work, but preaches and teaches, dealing in no uncertain manner with the dangerous situation in which the State of Israel finds itself. Oz is one of the leading lights of the Peace Now movement, and the emergence of writers in the new European revolution – e.g. Vaclav Havel in Czechoslovakia – can only enhance his significance in the peace process.

The book is made up of articles and essays, mainly written for *Davar*, a leading Israeli newspaper of the Left. It extends from the traumatic 1982 invasion of the Lebanon to struggles with the

'loony' Right a year or two ago. Oz applies common sense to all questions. He does not seek to exacerbate divisions within the State, but he cannot conceal his commitment to the pioneering ideals which found their true expression in the kibbutz movement. From it, Oz holds, grew the strength of the country, and he contends that the weakening of these ideals is at the root of the many false moves which have been, and are being, made. In fact, he writes that he sometimes feels 'in exile in his own country'.

He considers the invasion of the Lebanon absolute madness, and accuses Menachem Begin, the then Prime Minister, of having inveigled the people

into a protracted Vietnam-style campaign under the pretext of a brief pre-emptive strike. The illusion of Israel as a super-power which 'could take on the world' vanished before it turned disastrous, but its aftermath sharpened all the conflicts within the country, and at the same time confused the real issues. Oz is convinced that negotiations must be conducted with the PLO, and that a Palestinian State is inevitable. The Arabs are not Nazis in disguise, neither are they the Middle Eastern equivalents of the saintly Martin Luther King; they are a people who seek self-determination after having missed their great chance in 1948. Now they are Israel's partners/opponents in a game of geopolitical chess in which a fair draw is best for both.

Some of Oz's chapters deal with the strains in the State of Israel caused by the confrontation between the concepts of *a light unto the nations* and *a people like any other*, but all is subordinated to the issue of war and peace. For without a just peace, he fears, all else is in vain. □

The tongues of Babel

Chekhov depicted the three sisters, in his play of the same name, as debilitated by frustration.

Marooned in a provincial backwater where nothing ever happens, they yearn for distant Moscow, while knowing in their heart of hearts that they will never make the move.

In *Marya* (currently showing at the Old Vic) Isaac Babel takes Chekhov's theme and stands it, so to speak, on its head. The main protagonists are again three sisters, one of whom, however, remains offstage throughout. The other two live in revolution-racked Moscow where *too much* happens – from arbitrary arrest through casual rape to summary execution. Their hopes and dreams focus on *Marya*, a Red Army volunteer battling the Whites in the distant provinces. The play ends with the two sucked helplessly into the revolutionary maelstrom, while the hope embodied in *Marya* lingers on like the Cheshire cat's smile.

When Babel conceived the drama some fifteen years after the events it describes, he was not out to 'deconstruct' Chekhov. What motivated him was his own need to marry unvarnished truth-telling about the Revolution to the message that out of the

bloodshed and chaos of 1917 some good did emerge. Babel needed to construct a *post-facto* justification of the Revolution – while not glossing over its darker side – because he himself had served with the Red Cavalry.

A childhood eyewitness of the Odessa pogroms and denied university education by the Tsarist *numerus clausus*, he had, like many Russian Jews, seized on 1917 as the dawn of liberation. Riding with the Red Cavalry had been more of an existential experience than service to an ideology for him. A bespectacled, puny Jewish intellectual, he had undergone his baptism of fire in the company of Budjenny's hulking Cossacks – i.e. the very same unthinking brutes who had previously carried out the Tsarist pogroms.

The *Red Cavalry* stories, which, encouraged by Maxim Gorki, Babel published in the 1920s, turned a bifocal

lens on his Civil War experiences. They depict the Cossacks as both unreflecting killers and almost innocent 'children of nature'.

The writer exhibited similar ambivalence in his *Odessa Tales*, which are suffused with childhood nostalgia. For all that he rhapsodised the Revolution, Babel could not view the passing of *shtetl* life – and the reduction of once cosmopolitan Odessa to a grey Soviet city – with equanimity. (In his insouciant tales pre-revolutionary Odessa even boasted the Jewish gangster Benya Krik, for whom the police evinced a healthy respect.)

Small wonder then that by 1930, with Stalinist orthodoxy triumphant, Babel stopped publishing. His family left for France, but he stayed on and kept financially afloat by writing film scripts. Thanks to his earlier fame he still participated in Soviet Writers' congresses, at one of which he described himself as pioneering a new literary *genre* – 'the *genre* of silence'.

Such mockery of Party dogma did not go unremarked in the Kremlin. When Gorki's death in 1936 removed his protector from the Soviet scene, Babel was doomed. Three years later he vanished into the Gulag, sucked helplessly, like *Marya's* sisters in his own play, into the maelstrom of revolution. □ R.G.

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LAW AMID LAWLESSNESS

Sir – I would like to add to the excellent article on German-Jewish Resistance in the March issue. I have not read Arnold Paucker's very necessary book, referring to the many courageous actions in the days after 1933. If it had not been for negotiations with the Nazi authorities to establish legal representation for Jews in Germany, life would have been even more chaotic for those unable to flee the country. These negotiations involved considerable personal courage.

The establishing of somewhat normal living conditions in the midst of lawlessness and crime was an act of great determination, and is not often mentioned.

Cavendish Road Antonia Kann
London, SW19

SAUERKRAUS

Sir – It is true that Karl Kraus wrote *Mir fällt zu Hitler nichts ein* at the beginning of *Die dritte Walpurgisnacht* – but these words are followed by 300 pages (!) against Nazism ending with tremendous prophecy of Hitler's suicide:

Sei das Gespenst das gegen uns erstanden,
Sich Kaiser nennt und Herr von unsern
Landen,
Des Heeres Herzog, Lehnsherr unsrer
Grossen
Mit *eigner* Faust ins Totenreich gestossen!

So much for the 'dried-up pen' of the man who 'scribbled' the *Letzten Tage der Menschheit*. Assuring you I read AJR Information with great interest and pleasure.

Alexandra Place Konrad Weil
London, NW8

RESUMING CONTACT

Sir – I have recently heard from two Jewish families in Leipzig who, intellectually active, are keen to augment their contacts abroad. If any readers would like to correspond with these families, would they please send me a s.a.e. and I will put them in touch.
Meadowside Harold Becker
Cambridge Park
Twickenham

MIXED BAG

Sir – May I add my voice, to the chorus of the many who must already have written to you to congratulate you on your marvellous 'BURNING FAITH'. Humour in the AJR is a rare plant and I hope one you will keep well watered.

The Street George Clare
Dalham
Suffolk

Sir – May I use this opportunity to express my dislike of the 'poems' on pages 12 and 16 of the April issue. Hindenburg, Kraus, Rathenau and Werfel are a rather odd selection as well as poor poetry – in all well below the standard of AJR

Information. Yogi Mayer
Priory Road
London, NW6

VERSE AND WORSE

Sir – So Hindenburg's only reading was the Army Manual, his professional paper. And how many philanthropists read only *The Financial Times*, their professional paper? Why always poke fun at figures who are heroes to the majority of Germans? While Hindenburg lived, no Jews were harmed. And Franz Werfel wrote the *Song of Bernadette* after his sincerely held conversion to the Catholic Faith, so why denigrate him? Are you generally trying to undermine all traditional beliefs? Do you want them decomposed so that some new pestilential ideology can grow from their ruins?
Old Coulsdon G. Schmerling
Surrey

If Hindenburg, and Hugenberg, are still heroes to the majority of Germans then heaven help Europe! An instinctive anti-Democrat, Hindenburg helped bury the Weimar Republic. Before his death in August 1934 Jews had already endured the Boycott, expulsion from the professions, SA violence and incarceration in concentration camps. As to Werfel: although he inclined towards Catholicism, Alma had actually made their marriage conditional on his defection from the Jewish community. Ed.

WHERE SCHOOL WAS HOME

Sir – After the two letters by and about Stootley Roughians, may I add my voice, to ask any others who may be interested to get in touch with me. There are two reasons. One is for the purpose of dealing with the archive material that is deposited at the London School of Economics. I have not seen it yet, but have indicated to Mrs Faulkner that I am willing to do something about it, but could not take it on by myself. In other words, are there some more volunteers? The other reason is to perhaps try and organise a reunion? I have recently been in touch with Miss Astfalck, who lives in Germany, and who seems to be in very good health and spirits – at nearly 90 years of age. I would like to visit her, perhaps in the early summer. Perhaps she could come here?

Any interest?
Fitzjohn's Avenue Margot Kogut
London NW3 5JY (née Silberbach)
Stootley Rough, 1935–37

THE NEW LAY-OUT

Sir – The new lay-out of the magazine leaves one with a deep sense of unease. The elegant spaciousness sends me staring at the gaps and speculating about the multiple dimensions of silence they seem to evoke. Londoners have the comfort of silent presences and smiles; distant readers need print. The new lay-out thus sharpens one's regret that the journal has always been much too brief.

St. Swithun Street Gertrud Walton
Winchester

Sir – I find the new layout and typography first class, and I am delighted to be let into the 'secrets' behind the change. I can't quite get used to the unjustified right-hand margins – possibly it's too much like the flood of advertisement matter. I quite understand the reason for it and don't like unequal spacing of letters in words and abhor 'splitting'. So you can't win! I also very much enjoy the livelier tone, contents and honest controversy!

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GETTING STEAMED UP

Sir – Mention of Bishop Kohn of Olomouc in the April issue calls to mind the occasion when Bishop Kohn assisted Archbishop Mezaros (another former Jew) in celebrating High Mass at St Stephen's Cathedral. At one stage Mezaros noticed he was running short of incense and sent a choirboy for more. When the boy did not return for a long time, Mezaros addressed these memorable words to his Brother-in-Christ: 'Bitte Dich Kohn, geh'sieh' nur wo der Goy so lange bleibt mit dem Dampf.'

Combe Down
Bath

Franz Peters

AUSTRIAN PENSIONS

Sir – My Mother was recently granted a widow's pension from Austria, and very pleased she is to get it. She should, however, have received it 17 years ago, when my father died, but was unaware that she could claim a pension. This because, on an earlier visit to the United Restitution Office, she had been told that she was not entitled to claim.

There are probably many other elderly, Jewish people who are entitled to claim such a pension. If any *AJR Information* readers, or their acquaintances, are in a similar position they should start applying now, as it is a lengthy process. (It has taken two and a half years to arrange payment for my mother.) It should be noted that she did receive backpay for this period, though if she had applied earlier she would not have had to live for all these years on a shoe-string budget.

Arlingford Road
London

Peter Lennard

Harold's holiday

At the age of 79 Mr Harold Meyer took himself on the holiday of a lifetime. He flew to New York on Concorde, hired a car and drove 4,000 miles around the Eastern Seaboard, visiting long lost relatives on the way. One of those visited was his cousin, a survivor of Bergen Belsen, at the ski resort of Mount Laurel. When I asked if he had tried the skiing he treated me to the kind of look that teachers tend to reserve for the more backward of their charges and replied: 'Of course not, it was the middle of summer, no snow.' If there had been snow he would, no doubt, have given it a whirl.



Harold at home.

From his 'bachelor flat' above the AJR Day Centre in Cleve Road, Mr Meyer described his first impressions of New York. 'When I looked out of the window of my room in the New York Hilton (on the 21st floor) I was reminded of the film *Towering Inferno* and decided that one night there was enough.'

During his marathon trip Mr Meyer was involved in a car accident. The Ford Mustang he was driving was hit by a pick-up truck and had to be replaced. Mr Meyer dismisses the incident lightly: 'I got a bigger car, a Lincoln, and everything was fine after that.'

Mr Meyer enjoyed his trip greatly. He was impressed by the hospitality of the American people and pleasantly surprised at how low the cost of living was, compared to how much he thought it was going to be.

A disturbing aspect of American life, however, was the extreme poverty of the ethnic communities. It is easy to forget this aspect of American life, but the stark contrast in lifestyles between White and

Black America hit Mr Meyer 'like a shock wave'.

I asked Mr Meyer if he would be undertaking another journey of this ilk. 'On my pension it's not very likely,' he replied. He still owns a car, however, and, armed with a massive sense of humour and a fine sense of direction, it seems unlikely that he will be willing to sit and wait for the world to pass him by.

□ M.N.

Alice Schwab 75

Born Alice Rosenthal in Heilbron, West Germany, Alice Schwab came to England in the 1930's with her parents and started working in Marks and Spencers before marrying Walter Schwab in the early 1940's.

Alice has maintained an interest in the arts throughout her life and has been a regular contributor to *AJR Information* for a number of years. Her 'Art Notes' column has been a feature of the magazine for the past five years.

We all hope that she will continue to contribute for many more years, and wish her all the best for the future.

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*Afternoon entertainment –***JUNE**

- Monday 11 Singing for Fun – The Longford Singers
Tuesday 12 A Talk by the London Fire Brigade
Wednesday 13 Talk on the History of the Yehudi Menuhin School by the Principal – Nicholas Chisholm – followed by a Recital of Classical Music
Thursday 14 Musical Entertainment – Estelle Maier and Pamela Majaro
Monday 18 Sixty Minutes of Dance Music – Illustrated and presented by Herbie Goldberg
Tuesday 19 Ballads from the Heart – David Jedwab accompanied by Rosa Butwick
Wednesday 20 Justin Joseph Entertains at the Piano
Thursday 21 Hans Freund: Gold & Silver

FRENCH WEEK

- Monday 25 *Jolie Musique* – AJR Choir conducted by Edie Klempner
Tuesday 26 *The Sunshine Singers with a French Flavour*
Wednesday 27 *Walking Along The Seine – Musical Entertainment by Valerie Hewitt (Soprano) accompanied by Anne Berryman (Piano)*
Thursday 28 *Le Bal Français* – Barry Dawson

JULY

- Monday 2 Danny Kraus Entertains with Folk Music (Guitar)
Tuesday 3 Music for a While – Wendy Duke & Kathryn Salmon
Wednesday 4 Melody Makers – Kathy McCormack & Ken Penney
Thursday 5 A Selection of Songs – Malka Shiner

Welcome Visitors

Staff and residents at Osmond House are very pleased to be receiving four new visitors every month. They are volunteers from the Association of Children of Jewish Refugees who have very kindly offered to donate a little of their time to those who will most appreciate it.

At present the volunteers go along to chat with, or read to, the residents and occasionally help out the staff wherever and whenever necessary. We are hopeful that the relationships between our new visitors and the residents will blossom into friendships, which will put joint outings very firmly on the summer itinerary.

We are very happy that the ACJR have responded so wholeheartedly to our call for volunteer visitors and hope very much, that they will gain as much pleasure from their visits as do the residents.

Should any of our readers be interested in finding out more about the ACJR they should contact the Secretary, Anne Salinger on: 081-579 9906. □

**40 YEARS AGO
THIS MONTH****At the Seaside**

Some progress appears to have been made among landlords and ladies at the seaside and elsewhere. Though the Colour Bar persists, few cases of anti-Jewish discrimination have been reported since three years ago the Food Minister informed certain hotels that he had powers to ensure an "equitable distribution of food stuffs". A Gentile wife of the Director of the National Gallery left her hotel at the time in disgust at the clumsy antisemitism, and the "Evening Standard" denounced the practices as "a direct attack on the traditional basis of British life".

A fine example was set recently by the British Ambassador to Italy, Sir Victor Mallet, who in protest against similar behaviour instantaneously resigned his membership in an aristocratic Roman club. H.M. Government, of course, have repeatedly, last in the case of Mr. Seretse Khama, declared themselves "entirely opposed to racial discrimination".

AJR Information June, 1950.

**AJR INFORMATION
is now available on tape**

Please contact Mrs Irene White 081-203 2733
before 9 am or after 6 pm

Embassy backlog

The Austrian Embassy has been swamped with applications for pensions and has asked that, in future, requests for help with the complex application forms be made in writing stating name, address, telephone number and nature of enquiry.

To initiate a claim in the first instance, write to the following address for application forms:

Pensionsversicherungsanstalt der Angestellten,
Friedrich Hillegeist Strasse 1,
1021 Wien,
Austria.

When the application forms arrive but prior to your actual appointment at the Embassy, you are advised to prepare in advance all the necessary papers, documents and photocopies of each original.

You should, however, be informed that due to the present backlog, claims are taking much longer to process than recently and that you may have a very long wait.

Should you require assistance or advice at any stage of your claim you may contact Aggie Alexander at the AJR advice centre, 9 Adamson Road, London NW3 3HX. □

**ROOM AVAILABLE IN
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Mrs Ruth Finestone
071-483 2536

**WHO IS WHO
IN THE AJR OFFICE**

Administrator	Lydia Lassman
Editor, AJR	Richard
<i>Information</i>	Grunberger
Publications and PR Manager	Maurice Newman
Assistant to Administrator	Carol Rossen
Sheltered Accommodation	Katia Gould
Head of Homes Department	Ruth Finestone
Head of Social Services	Samuel Wolf
Welfare Rights Advisor	Agnes Alexander
Day Centre Organiser	Sylvia Matus
Volunteers Co-ordinator	Laura Howe
Membership/Reception	Nora Gittins/ Wendi Wilson

Building work under way



A new roof garden is under construction for the benefit of residents at Osmond House in The Bishop's Avenue.

THANKYOU NOTE

Sir – In reference to the outing to Eastbourne on the 11th May, all of us who took part in this outing feel that Sylvia Matus and Renée deserve great praise and all our thanks. Our appreciation for the work these two ladies put into this event and their care and understanding cannot be overstated.

We can only say that the AJR can be very proud to have them and that we all hope that they enjoy good health and good spirits so that we can have many more outings under their guidance. Thankyou both.
Aldred Road
London NW6

Hilda Pollak

Making a will?

Remember the AJR

Something that none of us should avoid is making a will and keeping it up to date.

We know we cannot take our worldly possessions with us but we can – at least – see that whatever is left behind goes:

- (a) where it will be appreciated,
- (b) where it will do some good,
- (c) where it is needed.

Many of our former refugees have found their association with the AJR a rewarding one. This is an opportunity to support the AJR Charitable Trust. Your solicitor will be able to help you; alternatively you can consult with our welfare rights advisor, Aggie Alexander, on 071-483 2536 (Tues, Weds, Thurs) or the social workers at the Day Centre 071-328 0208.

If you have already made a will, it is quite easy to add a codicil.

Whatever amount you are able to leave to the AJR, it will be well received, carefully applied and remembered with gratitude.

DON'T FORGET

Our Residential Care Appeal.
Much more is needed to reach our target.

VOLUNTEER

With business/clerical background urgently required to help in AJR offices at Adamson Road, London NW3.

Would suit recently retired person.

For further information telephone Lydia Lassman: 071-483 2536.

AJR

'DROP IN' ADVICE SERVICE

Twice weekly advice sessions offering help with filling in forms, checking benefits received, checking entitlements, claiming benefits, fuel problems, money matters, etc., etc., are being held as follows:—

TUESDAYS 10 am–12 noon at 15 Cleve Road, London NW6

THURSDAYS 10 am–12 noon at Hannah Karminski House, 9 Adamson Road, London NW3

No appointment necessary but please bring along all relevant documents, such as Benefit Books, letters, bills, etc.

You can contact the AJR by

**Phone 071-483 2536
Fax 071-722 4652**

Open Day

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

We are looking forward to seeing all our members and friends on

**Sunday 24 June 1990
at 2.30 pm**

Entrance £2.00 to include refreshments

For further information contact Mrs. S. Matus 071-328 0208.

WE STILL NEED

Drivers to transport people to and from our Day Centre in Cleve Road.

If you can help, please contact **Laura Howe, Volunteers Co-ordinator, 071-483 2536.**

Top value

Later this year the German Bundesbank will be issuing new bank notes to replace the current 30-year old series. The new notes will bear the portraits of famous Germans on one side, and illustrations of their work on the other. The nine-note series includes a new denomination of DM200 commemorating the renowned Jewish bacteriologist Paul Ehrlich (1854-1915). Director of the Royal Institute for Experimental Therapy at Frankfurt and recipient of the 1908 Nobel Prize for Medicine, Ehrlich discovered Salvarsan, the first effective cure for syphilis.

Nation shall speak peace unto . . .

A 40-minute weekly Jewish interest programme called *Shalom* is being transmitted on Poland's first TV channel on Sunday mornings. Children waving Israeli flags and singing *Hevenu Shalom Aleichem* introduce the programmes, usually documentaries about Israel or Polish Jewry. □

Magnanimous Magnus

Dr E Magnus DMD is celebrating his birthday this year with an unusual and magnanimous gesture. To mark the 80th anniversary of his birth he will be donating all the gifts he receives on this occasion to the AJR's Residential Care Appeal Fund. □

A record year

Figures released by the Austrian Interior Ministry show that during 1989 just under 74,000 Soviet Jews passed through the country on their way to Israel, the U.S.A. and elsewhere. □

Forty-Fivers

Bavarian TV transmitted a documentary on Holocaust survivors who came to Britain as youngsters in 1945. The film entitled *Antworten auf Auschwitz* featured, among others, Ben Helfgott – who sublimated his trauma by becoming an Olympic weightlifter – and the architect-turned artist Roman Halter. □

VERSE AND WORSE

HUGENBERG

Tophatted worshipper of might
He kept steel helmets in the sight
Of gazers at the silver screen,
And helped construct the death machine.

SCHNITZLER

Despite the pleasant gastronomic
Association with his name
He made Herr and Frau Grundy vomit –
The critics wrote 'As near as dommit
The *Schweinskerl* lacks all claim to fame.'

Waste Watching

As the Third World starves Eastern Europe seeks Western credit to develop capitalist democracies. One Tory MP and bar-room philosopher has put his priorities in order: 'Quite frankly, I'd rather waste money on the Third World than on the Fourth Reich'.
(*Private Eye* 15 March)

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UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG

Im Rahmen der Forschungsarbeiten an der Universität Heidelberg zum Thema 'Weg und Schicksal jüdischer Pharmazeuten deutscher Muttersprache' suchen wir Angehörige oder Freunde folgender Pharmazeuten: aus Berlin: Apt, Dr Fritz Werner; Hammerschmidt, Dr Martin; Kadisch, Siegbert; Kroner, Walter; Gerber, Ruth; Weißenberg, Malwin; Lewin, Adolf; Gadiel, Hermann; aus Bielefeld: Meyer, Gertrud; aus Breslau: Rosenbaum, Alfred; Landau, Walter; aus Königsberg: Land (früher Friedländer), Erich aus Wien: Birnholz, Marco; Coranin, Leopold; Friedjung, Dr Georg; Friedenthal, Wilhelm; Phillip, Max; Risenfeld, Drs Franz u. Lotte; Zilz, Ignaz; aus Düsseldorf: Selbiger, Hans Edgar; Herkunft unbekannt: Chapp, Dr Walter; Herschmann, Kurt; Ettinger, Jakob Hansen, Peter Otto; Friday, Kaethe; Bayer, Stella.

Wer Informationen über diese oder andere Pharmazeuten aus dem deutschen Sprachkreis hat, wende sich bitte an: Dr Frank Leimkugel, Sauerbruchstr. 10, D-4330 Mülheim a.d. Ruhr oder Prof. Dr W.-D. Müller-Jahncke, Friedrichstr. 3 D-6900 Heidelberg.

Alice Schwab

Art Notes

The Prints & Drawings Gallery of the British Museum has now been redesigned. To mark the occasion the Department is showing a selection from some of its finest possessions (until 29 July). One picture that caught my eye was the portrait of Bettina von Brentano (later von Arnim) by Ludwig Emil Grimm. Bettina gave the picture as a present to Goethe and it is mentioned in a letter of 1809.

The redesign of the Prints & Drawings Gallery was made possible by what has been described as 'the world's biggest attic conversion'. This allowed for the creation of three new Japanese galleries, a new students' room and storage space over the existing King Edward VII building without altering the outside aspect of the building in any way.

At the Whitechapel Art Gallery (until 3 June) are a series of installations by a French Jewish artist, Christian Boltanski. Boltanski uses photographs arranged in friezes and constructions with naked electric lamps and candles. He is fascinated by childhood 'because that is the first part of us that is dead'. One of the most powerful of his displays is related to the Jewish pupils of Vienna's *Chajesgymnasium* in 1931. We do not know the fate of these children. Boltanski may have a powerful message to convey but, if he has, it is not clear to me.

There is still time to see the Gelman Collection at the Royal Academy (until 15 July), especially the 20th Century Modern Masters which should not be missed, nor the excellent catalogue, price £17.95.

The Goethe Institut is continuing its series of exhibitions showing the use of drawing in German art. The present exhibition *Free Abstractions 1949-1990* (until 15 June) includes works by Peter Brüning, Bernard Schultze, Emil Schumacher, K. R. H. Sonderborg and Hans Trier, all artists who have been decisively influenced by post-war confrontation with French and American *avant-garde* art. A fully illustrated catalogue (price £6) is available at the exhibition.

Collecting for the Future: A Decade of Contemporary Acquisitions is at the

Victoria and Albert Museum (6 June-12 August). This exhibition covers teapots, tiaras, kettles, quilts and all sorts of other objects. Museums are always faced with the question of what to collect and what to discard. Everybody undoubtedly has his or her own view, but today's discards may be tomorrow's treasures.

Camden Arts Centre is showing *Artist of the Day* (20 June-22 July), a selection of artists over several years who have shown in the Centre's Open Studios.

Richard Mitzman was Henry Moore's dentist for some years and his interest in sculpture was stimulated by this contact. He has now abandoned dentistry and, without formal training, has turned to sculpture. His first exhibition of sculpture and drawing is at the Boundary Gallery (until 19 June). He concentrates exclusively on the shapes of the female form, and carves in marble with different types of finish.

The Collins Gallery in Glasgow, part of the University of Strathclyde, is holding a major exhibition of photography from Berlin (8 June-8 July). The exhibition includes haunting family portraits, still lifes, constellations of images, dreamlike mysterious pictures and huge photographs of machine parts. All the six photographers concerned live and work in West Berlin. In addition to the group show, there is a display of photographs by Michael Hughes who lived and worked in the Kreuzberg District of West Berlin, where he produced a whole series of portrait photographs of people living in the district.

Those who enjoy both art and nature will delight in *London's Pride, the History of the Capital's Gardens* at the Museum of London (until 12 August). The exhibition comprises paintings, prints, photographs and models to show the development of London's gardens and parks, including some famous and historical gardens. As a bonus, the glazed entrance hall to the Museum has been transformed into a late Victorian winter garden complete with potted plants and period ornaments.

Klaus Friedeberger was born in Berlin in 1922, and came to England in 1939. Interned in 1940, he was shipped to Australia on the S.S. *Dunera*. After his release he studied art in Australia, returning to the U.K. in 1950. He has recently been showing work, mostly oils in black and white, at the 202 Gallery, 202 Kensington Park Road. □

SB's Column

Freudiana. Musical circles in Vienna look forward to an event scheduled for December this year: the first performance of the musical *Freudiana*. Based on Sigmund Freud's life (including his emigration to Britain) it marks an intellectual Vienna-London symbiosis; the work is to be produced by Brian Folly, former manager, and partner, of Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Really Useful Group'.

Hamburg. Ursula Lingen, the new director/producer of the Kammerspiele will present an especially glittering 1990/91 season, which will include the German premiere of Alfred Uhry's *Driving Miss Daisy* (the play made into an Oscar-winning film) and Thomas Bernhard's drama *Elisabeth II*.

Prague. The 1990 Music Festival 'Prague Spring', taking place as a particularly star-studded event and publicised Europe-wide, has obtained the services of Rafael Kubelik and Leonard Bernstein as main conductors.

The Goethe Institute, Frankfurt, awarding special prizes to personalities who made important contributions to German culture and language, have chosen composer György Ligeti and author Hilde Spiel (long-term Vienna correspondent of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine*) for the Goethe Medal 1990.

Peter Shaffer. Shaffer's successful comedy *Lettice and Lovage*, which ran at the London Globe Theatre for over 2 years and attracted full houses at the Vienna Kammerspiele, has now reached the Austrian provinces, being presented at Linz and at the Schauspielhaus, Graz.

Birthday. Austrian actress Elisabeth Neumann-Viertel, who started her stage career in Munich in 1919, went into American exile in 1938 and returned in 1949 to appear in Vienna, Munich and Düsseldorf, and at the Salzburg Festival, attained the age of 90.

Obituary. With the death of Helene Lauterböck at the age of 96, the Vienna Volkstheater has lost the last member of its pre-war ensemble. A partner of the legendary Alexander Moissi, she had appeared at that theatre from the 1920s onwards, was banned from appearing during the Nazi years and resumed acting after the war. □

'We've gone too far'

The reaction of the German public to the Nazi persecution of the Jews formed the subject of a lecture David Spanier of the Hebrew University gave to a packed audience at the Wiener Library in April. Professor Spanier's starting point was the existence of two constituencies with divergent, though partly overlapping, attitudes within the German population. Out-and-out Nazis fully supported every antisemitic atrocity. Anti-Nazis were too few in number to count. The majority of the population, i.e. those neither completely nazified nor anti-Nazi, had substantial reservations for all that they were susceptible to the demonisation of Jewry as plutocrats and Bolsheviks.

These reservations became manifest on three separate occasions – the first being Boycott Day 1933. The SA-enforced boycott of Jewish shops met with the disapproval of shoppers obliged to pay more elsewhere; it also gave those who

had voted for the Weimar parties at the preceding elections an opportunity to vent anti-regime feelings.

There followed five years of inexorably mounting pressure on the Jews but the measures involved – exclusion from the professions, the Nuremberg Laws, etc. – hardly obtruded on the attention of the German public.

The next broadly visible anti-Jewish action was Crystal Night 1938. This countrywide orgy of destruction and violence made many Germans embarrassed – and some ashamed – because it undermined their self image as a *Kulturnation* weaned on law and order.

The third was the wearing of the Yellow Star, made obligatory in September 1941. Barred from public transport the so-called *Sternträger* were highly visible; they were, moreover, undernourished, shabbily dressed and mainly elderly. Their sight made many Germans uncomfortable, and occasionally

elicited compassion. However, within months the man-in-the-street had become habituated to encountering such pariah figures and thought no more of it.

Soon after, the deportations started. The Jews simply 'disappeared overnight', was how many Germans, claiming ignorance, put it afterwards. In fact they repressed what they knew. Due to soldiers reporting what they had seen in the East, knowledge of the massacres of Jews was fairly widespread in the Reich. By 1943 opinion was clearly divided. Nazis rejoiced in a *judenrein* Germany, Christians among the non-Nazis feared divine retribution; more secular-minded elements saw Allied bombing raids as retaliation by the Jews for wrongs suffered. Although the man-in-the-street had condoned the removal of 'Jewish influence' – and even of Jews not personally known to him – he disapproved of the barbaric means employed. By the end of the war the verdict of the average German on the Final Solution was: we have gone too far. □ R.G.

Ealing hostel anniversary

June 1939 saw the opening of a hostel for 20 teenage Kindertransport boys, subsidised by the Ealing Jewish community. Intended to operate for three years while the boys studied English and learnt a trade, the hostel closed in 1942. In the interim the 20 lads from different towns in Germany and Austria had grown into a mini-community – thanks largely to Matron, the late Irma Rose.

Subsequently, too, Miss Rose dispensed hospitality at her little flat to any who called on Friday evenings. The inspiration of the weekly get-together eventually almost created a new 'family'. After we married and established our own homes we started to take rota turns for what ultimately became a regular monthly meeting. We shared most of our *Simchas*, and our children regarded Miss Rose and her sister as 'second grandparents'.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary we joined in with the Harrow reunion and sent a gift to Gt Ormond Street Hospital. At this function we rediscovered the whereabouts of two ex-hostel boys, one of whom had come all the way from America.

Mostly retired, the ex-Ealing hostel boys still hold their monthly meetings and will continue to do so.

□ Werner Gluckman

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80th Birthdays

Carl F. Flesch

On 23 June Carl Flesch will be celebrating his 80th birthday. Numerous are the friends and acquaintances who will want to join in wishing him well. He read law at Berlin University and had just completed his studies when, with the Nazis now in power, he managed to leave Germany. He came to London and soon he became established in the insurance business.

With an amazing capacity for hard work, much inspiration and complete integrity he met with growing success and recognition. His wife Ruth, née Seligsohn, whom he married in 1937 was a great support as she shared and furthered many of his interests. She died in January 1985 after a long illness.

Carl has remained a glutton for work to this very day and it is not surprising that he is still actively engaged as consultant to a large firm of Lloyd's insurance brokers. He has devoted much effort and studies to the very special and often complex insurance requirements of musicians and has become an international authority and practitioner in this field.

Although the son of an outstanding violinist, probably the greatest violin pedagogue of all times, Carl has never played an instrument and to this very day he remembers when, as a child, he was introduced to his father's many visitors, the conversation invariably opened with the question: 'And do you also play the violin?' This has become the introduction to a book of his to be published shortly in which he reviews much of his father's work, contacts and correspondence with some of the great of an earlier generation.

As a friend of over 50 years standing, I had every opportunity to admire Carl's many qualities. An early member of the AJR Executive and now an Hon. Vice President, he contributed much to the development of the Association. He took a leading part in the Self Aid organization and the annual Self Aid concerts owe much to his inspiration and influence. He 'co-fathered' the City of London's biennial Carl Flesch International Violin Competition which has become one of the most prestigious musical events of its kind.

May he continue to enjoy his many interests and the close relationship with his son Michael, now a well known Q.C., his daughter Carol, a highly qualified

social counsellor, and their families, in particular their four grandchildren who are his special joy and pride.

□ L. Spiro

CC Aronsfeld

'CC' is a man of many parts. After what he described as a 'nationalistic and reactionary' schooling in Berlin he commenced law studies, later discovering a preference for history.

Having left for England soon after the Nazi accession to power he began a new life in Leeds as a sewing machine mechanic. In his spare time he wrote anti-Nazi letters to the *Yorkshire Post*, signing them 'Student'. Dr Alfred Wiener – founder of the Wiener Library – was prompted by these letters to ask Aronsfeld, in 1938, to help run his Information Office in Amsterdam. This was a turning point. CC Aronsfeld commenced a new life as a writer and editor.

On his return to England he worked for the Wiener Library. In 1966 he became the Senior Research Office for the Institute of Jewish Affairs, where he remained for 20 years, editing *Christian-Jewish Relations* and *Patterns of Prejudice*.

He subsequently assumed the editorship of AJR Information since his retirement from which he has kept busy as a contributor to publications as varied as *History Today* and the *Jerusalem Post*.

May he enjoy an active life for many years to come.

The hidden child

Many Jewish children spent the war hiding, with or without parents, in the woods, in attics, in convents, in hospitals or housed with non-Jewish families.

Despite early trauma, separation, and, in many cases, loss of mother, father and siblings, the hidden children have survived to become active and involved members of society.

A reunion of such children is being organised by a group who were hidden, with the support of other existing groups. They came together through viewing the film *As If It Were Yesterday/Comme Si C'était Hier* by Myriam Abramowicz and Esther Hoffenberg.

The goals of this reunion are to enable them to recall the past, to understand how their experiences have shaped their lives and that of their families; to help each other recall and share events and details some were too young to remember.

The reunion is planned for late May 1991 at The Hebrew Union College, New York City. Would-be participants are asked to ring Mrs. Jo Kessler on 081-886 9279. □

Applause and bitterness

This is how the *Frankfurter Allgemeine* headed its report on the Berlin Philharmonic's recent tour of Israel. The orchestra's first ever visit to Israel was an instant sell-out – as well as something of a milestone.

According to *Yediot Ahronot* such a tour would have been inconceivable twenty years earlier. The Berlin Philharmonic had 'serenaded' Hitler on his birthday with Beethoven's Ninth and had staged victory concerts whenever the Wehrmacht overran another country. Besides, until the previous year, its conductor had been ex-Nazi Party member Herbert von Karajan. In 1990, however, Israelis were able to draw a distinction between past events and the high standard of the orchestra. The paper's music critic confessed that he had cried when the Berliners, under the baton of Daniel Barenboim, played the *Hatikvah*.

Knesset Speaker Dov Schilansky, a survivor of Dachau, took a different view of the visit. 'There is no place,' he commented, 'for this orchestra in Israel. Germany's shame will not be expunged in a thousand years.'

The octogenarian Berlin-born music critic Alfred Frankenstein, in contrast, welcomed the tour. He said the orchestra's rendition of Schubert and Brahms had reminded him of happy times at the beginning of his professional life in the early Thirties. The musicians visited *Yad Vashem* en bloc, after which some expressed great personal sadness. Others confessed to having been apprehensive about their reception in Israel – only to have their doubts dispelled by the enthusiastic audience reaction. Daniel Barenboim saw the tour as an opportunity for intensifying cultural contacts between Israel and Germany. He is currently lobbying to have the Israeli ban on the performance of Wagner's music lifted. □ R.G.

FAMILY EVENTS**Acknowledgement**

Plaut Mrs. Olly Plaut thanks all her friends for their kind and loving thoughts on the occasion of her 95th birthday.

Birthday

Sondheimer Ida Sondheimer will be 90 on 16 June. Any messages c/o 51 Cholmley Crescent, London N6 5EX.

Golden Wedding

Brent We are celebrating our Golden Wedding Anniversary on 27 June 1990. Irene and Egon Brent, 19 Ormesby Way, Harrow, Middlesex.

Deaths

Hirst On 13 April, Arthur Hirst, of Wokingham, peacefully after a short illness, aged 67. Sadly missed

by his wife Eva, family and many friends.

Kollner Heinz Kollner, beloved husband, father and grandfather, passed away 21 March. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Loose Dr Charlotte Loose, formerly of Berlin, died peacefully on 13 April. She will be sadly missed by many to whom she was a most caring and loyal friend.

Saenger Lotte Saenger, who died suddenly on 29 April, will be greatly missed by all her many friends of the AJR Club. She will always be remembered with love and affection.

Schindler Max Schindler died on 4 April. Mourned by his wife, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Schneider Dr Mathilde Schneider, née Guttmann, died 7 April 1990, aged 95 years. She enjoyed the company of her family and many friends, and will be greatly missed. Schwarz Nadia, beloved wife of the late Bodo Schwarz, passed away peacefully on 6 May 1990. Will be missed by all her friends.

Velden Dr Ernest Felix Velden OBE, LL.D died peacefully at home on 6 April. He will be greatly missed by his loving wife Vera, son Ronald, daughter-in-law Ann and grandchildren Dominic and Clare.

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Obituary

Lotte Saenger

It came as a great shock to Lotte Saenger's many friends and most of all to the members of the AJR Club to hear of her sudden death on 29 April.

When Lotte first came to the Club as a voluntary helper, she was rather shy and reluctant to accept responsibility. But to her own surprise she became more involved than she herself would ever have thought possible, so that she could lead the Club as its Chairman with great success for the last six years. To its members her passing means a deep personal loss. Lotte Saenger was the most selfless, unassuming person who worked untiringly and single-mindedly for the AJR Club and the welfare of its members. Her pleasant personality, her work and her devotion will be remembered for a long time. □ *AJR Club*

Dr. Keith Andrews

Dr. Keith Andrews who died in April 1989 will be much missed by the National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh, where he had been Keeper of Prints for many years. Born Kurt Aufrichtig, in Hamburg, son of the leading contralto of the Hamburg State Opera, Sabine Kalter, and her

banker husband. Kurt contracted polio in school in Holland before the war, from which he suffered throughout his life. For this reason he lacked any formal education, and once in England from 1939 he worked in antique shops and studied at night. He became an authority on German prints and some periods of painting, lectured widely, and made his mark with his authoritative book on the 18/19th century group of German painters in Rome, 'The Nazarenes', followed by others. He was awarded an honorary M.A. by Edinburgh University, and, a few years later, an honorary Doctorate by Glasgow University. □

Frieda Philipsborn

Mrs Frieda Philipsborn, the most elderly resident of Leo Baeck House, passed away on Saturday 21 April, aged ninety-nine. Born on 4 July 1890 she was only three months from her 100th birthday.

The cremation ceremony on 24 April was attended by a large congregation of friends, relatives and members of the staff of Leo Baeck House, where she had been a resident since 1982.

Nursed there with great care and devotion, she remained happy to the end and will be missed by all who knew her. □

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Profile

Getting the acts together

It is difficult to imagine the Paul Balint – AJR Day Centre without its regular ‘afternoon entertainments’: travelogues, slide shows, magic, ventriloquism, demonstrations, lectures, songs from the shows or classical music – all these and more are eagerly awaited by appreciative patrons.

The moving spirit behind this *tour d’horizon* of entertainment is Hanna Goldsmith. She was born in the Bavarian town of Fürth and came to this country with her mother and grandmother in 1939. After school in Tonbridge, Kent, she went to secretarial college in London in preparation for a successful business career as Personal Assistant, first to Hans Blumenau, one-time chairman of Otto Schiff House Committee, and then to his son.

During the London Blitz, her mother and grandmother moved to Cleve House, just two doors away from the present day centre address, and Hanna lived there, too, for a brief period until her marriage to Walter Goldsmith, himself a child refugee from Nuremberg. It was he, she says, who inspired here with the confidence to ‘spread her wings’.

And so, when she retired from business two years ago, she joined the team of volunteers at Cleve Road. After a short spell at Reception she took over the entertainment organiser’s ‘slot’. Before long she had engaged speakers on a fascinating variety of subjects: healthy eating in retirement, alternative medicine, the history and work of Kew Gardens, the history of Moss Bros., Sothebys and the international art market, the history of

Marks and Spencer, security in the home and personal safety, make-up demonstrations etc., presented in addition, of course, to the performances of singers, instrumentalists, humorists, raconteurs, artistes appearing for the first time or recalled by popular request.

She is particularly pleased to have been able to arrange a repeat appearance of the Metropolitan Police Band, whose recent concert so delighted the audience. ‘I found myself quite moved by their performance, their charm and the warmth of their contact with everyone present’.

There are now some 200 names on Hanna Goldsmith’s conscientiously updated card index. She has obviously succeeded in raising the artistic standard of Day Centre entertainment and she is naturally pleased that her formula has worked. But she is reluctant to take all the credit for her achievement. ‘I really love what I am doing’, she insists. Her colleagues are less reticent. ‘She is doing a wonderful job’ is their unanimous verdict. □ D.L.M.

Old Lang, sign!

It is a well known fact that Wagner was Hitler’s favourite composer, with Lehar a close second. But who was the Führer’s favourite movie maker? Apparently Fritz Lang, director of the silent Ufa ‘classic’ *Die Nibelungen*. This was a piece of cinematic hokum pitching heroic blond Germans against the darkly sinister Asiatics of Attila’s entourage. The film broke box office records in the mid-Twenties. Goebbels lauded *Die Nibelungen* as ‘a grippingly topical drama that shook National Socialist fighters to

the core of their being’.

So impressed was the Nazi propaganda chief that in 1933 he personally offered Fritz Lang a contract putting him in charge of the German film industry. What made the offer bizarre was the fact that Lang was a half-Jew born of a Catholic father and a Jewish mother. According to one version the regime was prepared to grant him privileged status similar to that enjoyed by the *jüdisch-versippte* Richard Strauss and Franz Lehar. Another version – circulated by Lang – had him get on a train to Paris immediately after the Goebbels interview out of fear that his part-Jewish descent would be discovered. Who was Fritz Lang? The son of a Viennese architect, he had been in turn an architectural student and a painter before entering the film industry. In 1921, with several Ufa films already to his credit, he married the script writer Thea von Harbou. She provided the scenarios both for *Die Nibelungen* and Lang’s better-known – though politically similarly suspect – *Metropolis*.

Given the Nietzschean-racist aura of these films it is not surprising that Thea von Harbou joined the Nazi Party even before the takeover of power.

The couple divorced in 1934, by which time Lang was in the United States. In Hollywood he went from strength to strength directing liberal movies (*Fury*),

anti-Nazi morale boosters (*Hangmen Also Die*) and initiating the German-influenced *film noir* (*The Woman in the Window*). Returning to Germany in the 1950s, he, however, produced undistinguished work before dying in California in 1976.

Thea von Harbou, who had predeceased her ex-husband by twenty years, stuck to her political views to the end. Undertaking a lecture tour in the early 1950s, she appeared in public with the coats of arms of Germany’s ‘lost’ Eastern provinces embroidered on the hem of her coat. □

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