

AJR Information

Volume XLV No. 5
May 1990

£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss . . .

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Past achievements, agenda for the future

The AJR in 1989

The year 1989 was another busy one for the Association. Our annual report, the main feature of this issue, will be found in the centre pages. The continued extension of our activities it records represents not only an improvement in the services we offer our members, but has helped generate an increased demand for them. The rapid social changes of our time, which affect us all, are especially perplexing to those past the mid-stream of life. The world around them no longer conforms to experiences they gained when active in their vocations. Alleviating the stresses this produces is work to which our staff bring much experience, personal interest, warmth and enthusiasm for the benefit of all who come to them for help and counsel.

We must not, however, allow present success to breed complacency and with it failure to give thought to the future. We are in no doubt that there is a future for the AJR, but to meet the demands it will make on our services we must maintain the organisation in good shape. This can only be done with the active help of our



The glass extension at the AJR Paul Balint Day Centre

Annual General Meeting

will be held on
Wednesday 6th June 1990
at 7.30 p.m. at 15 Cleve Road, London NW6

AGENDA

Annual Report 1989	Discussion
Hon. Treasurer's Report	Election of Executive Committee

Followed by a talk by **MR. MANFRED DURST** entitled
'A Sentimental Journey and the Magic of Gold'
Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

membership, help that must be given *now* and is asked for in three particular areas.

First, the old age homes, for which we share responsibility with the CBF Residential Care and Housing Association, must be refurbished and extended. The appeal launched earlier this year and fully publicised in this journal and elsewhere, has started well, but much more is urgently needed if we are to reach our target in time. We look to all our members to support this appeal to the most generous extent possible. There is no better way for any of us to document our gratitude at having reached these islands which are now home and where we live peaceful – and often prosperous – lives.

Secondly, we ask for every member's help in recruiting new members. Too many of our relatives and friends, who came to Britain as a result of Nazi oppression, are still not part of the AJR, but should be. And so should their children and grandchildren. They may be British-born and rightly feel fully integrated into British society and Anglo-Jewry, neither of which could have happened if their parents or grandparents had not found refuge here. The work we do is worthy of support of any fair-minded person. Surely it should appeal to the conscience of those who have a direct connection through family ties with those who seek our help.

Thirdly, our Association cannot function without an effective and devoted leadership to guide and support our staff. Those who came to this country as school children are by now in their sixties and seventies. We must therefore look to the younger

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In dubious taste

Once upon a time in America there was a Mason-Dixon line. This formed the boundary between the 'Dixie' states which maintained slavery, and the Northern ones which didn't.

Today there is a Mason line. It is the boundary of good taste which a slave rattling golden chains constantly breaches. What enslaves Jackie Mason is racial stereotyping. This rabbi-turned-comic bangs on ad nauseam about the 'otherness' of his fellow Jews: Jews shun manual labour, they eat – instead of drink – themselves silly, they drive cars they can't repair, own yachts they can't sail, and so forth.

No matter that Israel, home to almost a third of world Jewry, refutes all of Mason's clichés (except the one about Jewish abstinence). No matter that, on his own home patch, Manhattan's garment district attests to a widespread Jewish pursuit of manual occupations within living memory.

Readers with long memories may also recall Mason's *genuinely* gifted European predecessors Tucholsky and Karl Kraus. Tucholsky's *Herr Wendriner* stories and Kraus's *Last Days of Mankind*, with its cast of Jewish speculators and gutter journalists, were embarrassing evidence of a deep vein of self-hate mined by creative Jews. And not only creative ones. A

Continued from front page

generation to fill the gap that has developed. We have already successfully rejuvenated our Executive Committee, but we need more of the descendants of members to come forward to take their place, and see the AJR through the years ahead.

The organisation we have built is well fitted to its allotted task. Its work will need performing for many years ahead, but it would be in jeopardy if our calls for personal commitment and financial support are not heeded. Take pride in the achievements of refugees in this country, which undoubtedly include the establishment of the AJR. Convey that pride to your children and grandchildren, and urge them to come forward so that this creation of our community shall not wither.

Manfred Durst

Guest lecturer, 1990 Annual General Meeting

Munich-born Manfred Durst arrived in England on a Kindertransport. He first lived in a refugee hostel while attending Salomon Wolfson School in N.W. London.

At sixteen he was apprenticed to a jeweller. He had additional training at the Central School of Arts and Crafts and at the RAF Establishment at Farnborough (learning to make bomb sights for the Royal Air Force).

Postwar he, with a partner, set up a company manufacturing gold articles which eventually had several hundred employees. After forty-two years' involvement in the company he has recently retired.

Manfred Durst is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, a Past President of the British Jewellery and Giftware Federation and a Freeman of the City of London. He is also a Member of the British Jewellery Association's Hallmarking Council currently engaged in harmonising standards in preparation for the Free European Market in 1992. He has evinced an ongoing commitment to



to the Jewish causes. In Israel he has endowed the Shabtai Levy Children's Home at Haifa; in Britain he furthers the work of the JIA. Last, but by no means least, he has, for the past decade, been chairman of the Leo Baeck Home House Committee, of which his wife Marion, likewise from Munich, is also a very active member. The Dursts have one son, a chartered accountant. Manfred Durst's hobbies are golf, skiing, walking and bridge. □

Jewish parody of Uhland's poem *Des Sängers Fluch* (The Minstrel's Curse) described its 'hero' in the words *Und was er denkt ist Rebachlund was er schneidet Koupons* (All he thinks of is profit/and all he clips are share coupons).

One can, of course, argue that purveying homegrown Jewish anti-semitism in interwar Berlin and Vienna was more irresponsible than doing so in contemporary New York or London.

And yet: when Mason last year dubbed the Black contender for the mayoralty of

New York, David Dinkin, a 'fancy *Schwartz* with a moustache' he further envenomed an already deteriorating inter-ethnic situation. (The Reverend Jesse Jackson's previous jibe at New York as 'Hymietown' was, of course, equally reprehensible.)

Playing on racial prejudice deserves unambiguous condemnation, irrespective of whether it is designed to earn a politician votes or a comedian cheap laughs.

□ R.G.

'OPEN DAYS' IN THE HOMES

<p><i>Leo Baeck House</i> Sunday 10 June</p>	<p><i>Osmond House</i> Sunday 8 July</p>
<p><i>Otto Schiff House</i> Sunday 12 August</p>	<p><i>Heinrich Stahl House</i> Sunday 2 September</p>

The mind and its healers

Bruno Bettelheim *RECOLLECTIONS AND REFLECTIONS*, Thames & Hudson, 1990

By tragic coincidence this review of Bruno Bettelheim's collected essays appears in the same issue as his obituary. Bettelheim was a prolific author of works on psychoanalysis with at least two seminal studies to his credit. *The Informed Heart* investigated how the human psyche performs in *extremis*, i.e. under concentration camp conditions; *Children of the Dream* provided a corrective to the more Utopian notions of the kibbutz movement.

Recollections and Reflections is, by its very nature, not of the same order of magnitude. Even so – and though some of the pieces are a little timebound – it will not leave the reader disappointed.

The essays are grouped under three main headings: Freud and Psychoanalysis; Children and Myself; On Jews and the Camps.

The introductory item on Freud's Vienna is a little gem. It passes a prism over the cultural ambience of late 19th century Vienna in which the 'father of psychoanalysis' grew up, homing in on ambivalence as the chief characteristic of the Habsburg *fin-de-siècle*. At the same time as Austria-Hungary was losing influence and territory around the periphery, a building boom transformed its centre, the *Kaiserstadt*, into a cynosure of all subjects' eyes; a Stock Exchange crash occasioned composition of the greatest operetta ever (*Die Fledermaus*); while inter-ethnic tensions boiled over, culture enjoyed an efflorescence.

The royal personages called upon to hold this ramshackle structure together were themselves psychological cases. Empress Elisabeth, cousin to mad Ludwig of Bavaria, roamed restlessly across

Europe; Crown Prince Rudolph spent his short life in oedipal revolt climaxed by suicide, and Emperor Franz Josef kept reality at bay through immersion in bureaucratic detail and adherence to archaic court etiquette.

If Freud notoriously accorded prime importance to *eros* and *thanatos* – the sex drive and the death drive – it is not to be wondered at. Rudolph's suicide had been preceded by coitus, and the leading Austrian painters and writers of the period (Klimt, Schiele, Schnitzler and Rilke) all tended to interweave love and death themes in their work.

Bettelheim also has interesting things to say about the house in which Freud chose to live for the best part of his life. The Berggasse is so called because it slopes upwards at one end, but it also has a long level stretch starting in a jumble of junk shops known as the *Tandelmarkt*. Freud's house was situated midway. This, says Bettelheim, symbolised what he considered a halfway position between his underprivileged Jewish origins – most junkshop owners were Jews – and the 'elevated' neighbourhood inhabited by officials and academics. (Freud was never, for antisemitic as well as professional reasons, awarded a full professorship at Vienna University.)

Elsewhere Bettelheim argues that Ernest Jones, Freud's biographer and 'apostle' to the Anglo-Saxon countries, was himself deficient in psychoanalytic understanding. He faults Jones's opinions on Freud's self-analysis and the (crucial) relations with his sister-in-law; above all he contends Jones took Freud's disparagement of Vienna too much at face value. If he really hated the place so much why did he stay there?

In Bettelheim's view the reader can learn more about Freud from one slim volume of Erich Fromm's than from Jones's 1,500-page biography. He also commends Fromm for pointing out an essential contradiction in Freud: his assertion that psychoanalysis was a science subject to all criteria that should apply to scientific investigation – and his insistence that all members of the psychoanalytic movement accept his own formulations on pain of expulsion.

If Bettelheim echoes Fromm's criticism of Freud he is even more condemnatory of the greatest non-Freudian of them all, Carl Gustav Jung. The latter, it appears from these pages, not only owed an unacknowledged debt of gratitude to a little-known colleague, Sabina Spielrein, for the formulation of his key concept of the *anima*, but treated her scandalously badly on a personal level as well.

One turns with relief from the morally ambiguous Swiss to Janusz Korczak, a moral giant whom posterity cannot honour enough. Bettelheim's essay on the Warsaw orphanage director who died voluntarily alongside his charges introduces the third section of the book, entitled 'On Jews and the Camps'. On this topic, too, the author says a great deal that is perspicacious and illuminating, but here and there a false note creeps in. Arguing along lines pioneered by Hannah Arendt he charges Jews trapped in Nazi Europe with improvidently fatalistic 'ghetto thinking'. (*Inter alia* he also upbraids the survivors for denying equality in suffering to such other Nazi victims as Europe's gypsies.)

Ultimately, after a stroke, Bettelheim took his own life, though for reasons different from those of his fellow camp survivor Primo Levi. The date he chose was 13 March – anniversary of the Austrian Anschluss!

□ R.G.

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Letters to the Editor

RE-TYING THE THREAD

Sir – After 52 years a lady I used to work with in Berlin has contacted me. She saw my photograph in Uwe Westphal's book on the Berlin Rag Trade, and came to visit me. It was a welcome reunion after all that time.

Old Shoreham Road Ruth Phillips
Southwick, W. Sussex

WIEDERGUTMACHUNG

Every year I receive a gift from Nuremberg: a carton full of assorted beautifully wrapped little packages of gingerbread, honeycakes and all manner of German-style Xmas cookies.

The gift is sent by an old schoolmate of my late husband's. They both left an Essen high-school in 1930 and went their separate ways, until 50 years later, when Heinz one day suddenly telephoned my husband. The call came from somewhere in Germany and went on for about half an hour. My husband listened and hardly said a word, while the man at the other end of the line talked non-stop. Heinz had obtained our phone number from another classmate, with whom my husband was in contact. Heinz had suffered from a guilty conscience for many years and had searched for a way of relieving it. The phone call seemed a solution to his problem. A Nazi party member, he had joined the Waffen SS in the early Hitler days. By the time he realised how bad this was, it was too late to climb out. For many years he could not talk to anyone about this, then selected my husband for the confession. After the call we were showered with presents, and when my husband visited Essen Heinz treated him royally. Uncomfortable at receiving all this unwanted attention we asked him to stop it. The pleading response was 'Please, do not deprive me of the only opportunity to relieve my heavily burdened conscience'.

One day he 'phoned to say he wanted to come to London for a few days and could we find a hotel for him in our neighbourhood. We complied and he arrived as planned, bringing two suitcases. One was filled with home-made cakes and bread, all kinds of jams, everything packed and labelled for the freezer, all

made by Heinz's wife. My husband showed him around and accompanied him on his errands. He was very nervous and peculiar.

A year later my husband died, and again Heinz sent an over-generous gift of Inter-Flora vouchers.

Since then I have received a consignment from Nuremberg each year around Xmas.
Rofant Road Marianne Hertz
Northwood

THE WHOLE TOOTH

Sir – I read Arnold Rosenstrauch's *A life Among Strangers* with great interest, recalling days long ago when he and I were up in Edinburgh. Arnold already had a German degree in Dentistry and needed to study for his U.K. registration; I was a mere undergraduate.

I am writing to put on record the friendly and helpful welcome extended to us. The authorities of both the Royal Colleges and the University went out of their way to allow refugees either to continue or to start their studies. Following the Scottish tradition of tolerance they afforded us all possible help and support.

Most English School Boards did not recognise the *Abitur*, but the Scottish Board (St. Andrews) accepted this examination, thus allowing a number of us to study and to establish ourselves eventually in our chosen professions.

Arnold's description of the 'Gas Room' is very amusing, but my good friend will forgive me for saying that this hyperbole should not be taken too seriously.
Wollaton Hall Drive F. B. Strauss
Nottingham

Sir – Mr. Arnold Rosenstrauch may not yet be aware of it, but the happy days of teeth dropping to the floor like wood shavings are about to return. This is simply due to today's high cost of treatment, which very few people can afford. I was recently quoted £1000 for treatment required to save just one tooth. In case of failure I would have been faced with additional expenditure of £1000 to replace the tooth that resisted salvation.

Gone are the days when one dentist would take care of all his patient's needs. The dental industry has vastly expanded

into roughly four groups: Dentists, Endodontists, Periodontists and Hygienists. By the time of the patient's release from treatment he is faced with bills of astronomical proportions.

Tooth decay has never previously been regarded as a fatal disease. Nevertheless patients should be forewarned that some of them may actually drop dead due to shock after receipt of the final accounts.
Holland Park J. Rotter
London

Sir – Reading the reminiscences of Arnold Rosenstrauch in the February issue reminded me of my work as assistant dentist in Stoke Newington in 1950, the early days of the National Health Service, when all dental treatment, including dentures, was completely free.

An elderly, very orthodox, Jewish gentleman without any teeth sat in the dental chair, and when I asked what I could do for him, replied 'I want 2 sets of dentures, one for *milchig* and one for *fleischig*'.
Kenneth Gardens Gerhard Schueler
Stanmore

WALLS ALSO GO UP

Some months ago I reported that the Neue Synagogue in Oranienburger Strasse, Berlin, which was part-destroyed in an air raid, would be rebuilt and appealed for support.

Today I am pleased to report both that rebuilding is in full swing, and also that a real miracle has happened. During the excavation work the workmen Lutz Mirie and Bernd Besoncon found and dug out the *Ner Tamid* (the Eternal Light), which hung in front of the Torah shrine since the original building was completed in the Jewish year 5626 (1866), and was donated to the synagogue by Adolf and Caecilie Jacoby. Unfortunately it was damaged, but the Manager of the Restoration Workshop of the Museum for German History, Eva Fischer, will restore it.

History seems to be repeating itself. It took 70 years for the temple to be rebuilt in Jerusalem after being destroyed by the Romans, it will be over 50 years before one can enter the Centrum Judaicum through the original gate which, still standing, carries the inscription:

'OPEN YE GATES, THAT THE
RIGHTEOUS NATION WHICH
KEEPS THE TRUTH MAY ENTER
IN.'
(Isaiah 26,2)

Gosden Close James Julius Walters
Bramley (formerly Warschauer)

Profile

A transplant that has taken

He was seen by TV viewers as one of the four former Kindertransport children in the BBC documentary *No Time to say Goodbye*. Leslie Brent is someone to whom one cannot only say 'saw you on the telly', but also 'read you in Who's Who'.

Born Lothar Baruch, in a small Pomeranian town, he grew up in a family that mingled Liberal-Jewish observance with love of music; the father played the organ in Köslin synagogue, the mother and he sang in the synagogue choir. Exposed, after the Nazi takeover, to attacks by classmates, he was sent to a Jewish orphanage in Berlin. The move to the orphanage, a gaunt barrack-like building teeming with disturbed children, almost traumatised him, but he was treated solicitously by the music-loving director Dr. Krohn (who later perished in Auschwitz).

After this experience, the journey to England in late 1938 – for all that it meant final separation from his family – held relatively few terrors. A fortunate chance meeting at Dovercourt reception camp took him to Bunce Court School in Kent. This remarkable institution which the 'clairvoyant' Anna Essinger had transplanted from Herlingen near Ulm in

1933, not only furthered his education, but also constituted a surrogate home – even after he had proceeded to Birmingham Technical College. At the



Photo Audiovisual Department,
St. Mary's School of Medicine

latter he continued his studies while working as a laboratory assistant. Subsequently he volunteered for the army and, on receiving his commission, trained recruits. Shortly after the war, still in

uniform, he revisited Berlin, whence his parents and sister had been 'sent East'.

Demobbed, he resumed his studies at Birmingham where his post-graduate supervisor was Professor Medawar, whom he later followed to University College London. The work – on transplants – for which Sir Peter Medawar received the 1960 Nobel Prize in Medicine, actually formed the subject of Leslie Brent's Ph.D. thesis.

Several university appointments followed, culminating in his appointment as Professor of Immunology at St. Mary's Hospital School of Medicine twenty years ago.

Alongside his uniquely valuable academic work, Leslie Brent has consistently involved himself in social matters. He initiated university support both for dismissed South African lecturers and orphans of the Vietnam war; closer to home he played a key role on Haringey Community Relations Council.

This savant who has progressed from a near-Dickensian orphanage to work at the very frontiers of science, while devoting surplus energy to worthwhile causes, is to all intents and purposes a 'whole man'. Alas, none who have been touched by the Holocaust can be truly whole; meanwhile, it is comforting to know that Leslie Brent has recently returned to choral singing – love for which his mother had first implanted in him.

□ R.G.

Surviving the survivors

The plot of *The Summer of Aviya* unfolds in Israel in 1951, only two years on from the War of Independence. The reverberations of that war are, however, totally absent from the film. What permeates its atmosphere palpably, if invisibly, are echoes of the marginally less recent war 'over there'. Each day after the news bulletins radio announcers read out search lists of missing relatives; children gossip on the playground about a camp survivor who, thinking himself widowed, had married again and come face to face with his first wife in Israel.

With her imagination stirred by such tales ten-year old Aviya refuses to accept that her father, too, had died 'over there'. In her private universe of wish-fulfilment a married neighbour becomes the husband

her mother – a one-time partisan – had had in Poland.

Needing to compensate for fatherlessness through mystification, and even lies, is actually the lighter of the twin burdens Aviya carries on her frail shoulders; the heavier one is her mother's mental breakdown which prompts kids to shout 'crazy *partisanka*' after her in the streets.

This bleakly realistic film provides nought for our comfort. Its unvarnished truth telling extends to the whole of Israeli society within the compass of

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Aviya's experience. Unfeeling neighbours, insensitive teachers, social climbers, pre-pubertal scapegoat seekers – all pass muster before our eyes. Compounding this impression is a countryside that looks unkempt, dwellings that lack basic amenities and a summer scene bereft of cooling breezes and repose.

Yet for all that I did not leave the cinema feeling depressed. My upbeat mood was not induced by an artificially contrived happy ending (the movie is, after all, based on real events). What buoyed me up was the knowledge that although the odds were heavily stacked against her, little Aviya won through ultimately.

How do I know this? The answer is simple: *The Summer of Aviya* tells the actual childhood story of Gila Almagor, the highly accomplished actress who plays the mother.

□ R.G.

The future of Judaism: convergence or schism?

Jonathan Sacks. *TRADITIONAL ALTERNATIVES: Orthodoxy and the Future of the Jewish People*. (Jews' College Publications, London. 1989)

In the introduction to this, his first, book Jonathan Sacks explains the meaning of 'argument for the sake of heaven', the traditional rabbinical method of distilling truth by means of serious intellectual discussion of all the acceptable alternatives. For that is the inspiration for the present work. Originally undertaken by way of preparation for the eponymous international conference held in London in May 1989 under the auspices of Jews' College (of which Rabbi Sacks is the Principal), this erudite study of contemporary Judaism from a traditionalist point of view is an important addition to the literature on the subject.

Engagingly, Rabbi Sacks opens and closes his investigation by introducing to the reader as role models the members of a fictitious 'typical' North London Jewish family gathered, for the purpose of the argument, in the parental home for the celebration of Passover. Parents and children, the latter made to correspond to the four sons of the well-known passage in the *haggadah*, are a representative cross-section of main-stream Anglo-Judaism at the present time, ranging from ultra-Orthodox commitment, through middle-of-the-road conformism, to rebellious rejection of all things Jewish. Having thus set his parameters in the context of 'the complexity that is contemporary Jewry' the author traces the historical development of modern Orthodoxy as one of the responses to challenge which the process of emancipation posed to the traditional concept of the diaspora Jew as one of a distinctive people with a distinctive religion and a once and future homeland. Opposing the advocates of complete religious harmonisation with the outside world and rejecting the secular aspirations of Zionism, Samson Raphael Hirsch, one of modern Orthodoxy's founding fathers, was also at odds with the tenets of the traditionalist alternative: one which, unlike the other two, did not acknowledge the relevance of emancipation and hence chose to ignore its apologists, including those within the ranks of Orthodoxy. Refusing to make

any concession to modernity, this type of religious commitment rested upon the revival of talmudic learning centred upon new-style *yeshivot* and the relegation of secular education to a subordinate place consistent with its relevance to the need to earn a livelihood, and no more.

Thus the scene was set for a late-twentieth century renewal of Jewish religiosity. The process was helped by the phenomenon of the 'counter-productive' effect of social integration, more especially in the United States, and, less surprisingly, by Holocaust memories and Israel's 'miracle victory' in the Six Day War. At a time, therefore, when the survival of Judaism, if not necessarily 'Jewishness', is threatened by inter-marriage, a declining birthrate and a softening of attitudes to the centrality of Israel in the Jewish consciousness, a new, revitalised and often radical Orthodoxy raises questions which, so runs the argument, must be answered if there is to be a Jewish future. Does this mean that, in the ultimate analysis, Judaism for the next generation – say, for the children of the children round the author's hypothetical *seder* table – comes down to a kind of multiple-choice test question, a selection from four or five apparently possible answers, of which only one is actually correct? Yes, says Jonathan Sacks, and No. He states that 'convergence toward a common destiny can only come about through a normative reinstatement of Judaism as traditionally understood'. But it is the concept of convergence upon which he lays stress. He emphasises the importance of regaining, however tentatively at first, Jewish unity, which 'is less a fact than objective and unless it is a unity which allows for diversity . . . will not occur at all'. Thus he proposes a 'dialogue with dissent' in order to avoid the fatal tensions which may well lead irretrievably to schism.

For the sake of those children in Rabbi Sacks' 'family portrait' his treatise should be read with respect and its message received and understood.

□ David Maier

This review was written before the appointment of Jonathan Sacks as Chief Rabbi Elect.

Memorial plaques in Berlin-Moabit

Ernst Chain, Siegbert Springer

A plaque in memory of the Nobel Prize Laureate Sir Ernst Chain (1906–79) was affixed at the District Institute of Health, next to the *Krankenhaus Moabit*. Ernst Chain lived in Alt-Moabit and went to school at the Luisengymnasium. He held a research position at the Charité Hospital from 1930 to 1933, when he emigrated to Britain. In 1945 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for helping to develop Penicillin. He has been associated with various Jewish causes, among them the *Thank-You Britain* Fund.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by his widow, Anne, a distinguished scientist in her own right, and their son, Benny, an immunologist working at University College, London. Lady Chain formerly held a Chair at Imperial College and now carries on her research at the University of Buckingham, founded by her brother, Lord Beloff. Together with a relative now resident in East Berlin, she and the son also visited the Chain family's former flat. The present tenants, a gynaecologist and his wife, use it as consulting rooms, and photos and details of Ernst Chain's life are on permanent display in the entrance hall.

A plaque in memory of Dr. Siegbert Springer (1882–1938) was affixed on his residence at Spenerstrasse 15. Dr. Springer was a highly regarded *Repetitor* preparing law students for the *Referendar* examination, whose pedagogical gifts left a lasting impact. Victimized by the Nazi regime, he put an end to his life on 10 May, 1938. Efforts to get a plaque installed date back five years when an appeal initiated by Wolfgang Nelki and Susanne Rosenstock jointly with Heiko Roskamp (Berlin), and signed by over 50 former Springer students in this country and abroad, was submitted to the Berlin-Tiergarten Borough Council. □ W.R.

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'A sordid and disreputable episode'

François Lafitte. *THE INTERNMENT OF ALIENS*. With a new introduction by the author. Libris. 1988 Hardback £24.95. 1990 Paperback £8.95

The war was in its second year, and the internment of so-called enemy aliens in Great Britain in full swing, when, with 'growing indignation and amazement', an Englishman (though European in his emotions) chose to tell a 'lamentable story of muddle and stupidity': that of the treatment of mostly Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria. This, the first independent report on internment policy and practice, has been re-issued 48 years after it first appeared as a 'Penguin Special'. Apart from writing a new introduction for this edition, and providing it with a previously omitted index, the author has left the original text unchanged. The book thus brings back vivid memories of those days

— dark days for Britain, and doubly dark for the enemies of her enemies whom she declined to treat as friends for many painful months.

Though tinged with genuine concern and righteous anger, the book is a straightforward, factual account of all the issues, set in the context of the summer of 1940. The author does not mince words when, in his analysis of 'the refugee problem', he takes his government to task for half subscribing to the Nazi doctrine on 'aliens'; and he demands of the authorities a constructive attitude, if only so as not to pervert the purpose for which his countrymen had taken up arms.

He is equally outspoken in his survey of the situation of refugees before the

implementation of the 'new' aliens policy which resulted in internment and deportation. He describes the methods of rounding up those affected and the conditions they had to endure on their journeys to the camps and during their detention. He looks at the 'racecourse camps', the 'tent camps', the 'P.O.W. camps' and at those on the Isle of Man. And he records the *Arandora Star* tragedy. With passionate eloquence he calls for the immediate release of 'every single interned refugee who is not in any way suspect', so that they can 'pick up the threads of their broken lives'. For, as he proclaims, in the people's war of liberation there are 'no "aliens" except the destroyers of freedom'.

In his 'afterthoughts four decades later' the author suggests that the only blessing which came out of internment was the 'genesis' of the Amadeus String Quartet. He overlooks at least one other: his own book. □ D.L.M.

Herbert Freeden

A VE-Day reminiscence

Before me lies a yellowing London newspaper with the dateline May 8, 1945, headed by an 8 column streamer *Today Is V Day*. 'At 2.41 a.m. today Col. Gen. Jodl, German Chief-of-Staff, signed the unconditional surrender of Germany in the little red schoolhouse near Rheims which is Gen. Eisenhower's H.Q.' it records. 'For Britain and the U.S.A. Gen. Bedell-Smith signed the surrender document; Gen. Ivan Suslparov signed for the Soviet Union and Gen. Francois Sevez for France. ... The total surrender will be made today to Gen. Eisenhower ... in Berlin.'

'Scenes in the West End assumed a fantastic air,' added a local reporter. 'With nightfall, hundreds of bonfires threw a lurid glow into the clouds, reminiscent of the incendiary raids on London of 1940-41.'

The historic Victory Parade in London took place not immediately after the end of the European war, but more than a year later, on the 8th of June, 1946. The psychological moment for such a show had long passed and the 'Cold War' had reached freezing point. The invitation of the British Government to Russia, made in February 1946, was not answered; only

by the end of May, after several diplomatic inquiries, came the final refusal. Warsaw, too, cancelled its participation at the last moment.

Others were not present either. One missed the French maquis, the Italian guerillas, the Greek partisans. The millions of spectators thundered applause whenever a picturesque contingent of troops made its appearance, regardless of the part they played in the fighting. No wonder therefore, that the exotic looking detachments of Egypt, Iraq, Iran and Transjordan received ovations.

Palestine was placed within the 'Colonial Empire', between the Police of North Borneo and the Regiment of St. Helena. It was represented by 16 members of the Transjordan Frontier Force, by 15 Palestinian Policemen (7 Britishers, 4 Jews and 4 Arabs) and a detachment of the Palestinian Regiment, led by Lieut. Y. Granowsky (today Granott), with a Jewish sergeant and 16 men — eight Jews and eight Arabs. Seven of the Arabs had already been demobilised, and had to be recalled for the sake of equal representation at the parade.

The climax — at least for us — came with the march past of the Jewish Brigade.

They occupied an excellent place, following directly upon the crack units of the Parachutists and Commandos, and carrying proudly the blue and white banner with the Star of David. The Brigade was represented by 24 soldiers in all, led by Lt.-Col. Ephraim Ben-Arzi.

It was as if, invisible behind their flag, marched all those who had a right to be present — the ghetto fighters and partisans, the survivors of Auschwitz and the other death camps — an army of unknown Jewish martyrs. □

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Annual Report 1989

Social services

During 1989 there has been a substantial increase in clients seeking our help. Our social workers led by Mr. Samuel Wolf have had to cope with a variety of problems, some extremely complex, and referrals are received daily from outside welfare organisations, local authorities, doctors and community workers. Whilst loneliness is still one of the biggest problems, change in government legislation has resulted in a substantial increase in the number of refugees requiring financial support to meet their everyday needs.

This year saw the introduction of our Advice Centre. There has been a steady stream of visitors to both Hannah Karminski House and 15 Cleve Road, seeking advice on a variety of subjects including Welfare benefits, Community Charge, German and Austrian pensions, the making of wills and many others. Under the direction of Mrs. Aggie Alexander, our Welfare Rights Adviser, this new facility has proved to be a worthwhile addition to our services.

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

The success of the Day Centre continues and throughout the year we played host to many people, including Sir Sigmund Sternberg who expressed his enthusiastic support for the work we are doing. With the support of the AJR Charitable Trust, Self Aid and other sources we are able to offer our services to members who, because of financial limitations, would not otherwise be able to take advantage of our outings to the theatre, places of interest and weekends to the coast.

Many who attend the Day Centre now come from areas outside north west London and we offer transport facilities for the most needy.

Members never fail to express their appreciation of the devotion given by our Day Centre staff led by Sylvia Matus together with Renee Lee, Suzy Kaufman, Eleanor Angel and our team of volunteers.

Residential Care

Our homes department, under the guidance of Mrs. Ruth Finestone, is responsible for the selection and eventual admission of applicants to Leo Baeck House, Heinrich Stahl House, Osmond

House and Otto Schiff House. Heads of home, staff, house committee members and volunteers work together devotedly to ensure that the residents are cared for with dignity and in pleasant surroundings.

At the beginning of 1990 the Housing Association took on the day-to-day management of Clara Nehab House on behalf of the Leo Baeck Housing Association and the AJR is involved in filling vacancies.

Sheltered Accommodation

We continue to receive a steady stream of applicants for the sheltered flatlets at Cleve Road, Otto Schiff House and Eleanor Rathbone House. A waiting list is being compiled for the second stage rebuilding of Otto Schiff House which should be ready for occupation at the end of the year.

AJR Club

The club continues to meet regularly at 15 Cleve Road and offers a wide variety of entertainment and lectures arranged by Mrs. Baban, Mrs. Horwell and Mrs. Saenger. On Sunday afternoons members enjoy getting together in an informal atmosphere.

AJR Information

Our journal has now entered its 45th year of uninterrupted publication and remains our most important and valuable means of communication with our members. The new type style and format introduced in January 1990 has been very well received by our readers.

Under the editorship of Mr. Richard Grunberger *AJR Information* continues to comment on major current issues and to stimulate lively debate.

Self Aid

Self Aid of Refugees continues to be administered as part of the AJR. Once again there has been a substantial increase in applications for financial assistance. During 1989 the numbers who received modest financial help rose by a third, representing an even larger increase in numbers than in previous years.

Our Annual Charity Concert was held on 5th November 1989. Once again the hall was filled to capacity. The Gabrieli String Quartet and Tamas Vasary provided an afternoon of musical delight.

The overwhelming success of the concerts continue to provide much needed funds, but the amount raised does not keep pace with rising demand.

The next concert will take place on Sunday 14 October 1990, again at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, and we look forward to seeing our regular concert supporters together with many new friends.

Membership

The nature of our elderly community is reflected in the numbers that we lose each year, but it is gratifying to note that the success of our work has encouraged new members to join. However, there are still too many refugees who remain aloof and we urge existing members to recruit on our behalf. New membership leaflets are now available and the office will be only too happy to provide as many as you request.

Staff and Volunteers

Under the direction of the Administrator, Mrs. Lydia Lassman, our staff provide a professional and caring welfare service. We are indebted to our team of volunteers, numbering some 160, who supplement the work of the social work staff. The Association of Children of Jewish Refugees continues to be active in the community and many of its members visit the homes. However, there is still a desperate need for more volunteers to visit the homes, drive for the Day Centre, and befriend those members who do not have relatives and friends to rely on. The additional work generated by the fund raising appeal has been handled speedily and efficiently by our staff with the help of the provision of modern equipment.

The Executive Committee

The AJR Executive meets regularly and members are actively involved in all aspects of the work of the Association and Charitable Trust.

During the year Dr. Arnold Horwell and Mr. Owen Franklyn retired. Their contribution over the years to the work of the AJR has been invaluable and we are grateful that they have both offered to take an active interest in our future work.
C. T. Marx
Chairman

Treasurer's Report

The AJR is now primarily a welfare organisation and its accounts reflect its various activities.

To finance these extensive commitments the AJR Charitable Trust, a registered charity, provides the major financial support for all the welfare activities of the AJR. The income and expenditure accounts of the AJR, AJR Charitable Trust and the Self Aid of Refugees, presented here in summarised form, mirror the combined organisations and their tasks.

M. M. Kochman Hon. Treasurer

AJR

Our income from membership subscriptions and donations has increased but still does not meet our costs. We continue to rely on the AJR Charitable Trust for grants towards our expenditure and AJR Information. Last year we introduced a contributory pension fund for members of staff. This accounts for the reduction in the reserves of the staff retirement fund.

AJR

Summary of Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1989

	1989	1988
FIXED ASSETS		
	£	£
Less depreciation	16,399	16,051
CURRENT ASSETS		
Including Staff Retirement Fund	61,208	73,370
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
	18,407	31,996
	42,801	41,374
	34,806	57,425
Reserve for Staff Retirement Fund	26,670	50,612
	8,136	6,813
REPRESENTED BY GENERAL FUND		
Balance 1/1/89	6,813	5,062
Net Income for the year	1,323	1,751
	8,136	6,813

Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31 December 1989

	1989	1988
INCOME		
	£	£
Membership Fees, Donations	69,860	62,862
Grant from AJR Charitable Trust for welfare services	167,500	125,000
	237,360	187,862
EXPENDITURE		
Rent, Rates, Postage, Telephone etc.	33,144	31,512
Salaries	149,916	110,651
Pension Contributions/Retirement Fund	20,211	12,500
Administration expenses	7,225	7,010
AJR Information	25,541	24,437
	236,037	186,110
Net Income	1,323	1,751

AJR Charitable Trust

Expenditure has increased substantially in all areas. It is satisfying to note that we were able to reduce administration costs. The larger grant to the AJR supports its social welfare work. The high cost of transport, despite the help we are getting from volunteers, is the main cause of the increased costs of the Paul Balint Centre.

Without the income from legacies, which this year reached an exceptionally high figure of £394,758, we would have made considerable inroads into our reserves.

The substantial grant to CBF Residential Care and Housing Association represents advance payment for the extension and refurbishing of the homes, prior to the raising of the substantial funds required to complete the project. This underlines the urgent need of our residential care appeal for the £4 million needed to complete the task. We look to our members' generous response to this appeal.

AJR CHARITABLE TRUST

Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31 December 1989

	1989	1988
INCOME		
	£	£
Covenants, Donations	46,815	108,199
Investment Income	211,848	145,219
	258,663	253,418
EXPENDITURE		
Grants:		
Paul Balint AJR Day Centre	82,753	63,084
AJR for social services	167,500	125,000
Self Aid	17,500	15,000
CBF Residential Care & Housing Assn.	179,830	40,000
Other organisations	5,531	5,572
Meals on Wheels	—	10,768
Administration	21,691	31,366
	474,805	290,790
Taken from Reserve Fund	(216,142)	(37,372)

You can contact the AJR by

Phone 071-483 2536
Fax 071-722 4652

Self Aid of Refugees

Self Aid offers modest financial assistance to the needy in our community. The number of those whom we have been able to help has again risen sharply. The annual charity concert provides most of the income and the AJR Charitable Trust has again to increase its grant to meet this need. We are grateful for the additional support of the B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck (London) Lodge Trust Fund.

The accounts show a reduction of administration expenses through streamlining our organisation.

SELF AID OF REFUGEES

Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31 December 1989

	1989	1988
INCOME		
	£	£
Concert Receipts	10,328	10,937
Donations, Covenants, Legacies	3,375	1,767
Grant AJR Charitable Trust	17,500	15,000
	31,203	27,704
EXPENDITURE		
Aid Grants	23,774	21,006
Administration charges	8,403	11,321
	32,177	32,327
Excess expenditure over income	(974)	(4,623)

DON'T FORGET

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

Election of Executive Committee

The following members have served on the Executive since the 1989 Annual General Meeting and will be proposed for re-election at the AGM on Wednesday 6th June 1990.

Mr. C. T. Marx, Chairman
Mr. M. M. Kochman, Vice-Chairman & Honorary Treasurer
Mrs. K. Gould, Hon. Secretary
Mrs. E. S. Angel
Mrs. M. Brooks
Mr. J. H. Dunston
Mr. A. C. Kaufman
Mr. W. D. Rothenberg
Mr. H. E. Levy will be proposed for election to the Executive Committee

PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

15 Cleve Road, London NW6 3RL
Tel. 071 328 0208

Morning Activities – Bridge, kalookie, scrabble, chess, etc., keep fit, discussion group, choir (Mondays), art class (Tuesdays and Thursdays).

Afternoon entertainment –

MAY

Monday 7	CLOSED
Tuesday 8	Songs & Arias with Piano Interlude – John Freeman (Bass) accompanied by Graham Wheeler (Piano)
Wednesday 9	Highlights of China – Talk & Cinefilm – Madeleine Elsas
Thursday 10	Two Scotsmen Entertain – Jamie MacDougall (Tenor) accompanied by Alan Darling
Monday 14	The Stajex Players
Tuesday 15	Jack Harris & Yetta Mendelsohn entertain
Wednesday 16	Piano Recital – Jeremy Henderson
Thursday 17	For Your Entertainment – Sylvia Cohen at the Piano – Sarah Aaronson (Virtuoso Accordionist) – Mark Smullen (Operatic Bass)
Monday 21	Eddy Simmons Entertains with Victorian Ballads and Operetta
Tuesday 22	The Sunshine Singers
Wednesday 23	How to get the most from your Bank – Talk by Joanna Hewitt of Barclays Bank
Thursday 24	A Journey Through India – Slides & Talk by Ernst Flesch
Monday 28	CLOSED
Tuesday 29	Isabel Beyer & Harvey Dagul At The Piano
Wednesday 30	CLOSED
Thursday 31	CLOSED

JUNE

Monday 4	Two Voices & A Piano – Barbara Jacobson and Helen Mignano
Tuesday 5	An Hour Of Your Favourite Songs – Marion Olsen (Mezzo) accompanied by Michael Freyhan (Piano)
Wednesday 6	Mine-All-Mine – Margaret Thatcher & Her Subjects – Revue by Maxine O'Reilly
Thursday 7	Trinity College of Music Recital of Classical Music – Anne Sheridan (Soprano) Elizabeth Sluman (Piano)
Monday 11	Singing For Fun – The Longford Singers with Sylvia & Margaret Eaves
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 & Pamela Majaro

TV review

Poet in perpetual exile

A *Stranger In A Strange Land*, transmitted on Channel 4 in March, took as its subject the poet Karen Gershon. As the title suggests, she regards herself as an exile and the film set out to explore her alienation.

The theme of Karen Gershon's writing is the Holocaust, but her poetry provides no catharsis. Early in the film she says that she does not wish to come to terms with the past: 'to be reconciled is to be done with it.' It has been her mission to keep the memories alive.

Fleeing Germany at the age of fifteen, she came to England with her two sisters. She married an Englishman called Val Tripp, settled in Cornwall and bore two sons and two daughters. It is in their responses and reactions to their mother, and to the effect on them of her experience that much of the fascination of this film lies.

In the early days there was no particular emphasis on her or her children's Jewishness. A family visit to Israel in the early seventies set in train the identity search which has resulted in three of the children becoming Israelis. Chris, the older son, feels no connection with England and cannot bring himself to read his mother's poems. Tony, a cabinet-maker in Jerusalem, feels no closeness to either of his parents and worries over his difficulty in accepting his mother's German origin, since for him 'German' connotes 'Nazi'. It is Naomi, the younger daughter, who has the closest understanding of her mother; she, too, is now an Israeli, and as the camera lingered over her two small sons and her Ethiopian husband, she mused that, whereas her mother was the victim of one Holocaust, her own sons might be seen as the products of two. It was Naomi who recognised that her parents' mixed marriage 'created problems'; she, too, writes.

Karen and her husband also tried to emigrate, but they came back to Cornwall. They returned because Val 'didn't take to Israel' but a further reason was suggested in Naomi's remark that her mother wrote nothing while she lived there. Perhaps the poet whose theme is exile feared that she had found her true

abode and would become 'reconciled' and voiceless.

This is a melancholy film. In spite of her large family of children and grandchildren, Karen Gershon feels unloved. Her sons remember her as unloving, more involved with her writing than with them. It is as though her passion has been spent on the dead, leaving her little warmth for the living. Towards the end of the film, Gershon spoke her own sad epitaph: 'I'm beginning to realise that I should have enjoyed being alive more than I did.'

□ Elizabeth Wells

Irving's hat trick

The 'historian' David Irving, already notorious for denying Hitler's responsibility for the Final Solution and the existence of Nazi gas chambers, has gone one further by impugning the truth of the six million figure of Holocaust victims. 'After VE Day' he wrote to *The Daily Telegraph* on 19 March 'countless Jews were culled from Displaced Persons camps by the Haganah and whisked into new homes and lives in the Middle East, leaving their old discarded identities behind'.

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.

The AJR does not accept responsibility for the standard of service rendered by advertisers.

Our volunteer force

The AJR relies heavily on volunteers. Regular readers will already have heard about the sterling work done by the stalwarts in the Day Centre. In addition there are those who help out at the residential homes. These special visitors often take the residents out, or help them in organising teas and other entertainments. Their praises are rarely sung; nor is the amount and nature of their assistance understood.

We also have volunteers who visit people in their own homes; they have a very special task to perform. Their work usually begins with an introductory visit with the volunteers co-ordinator; after which they are on their own in what may be a very new job to them: trying to make contact with a stranger who can be welcoming and suspicious at the same time. Some of those visited are in poor health, without family, and, in their isolation, have come to regard the world as a hostile place. Some will greet the new visitor with feelings of warmth and hope; others project their fears and suspicions onto the well-intentioned volunteer.

Some volunteers have been 'befrienders' for years and firm friendships have been established. Most enjoy their visits - there has to be some reciprocity to enable the arrangement to continue - some find it difficult to give the increased support necessary as frailty and forgetfulness increase. The anxious question 'Will I get like that as I get older?' has to be faced.

The volunteers co-ordinator and other members of the AJR staff, and other agencies, can help, but the voluntary visitor is at the sharp end.

Speakers at our volunteer meetings have emphasised that shared activities, like making a cup of tea, writing a letter or going for a walk, can forge a link between visitor and visited. It can be difficult to just sit and listen, be inactive, when grief is expressed, or when someone is too ill to go out. Yet just being there, the willingness to share that experience for that time is very important. 'He/she is an angel' is said to me regularly about our visitors by the people they see. One woman has blossomed after being encouraged to go into adult education and get out to art galleries by her visitor. Another is escorted to her hospital outpatient appointments by her volunteer; having a companion to share the loneliness and anxiety of waiting helps. Sometimes limits have to be set on the amount of volunteer involvement, which is why it is suggested that visitors do not give their home 'phone numbers; forgetful people have been known to telephone in the middle of the night!

1-7 June is U.K. Volunteers week. Your views on the jobs you are asked to do, ideas for recruitment, the support you get are all valuable. The volunteers are the vital link. Please let us know what you think.

□ L.H.

NEEDED!

We need people with a sense of responsibility, an awareness of the problems faced by the aged and infirm and the ability and patience to deal with them. This is not the kind of work that can be done by just anyone. It takes a special kind of person. Someone who does not require a cash reward for a helping hand, but will gain great satisfaction from being able to do a little something for those who have had a harder road to travel.

WE REQUIRE:

- 1 DRIVERS to transport people to and from our Day Centre.
- 2 AN ESCORT for Tuesday and Wednesday morning mini-bus trips from H. Stahl House.
- 3 VISITORS particularly in the W2 area and for residents of the Homes.

If you think you could help please contact:
 Laura Howe, Volunteers Co-ordinator,
 AJR, Hannah Karminski House, 9
 Adamson Road, London NW3 3HX.
 Tel: 071-483 2536.

THE DAY CENTRE needs

- 1) **A Volunteer Hairdresser**
Are you free between 10 am and 12 noon?
 - 2) **Volunteer Drivers**
to take people to and from our Day Centre.
- Please contact **Mrs. S. Matus/Mrs. R. Lee**
 15 Cleve Road NW6. 071-328 0208

WHO IS WHO IN THE AJR OFFICE

Administrator	Lydia Lassman
Editor, AJR Information	Richard 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

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Alice Schwab

Art Notes

There can be few artists with such an impact on the public as Abram Games. London-born Games persuaded his East European parents, with difficulty, to let him study art. After St. Martin's School he found work in a design studio; the rest is history. He designed posters for Shell, the Post Office and London Transport. As the first War Office Poster Designer he had his famous ATS poster rejected as too glamorous. Later he produced the logo for the 1951 Festival of Britain. A major retrospective exhibition of his work *A. Games: 60 Years of Design*, sponsored by the *Financial Times*, is touring the U.K., France and Israel from now until 1992. A selection of posters from the exhibition will be on display at the Design Museum, Butlers Wharf, London (16 June–8 August) and the whole exhibition will be at the Camden Arts Centre in January 1991.

Abram Games's wife Marianne (née Salfeld) who died last year after a long illness was herself very gifted. She came from a distinguished Mainz family, her grandfather having been chief rabbi of Hesse. Games gave, and gives, freely of his time and accomplishments to Jewish causes. An exhibition of his specifically Jewish work will be held at the Ben Uri Art Gallery next year.

'Fake' is a word that inspires terror, caution and misgivings in the hearts of curators and collectors. Though no one likes to be proved wrong there are many fakes about – some discovered, others not. According to Jack Schrier, the well-known Camden Town ironworker, there are several pieces of Cromwellian ironwork in public museums that he well remembered his father, also a smith, having made. The British Museum has now firmly grasped the nettle in its exhibition *Fake? The Art of Deception* (until 2 September). The exhibition is fascinating and covers the whole field of collecting, some 600 objects, including ancient treasures, modern pictures, bogus pottery and even a fake Rolex watch. The exhibition catalogue (price £16.95, £14.95 at the Museum bookshop) is most informative and a well-produced piece of work.

The beautifully redecorated Whitechapel Art Gallery is showing works by Christian Boltanski (until 3 June), one of France's most important contemporary artists. One of the constructions on show, using portrait photographs, is entitled *Lycee Chajes*, depicting a 1931 Jewish high-school class, which seems to reflect the artist's mixed Christian–Jewish heritage.

The Tate Gallery has an exhibition '*On Classic Grounds*' (6 June–2 September) which examines the revived interest in the classical tradition among leading modern artists. The exhibition has been selected by Elizabeth Cowling, lecturer in Art History at Edinburgh University, and includes, amongst others, major paintings by Picasso, Matisse, Leger, Maillol, Gris, Gonzalez, de Chirico and Sironi.

The Imperial War Museum is the depository of a number of very large paintings commissioned from war artists during the First World War. The first of two exhibitions showing important works by Nevinson, John and Paul Nash, Roberts, Kennington, Gill, Tonks, Cameron and Sargent has now been mounted at the Museum (until 14 May).

Irene Scheinmann, who was born in Baghdad and lives and works in London, is a gifted artist who has exhibited widely in Europe, the U.S.A. and the Far East. *Images of Land and Sea* is the title of an exhibition of her paintings, etchings and monoprints at the Camden Galleries (until 9 June). And our old friend Lily Freeman will be showing *Happy Paintings* at Burgh House (until 24 May).

Following the *Printers Inc.* exhibition at the Ben Uri (until 10 May) a selection from the Society's permanent collection will be on display. On 17 May Dr. Schapira will give a talk in the gallery about Chagall, entitled *Love at First Sight*.

The Saatchi Collection in Boundary Road, NW8 is only open on Fridays and Saturdays (12–6pm) but is well worth visiting to see really fine examples of work by Auerbach, Freud and Richard Deacon. □

SB's Column

La Comédie Française revitalised. The most venerable theatre in Paris is all set for so-called 'progress' although the classics are still predominant and Molière remains indispensable. His comedy *Médecin malgré lui* is having a revival this year, *Lorenzaccio* by Alfred de Musset is getting a new interpretation, clearly within the framework of glorifying '*la révolution*'. For the first time a work by Jean Paul Sartre will be given a showing at the *Comédie (Huit clos)* and even Bertolt Brecht will be represented with his Puntilla play.

60 Years ago. What a year for light music and for the newly-created German film industry? Rhythmical and original tunes reverberated from Paul Abraham's *Viktoria und ihr Husar*, premiered in Berlin and Vienna, and showering audiences with a flood of Foxtrot – and lilting waltz melodies. Among the light musicals of the year, Ralph Benatzky's *Meine Schwester und ich* brought a particularly happy combination of lyrics, music and wit, and the sensational hit of the Eric Charell production *White Horse Inn* crowned the stage achievements of 1930. Its success story soon spread worldwide, and Vienna's 800 performances of this musical established a record not seen since the *Merry Widow* first appeared in 1905. The film sector brought triumphs for a number of prominent actors in *Drei von der Tankstelle* with Willy Fritsch and Lilian Harvey in the main parts. Of all the many participants alas, Heinz Rühmann is the only survivor today.

Obituary. Another of the post-war international sopranos has died: Ilse Hollweg who, after a distinguished operatic career, became an accomplished Lieder singer. She was 68. Earlier, she excelled in Mozart and Strauss parts, equally at home in Vienna and Düsseldorf, appearing at the festivals in Salzburg, Bayreuth and Glyndebourne. Only twice did she visit the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden where she sang Gilda and the Queen of the Night in Mozart's *Magic Flute*. It is belatedly learnt that the Munich Residenztheater lost one of its most stalwart members, Max Mairich who died in January this year at the age of 79. Privately a very modest man, he was full of vigour on stage. □

Annely Juda Fine Art

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CONTEMPORARY PAINTING AND SCULPTURE

Mon–Fri: 10 am–6 pm Sat: 10 am–1 pm

Walter Goldstern, 85

Walter Goldstern, who celebrates his 85th birthday on 31 May, has made a name for himself as a dedicated researcher and able writer in the field of refugee history.

He was born in Bucharest, the son of a petro-chemist, and he grew up in Munich. He graduated in engineering from that city's Technical University in 1928 and chose as his specialisation the technology of steam. He worked in this field with distinction under the auspices of the *Verein Deutscher Ingenieure* (Society of German Engineers), but his career came to an abrupt end when Hitler came to power. He returned to Munich and in 1936 went to live in Vienna. After the *Anschluss* he managed to escape to Britain. As he was already known as an authority in his field he was able to resume his work as a professional engineer. He settled in Leeds and, when war ended, established his own business.

In 1968 he received an invitation to rejoin the VDI and, after some hesitation, decided to accept. He lived in Essen until his wife's death in 1986, when he returned to this country to live in Manchester, near his daughter and her family.

His co-authorship of *Vertreibung und Emigration deutschsprachiger Ingenieure nach Palästina 1933-45*, and his close association with the earlier publication of W. Mock's *Technische Intelligenz im Exil* (both reviewed here) are examples of his continuing desire to record and explain the refugee experience. So, too, are his work as a highly talented sculptor and his active commitment to Jewish-Christian understanding and reconciliation.

□ D.L.M.

Deluge

On Shoah's ark we drift
That we boarded one by one,
The darkness will not lift,
The rain has doused the sun.

Seeding the clouds are tears,
The flood cannot go down,
Rain lasting forty years
Makes the horizon drown.

No anchor touches ground,
No wingspan parts the foam,
The ocean has no bound,
Twelve fathoms deep lies home.

□ Richard Grunberger

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To prodigies of German prose
With ear attuned to Teuton rages –
A life that telescoped the ages
Of the tribe whom God once chose.

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He set the shtetl world astir
And to the future proved clairvoyant.

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At the hoedown in Rodaun
(Partnered by Richard, mark Two)
He reeked of incense,
But had he seen sense
He'd have known he was still half a Jew.

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Obliges us to keep dead *shtoom*'.

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FAMILY EVENTS

Birth

Dunston John and Susan (née Shiffman) are delighted to announce the arrival of Matthew Richard on 15 March 1990. First grandchild for Fred Dunston and first grandson for Ken and Ellen Shiffman (née Rosenthal).

Birthday

Plaut Olly Plaut. Congratulations to my wonderful mother, who is a friend to those who are fortunate enough to know her and to all her loving family, on her 95th birthday. Margot and Henry Wallace.

Deaths

Danziger Hertha Danziger died 8 February 1990, aged 92. Much missed by all her many friends. Schaefer Margarete Schaefer (formerly Breslau) passed away peacefully in her 96th year on 11 April. Very dearly loved by all her

SIBYLLE ORTMANN

Does anyone remember Sibylle Ortmann from Berlin, who came to England from Berlin in 1933 or 1934, aged 16, to live in Ealing and study at Pitman's? Her family would like to hear from any friends who knew her before she emigrated to USA.

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family and many friends. Eva Pollard, Werner Perlhoefer, Renate Logan, Lotte Surkamp, Cilly Schaefer, Peter Schaefer and their families.

Scherbel Kaethe Scherbel (née Berliner), born Breslau, widow of Dr. Hans Scherbel, died suddenly on 12 March. Beloved mother of Irene and Chester and grandmother of Jonathan and Naomi.

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Miscellaneous

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Dr. Boris Roniger, born 1896 Odessa, Okonom, emigrated from Prague to Oxford.

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Obituary

Bruno Bettelheim

Vienna-born Professor Bettelheim died by his own hand at a nursing home in Maryland, U.S.A. He was eighty-six. Of middle class origin, he switched from studying literature and fine arts to psychology at Vienna University, gaining a doctorate in 1938. Shortly afterwards the Nazis incarcerated him at Dachau and Buchenwald. Released, he went to the United States where his writings on the concentration camp experience became – on General Eisenhower's orders – obligatory reading for military government officers.

U.S.-domiciled, Bettelheim worked for thirty years as head of the Orthogenic School, a residential facility for disturbed children at the University of Chicago. His deep involvement with autistic children resulted in the authorship of several books, the best known being *Truants from Life* (1955). Other works by Bettelheim dealt with children's fairy tales, good parenting, anthropology, psychoanalysis, the kibbutzim in Israel and the Nazi camps.

His wife, née Trude Weinfeld, predeceased him by several years. □
A review of Bruno Bettelheim's latest book appears on p. 3.

Vally Kokotek

Vally Kokotek, widow of the late Rabbi Jakob J. Kokotek, died in March, aged 79.

Born in Breslau, she began married life as a rebbetzen in 1934 at Waldenburg, her husband's first post. Determined to serve there as long as possible, they were among the last to leave Germany in 1939.

Their first congregation in this country was the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, where Jakob was assistant to Dr. Israel Mattuck. The opportunity of his own congregation led him to accept a post at the Dublin Progressive Synagogue, followed by another in Liverpool. Vally's charm and Jewish knowledge brought her respect from the dominating orthodox community, and she and her husband achieved recognition for the Progressives which had previously been denied them.

The call from the Belsize Square Synagogue was to be the last, and the next 24 years were to be spent in this extension of their family. It was a return 'home' as they both described it.

Within the synagogue Vally played a full part in social welfare and educational work, and led the Women's Society, eventually becoming its first Life-President. She inspired resurgence of support for Israel, the Barzilai Hospital

and Kibbutz Yahel being two of the many beneficiaries of her work.

In the wider community Vally will be best remembered for her work on behalf of Soviet Jewry. Totally dedicated to the cause, aged 70, she faced interrogation by the KGB with indomitable spirit. Far from being intimidated she returned twice more, and was instrumental in supporting several families. She realised a dream when meeting the Krivonos and Mendelev families in Israel on her last visit there.

A true 'woman of worth', she leaves a legacy of devotion, teaching and great compassion in a true Jewish spirit and will be deeply missed by the extended family of congregation and friends. □ H.L.D.

Ruth Glass

Born in Berlin Ruth Glass née Lazarus has died in London, aged 77. A journalist in pre-Nazi days, she escaped via Prague to London where she studied at the LSE. She then undertook social research connected with postwar town planning. In the 1950s she founded the Centre for Urban Studies at University College, London, remaining its director until her death.

Her book *Newcomers* (1960) was a classic study of the settlement of coloured immigrants in the United Kingdom. □

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The Ayes have it

I am a German Jew born in Berlin. In 1938 my father was taken to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. During an interrogation he told the SS that he had won a medal for bravery during the First World War. The SS interrogators slapped his face and called him a liar. According to Nazi ideology no Jew could be brave. This slap hurt my father more than all the cruelty and indignities from which he suffered in the camp. It took away his love for Germany. When I left in a children's transport a few weeks later, I swore that I'd only return to Germany as a soldier in an army of occupation. This I did 7 years later and found that most of my family had perished in Auschwitz.

I ought to be alarmed about German reunification, a united nation of 80 millions who have caused two world wars. Yet I would welcome it.

The Germany of today is completely imbued with democracy. As a teacher of German I work with a different German assistant every year. They view Germany's Nazi past with horror and feel a responsibility for the evil done by their parents and grandparents.

While working as an exchange teacher in Germany I was struck by the spirit of democracy. No headteacher can be appointed without staff consultation, and in some states they are elected for a set period only.

Every school and class elects a parents' committee which can question any aspect of the teacher's work. Pupils elect their own class spokesman, and on one occasion one of them interrupted my lesson and asked me to change the exercise because it was boring. My German colleagues accept this as an

essential part of education and a prevention of a return to totalitarianism.

The democratic spirit also shows in industrial life where all firms elect a Workers' Council to regulate such issues as working hours.

German influence in Europe furthers democracy; after all that is where the Greens were born. The East Germans who flock to the west are attracted by democracy and freedom, not by dreams of conquering the world.

The growth of the right-wing groups in West Germany must not be confused with the Nazis of the 1930s. They are more like the British National Front. They are evil and must be fought, but they have nothing to do with a Fourth Reich. The Germans have suffered too much to think again of conquering the world. I would welcome German reunification because a nation of 80 million would have greater influence in Europe, and would help to make our way of life more democratic. □

This is the text of a broadcast by AJR member Peter Prager recently transmitted on Channel Four's 'Comment' programme.

Open Day

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

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**Sunday 24 June 1990
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Mrs. S. Matus 071-328 0208.**

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**Hildegard Lütkeleier, D46 Dortmund
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Remember the AJR

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