

AJR *Information*

Volume XLV No. 10
October 1990

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Don't miss . . .

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GDR assets p. 3

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Reading between the lines

Jews are – still – news

At a grouse shoot in 1935 the Heir Apparent to the British crown said he saw no purpose in this country going to war against Hitler's Germany for the benefit of such foreign powers as France, the Communists and International Jewry. International Jewry, *Alljuda* in Nazispeak, denoted in the minds of those who used the phrase the invisible dark power, owing allegiance to no country, which schemed relentlessly to corrupt and enslave the world. Such phantasmagoric constructs, which were given widespread credence by people of the Duke of Windsor's generation, have considerably less appeal nowadays.

'That courteous old regime was uninhibitedly rude about Jews, and sometimes to them as well' according to a writer on etiquette in *The Independent*. 'Such a situation is no more, unless in strict privacy and away from their offspring, who would never stand for such comments'.

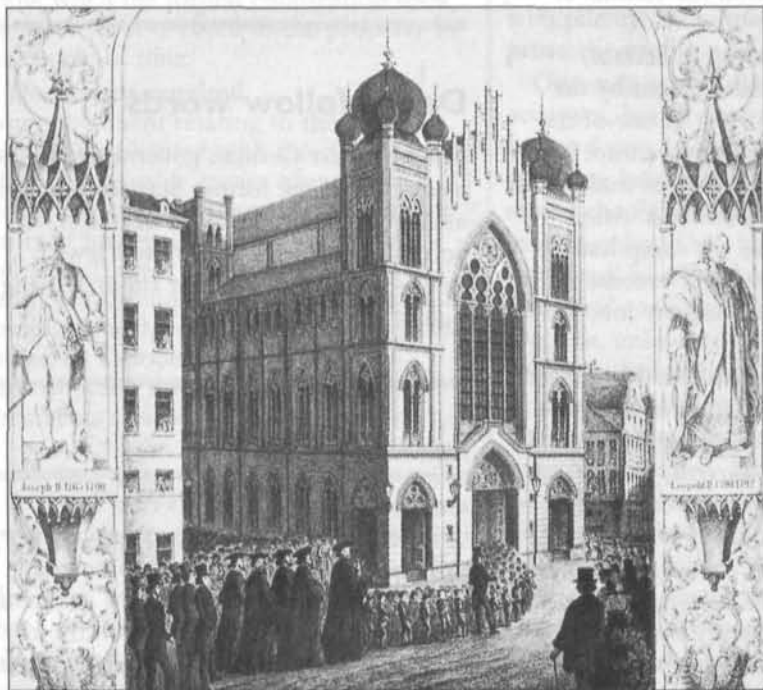
The change, alas, is not as thorough-going as this observation might suggest. Recent outpourings of venom against Israel by respected opinion makers carried unmistakable undertones. 'Israel is a state founded on terrorism' wrote Professor George Kiernan in *The Guardian*, 'Zionism has been one of terrorism's few success stories. Palestinian youths have been throwing stones and Israelis have been replying with bullets; *an advance on their ancestral doctrine of a tooth for a tooth*. (Our italics.) The intifada cannot have much effect against an enemy armed to the teeth, and, unlike the opponent faced by the IRA, completely ruthless'.

The Marxist historian here conjured up the stereotypical image of the vengeful Jew as polar opposite to forgiving Christian. (C. P. Scott, the editor of the *Manchester Guardian* who befriended Chaim Weizmann, must be spinning in his grave!) Complementing Kiernan's Jewish-Christian antithesis Lord Denning in his recent *Spectator* interview has projected 'the Jew' as antipode to bred-in-the-bone Englishmen. The former Master of the Rolls asserted that the German (*sic*) Jew Leon Brittan was furthering a design to submerge pristine Englishness in a mongrelised European mish-mash. (On a point of fact Leon Brittan shares the Baltic ancestry of *Spectator* editor Dominic Lawson.)

This *reductio ad absurdum* might make it appear that undue attention need not be paid to the meanderings of the nonagenarian ex-judge – but it must be remembered that it was the same Lord Denning who, by virtue of his reputation as a pillar of the judicial system, helped sway opinion in the House of Lords against H.M. Government's proposed war crimes legislation.

On the latter topic it is gratifying to note that *The Guardian* also speaks with other voices than that of the egregious Professor Kiernan. The paper's Paris correspondent, Paul Webster author of *Pétain's Crime*, writes that he sometimes 'wanted to abandon the book and concentrate on making amends for Christian cynicism by describing the

continued on page 2



Frankfurt synagogue, circa 1800.

Franz Joseph's true heir

The Hebrew University has awarded an Honorary Fellowship to Otto von Habsburg, MEP, for helping save many Jews during the Second World War, and his subsequent commitment to Christian-Jewish dialogue. □

Responses to the Shoah

Leo Baeck College at the Manor House, 80 East End Road, Finchley N3, will be the venue of a lecture series by leading psychotherapists and theologians – among them rabbis Albert Friedlander and Tony Bayfield – commencing on Wednesday 24 October at 8 pm. It ends in early December. For further information contact the College Registrar, Sternberg Centre for Judaism on 081-349 4525. □

Anne Frank in the World

This exhibition will be displayed at Winchester Cathedral in October. It is an inter-Faith event involving, among others, the Chief Rabbi Elect and the South Hants Reform congregation. □

Kinder in the Commons

The Reunion of Kindertransport, which operates from offices provided by the AJR, will be launching the book *'I came alone – The stories of the Kindertransporters'* in the House of Commons on October 24.

MPs Greville Janner and Hugh Dykes will be attending. (See review p. 4) □

Nationalism and minorities in the New Europe

The Wiener Library is arranging a lecture series under this heading on Thursdays, at 6.30 pm, in November and December. Speakers are Professor R. Evans on German Nationalism (8 November), Michael Ignatieff on Russian Nationalism (15 November), Taras Kuzio on the Ukraine (22 November), George Schöpflin on Hungary and Romania (6 December) and Israel Finestein, QC, on Europe Today and the Legacy of the 1940s (13 December) □

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Profile

Pensions warrior



The tenacious Mr Henderson.

The Nazi programme of 'Aryanisation' in pre-war Germany meant that Frank Hirschfeld had to leave his job in a law firm and take up engineering in an *Umschichtungskurs* and prepare for emigration. Now, more than fifty years later, with a different name – Henderson – his legal experience is being put to good use again, working to secure pensions and restitution for victims of Nazism.

Mr Henderson arrived in Britain, having narrowly avoided arrest by the Gestapo, in March 1939. As one of the first arrivals at the Kitchener camp, in Sandwich, he faced the task of making the place fit for human habitation. After twenty years of disuse the camp had deteriorated badly and had become rat infested. Although not an easy job, it was soon completed.

Shortly after his arrival Mr Henderson took a factory job in Manchester at the princely wage of 7d per hour. It was in Manchester that he married, in 1940. A few months later he was in camp again – interned at Prees Heath.

Upon his release he joined the Pioneer Corps, with whom he served for six years, being attached to Military Intelligence in North Germany in the post-war period. In 1946 he returned to Manchester where he started his own leather goods business in 1948, which prospered until his

retirement. He also found the time to raise three children.

In 1980 he was first approached on the subject of German pensions. An elderly acquaintance asked for his help with the convoluted legal jargon of the German documents necessary for a pension claim. During the next two years he filled in forms, wrote letters, gave advice and, eventually, secured a pension, with back pay, for the claimant. It was not long before the 'bush telegraph' circulated the news that Mr Henderson was something of a legal expert.

Soon Mr Henderson had a full-time 'job'. Enquiries and calls for assistance were arriving daily. The work was not made any easier by fading memories. In one instance a lady was disqualified from claiming a pension because she had forgotten that she had worked for two years as a seamstress in her home town. The information was discovered, after a series of letters and phone calls, by Mr Henderson.

Frank Henderson is not noisy or gregarious. He is quiet, serious and concerned for others. He does a great deal of difficult, tedious and time consuming work – a chore which he performs out of his own goodness. He approaches the task, as he has approached all the tasks which he has faced in his life, with good cheer and thoughtfulness, tempered with great tenacity.

Mr Henderson continues to work from his home in Manchester. □ M.N.

Deeds follow words

The new East German government has set aside part of the former Stasi compound at Ahrensfelde, north-east of Berlin, to accommodate several hundred Jewish refugees fleeing the Soviet Union's rising tide of antisemitism. □

continued from front page

enormous pool of sadness over lost children and parents.

This suffering, limitless in time and depth, seems the best argument in favour of trying those responsible, even though fifty years have passed. Why should there be a legal deadline on punishment when there can be no proscription on emotional desolation?' □

We publish below, without liability, information just received concerning the submission for property claims in the GDR.

In case of doubt we recommend members to contact their legal advisors.

Urgent points concerning assets in the GDR

Deadline 13 October 1990

1. Claims must be made in writing (there is no special application form) in the GDR (East Germany and East Berlin), preferably by registered post in sufficient time to be received before 13 October 1990. According to the East German regulations dated 11 July 1990, claims filed before 15 July 1990 are invalid.

2. To whom must the application be addressed?

The application should be made to the Stadtverwaltung (municipal corporation of the town) or the Landratsamt of the district where the property is situated.

3. Claimants and assets

The East German regulations apply to everybody and to any kind of East German asset. There is no difference whether this property was confiscated, administered in trust or sold unfairly. Although confiscations before 6 October 1949 and administrations that were imposed before 8 May 1945 are excluded from the regulations, it is strongly advised to file every claim because one may not know when the formal confiscation took place, or what occurred to the property in the course of time.

4. Documents required

Every document relating to the property should be presented with the claim. Wherever possible copies of registers, certificates of inheritance and a power of attorney for legal advisors should be included. If these documents are not to hand they should be forwarded as soon as possible, but the claim itself must be filed before 13 October 1990. Initially photocopies – not originals – of documents should be sent.

STOP PRESS:

Mr Owen Franklyn, a member of the board of the United Restitution Office, will be available for advice on East German restitution on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the AJR offices at Hannah Karminski House.

Reviews

Flawed hypothesis

Arno J. Mayer WHY DID THE HEAVENS NOT DARKEN? *The Final Solution in history*, Verso 1990, hardback £39.95; paperback £12.95.

Revision has been the life blood of history ever since Herodotus. Revisionism, particularly in respect of the events of the Holocaust, is a totally different matter. Revisionists construct theories designed to excuse the murderers or even deny the events themselves. Often they are attempts to help keep anti-semitism alive. But some responsible academic historians are worried by the sometimes obscure facts and try to combine their quest for better substantiated data with respect for the dead.

One such is Arno J. Mayer, Luxembourg-born professor of European history at Princeton University, who has produced a sometimes controversial, but very interesting, book. Mayer argues, that it is time the Holocaust was 'historised', i.e. put fully into its historical, social, demographic and strategic context. And that Jewish historians in particular must make the effort to do this to prevent being denigrated by revisionists as mere compilers of happenings taken out of context – Zionist propagandists, in fact, who pile up the number of Jewish dead to prove the need for a Jewish State.

One may accept the need for greater accuracy, but Professor Mayer puts forward very bold hypotheses, the most worrying being one that the Nazis did not intend the Final Solution to be absolute mass murder. This, he contends, 'occurred' as a by-product of the Germans' realisation that the war was lost. He, unlike all other commentators, traces back that realisation to their failure to take Moscow in 1941, and not to the later Stalingrad disaster to which it is generally ascribed. Mayer believes that the Nazis were brutal, but still halfway rational, while fortune smiled on them, and descended to homicidal fury when their own doom impended.

Disdaining the term antisemitism, he substitutes Judeophobia, of which he holds there are two kinds: the religious and traditional endemic everywhere, and the pseudo-scientific (racial) which the

Nazis took over from their forerunners. Both can lead to Judeocide. Hitler, he says, was a Judeophobe of both types who mobilised diffuse, and often containable, German anti-Jewish feeling as part of his propaganda. Of this man who brought more misery into the world than any other in history, Mayer thinks that even he originally only wanted to resettle the Jews – so long as it was outside Europe. Hitler's real aim, according to the Professor, was the acquisition of a great land empire – with Russia as granary and reserve of slaves – somewhere east of which the Jews were to go. (Documents to that effect from Nazi functionaries, including one from Himmler, are adduced). But this is to ignore the text of *Mein Kampf* itself, and the fact that 'Judeocide' commenced as soon as the Polish army collapsed.

From Gerald Reitlinger's, *The Final Solution*, (1953) to Martin Gilbert's *The Holocaust: the Jewish Tragedy* (1986), the weight of evidence has pointed to a planned total extermination of the Jews. It is true that the war in the East, presented by the Nazis as an assault on Judeobolshevism, enabled them to kill Jews for one reason and another. Of course, the 'pragmatists' in the SS, who wanted the Jews to be worked to death, and the fanatical proponents of slaughter by ever more efficient means, were sometimes at loggerheads, but they always resolved their differences.

The author naturally uses the same material as other historians, with such additions as have come to light more recently. His book does read more like a *historical* narrative than even Martin Gilbert's, who goes into individual details and cases of suffering and who describes otherwise often unrecorded deeds of heroism, so that one sometimes discerns an almost biblical rhythm. Mayer attempts to co-ordinate the mega-death of Jews with that of other peoples, and feels forced to admit that accurate figures cannot be proved. This approach detracts from the absolutely unique fate of the Jews since Hitler's assumption of power.

□ John Rossall

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Kinderlebenslieder



Settlement farm, Millisle, Northern Ireland. 'At first we lived in tents', R. Sugar.

Bertha Leverton and Shmuel Lowensohn (Ed.) I CAME ALONE *The stories of the Kindertransports.* The Book Guild, Lewes; £16.50. (Available at W. H. Smiths).

This is not a book that lends itself readily to reviewing. For one it has two hundred authors. For another it is disparate in content, comprising recollections, diary entries and excerpts from diverse publications. Then there is also the built-in obstacle that in the process of reading one's eyes grow misty.

The very first contribution starts matter-of-factly 'My father, a lawyer, killed himself when the Nazis came to power.' After that one would have thought no greater depth of childhood misery could be plumbed. Not so – *pace* the recollection of a Kindertransportee aged five:

'My father was standing by the stove. He seemed to be standing there for such a long time, stirring the tea. I said goodbye again and he didn't answer and turn round. I was standing close behind him for a kiss and he turned round, tears running down his cheeks. He kissed me and couldn't speak. I didn't know why he was sad.'

In a parallel leave-taking account a four-year old threw a tantrum at Berlin's Zoo station, saying she wanted to visit the monkeys instead of getting on a train.

From the trauma of separation the accounts modulate to the uncertainty awaiting Kindertransportees in the UK. Thanks to the necessarily improvised nature of reception provisions, and to wartime disruption, many new arrivals lacked stability for years. One girl had

had seven different homes by 1943, when she turned twelve. Homesickness was endemic. It could express itself in recurring nighttime fantasies. 'In bed I conducted a conversation with my family, using the moon and stars as my messengers.' Another syndrome was bed wetting – a habit some guardians thought could be beaten out of their charges. There also existed a species of guardians who viewed the children as potential converts to Christianity; some of them were convinced this served their charges' best interest. One family made a girl discard her *magen david* because of its association with her painful past.

Those who, lacking guardians, lived in hostels, endured other hardships. A 16-year old boy reporting for internment at his local police station presented such a piteous sight that the interviewing officer gave him a sweet and sent him away. There were, of course, many instances of kindness shown to the children – as well as quite a few of insensitivity. An irascible geography master addressed a refugee pupil as 'Prussian swine'. (The latter points out in his contribution that, since his hometown, Fulda, lay outside Prussia, the teacher knew little geography!) At another school a refugee pupil was dubbed 'a Nazi and a Jew' by her classmate.

All this, compounded by the cessation of Red Cross letters from parents in 1942, made for what one contributor terms, in impressive understatement, her 'deficient childhood'; she ascribes the breakdown of her marriage to what had happened to her during those formative years.

Yet, by and large, *I came alone* constitutes a record not merely of traumas sublimated and obstacles surmounted, but

of respectable achievement. Some of the achievements listed are in fact rather more than respectable. According to the editors the Kindertransportees include the 1978 US Nobel Prize winner for Physics, Arno Penzias. (I think they are wrong: technically Penzias 'came alone' to the UK, but was speedily reunited with his parents in New York.)

That lapse does not, however, impair the value of *I came alone*. It is heartwarming to encounter (in print) so many exemplars of human resilience; one contributor who, when young, spent ten years in hostels, and has recently had two hip replacements, concludes 'I have had a happy life.'

Most impressive of all is the plea which the son of a deceased Kindertransportee addressed to all participants in the 1989 reunion (which spawned the idea of this book):

'Please tell your children the story and urge your fellow transportees to do the same. We read in the Passover *Haggadah* that one must see oneself as if one had personally participated in the Exodus from Egypt, and further, that one must teach the story of the Exodus to one's children. The reason is simple. Jewish history is a collective as well as an individual experience. To become part of our people's national consciousness, the story needs to be told again and again. To be imbued with it allows the recipient first to feel a part of that history and second, to take its lessons to heart.' □ R.G.

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New-old themes at Jerusalem Film Festival

The Jerusalem Film Festival, instituted a mere seven years ago, has become one of the acknowledged showcases of international cinema. This year a hundred films and about the same number of documentaries from forty different countries received a screening. The most important foreign premier was the Prague Spring-inspired *Lark on the string* directed by Jiri Menzel of *Closely observed trains* fame.

The Israeli contribution was spearheaded by *HaMejud* (*The Chosen*). Directed by Daniel Wachsmann, the film castigates Hasidism with its personality cult of *wunderrebbes* and superstitious belief in spirits and demons – and has inevitably aroused religious susceptibilities in its country of origin.

Another acclaimed homegrown product was *Laura Adler's last love affair*. This portrays the demise of the eponymous heroine against the background of a troupe of elderly Yiddish actors regaling audiences with a diet of melodrama and nostalgic *shmaltz*. *Look at all the lonely people*, acknowledged as the best documentary of the Festival, focuses on key problems of contemporary Israel, notably the integration of immigrants and the troubled coexistence of Western and Oriental Jews – as well as the *Intifada*. Other controversial themes of Jewish concern were touched on in two foreign offerings. Andrezej Wajda's *Korczak* – about the martyred pedagogue and head of Warsaw's Jewish orphanage – sets to demonstrate the possibility of Polish-Jewish symbiosis. The Austrian director Paulus Manker's *Weiningers Nacht*, with screenplay by Israeli dramatist Joshua Sobol, deals with the suicide of Otto Weininger, precocious

genius, misogynist and selfhating Jew.

Last but not least: the Festival gave a first screening to a restored version of *The Dybbuk*, the Yiddish screen classic Michael Waszynsky had produced in Poland on the eve of the Second World War. □

Cheap thrills

Anthony Lambton *PIG AND OTHER STORIES* Constable Publishers. £11.95.

To get the flavour of this book one only needs to read one of the stories (any one). This because they are all the same plot repeated with slight variations. The formula goes something like this: A perfectly normal German learns to hate Jews, gets an opportunity to perform an act of sickening brutality (which is described with such graphic detail that the reader is numbed with shock) and then the German goes back to a perfectly normal life with his/her family and does not care a fig about his/her sordid past.

Upon reading the first story one is almost fooled into thinking that this is going to be an enormously powerful and memorable book. By the third story it becomes obvious that it is merely a form of pornography. No matter the plot or characters – the intent is always the same.

This is an unpleasant book about a terrible time. This is not, of course, to suggest that anything written seriously about this period could be considered 'light reading', but 'Pig' verges on exploitation. The graphic violence smacks of the shock horror stories read by seekers of vicarious cheap thrills.

The proper place for these stories is on the top shelf of an undiscerning newsagents – with the other dirty books. □ M.N.

Rococo carvings

The following excerpt comes from an article by Chaim Bermant which was published by the Jewish Chronicle in 1963. Although the decor may have changed a little in the intervening years the standard of service has not. It is our wish to maintain these standards which have been the hallmark of the residential care service offered by our organisation for the last four decades: *'The Association of Jewish Refugees, in conjunction with the Central British Fund, runs five homes in London and one in Manchester. Their 275 residents are all victims of Nazism. The scene in some of them is reminiscent of a good-class hotel in a Central European watering place – the rococo carvings, the ornate staircase, the assembly at the bottom of the stairs before dinner, wives entering upon the arms of their husbands, and ornate stoles upon bent shoulders.*

Every resident has his own room, comfortably appointed and tastefully furnished. After dinner they may retire to their rooms, or read in the library, or watch television in one of the lounges. These, one feels, are the very last word in homes for the aged.' □

Extradition

After seventeen years of negotiations Joseph Schwammberger, who as commandant of Nazi forced labour camps participated in the murder of thousands of Jews, has been extradited from Argentina to Germany.

Denial

Joszef Antall, Prime Minister-designate of democratic Hungary, has denied that his Democratic Forum Party is antisemitic or xenophobic. 'We only want to maintain the national values of our country'.

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Letters to the Editor

VENGEANCE IS THEIRS

Sir – Insults are not arguments. The characterisation of the House of Lords as 'ermine robed pundits' possessed of 'insularity and high-flown self-mystification' is not only nonsense, but also irrelevant. They only wear their robes at the official openings of parliament. The Lord's decision will probably be overturned by the Commons but the Lords are the more intelligent, therefore, the better chamber!

Individual comments you quote appear, indeed, less than intelligent. They also appear to be snippets dragged out of context. The main argument against the bill was the difficulty of obtaining reliable witnesses after 45 years or more. Also the question of what to do with men in their 70s and 80s after one had sentenced them to prison for life. Lord Beloff's warning against 'sending the wrong signals' is irrelevant. It is not the business of a Court of Law to send signals. It is to do justice. New Cavendish St. R. H. Hellmann
London, W1

OPERETTA

Sir – In the May issue S B mentions Paul Abraham's *Victoria and her Husar* as having been produced in Berlin and Vienna.

I would like to add that this operetta was also staged in London with great success. Both in Berlin and London Anny Ahlers played the title role; she was very popular here and her tragic death was widely regretted.

Clara Nehab House Frank Layton
London NW11

BRIEF BRICKBAT

Sir – Kook's Tour and Noospeak (August) are not items suitable for *AJR Information*.

St. John's Court, K. Stein
Finchley Road, NW3

Briefer comment: why not? Ed

WHITE-RED AND BLUE-WHITE

Sir – Full marks to your article on the similarity between Poles and Jews.

Poles prewar viewed the Jews as a lazy religious sect dressed in kaftans and skull caps who daily prayed and waited for the coming of the Lord. The Jews saw the Poles as nice people from a distance, but liars, cheats and drunkards, who used every opportunity to bait them and blame them for the death of their Son of God. This was more than proved from 1939 onwards.

Forty-five years on, after all the abuse, they now want the Jews to return, promising them all their rights – even homes to be restored – and a few, tired of Israel, and in some cases of the alien Western way of life, are actually returning.

Poland, desperate to have its Jews back on its barren land, is holding out the hand of friendship to the State of Israel, which a short while ago it refused to even recognise. Who would have ever thought that the leopard can change its spots and all would be forgiven?

Sheep Walk J. M. Marks
Shepperton, Middx.

WITNESS WANTED

Sir – We are preparing a 90-minute film on the subject of the Death Marches of the Hungarian Jews through Austria in the closing months of World War II.

We are interested in talking to any survivors of the Marches, who could tell us of any specific incidents along the routes, especially incidents that could make clear who was involved in the massacres or individual murders that occurred.

The film is being produced under the aegis of the *Verein zur Foerderung von Politischem Bewusstsein im Alltag*, and the people involved are Michael Zuzanek, the director, Gudrun Waltenstorfer, journalist, and myself.
Sonnenhofgasse 6/7 Ludwig Ochs
A-1050 Vienna

AFTER THE EUPHORIA

Sir – During a week in East Berlin I discovered the basic feeling to be one of angst. Unemployment is rising as the textile and leather industries face collapse, but agriculture is hardest hit of all. Salaries remain the same, while telephone and postal charges have gone up; gas and electricity are due to follow.

There is pollution, both literal and metaphorical. The DDR has the highest rate of tree deaths in Europe – and Vietnamese guest workers are now treated as badly as Turks in West Germany. Avenue Road, Eva R. Eisenschitz
London N6

MEMO TO THE PONTIFF

Sir – Your comments on the historic similarities in the fate of Poles and Jews are interesting.

The difference between British and Polish antisemitism concerns the role of the Catholic Church. If we could convince the Polish Pope that there are these similarities in the respective fates of Poles and Jews, he could make it a brighter future for Jews. I suggest you send him a copy of *In the half-light Blue White resembles White Red* with the blessings of the refugees from a recent bout of antisemitism.

Hawkshead Lane, Henry Toch
North Mymms, Herts

KALISKI SCHULE

Sir – Would anyone interested in creating a record, or a reunion of those associated with the above please write with brief details (also of later career) to 118 Highfield Lane, Peter T. Landsberg
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A tale of two artists

Like any civilised country Weimar Germany awarded stipends to talented fledgling artists. These stipends, the 'Rome Prize', gave recipients a year's residence in the Villa Massimo. In 1933 the winners of the Rome Prize happened to be Arno Breker and Felix Nussbaum – whose subsequent careers diverged more widely than any recorded in art history.

Felix Nussbaum, born into a prosperous Jewish middle class family in Osnabrück in 1904, had studied painting at the Hamburg Academy of Art. 1927 saw his first solo exhibition, after which he spent time following Van Gogh's footsteps in Belgium and France. His subsequent work, accordingly, showed the influence of Van Gogh, to which the year in Rome added that of Chirico. Unable to return to Germany, he went to Brussels in 1935. Soon afterwards he married the Polish-Jewish painter Felka Platek. Interned at St. Cyprian in 1940, he escaped back to Brussels, where he remained, painting works reflecting his increasingly dire situation (*Self-Portrait with Jewish Identity Card, Dance of Death*). In July 1944 he and his wife were arrested and sent to Auschwitz. Arno Breker had meanwhile ascended the peak of the Nazi Olympus. The stone

mason's son had studied art in Düsseldorf and gone to Paris, where he became a favourite disciple of the famous sculptor Maillot. Returning to Germany after the scholarship year in Rome, he entered some athletic sculptures in a competition for the Olympic stadium and won. Hereafter he received one official commission after another: his income in 1938 amounted to one hundred thousand marks(!) Eventually Breker's muscle-bound Nordic colossi adorned every Nazi shrine from the Reich Chancellery to the site of the Party Rally at Nuremberg.

Classified a *Mitläufer* (collaborator) by a postwar Denazification tribunal, he nonetheless continued to work, and exhibit in public – although his participation in various art shows tends to generate controversy. (Breker is ninety this year.) As for Felix Nussbaum, Osnabrück's Kunstgeschichtliches Museum has endeavoured to amass all his most important works. This summer the museum has staged an exhibition of a hundred paintings, accompanied by the production of a lavishly illustrated catalogue (price 42 DM) and the holding of art-historical symposia. Participants in the symposia were unable to agree whether Nussbaum would have been considered a great painter if the tragic circumstances that shaped his work had not given it a special cachet.

□ Richard Grunberger

Advice to new arrivals (cir. 1938)

1. Spend your spare time immediately in learning the English language and its correct pronunciation.
2. Refrain from speaking German in the streets and in public conveyances and in public places such as restaurants. Talk halting English rather than fluent German – *and do not talk in a loud voice*. Do not read German newspapers in public.
3. Do not criticise any Government regulations, nor the way things are done over here. Do not speak of 'how much better this or that is done in Germany'. It may be true in some matters, but it weighs as nothing against the sympathy and freedom and liberty of England which are now given to you. Never forget that point.
4. Do not join any Political organisation, or take part in any political activities.
5. Do not make yourself conspicuous by speaking loudly, nor by your manner or dress. The Englishman greatly dislikes ostentation, loudness of dress or manner, or unconventionality of dress or manner. The Englishman attaches very great importance to modesty, under-statement in speech rather than over-statement, and quietness of dress and manner. He values good manners far more than he values the evidence of wealth. (You will find that he says 'Thank you' for the slightest service – even for a penny 'bus ticket for which he has paid.)
6. Try to observe and follow the manners and customs and habits of this country, in social and business relations.
7. Do not spread the poison of 'It's bound to come in your country'. The British Jew greatly objects to the planting of this craven thought.
8. *Above all*, please realise that the Jewish Community is relying on you – on each and every one of you – to uphold in this country the highest Jewish qualities, to maintain dignity, and to help and serve others.

(From a booklet issued by the German Jewish Aid Committee, Bloomsbury House)

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- Monday 1 Recital – Bernard Wilcox (Tenor) accompanied by Leslie Barnes (Piano)
- Tuesday 2 One Refugee Soldier's War – Talk by Ronald Stent
- Wednesday 3 Jack Takes A Stroll Down Memory Lane – Music by Jack Harris
- Thursday 4 CLOSED
- Monday 8 Hans Freund: You May Remember
- Tuesday 9 Songs & Duets from Opera & Musicals – Terri Thomas – Russel Harris, with Piano Accompaniment
- Wednesday 10 Selection of Songs & Arias – Fiona Wise & James Pocha accompanied by Diana Down
- Thursday 11 CLOSED
- Monday 15 Classical Music – Giselle Minns
- Tuesday 16 Musical Entertainment – Pamela Douglas (Piano) and Rosalie Deer (Soprano)
- Wednesday 17 A Journey Through Europe in Song – Anya Kelly (Soprano) accompanied by Robert Wilson (Piano)
- Thursday 18 Early Italian Songs & Brahms Folk Songs – Michael Downey (Baritone) accompanied by Mark Schwartzentruber (Piano)
- Monday 22 Justin Joseph Entertains at the Piano
- Tuesday 23 The Beaufort Ensemble
- Wednesday 24 Music by The Bagatelle – Francoise Geller
- Thursday 25 Musical Entertainment – Songs From The Shows – Helen Davis (Mezzo) accompanied by Dora Sims
- Monday 29 A Medley of International Songs with Guitar – Sandra Berzon
- Tuesday 30 Pamela Kolirin entertains with light classical music
- Wednesday 31 WIZO Singers
- NOVEMBER
- Thursday 1 Autumn Serenade – Ian Bradford (Flute) accompanied by Carol Kohn

The AJR at Work

The Homes Department: yet another success



Ruth Finestone, community carer.

One sentence in an article in the Jewish Chronicle last December intrigued Ruth Finestone of the AJR's Homes Department, and led to a new home for a very lonely, elderly gentleman. The article concerned a pre-Chanukah celebration for ten of the fifty 'long stay' Jewish psychiatric patients at the Friern Hospital in North London.

Contained in the piece was this quote, from Anne Fox, Chairman of the Jewish Patients Comfort Fund: 'One patient, an elderly German-Jewish refugee, who speaks no English, has retreated into himself because he has no-one to talk to'.

Immediately upon returning to work after the holiday Mrs. Finestone contacted Anne Fox in order to find out more about this reticent patient. She discovered that he had been admitted to hospital in 1939, and had been resident in one institution or another ever since. Horrified that anyone should be institutionalised for over fifty years Mrs. Finestone, in tandem with Anne Fox, went to work on trying to improve conditions for the patient.

Within a few weeks it was arranged for the gentleman to make 'day visits' to Osmond House. He would come and spend time with the residents, the majority of whom speak German, and return to the Friern Hospital in the evenings. Before long he was allowed to stay overnight at the Home. Once the gentleman had become accustomed to Osmond House, and was seen to be feeling at home there, he was offered a permanent place. He has since accepted this offer and is now a contented member of the community there. □

WHO IS WHO IN THE AJR OFFICE

Administrator	Lydia Lassman
Editor, AJR	Richard Grunberger
Information	Maurice Newman
Publications and PR Manager	
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/ Sadie Hannen

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Heinrich Stahl House: Garden Party



Just a few of the guests enjoying the sunshine at the 'Open Day'.

Heinrich Stahl House Open Day in early September attracted large numbers and was a great success.

The stalls did a brisk trade and refreshments, provided *al fresco* in the gardens, were of the highest quality, as reflected by the demand from all present –

a demand unstintingly supplied by staff and volunteers alike.

Musical entertainment was provided, charmingly, by 'Flutelle' (Siobhan Grealay and Sally-Anne Ewins).

Prior to the Grand Raffle prize draw, Mr Ludwig Spiro, Chairman of the

Heinrich Stahl House Committee, made a moving speech about the importance of the AJR Residential Care Appeal.

Outlining the work which needs to be done in the homes – new double glazing, bathroom facilities and further extension of the buildings – he appealed to everyone present to contribute, saying: 'We *must* house our nearest and dearest, and care for them to the best of our ability . . . I am sorry to have to spoil such a happy afternoon with these mundane requests.' The afternoon was not spoiled. It would have been neglectful not to draw attention to this subject while so many people were there enjoying the facilities which have already been provided.

It was an extra special day for Mrs Gertrude Baldock, a resident of Heinrich Stahl House. She won the first prize in the raffle, choosing a bottle of Grand Marnier as her prize instead of the advertised garden furniture.

The above is an account of the concluding event of the Open Day 'season' at the Homes; it also happened to be the largest event. We are covering the Heinrich Stahl Garden Party both for its own sake and as a representative sample of the Open Days at all the Homes, which, year after year, elicit impressive contributions from staff, volunteers, residents and visitors alike.

The Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

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Ex-Mannheimers meet

The Catskills in Upstate New York were the venue of a recent reunion attended by three hundred Jewish ex-Mannheimers from different parts of the USA, and beyond. The highlight of the meeting was a Sabbath service at which 90-year-old Rabbi Max Grünwald preached a deeply moving sermon. Another key event was an address by the current chairman of the Mannheim *Gemeinde*. *Georges Stern* justified the postwar reconstitution of the community: 'Hitler's intention of extinguishing Jewish life must never be allowed to become a reality'. Today Mannheim Jewry is four hundred strong; there are eighty youngsters, fifty of them of school age. For the latter religious instruction is provided up to *Abitur*, and all in all the possibility for a richly varied communal life exists. □

Anti-antisemitism in the Soviet Union

To many people's surprise the reform-minded mass circulation paper *Argumenti i Fakti* recently reproduced an 'interview' with Lazar Kaganovitch carried by the *Pamyat* gutter sheet *Puls Tuschina*. In it

Kaganovitch, himself a Jew, is quoted as saying 'The Jews are constantly fermenting trouble and stirring up unrest. Today, too, when the state faces collapse they are in the forefront of the elements subverting the Soviet Union'. The 96-year-old Kaganovitch, a onetime member of Stalin's Politburo, subsequently wrote to *Argumenti i Fakti* denouncing the 'interview' as a fake – which it undoubtedly was, since Kaganovitch made it a practice throughout his political career never to talk to journalists.

What then made the reformist journal carry the so-called interview? It is assumed that *Argumenti i Fakti* did so in order to discredit *Pamyat* by demonstrating the convergence of its views with those of the notorious Stalinist Kaganovitch. □

Important publication

The correspondence between Gershom Scholem, the interwar Hebrew University's leading scholar in the sphere of Jewish Mysticism, and his mother Betty (who left Berlin for Australia in 1939) has been published by the H. C. Beck Verlag, Munich at a price of DM58-. □

KOOK'S TOUR

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Venue of much defenestration
To Chamberlain a 'far-off' nation
The cradle of Good Soldier Shvejk,
Where playwrights *act*, while actors strike.

GREECE

Cradle of complex Oedipus
That sent its monks to frozen Rus,
Now to unfreeze the Parthenon
Requires the wit of Solomon.

HOLLAND

While others made 'Dutch courage' quips
The burghers helped themselves to ships,
Put sails on windmills, dug canals,
And financed Rembrandt and Frans Hals.

HUNGARY

Where the reddened Danube runs,
Baptismal font for kin of Huns,
They've laid the arrowcross to rest
Call themselves 'Christians of the West'.

ITALY

Here the *turisti tedeschi*
Grow weak-kneed in front of fresci
And each arbour, col and grotto
Bears God's own handwritten motto
Under licence from Giotto.

CLUB 1943

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Alice Schwab

Art Notes

Our contemporary TAZ (*Tageszeitung Westberlin*) recently carried an enthusiastic review of the Walter Nessler retrospective exhibition entitled *Dresden 30er Jahre bis London 80er Jahre: Deutsche Kunst im Exil* at the Galerie Berlin. The exhibition was a great success.

Walter Nessler was born in Leipzig in 1912 and lived in Dresden, which recently made him an honorary Senator, from 1919 to 1937, when he fled Nazi persecution. During the war years, first interned and then in the Pioneer Corps, he continued to paint portraits and landscapes. Demobbed in 1946, he settled in London and continued painting and teaching. He has had many one-man shows as well as exhibiting at the Royal Academy and in group exhibitions. Walter Nessler's work will be on show at the John Denham gallery (28 October–11 November). The exhibition will be opened by Helmut Wegner, of the German Embassy.

Kokoschka first visited Scotland in 1929. He loved the people and countryside and returned on many occasions. In 1969, aged 83, he went there to paint a double portrait of the Duke and Duchess of Hamilton. This and many other of his works have been assembled at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art as the first of a series of exhibitions about foreign artists inspired by Scotland.

Archeology and the Bible at the British Museum (until 24 March 1991) illustrates the cultural and political history of Palestine from patriarchal times to the Greek and Roman period. Among the objects on display is a Dead Sea Scroll and two recently excavated lime and plaster statues from Ain Ghazal in Jordan, the earliest three-dimensional representation of the human form.

Five Israeli artists (three painters and two sculptors), Ida Bar-El. (born 1959), Tsibi Geva (born 1951), Meir Pichhadze (born 1955), Dana Baharav (born 1962) and Israel Rabinowitz (born 1954) are showing at the Pomeroy Purdy gallery (until 27 October).

Emil Nolde (1867–1956), one of the

leading German Expressionists, had his work classified as 'degenerate' by the Nazis and in 1944 he was banned from painting altogether. In his isolated home on the German/Danish border Nolde continued to paint in a hidden room, using only watercolours for fear that the smell of oil paint would give him away; forbidden to buy materials he painted on scraps of rice paper and over earlier works. *Emil Nolde: the Unpainted Pictures* is at the Whitechapel Art Gallery (until 12 December).

From 3 October to 1 December the Boundary Gallery will be showing 'The Anglo-Jewish Contribution' in two parts, the first comprising Bomberg, Epstein, Kramer and friends, the second (from 1 November) Herman, Kestelman and Meninsky.

Works by the 86-year old Soviet Jewish artist Moses Feigin are on show at the Cooling Gallery during the whole of October. Watercolours by Lucien Pissarro (1863–1944) can be seen at Spink's (3–30 October) and nine large and very impressive non-figurative pictures by David Gryn were recently shown at the Diorama Gallery.

For well over a year the Ben Uri Art Society has been preparing an important exhibition of the work of Solomon J. Solomon, the second Jewish Royal Academician. The exhibition (28 October–16 November) has been sponsored by Christie's and will be opened by their Chairman, the Hon. Charles Allsopp. Solomon was not only a fashionable portrait painter, but also produced great classical pictures (probably the best-known being the large *Samson* in the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool). Solomon also played an important role in the First World War, developing camouflage to conceal troop movements and military installations.

Finally, the Barbican: *Chagall to Kitaj. Jewish Experience in the Art of the Twentieth Century* (until 6 January 1991) features some of the greatest figures of twentieth century art, including Bomberg, Chagall, Epstein, Kitaj, Lipchitz, El Lissitzky, Modigliani and Soutine, together with works by Israeli artists.

Also at the Barbican (until 29 November) is an exhibition of photographs by Micha Bar Am, one of Israel's leading photographers and by Robert Kapa, the legendary photo-journalist, an exhibition of Israeli Craft and Design and an exhibition of abstract paintings by Lea Nikel. □

SB's Column

Pollution as a dramatic subject. A play on green issues may sound very modern, but *The speed of darkness* by Yugoslav-born American writer Steve Tesich recalls Ibsen's *Enemy of the people* written well over 100 years ago. Then and now the problem was that personal ambition conflicted with the knowledge that industrial waste will poison the water supply; the gravity of the truth is concealed for financial gain. The play, performed at the Berkeley Repertory theatre in California, received enthusiastic notices.

King Lear with a difference. American producer Robert Wilson, known in the States as a 'creative talent', presented *King Lear* at the Frankfurter Schauspielhaus with Marianne Hoppe in the rôle of the king. She told reporters: 'I want adventure.' She got it.

Birthday preparations are going ahead for American composer Aron Copeland who will be 90 in November. Copeland is a musician of great reputation not universally known in this country, although many recordings of his works have been issued. The Aldeburgh Festival this year presented a semi-staged performance of his 1954 opera *This tender land*.

Birthdays. Hans Thimig, youngest and last of the male line of 'the Thimigs' is 90. It was in 1874 when Dresden-born Thimig joined the Vienna *Burg*, followed in this profession by his daughter Helene (later the wife of Max Reinhardt), and his sons Hermann and Hans. The latter made his Burgtheater debut in 1918, and was on stage until a few years ago. Apart from his numerous film and TV appearances, he was a regular broadcaster. He could be heard throughout the Sixties and Seventies and until very recently in his radio programme *Besuch am Montag*. Now retired and living at his Styrian retreat, Wildalpen, he is acclaimed as one of the 'stars of the century.' Peter Stadlen, the Austrian-born pianist, remembered for his lunchtime recitals at the National Gallery during the war, later chief music critic of the *Daily Telegraph* for many years, attained the age of 80. Vilem Tausky, Czech-born composer and musician who became a stalwart on BBC radio and made his name as opera conductor at the Carl Rosa Opera and Sadlers Wells, later in leading position at the Guildhall School of Music, has also joined the octogenarians. The BBC honoured him with a special gala evening.

The stones of Prague

In 1389 the last day of Pesach fell on Easter Sunday. In Prague, on that day, Jewish children played in the street. Devout Christians walked in procession. Some of the Jewish children threw sand at each other in innocent exuberance. At that moment one of the religious processions passed by. Somebody in the crowd claimed that a handful of dirt had been flung at the host, deliberately, thus desecrating the holy object. At once the cry went up to take revenge. Shouting 'Tod oder Taufe' (baptism or death) a riotous mob fell upon defenceless Jews. When it was all over, some 300 Jews had been murdered, the synagogue burned down, graves in the Jewish cemetery dug up, bones scattered, tombstones smashed.

The way in which our enemies have, through the centuries, sought to insult the living by offending the dead underlines much of the symbolism of our remembrance of the generations which are now part of our history.

Nowhere is that history so rich as in the ancient city of Prague. In it there has been one of the oldest continuous Jewish settlements in Europe. Jews have lived there since the beginning of the tenth century, and the community has survived pogroms and expulsions and decimation by the plague; and even now there are signs of a rebirth after the dreadful years of Hitlerite destruction and four decades of Stalinist negativism.

Thus the *Altneuschul* is still open for services and a well-known tourist attraction. But it is the gravestones in the Jewish cemeteries which bear most significant witness to the greatness of Prague's Jewish history. This indeed was the fascinating theme of a recent report in the German-Jewish weekly *Allgemeine* on a visit to the two main burial grounds – the so-called 'Old Cemetery' and the 'New'. There are about 12,000 gravestones (more, according to other sources) in the Old Cemetery, dating, more or less recognisably, from 1439 to 1787. Many have, of course, disintegrated and sunk into the earth; but many are still standing, and of these, those of most recent date display quite legible inscriptions. Some, indeed, show pictorial representations of a deceased's particularly notable characteristics: a Cohen's grave might be indicated by two hands twinned in priestly blessing, a Levi's might be noted by a beaker, while

other stones have biblical illustrations in addition to the more usual quotations and expressions. The fifteenth century grave of Rabbi Avigdor Kara is there, albeit no longer marked by the original stone, as is the seventeenth century tomb of the great Rabbi Yehuda Lev ben Bezalel, with whom the legend of the Golem, the clay effigy of a human being of Central European folklore, is so closely associated. Here, too, lie the remains of the scholar David Gans, historian, mathematician, astronomer and friend of Kepler and Tycho de Brahe. He it was who patriotically blessed 'the land of Bohemia in which I live' and called 'the favour of God upon its inhabitants'. Here also lies Rabbi David Oppenheim, whose unique collection of rare Hebrew prints and manuscripts was acquired by the Bodleian Library in Oxford in 1829. Of the secular leaders of the community who were laid to rest here the most prominent was Mordechai Maisel, whose philanthropic benevolence was not confined to largesse for his fellow-Jews, but whose not

inconsiderable fortune was all the same forfeit to the imperial coffers upon his death without an heir in 1601.

In what used to be the prayer hall there is now a museum dedicated to the memory of Czechoslovak Jewish victims of the Nazi occupiers of the country; and another museum is housed in an old synagogue in the grounds.

The New Cemetery has been in existence for just about one hundred years. Here the most notable burial place is that of Franz Kafka and his parents, and on the tombstone there is a plaque to commemorate the famous writer's two sisters, who did not return from deportation.

One thousand years, a whole millennium of Jewish history is written into the stones upon the graves of these two cemeteries. They are a touching reminder of the part which Jews – the great and the humble, the learned and the untutored, the pious, the worldly, the rich and the poor – have played in shaping the destiny of Bohemia throughout the many changes of the country's political fortunes. Once more the wheel is turning – who knows in what direction! □ D.L.M.

Antisemite in Slough

'Come, kindly bombs and drop on Slough.' These lines from John Betjeman's 1930s poem ran through my head when I read that Dr Siddiqui lives in a semi at Slough. Kalim Siddiqui, head of the pro-Iranian Muslim Institute, came close to being charged with incitement to murder after Ayatollah Khomeini 'sentenced' Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*, to death. A refugee from post-Partition India, he talks about the 'corrupt bogland of Western culture' against which he wants to immunise Muslims in this country by forming an extra-territorial state – whatever that may be – with an Islamic parliament. Siddiqui is obsessed with 'the Jews who are constantly plotting'. Two examples he quotes are the conspiracy to publish and promote Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*, and the campaign to ban *International Guerrillas* (the Pakistani-made film depicting the author as a sadistic degenerate who attracts divine retribution). Surprisingly for a disciple of Khomeini's, Dr Siddiqui also admires Iran's quondam deadly enemy Saddam Hussein. He hopes that the bloodsoaked Iraqi dictator will 'smash on

to Riyadh' (the Saudi capital). Hussain's aggression, he says, asserts the political power of Islam and elicits his own loyalty. Asked how he can reconcile such sentiments with British citizenship he says 'I am doing no more and no less than what the Jews have done. The Jews in this country owe their loyalty to Israel, don't they?' □ R.G.

Token Jew?

The Hungarian Democratic Forum, whose gut appeal to Magyar nationalism gave it victory in the recent general election, has a Jew on its governing body. He is Transylvania-born Gyorgy Szabad, who asserts that, while neither religious nor a Zionist, he has never denied his Jewishness. □

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Hungarian theme and variations

Notwithstanding occasional ritual murder rumours, pre-1914 Hungary provided what was by contemporary East European standards an unusually hospitable environment for Jews. This owed less to philosemitism than to considerations of demographic balance. Within Great Hungary the subject Slavs and Romanians outnumbered the Magyars – but, if the Jewish five per cent of the population were added to the Hungarians, the latter had a (narrow) majority. In addition, the Magyar gentry considered commerce beneath their dignity and allowed the Jews to supply badly needed entrepreneurial skills.

Two world wars later everything – from the size of the country to that of the Jewish population – had changed utterly, and yet some factors have tended to persist. In the Soviet-liberated country the surviving Jews formed a unique minority among the inhabitants; they were the only ones who could not possibly have been Fascist collaborators. Owing their lives to the Red Army, they were, in turn, often willing recruits to Communism and followed in the footsteps of earlier converts like Matyas Rakosi, Stalin's *gauleiter* in Hungary.

In 1949/50, after Stalin's break with Tito, so-called National Communists were arraigned at purge trials all over Eastern Europe. In Czechoslovakia Party Secretary Rudolf Slansky, a Jew, was selected as most prominent purge victim, while in Hungary the choice of the trial 'managers' fell on Interior Minister Laszlo Rajk, a non-Jew. Since Rajk's chief accuser was the Jew Matyas Rakosi it was decided – lest the Hungarian public draw wrong conclusions from the trial – to place the Jews Andras Szalai and Tibor Szöny in the dock alongside Rajk.

After those two had been judicially murdered for the sake of racial symmetry the hue-and-cry was directed against the prominent Jewish physicians Dr Laszlo Benedek and Professor Antal Bebics, who both disappeared. Additional Jewish victims were only saved by the fortuitous death of Stalin and the subsequent purge of KGB chief Beria.

Now, forty years later, the Hungarian Parliament has passed a law setting aside all verdicts handed down at the show

trials, and posthumously rehabilitating the accused. Parliamentary votes, alas, can neither bring the dead back to life nor ameliorate the suffering of their families. They can, however, do one thing: lay the foundations of a system of law untainted by the legacy of Hungary's past. □

Slovak realities

Slovak Jewry numbered 90,000 pre-war, of whom 70,000 perished in the Holocaust. Subsequent diminution through emigration and mortality reduced the strength of the organised community to 2,400 by last year. Since the 'velvet revolution', however, their number has gone up to three thousand, the newcomers being Jews who, reluctant to advertise their identity under the Communists, see no reason not to do so in a democracy.

One of the new 'recruits' is Professor Franek of Bratislava's Technical University. At a meeting called by the Christian Democrat Party, the second strongest in Catholic Slovakia, he asked the platform to stigmatise their indirect predecessors in the Hlinka Movement – which set up the Nazi-allied 'independent' Slovak state in 1938 – as Fascists. Not only did they refuse to do so, but the Jewish community, apprehensive of Professor Franek 'making waves', cancelled his participation in the delegation that was to accompany President Havel on his state visit to the United States.

Since the revolution a number of Czech-Jewish communal officials have been dismissed because of their close links with the Communist *apparatus* – but habits of caution still persist within the community. Given the history of Central Europe this can hardly be wondered at. □

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ALL LEGAL WORK UNDERTAKEN

40 Years Ago this Month

EDITORIAL CHANGE

Dr. Herbert Freedon, co-editor of 'AJR Information' since its inception in 1945, will go to Israel this month to take up an appointment with the Keren Kayemeth Leisrael as Publicity Officer for the English speaking countries.

Thus, a pleasant partnership which lasted for almost six years comes to its conclusion. It is mainly due to his initiative that the AJR started the publication of a regular periodical, as soon as the removal of the paper restrictions made this possible. If, in the course of time, 'AJR Information' has become an established institution within the Community, it can to a very high extent be attributed to his untiring labours. As a gifted writer and an experienced journalist he gave shape to our monthly by co-ordinating its manifold features and by contributing innumerable large and small articles and notes.

Not only the Hon. Officers of the AJR but all readers of 'AJR Information' are indebted to Dr. Freedon, and whilst his co-operation, guidance and advice will be sadly missed by his co-editor, it is some consolation that he will keep contact with us by writing regular reports on events in Israel. We wish him godspeed and good luck for his new start.

W. R.

From AJR Information October, 1950.

Search Notices

Joanna Lake born Christine Mahler 1953, adopted, seeks information about Amalie Mahler, b. 1929 Vienna. Last known address: 110 The Avenue, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough. Also her great uncle Hillel Mahler, b. 1903. Box No. 1180.

Ruth Spyer-Holtein. Born 1920, Koln-Mulheim. Doctor's daughter, sister Suzannah, school Genovefa Street. Sought by school friend. Contact: 35 Blenheim Gardens, Wallington, Surrey SM6 9PJ.

Did you know Ernst Altmann? Arrived Harwich 2 September 1939 aged 27, accompanying Kindertransporte, Berlin. Originally from Dantzig. Box No. 1179.

Would the lady who recently contacted the Australian Welfare Board re LIESEL MENDEL, please telephone the Jewish Refugees Committee, London: 071-387-3925. LIESEL has been located, but search letter with enquirer's address has been lost, and contact can therefore not be established.

Anyone knowing the present whereabouts of: Kimmerling, Mathilde – née Gross – born 1907; Gross, Jonas both heard of at: 14 Horton Street, London, England. Please contact the Jewish Refugees Committee, London, 071-387-3925.

FAMILY EVENTS

Birth

Hannah Miriam Shipman. Born August 19, 1990. Daughter of David and Susan Shipman. Granddaughter of Ursula Fink and Frank and Susie Shipman.

Golden Wedding

Mazeltov to Mum and Dad, Frank and Thea Henderson on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 27th November 1990. Love from all your family - in London and Manchester.

Deaths

Elizabeth (Lisl) Benson died 18 July 1990. Greatly missed by her daughter, grandchildren, great grandson, extended family and friends.

Lehmann: Maria Lehmann (Seidemann) née Lowy passed away 5 September 1989 in Israel. Remembered with love by her family and friends.

Roberts (formerly Rosenstern) - Hilde nee Heyman, aged 70, wife of

Vernon died on the 11th August 1990 at Northampton General Hospital after a long illness. Also mourned by her daughters and grandchildren.

Steindorff. Rosl Steindorff died at home on August 22, aged 92. Remembered with love and affection by family and many friends.

CLASSIFIED

Miscellaneous

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Obituaries

Fred Lessing

Fred Lessing, who died, aged seventy-five, was one of the pillars of the refugee community. Born into an old-established Jewish family in Bamberg he emigrated first to England and then America, where, arriving penniless, he built up a flourishing business in the electrical industry.

Despite the effort involved in this he devoted much time and energy to causes close to his heart, such as the Leo Baeck Institute, Tel Aviv University and the Wiener Library. Having joined the board of the Wiener Library in the 1960s, he was treasurer and chairman of its executive for close on twenty years. In that capacity he devised the scheme that saved the library from impending closure over a decade ago: the microfilming of a large part of its stock before shipment to Tel Aviv. (The stock has since been replenished.) It is somehow fitting that this 'saviour' of a library bore the same surname as the great enlightener, Gotthold Ephraim Lessing. □

Barbara Jacobson

Barbara Jacobson (nee Koblauch) has died, aged seventy-three. Born in Leipzig,

where she studied piano at the Conservatory, she came to England in 1936 with her family. Later she married and embarked on a show business career which included broadcasting for the BBC in wartime. Postwar she largely concentrated on helping her husband in business. Struck down by blindness in 1974 she doggedly fought her handicap by turning herself into a hotel pianist with a repertoire of two thousand songs. She also entertained at Day Centres and Clubs for the Disabled.

Barbara Jacobson is survived by her husband and two daughters. □

Herbert Hochfeld

Herbert Hochfeld, an extraordinary man with a contagious zest for life has died, aged 88.

In 1978, at the age of 75, he undertook a trip to Russia, where he visited a number of refuseniks, including Professor Brailowsky. Although unsure of just how much value there was in these visits, he felt that in Hitler's time World Jewry had not been sufficiently vocal and that he wanted to compensate for this in some small way.

Mr Hochfeld retained his sense of humour to the very end of his days. Just before his death he told a close friend that he did not expect to survive the ordeal of

his illness. Upon being gently chided for his negativism he responded, wryly: 'I said that I do not expect to survive. Of course, I may be wrong.' Alas, he was not. □

Elfrieda David

Dr. Elfrieda F. David, nee Emanuel, who died aged 90, after a long, debilitating illness, had been born in Cologne in 1900. She studied medicine, and emigrated to South Africa, where she worked in a black township under the most primitive conditions, when she could have had a smart practice for white people in the city. After the war Elfie worked in Libya in the 'Displaced Persons' camps under the 'American Joint', until the camps were dissolved. She then went into general practice under the NHS in London.

My family and I have known Elfie for more than 50 years and were very close to her. She was a remarkable person, had many talents and interests from nature to culture, science and humanities. Her tragedy was that she had no children, her only family lived in Holland and her friends became old or died. In the end, when she needed help, there were few people left to care for her, after a life spent caring for others. She will be remembered with love by those who had the good fortune to have known her. □ M.H.

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Image retouched

Arnold Zweig, whose postwar return to, and acceptance of high honours in, the DDR practically made him a non-person in West Germany, seems to be a posthumous beneficiary of the coming together of the two Germanies. Almost unknown in the Bundesrepublik until a short while ago, he has been the subject of two literary biographies – by Jost Hermand (Rowohlt) and Wilhelm von Sternburg (Anton Hain Verlag) – during the last year. Sternburg's study demonstrates that the image of Zweig as a subservient puppet of the Ulbricht regime that prevailed in the West was oversimplified. The author of *The Case of Sergeant Grisha*, it appears, pleaded with Ulbricht on behalf of the imprisoned dissident Wolfgang Harich, and prompted Lion Feuchtwanger to intervene, from the USA, when Walter Janka fell victim to a miscarriage of justice. (Neither initiative succeeded.) Overall though, Zweig who himself endured endless frustration during the filming of his anti-Nazi novel *The Axe of Wandsbeck* by Defa, doubtlessly allowed the regime to use him as a 'cultural figleaf'. □

Jeanette Wolff honoured

The municipal Realschule in Dinslaken has been named in honour of Jeanette Wolff, the one outstanding Jewess in German postwar politics. Arrested for her SPD activity in 1933 she was eventually sent to Riga and lost all her family, but for one daughter, in the Holocaust. After 1945 she took an active part in the SPD's fight against the division of Berlin and represented her party in the Bonn parliament. □

Ancient and modern

Among other innovations *glasnost* has brought opinion polls to Russia. A representative sample of Muscovites, polled about their attitude to Jews, yielded revealing figures. A quarter of the respondents hated Jews – some blaming them for the crucifixion of Christ, others for the Russian Revolution; nearly one in ten disapproved of Jewish emigration. (It needs to be borne in mind that opinion nationally is probably more bigoted than among residents of a big city like Moscow.) □

Breaking a taboo

The Israelis have never forgiven Richard Strauss for 'stepping into the breach' when the Nazis chased Bruno Walter, Otto Klemperer and the anti-Fascist Arturo Toscanini out of German musical life. (The composer-conductor's loyalty towards his Jewish librettists Hofmannsthal and Stefan Zweig was largely disregarded.) Now the Rishon le Zion orchestra has breached the 45-year-old ban on Strauss's music by performing *Metamorphosen* at the Tel Aviv Museum. The instigator of this minor musical sensation was the orchestra's founder, Noam Shariff. □

Strange symmetry

Nicholas Ridley, whose views on Germany approach Tacitus's in fame, is Member of Parliament for Tewkesbury. The lovely Gloucestershire town has a twinning arrangement with Miesbach in Bavaria. In the early Weimar years Miesbach pioneered a *Juden unerwünscht* campaign among Alpine resorts, with the *Miesbacher Anzeiger* (edited by a Catholic priest) blazing a trail which *Der Stürmer* was to follow. □

Mi Dor L'Dor From Generation to Generation

A seminar for those who seek to bridge the silence of survival.

Although dialogue between survivors of the Holocaust and their children has been found to be of great therapeutic value, it still remains for many an unachieved goal.

The 'Mi Dor L'Dor' seminar will seek to provide an environment in which first and second generation survivors will be able to speak with each other; give answers to unexpressed questions; to place questions before sensitive listeners.

In this way, across the generations, the dialogue that has proved so elusive between members of a family may be given voice. 'Surrogate' survivor parents and children having spent an afternoon of discussion in the company of Irene Bloomfield, Gaby Glassman and Rodney Mariner, may feel emboldened to begin the process with their own parents and children or simply find release from the burden of their own silence.

The 'From Generation to Generation' seminar seeks through the promotion of dialogue between first and second generation survivors, not only to bridge the gulf but to remove the need for the category of third and fourth generation survivors that is the inevitable consequence of unresolved pain.

The seminar will take place, under the auspices of Belsize Square Synagogue and the Raphael Centre, at Belsize Square on Sunday, November 11th, 1990, from 2.00 pm.–6.00 pm. Places will be limited to 40 participants. In order to achieve a balance between first and second generation survivors, applicants will be required to complete and return a registration form no later than Monday 29th October 1990. Registration forms may be obtained from Mrs. H. Lehmann, 51 Belsize Square, NW3. There will be no charge for registration or for the seminar itself.

If, as anticipated, applications exceed places further seminars will be arranged.

THE SURVIVOR

I see him in reflective mood
Survey the statues in the park
As if departed spirits could
Assuage the sorrow in his heart.

He is a dead man on recall
Who raises the observer's doubt
Of whether he survived at all
While others perished round about.

A gentle breeze, a swaying leaf
Presaging long denied relief
Competes with nightmares ages back.
Time failed to pacify the grief
As history rewinds the track
And plays old sounds and pictures back.

And so the dross of days drools on
Like poorly fashioned pearls of paste
And unexcited, unexcused
He sits bemused and unamused
Forever in reflective mood.

Reluctantly he plays his part
Untutored in the actor's art
Still waiting that oblivion would
Assuage the sorrow in his heart.

R. S. Lenk