

AJR *Information*

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*The AJR celebrates
its fiftieth anniversary this month*

*In this special issue
we reappraise the landmarks*

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Jubilee thoughts

Si monumentum requiris, circumspice! 'If you seek a monument, look around you!' was the sentence with which Alan Bullock ended his magisterial Hitler biography. The Latin tag added a special resonance to the Oxford historian's conclusion that when Hitler finally went to Hell in 1945 he left behind a continent in ruins.

Yet even while the Nazis were reducing Europe to rubble the business of rebuilding what had been destroyed was being undertaken piecemeal. One such endeavour to reconstruct in the midst of wartime devastation was the founding of the Association of Jewish Refugees exactly fifty years ago, in July 1941. What the Association's founders were after building was not a brick-and-mortar edifice to make good bomb damage but a community organisation for knitting together individuals torn away from the nourishing matrix of family, friends, language and custom.

During the half century that has elapsed since the founding of the AJR the organised network of human contacts adumbrated in 1941 has expanded greatly (though, given the size of our 'constituency' there is still unfulfilled potential for further growth). In parallel with that expansion our Association has been crucially involved in the procurement of a number of brick-and-mortar edifices that provide indispensable services for elderly, frail and isolated members of the refugee community.

Si monumentum requiris, circumspice! Those who look for physically palpable evidence of our work will find it in the Old Age Homes, in Sheltered Housing and in the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre. They will also find it in the pages of this Jubilee issue of *AJR Information* – and all its five hundred and forty (less lavishly produced) predecessors.

But monuments, alike whether composed of brick-and-mortar or paper (or even vellum), are all vulnerable to the gnawing tooth of time. Let us resolve not to let this edifice whose foundations were laid half a century ago fall victim to indifference, neglect and decay. Here's to the next fifty years of AJR's existence! □



AJR

50th Anniversary



A Celebration Dinner

Tuesday 15 October 1991 is the date when the AJR will mark its Golden Anniversary with a celebration dinner.

Guest of honour and speaker at the dinner will be Sir Claus Moser, prominent academic, Government advisor and statistician.

Full details and a booking form for this special event (£65.00 per person) are enclosed with this issue of *AJR Information*.

Please note this important date in your diary. It will be an unforgettable occasion.

Special messages



So much has happened in the last 50 years that it is not always easy for the younger generation to comprehend the tribulations that were suffered by so many of their elders. The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain grew out of one of

the darkest chapters in European history and which particularly affected the lives of so many Jews.

Great Britain has offered sanctuary to refugees from persecution at many times in the past, but seldom can the debt have been repaid by such valuable contributions as the Jewish refugees have made to its national life over the last fifty years.

The Residential Care Appeal by the AJR is a particularly appropriate way to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. Many of the refugees, for whom the Association cared in the early days, are inevitably getting older and less independent and I very much hope that a generous response to the Appeal will make it possible to provide convenient and comfortable accommodation for them.

□ HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh



It is with a deep sense of gratitude to the Almighty that I send this message to the Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain.

It hardly seems possible that 50 years have elapsed since this important organisation was brought into being to see to the needs of those who were able to leave Europe and thus be spared from the terrible catastrophe that overcame our people.

The United Kingdom provided a haven for many of us and I count myself fortunate that I was among them.

Even though some may have found their internment in the early days of the war a difficult experience, nevertheless, at that time of the Nazi threat of invasion the extra precautions were well understood. We cannot but be eternally grateful to a nation which opened its doors and gave us home and hospitality.

With the passing of 50 years the numbers who had first-hand experience of those events is bound to diminish but at the same time the task carried out by the Association will considerably intensify.

I commend the Association of Jewish Refugees for its stalwart and consistent devotion to duty during the past half century.

I send my best wishes both to all involved in its work and to those who have benefited from its care and concern.

□ Lord Jakobovits, Chief Rabbi



Over the more than 40 years during which I have been privileged to serve the people of Hampstead either as a Borough Councillor or an M.P. the AJR has been a vital feature of our community. I came to Hampstead along with so many refugees because Hampstead has always been an area of civilisation and tolerance in which people have been made to feel welcome.

The work of the AJR has made a major contribution to the urgent needs of a group which had been uprooted so savagely and were trying to make a fresh start. The evidence of this new start is all around us and stands as a tribute to all that the Jewish community has done to enrich British life in so many spheres.

□ Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, M.B.E., J.P., M.P.



Messages of congratulations and support have also been received from The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher M.P., The Home Secretary, Mr Kenneth Baker, and the Minister of State, Mr John Patten. □



May I congratulate the Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary? I am very much aware of the valuable work the Association has performed over those years in providing special help and care for elderly and disabled people, and

I am sure will continue to perform in the future.

The coming years will present us all with new challenges particularly in the provision of care for elderly and dependent people. The Government has recognised this and has set in motion proposals for the development of community care in the next decade and beyond. We have stressed our aim that a mixed-economy of care provision be developed, in which local authorities make full use of the services available in the voluntary and private sectors, and so enable elderly and dependent people to be offered a wider and more cost-effective choice of services, which reflect their needs and wishes. I have no doubt that the Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain will rise to this challenge and I would like to wish them every success in the future.

Virginia Bottomley

□ Virginia Bottomley, Minister of Health



I am very glad to hear that the Association of Jewish Refugees in Britain is so active in continuing the work it began nearly 50 years ago to assist those who came to this Country as victims of Nazi oppression.

From the very first days of their arrival in Britain I was tremendously impressed by the

remarkable self help and determination with which they set about rebuilding their lives in a strange country with a different culture and a foreign language. They overcame these obstacles and in the intervening years many have become British citizens. I am proud of the contribution they have made to industry, commerce, art, music and indeed all aspects of life in our Country. They have more than repaid the hospitality which was extended in the nineteen thirties – some of it initially given rather ungraciously I fear.

All of us, as we become elderly, increasingly need the care of others and I am happy that the Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain has embarked on a programme to make the last years of elderly Jews who are former Refugees more comfortable by refurbishing the AJR homes. I wish the Appeal great success.

□ The Rt. Hon. Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, K.G.



I should like to congratulate AJR upon reaching its Golden Jubilee. I know from AJR's activities in my constituency how important your work is. The kindness and the care given in all the homes have provided many with real dignity in the evening of their lives.

I should like to wish AJR every success with the Golden Jubilee Appeal. There are a large number of people wanting to enter the various homes. In addition AJR has to spend substantially on improvements to the existing homes. We have all made improvements to our own homes during the past ten years. Should AJR not be free to do the same?

I have seen the love and affection showered by AJR staff upon the residents of the homes. I do hope that this Appeal will achieve its targets so that even more can benefit from the high quality care AJR gives.

John Marshall

□ John Marshall, M.P. for Hendon South

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From foundation to maturity – The AJR story



AJR members get together at the 1991 AGM.

Photo: Newman.

Jewish refugees from Germany had been arriving in the U.K. since the beginning of the Nazi dictatorship. In the mid-Thirties they relied on agencies created for their benefit by British well-wishers, but in 1938 a few sufficiently well-established individual refugees set up a self-help organisation for their more recent and less fortunate fellows.

Self-Aid for Refugees was formed just before the Anschluss. It published appeals, distributed collecting boxes and organised fundraising functions; at one such, in June 1939, Stefan Zweig read from unpublished work. A few months later Britain was at war. This placed an enormous burden on the (meanwhile greatly expanded) refugee community – a burden quite beyond the capacity of Self-Aid to shoulder. 1940 brought mass internment, air raids and other tribulations. By mid-1941 however the bulk of U.K. internees were either on their way home or in HM Forces.

It was at this time – on 20th July, to be precise – that AJR came into existence at a meeting which set up a 9-man executive (split equally between Orthodox, Liberals and Zionists), and appointed a full-time official: Dr Werner Rosenstock, a veteran of the *Reichsvertretung deutscher Juden*.

No axe to grind

According to its founding manifesto the Association aimed to represent 'all Jewish refugees from Germany for whom Judaism was a determining factor in their outlook on life'. Proposed activities were summarised under ten headings, which included such matters as training for war-work, internment, restrictions on aliens, contact with isolated refugees and with refugees serving in the forces, and the investigation of questions concerning the Jewish post-war situation. It was hoped to work for a new

international order after the war, and for 'the idea that no real peace settlement [was] possible without repairing the wrongs done to the Jews.' And it was proposed to 'influence the attitude of Jewish refugees in economic and social life.' Unlike other refugee organisations, the new association had no political axe to grind except that implied by the distinction between 'immigrants' and 'émigrés'. The Committee met each Monday evening at the home of one of its members, the others having made their way there through the streets of wartime North West London.

All kinds of questions

One year on, 'Circular 3/1942' was published from 279A Finchley Road ('between Underground and LMS Station'). It announced that there were regular office hours ('Monday–Thursday, 3–6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.–12 noon') when 'advice and information on general problems as well as on personal questions' was available to 'every Jewish refugee.' There was a secretariat (W. Rosenstock and Miss A. Levy) and a Committee of Management, on which the Chairman, Mr A. Schoyer, was supported by Mr A. P. Michaelis as Vice-Chairman, Mr K. Alexander as Treasurer, and Mr S. Adler-Rudel, Mr F. R. Bienenfeld, Dr W. Breslauer, Dr E. G. Löwenthal and Professor E. Mittwoch. The Circular recorded the recent registration of the Association as a 'Benevolent Society' under the Friendly Societies Act, 1896. It drew attention to the fact that increasing numbers of people were 'attending the consulting hours of the Legal Advice Bureau', where, on Wednesday afternoons and Sunday mornings, 'all kinds of questions [had] been dealt with by advisers who offered their voluntary help.' Among other activities mentioned was the establishment of an 'address index of Jewish

refugees overseas' aimed at restoring contacts between former friends now separated by geography. A sub-committee had been formed to help those serving in the Pioneer Corps, the ATS, or other branches of HM Forces. More volunteers were wanted to assist refugee children, and an appeal was made to refugee employers to look with favour upon refugee job seekers. Membership had risen to 1,000. At the end of the war it stood at 5,000 (ten per cent of the refugee population). It then declined again, partly through post-war emigration. However, when Federal Germany agreed to make compensation payments and applicants needed expert advice, numbers went up again.

By the time the AJR had come of age in 1962 it could claim that it had achieved pretty well all of its declared primary objectives, as well as those which could be taken as implied. The prospect of naturalisation had been formally offered to Jewish refugees in 1946.

The question of post-war restitution and compensation had been settled or had reached an advanced stage. That so much progress had been made had been in large measure due to the assistance which the AJR had rendered to individual claimants as well as to the vital contribution it had made, and was still making, to the work of the internationally coordinated United Restitution Organisation. When it was wound up in 1988, the URO had given a unique service to individuals making claims against the Federal Republic and it had influenced to a significant degree the development of the relevant legislation in the country. As far as heirless or otherwise unclaimed German-Jewish property was concerned, the AJR, together with its affiliated Council of Jews from Germany, had been instrumental in bringing about the formation in 1950 of the Jewish Trust Corporation which then appeared as claimant in such cases.

New challenges

By now, the office had settled into premises at Fairfax Mansions. Still fairly modest, these were adequately functional and well able to accommodate the various departments dealing with established priorities as well as the new challenges which had emerged in the two decades of growth and diversification. Throughout this period, considerable energy and dedication had been devoted to the solution of the most important problem facing the AJR as the guardian of the long-term interests of the refugee community: the provision of suitable accommodation for the elderly. The seeds had been sown early on, as long ago as

the war years, when it was recognised that there would one day be a need for a 'special kind' of home for members in the evening of their lives. The difficulties were only too apparent: where would a group of people struggling to overcome the hardships of the time made harder by their particular circumstances, find the means to underwrite the work entailed in such an undertaking? The opportunity arose when unclaimed restitution property became available for social purposes. Working alongside the Central British Fund for Refugees, the AJR launched an ambitious programme, accepting full responsibility for admissions procedure and internal management of old-age homes, the first of which, Otto Schiff House, was ready for occupation in 1955. Two further premises, Otto Hirsch House and Leo Baeck House, were opened in 1958; and in 1962 Osmond House and Heinrich Stahl House were completed, bringing the total capacity of the homes at that time to 225 beds.

Early initiatives

As the years passed, many of the Association's early initiatives became the firmly established institutions with which members are by now familiar. Thus, on the

cultural and social level, the AJR Club, started in 1956, has come to play a unique role within the refugee community. It, too, had a modest enough beginning, having had to make do for the first decade of its existence with a single-room meeting place in Eton Avenue, until it was offered adequate space in the then newly acquired and suitably converted house at 9 Adamson Road.

It was from the kitchen at Hannah Karminski House that the AJR meals on wheels service, run entirely by volunteers, fulfilled an important need in the community.

In the 45 years since AJR Information first appeared as a monthly, the journal has never failed to reach members twelve times a year. A vital link among a geographically diffused readership, the journal receives positive feedback from places as distant as Sydney, Wellington, Katmandu and Santiago de Chile. Though the number of subscribers equals that of members and circulation figures provide no indicator of readers' reaction, it is an ascertainable fact that most subscribers read their individual copy from cover to cover.

The AJR-sponsored 'Thank you Britain' Lectures have reached the public at large, and co-sponsorship of events like the Jewish

Book Week has provided opportunities for direct participation in the cultural activities of the Anglo-Jewish community.

The Paul Balint AJR Day Centre has attracted record numbers, not least since it moved to its permanent home at No. 15 Cleve Road in 1987. By the end of that year, too, the administrative offices had been transferred to Hannah Karminski House in Adamson Road.

Jewish Jubilee

Since ancient times, the concept of the Jewish Jubilee has served as a symbol of success, the recognition of achievement over seven times seven years of solid work and single-minded labour for the common good. In 1991, the Association can justly claim that it has realised the hopes and aspirations of that small band of dedicated men and women who were its founder members. And if today 'all those Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria for whom Judaism is a determining factor in their outlook of life' can 'share the life and fate of British Jewry in all respects', it is in no small measure due to the fact that a handful of people met at 26 Belsize Square NW3, one Sunday morning in the summer of 1941.

□ David Maier

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To all our friends, Erick and Gitta Hacker

May you go from strength to strength, Arie and
Henny Handler

Happy half century, Marianne and Werner Moos

Congratulations from Maurice and Anne Newman
and baby David Elvis

To all my friends in AJR, Herbert Revesz

Congratulations from your Tape Recorder and all
the helpers

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Moral restitution

Lithuania, whose capital Vilnius once ranked as a second Jerusalem in the Jewish world, incurred obloquy through collaboration with the Nazis in the Holocaust. Today as the country is attempting to slide out from under the Russian grip it is beginning to evince appreciation of the Jewish tragedy. The Conservatoire Theatre, recently arrived in Britain, is to stage a play with a Soviet-Jewish hero, the writer Daniel Kharns, whom the KGB murdered during the war. □

Global flying doctor

France has of late earned considerable acclaim through its campaigns for the international right to intervene in emergencies – the flight of Vietnamese Boat People, Iraqi Kurds, etc. – even against the will of the governments involved. The person to whom, next to President Mitterrand, the main credit for this is due is humanitarian aid minister Bernard Kouchner. The son of Jewish immigrants, Kouchner originally qualified as a gastro-enterologist, and after working in Biafra during the Nigerian Civil War, set up the international medical relief organisation *Médecins sans Frontières*. Transformed into *Médecins du Monde*, the organisation now has 3,500 serving members and an annual budget of £15 million to support 40 missions worldwide. Its recent areas of operation include, besides Vietnam and Kurdistan, Chad, Ethiopia, Jordan, Cambodia, Afghanistan and Latin America. □

Profile

Man for all seasons



Max Kochmann.

Photo: Newman.

As someone who has travelled to the City, to Bloomsbury and to Cambridge in pursuit of interviews I found an assignment in Basildon something of a come-down. The flat expanses of Essex traversed en route did little to raise my spirits. On entering the industrial estate where the Pafra factory is situated my mood changed, however. The reason: Basildon has a 'post-industrial' estate quite unencumbered by such relics of Blake's dark satanic mills as chimney stacks.

Once inside the Pafra building I found myself in a suite of open-plan offices; the plant which produces an astonishing two tonnes of adhesives every two hours was out of sight, if not entirely out of earshot. Mr Kochmann, the founder of Pafra, sits in an office quite bereft of a company chairman's status symbols.

If the greatest benefit a man can bestow upon the world is to make two ears of corn grow where only one grew before, Mr Kochmann can be accounted such a benefactor; nothing was produced on this site before he came to it in 1960. As an innovative employer Max Kochmann follows in the footsteps of his father Hans-Heinrich who transformed a small family printshop in Berlin into a sizable enterprise using litho-offset for colour printing. The father also served as warden of the Fasanenstrasse Synagogue and was active in B'nai B'rith – thus setting another pattern which the son was to follow. (No less important an influence on Max was his great-uncle

Justizrat Arthur Kochmann, head of the Gleiwitz Jewish community, and Liberal deputy in the Prussian Diet.)

The Kochmanns came to England shortly before the outbreak of war, with 18-year old Max having taken his *Abitur* in Berlin after Crystal Night. Offered an apprenticeship in a tailoring factory he opted instead for engineering. In this sphere he advanced so rapidly – the war having placed a premium on engineering skills – that at 21 he was Progress Manager of a factory whose 300-strong workforce made cutting tools for arms production. Two years later he married Hilde Kohn, a Gleiwitz-born pre-war acquaintance, with whom he has two children.

After the war Max Kochmann transferred his engineering and management skills to chemical firms engaged in the manufacture of pigments before starting up his own company in 1960. Pafra, currently employing 50 people, has three divisions: the first produces adhesives, the second equipment, and the third (and newest) is a Research and Development laboratory located on the Cambridge Science Park.

His strong interest in research and development has led Max Kochmann to involve himself in the work of the British Adhesives and Sealants Association and of the British Standards Institute. He has also immersed himself to an extraordinary degree in the civic life of Basildon, having only just retired, after 14 years' service, from the local Magistrates' Panel.

He seems to be a man who, *pace* Kipling, can 'force the unforgiving minute to give him 60 seconds' worth of distance run' – for in addition to all this Max Kochmann is crucially involved in the work of three institutions engendered by the refugee community. He is Hon. Treasurer of Belsize Square Synagogue. A *quondam* President of the Leo Baeck Lodge of B'nai B'rith, he serves on its Housing Association Committee. Last, but not least, he is Vice-chairman and Hon. Treasurer of the AJR – in which twin capacity he plays a key role.

Max Kochmann has just turned 70. Compared to his nonegenarian mother he is, therefore, a mere youngster. Seeing that Friedel Kochmann 'retired' from communal activity in her ninety-third year, we confidently expect Max to contribute to the AJR's work for a long time yet!

□ RG

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Thanking Britain

Three friends motivated me to join the AJR; Wilfrid Israel, Adler-Rudel and Werner Behr. We had escaped from the genocidal Nazi tyranny and had found refuge in a free country where we tried to build up a new life. However, only a few years later the war broke out and we had become Jewish refugees, technically of German citizenship, i.e. enemy aliens. Surrounded by a nation in arms fighting for the survival of their way of life, we had to find the inner strength to stand up for ourselves. Stressing an individual approach to religious practices or national identity had to be submerged in a common solidarity.

Saying thank you

After the war the members of the AJR resumed their daily lives of up and downs like everybody else in Britain. It was during this period that Victor Ross, who had studied economics at the L.S.E. under Lord Robbins, and Werner Behr got together and considered how to express the gratitude of the former refugees towards the host-country who had enabled so many of them to integrate into its economic and cultural life.

Whatever form the action would take, it had obviously to be supported by the biggest number of the rank and file members. They were asked to contribute a token amount to show their appreciation of the succour they had found in their hour of dire need. The top echelon, who had been able to draw upon their reputation or their experience, responded willingly according to their achievement.

Sir Isaiah Berlin

I found myself actively involved in the 'Thank you Britain' campaign when Werner Behr asked me to join him to meet Sir Isaiah Berlin who had offered to advise us how best to proceed. So we went to his club, the Athenaeum in Pall Mall. There, in the august abode of bishops, economists, prominent politicians and literati he dispensed the customary glass of sherry. By questions and answers he helped us to develop a concrete plan. Any kind of sculpture, memorial tablet, hospital or library was too narrow a conception. A wider vista without local limitations had to be found.

Following this meeting a committee was set up to formulate a detailed programme. It suggested a two-tiered approach:

- (a) Grants to be made available to post-graduates who would submit a thesis of common interest and/or benefit to the community. Grants would also be given under the same terms for the writing of books. The selected applicants had to hand in yearly progress reports.
- (b) In addition, a yearly lecture was to be given, the topic ranging from archaeology through history, economics, literature and politics. The lecturer had to be an expert in his field.

In order to safeguard the high level and impartiality of the scheme the British Academy should be asked to act as Trustees. The secretary of the Institution was Sir Mortimer Wheeler, the classical scholar and broadcaster.

Sir Isaiah approved of the result. His résumé was in the form of one of his aphorisms: 'Glad you kept it neutral. I for one would certainly not be pleased if some one would call me a Thank you Britain Fellow.'

□ Hans Feld

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Gems from the archives

In the 50 years since the formation of the AJR its achievements, news and views have been disseminated amongst the membership via the medium of print. *AJR Information* grew out of the need for a regular news bulletin for members. It did not, however, spring fully formed into being. In the first five years of the AJR's existence news was spread by a small, intermittently printed, two page newsletter. The first of these, printed in the summer of 1941, contained the following information about the aims and activities of the newly formed organisation:

The aims

This Association aims at representing all those Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria for whom Judaism is a determining factor in their outlook on life.

We want to make clear to the authorities and the public that a Jewish refugee is unconditionally opposed to Nazi Germany.

We wish to sponsor in particular the cause of the Jewish refugees whose situation at the end of the war may differ from that of non-Jewish refugees.

We shall work for promotion of the idea that no real peace settlement is possible without repairing the wrongs done to the Jews. The new international order after the war should ensure them effective guarantees for religious, civil, political and economic equality and should secure the continuation and development of a Jewish home in Palestine.

It is our aim to enable Jewish refugees to take part in the activities of the Anglo-Jewish Community so that they may share the life and fate of British Jewry in all respects.

This newsletter format was quite suitable for getting across the original aims of the Association. But, before long, world events prompted the writers of the newsletter to go beyond merely giving diary dates and local information. This is amply illustrated by the following extract from the January 1942 edition:

Our Way

In these fateful days, when every nerve is strained anywhere, and the last ounces of energy are gathered for the decisive battles of 1942, so that the

powers of Freedom may eventually prevail over the powers of Evil, the Association cannot confine itself to publishing information only.

The war that is now being so gallantly fought by the peoples of Great Britain and the Allied Nations has been also our war ever since April, 1933, and its victims already number well over hundreds of thousands, though the general press prefers to hide this part of the war behind a veil of silence. We have to strengthen the hands of England, wherever we can, to avail ourselves of all the opportunities provided under existing regulations and to support the war effort wherever we can do so. We are convinced, however, that there are still vast resources of knowledge, skill, and experience among our fellow refugees which could be made use of, if certain restrictions were removed by those in power, and which we feel sure might be a valuable contribution towards ultimate victory.

Although remaining the information organ of the AJR the newsletter was not insular by nature. News of the war was reported from the point of view of the refugee community, then analysed and commented upon. The following piece is from the July 1943 edition:

News that affects us

Now that the North African Campaign has drawn to a victorious end, for the first time in this war large territories have been freed from enemy occupation, and anybody who has read reports or seen newsreels of the joyous scenes in Tunis, cannot help feeling very strongly with the large Jewish population of the freed North African countries, who, after a terrible time of Nazi occupation, were foremost among those who thanked the liberators in the most enthusiastic way, and who are now in a position to lend their help for the following stages of the war.

Home news, too, was looked at, and sometimes, as here, it was good:

New Aliens regulations

By order of February 22nd, 1944 the curfew and vehicle restrictions for Aliens have on principle been lifted. This Order will be particularly welcomed by the refugees from Germany and Austria, who resented existing restrictions not because of the inconvenience they caused, but because they often led to unjustified discrimination.

Futhermore the restrictions frequently prevented refugees from taking part in the war effort to the utmost of their abilities. It is under this aspect that our Association regards the new order as an important achievement.

(Newsletter of April 1944)

It was in June 1945 that the following front page editorial appeared. The news was good and the mood optimistic. Whether subsequent events have justified this optimism is still a matter for discussion.

The long, long night is over

By Capt. Hubert Beaumont, M.P.

The days of Nazi and Fascist terrorism have come to a close. For many long years millions of people in Europe have been persecuted and tortured either because of their religious beliefs or their political opinions. At one time it seemed as if might would overthrow right and that freedom and liberty would be crushed and destroyed. At long last, however, the forces of reaction are being overcome and the free men of the world are throwing off the shackles of tyranny and oppression. Hope has again entered into the hearts of men.

When the work of reconstruction commences there must be a unity of purpose and equal determination to place the country first. Therefore all those who have accepted the refuge of this country should give careful thought as to in what manner they can play their part in the post-war years, and thereby justify a continuance of their stay in this land. In this matter the Association can render invaluable service by counsel and advice to its members.

Now it should be possible for all men irrespective of race, colour or creed to unite together in the common purpose of building a new world freed from the thralldom of war and united in a common brotherhood.

To all I say, 'Be of good cheer, the long, long night is over and the dawn is breaking.'

In January of 1946 the first issue of *AJR Information* in, more-or-less, its present format appeared. The first article in that first edition stated that this journal was a 'New Venture':

The first issue of 'AJR Information' is out. One of the primary functions of this monthly publication will be to keep its readers informed about the position

of Jewries on the Continent and about the work for their relief and rehabilitation. It will bring into contact the members of the AJR with the immigrants overseas, especially with our kindred organisations, and ventilate all possibilities of immigration for the remnants on the Continent.

AJR Information kept its promise to address legal and economic questions and played a leading role in the social life of the community:

AJR club

A preliminary gathering of those who had responded to the notices in the recent issues of 'AJR Information' revealed a great enthusiasm at the idea of a Club 'for the over 40s.' Whilst hope was expressed that a more descriptive name for the Club might be found soon, it was the main concern of those who were present to start work without delay. It was decided that the Club should meet at fortnightly intervals on Sunday evenings.

(AJR Information, March 1951)

The AJR Club, forty years later is still active and continues to advertise meetings in AJR Information.

However, few of the issues addressed over the years have had such a pleasant aspect. Just over a decade after VE Day the following piece appeared under the heading 'Winds of War':

The war of nerves against Israel keeps changing its form: Yesterday it brought armed incursions into the State's territory; today it submits the Government to diplomatic pressure; tomorrow the wind may turn again – and an ill wind it is.

Jews everywhere are deeply concerned about a situation such as has not arisen since the precarious days of Israel's establishment. Of course, arms have first priority. But arms without manpower are a dead investment. And manpower without high morale can turn even modern weapons into a shambles.

(AJR Information, January 1956)

Fifteen years after its establishment the quality of the material contained in AJR Information, combined with its intellectual stance, had carved it a niche in the literary community, as illustrated by this item from 1961:

More than 900 periodicals are listed in the fifth edition of the most interesting catalogue, 'The Jewish Press of the World' (7/6), edited by Josef Fraenkel

and published by the Cultural Department of the World Jewish Congress. The list reveals that among the monthlies AJR Information has one of the highest circulation figures.

(AJR Information, October 1961)

Over the years the journal has continued to fulfil its original promise to report the activities of the AJR:

Eleanor Rathbone House opened

On December 7, the Flatlet Home for elderly refugees, Eleanor Rathbone House, was formally opened.

In his welcoming address, Sir Henry d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, M.P., Chairman of the Jewish Trust Corporation, recalled the impact made by Eleanor Rathbone on British life and especially referred to her courageous stand in Parliament when the refugees were interned after the fall of France in 1940. He expressed his appreciation to the CBF and the AJR through whose joint efforts the idea of a flatlet home had now materialised.

(AJR Information, January 1970)

Through all these years, however AJR Information never lost its sense of irony:

Lord Haw-Haw's grand-daughter

At the recent reburial of William Joyce, war-time 'Lord Haw-Haw' who was executed after the war as a traitor, his daughter said that she had shared her father's ideas as a young girl, but had since realised how vicious they were, particularly his antisemitism. Joyce's brothers did not attend the reburial in Galway. Nor did his grand-daughter who spends most of her time on a kibbutz in Israel!

(AJR Information, October 1976)

AJR Information has established a reputation with the refugee community worldwide:

Compliment from Aufbau

A handsome compliment to the AJR was paid in the New York Aufbau by a former editor, Hans Steinitz. On his return from a visit to England, he wrote: 'Aufbau has few readers in England because the refugees there have their own Aufbau – AJR INFORMATION which, notwithstanding its unassuming lay-out, always carried and still does a content that is most admirably produced.'

(AJR Information, December 1986)

Under its present editorship AJR Information remains committed to the ideal of high quality reportage and comment.

However, recently a certain amount of tongue-in-cheek humour has crept into its pages, as illustrated in the report of the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre's 'French Week':

On the threshold I was greeted with the cry of Je-t'adore or was it 'shut the door'? – by the gentleman at the reception (hereafter known as concierge). The walls were festooned with mini-tricolours and maps of France, not to mention garlands of onions and muskels. Up the stairwell drifted the nostalgic strains of La Vie en Rose. The air was replete with bon mots like votre santé (gesundheit), bonne chance (mazeltov) and Voilà, cet Anglais avec son sangfroid habituel (There's that Englishman with his usual bloody cold). Ce va sans dire: la semaine Française was un véritable smash-hit.

(AJR Information, August 1990)

With the inevitable rise in the average age of AJR members a much heavier emphasis has been put on the social work and welfare rights departments. The following is a typical bulletin to readers from the Social Services Department:

Pension advice

If you are on Income Support and are also receiving a German or Austrian pension Agnes Alexander and her team of social workers would be interested in hearing from you with a view to checking your Income Support to ensure that you are receiving the maximum due to you.

When DSS calculate a person's Income Support most types of income are taken into account in full but some are disregarded or ignored in part.

Our Social Services Department has found that the DSS have not applied this rule in a number of cases. When this was pointed out to the DSS substantial arrears were paid out to our members.

(AJR Information, June 1991)

The Central European culture and influences that characterised the refugee community in the early years have become, gradually, diffused by the process of assimilation. These changes have been reflected by AJR Information. Although events in Europe are still monitored there is very little use of the German language, which was often in evidence in the early years. The presentation of the journal has also changed in keeping with the times. It is our hope that AJR Information will continue to evolve in step with the thoughts and experiences of the people it serves. □ M.N.

Old men forget?

If Alois Brunner, currently enjoying President Assad's hospitality, had graduated in English instead of butchery, he could have perused reports of the Lords' Second Reading of the War Crimes Bill with interest. He could have picked up, in several contributions, remote echoes of his own views. All 'this' happened long ago and far away, and affected an alien race given to loud wailing and vindictiveness.

He could then have gone on to read Louis Blom-Cooper's rumination on the war crimes debate in *The Guardian*, where the (incidentally Jewish) legal pundit wrote 'Is it either wise or sensible to employ the legislative process in order to wheel into place the panoply of the criminal justice system against the unhappy, if long-ago wicked, few, to assuage the understandably profound emotions of survivors of the Holocaust?' Unhappy? It is rather a moot point if Damascus-resident ex-Eichmann

aide Brunner, or Edinburgh-resident ex-Lithuanian police officer Gicas are unhappy.

We know that one of the American pilots who dropped the A-bomb on Japan subsequently entered a monastery in expiation of his deed (which, however destructive of human life, cannot be equated with genocide). We do not know of any instance of the war crimes suspects investigated by Sir Thomas Hetherington's team showing similar penitence. Another moot point that arises is the fallibility of human memory, of which so much was made by legalistic opponents of the War Crimes legislation. Would that human memory were thus fallible! How much unassuaged grief, how many nightmares, survivors and bereaved relatives might be spared!

Being there

Last month Jerzy Kosinski was found dead in his bathtub, a plastic bag over his head. Kosinsky enjoyed fame as president of American PEN, Hollywood scriptwriter

(*Being There*), and novelist (*The Painted Bird*). He was also a hidden child during the Holocaust whom the trauma of being catapulted from his family home into a primitive peasant household scarred for life. Several years before Kosinski's suicide the peerless Primo Levi threw himself down the well of his Turin apartment house. Levi's act of self-extinction had, in turn, been preceded by those of Jean Amery and Paul Celan.

Celan, Amery, Levi, Kosinski – the list keeps growing. World literature is diminished. So is the Jewish people. If the memory of Holocaust victims were as fallible as Lords Hailsham and Shawcross suggest, would these erstwhile survivors have finished the job their erstwhile torturers had left half-completed? Would they not have put the past behind them and immersed themselves in the sublimation their creative work provided? As so often, Shakespeare has the answer: 'They say old men forget – but this will not be forgot . . .'

□ R.G.

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Afternoon entertainment –

JULY

- Monday 1* The pleasures of flower arranging – Talk and demonstration by Doris Goodall
- Tuesday 2* Music for a While – Wendy Duke (Piano) and Anita Vedres (Violin)
- Wednesday 3* The Dulwich Piano Trio – Bridgete Hurst, Myrtle Bruce-Mitford and Michael Freyhan
- Thursday 4* Me – My Music and You – Linda Roth (Mezzo) accompanied by Daphne Lewis (Piano)
- Monday 8* The Melody Lingers On – Jack Harris accompanied by Happy Branstion
- Tuesday 9* Ronnie Goldberg entertains with songs and guitar
- Wednesday 10* The Life and Music of Richard Tauber – presented by Michael Jackson
- Thursday 11* (a) The Romantic Bassoon – Bernadette Divall accompanied by Robert Douglas (Piano)
(b) Outing to Losely Farm
- Monday 15* Songs and melodies for you – Valerie Hewitt (Soprano) with Piano accompaniment
- Tuesday 16* Songs you remember and love – Caroline Chambers (Soprano) accompanied by Lynn Hendry (Piano)
- Wednesday 17* Pot Pourri of Music – Alisa Spivack (Soprano) accompanied by Rosa Butwick
- Thursday 18* Delphine y Domingo – Flamenco Dancers
- Monday 22* Lehar and Strauss – Richard Jones (Baritone) accompanied by Timothy Walker (Piano)
- Tuesday 23* From Jazz to the Classics – Jules Rubin (Piano) and Jack Davidoff (Violin)

The AJR at Work

Warm hand – warm heart



A few of the few. Members of the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre volunteer force.

Photo: Newman.

The Paul Balint AJR Day Centre has received a surprise addition to its funds. One of the members made a large, unsolicited contribution in recognition of the work done by the staff and volunteers.

The centre, which has been operating for five years, now provides, at its Cleve Road location, live entertainment, meals and

refreshments, an 'in house' shop and many organised outings. In addition, however, to the provision of these tangible services it also provides members with the, very real, emotional benefits that human beings reap from a sense of belonging to a group. For those of us who can afford to take friends and families for granted these benefits may not seem obvious. But there are many regular attenders of this facility for whom the extended family atmosphere which prevails there is their only contact with a solid, social reality. For them the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre is, truly, a lifeline.

This very generous donation to the day centre's funds was made, not out of a sense of duty, or as a calculated 'charitable work', but as a genuinely spontaneous response. A tangible gift in return for a very human, emotional one. A gift given with a warm hand from a warm heart.

□ M.N.

- Wednesday 24* CIRRUS – Musical entertainment by Helen Baker (Flute) and Fiona Harrison (Guitar)
- Thursday 25* WIZO Ladies Choir
- Monday 29* Music mainly from the classics followed by a singalong – Isobelle Cowan (Piano) and Ben Slotkin (Violin)
- Tuesday 30* Justin Joseph entertains at the piano
- Wednesday 31* The oldest musical instrument in the world – Barbara O'Neil (Mezzo) accompanied by Robert Wilson (Piano)

AUGUST

- Thursday 1* Making the best of old age – A chat with Irene White
- Monday 5* CLOSED
- Tuesday 6* Come let us sing – Hans Freund
- Wednesday 7* Melody hour – Jack Harris and Yetta Mendelsohn accompanied by Happy Branstion
- Thursday 8* A sentimental and zany afternoon – Patricia Powers (Mezzo)

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Surprised by joy

Reflections of an AJR volunteer

It was Mrs Dick, for 25 years Matron of Leo Baeck House, who formulated the essential truth 'With all our residents', 'it's the one-to-one relationship that counts'.

I had visited my old friend, Miss X; only very occasionally when she first moved in to Leo Baeck House. Later, when I visited more frequently it did not go unnoticed. 'The staff here are always pleasant' another resident remarked, but they must be exactly the same with everybody. But, to have someone visiting just *you* – well, that makes all the difference!

I now visit two AJR members, which does not make an easy subject for social chit-chat. Explaining how one can happily spend two half days a week visiting two people who came to England in 1939, without family, worked hard, etc, can bring even the best dinner-party to a grinding halt. It sounds both depressing and boringly worthy, and can lead to glazing-over of eyes and sometimes even physical backing-off. 'It keeps up my German', I weakly add. This is a lie; the rewards are far greater, and infinitely fascinating.

Visiting AJR members offers us a unique window into their own lives, both past and present, and link with a way of life that has gone forever, but which can still touch us with its values, courtesy and charm. 'Surprised by joy' (to quote C. S. Lewis) is perhaps the nearest English equivalent. Let me share some of these joys with you.

I had known Miss X ever since my student days in a shared house in Swiss Cottage. To me, a fairly naive, ignorant, non-Jewish young lady from suburbia, six months in Goldhurst Terrace offered a tantalising glimpse into another time and another world. During the following years

Miss X and I kept in touch. Eventually she moved into Leo Baeck House and I, with more time to spare, found that I was almost imperceptibly increasing my visits simply because they were becoming more enjoyable.

Miss X is a great lover of classical music, above all the German and Austrian repertoire. However, although she is still mobile and active, a solo expedition to a concert would now be out of the question. So, after several delays and false starts, our first joint outing, to a Daniel Barenboim recital felt, for us both, like a voyage to the South Pole. I only realised its success when I was told that, next time, we should pay for better seats if we wanted to hear everything properly. Now the arrival of the South Bank programme is a happy event, prompting discussion over whether to go for the Wagner evening, the oratorio or the Mozart-plus-Brahms.

Mealtimes at Leo Baeck are also the time for meeting other residents and, as I have been visiting for some time, ongoing topics of conversation have developed with an ever wider circle of people. At times an almost *salon* atmosphere prevails. (If only more volunteer befrienders were available to provide the individual attention so obviously needed at these moments!) 'When you visit', Miss X announced one day 'it's as if my niece had come to see me from Israel'.

By now I could no longer ignore the regular appeals for volunteer befrienders appearing monthly in *AJR Information*. I decided to respond, and formally became an AJR volunteer.

Thus I was introduced to Mrs Y, leading a life of resolutely Spartan independence on the topmost storey of a large house similar to the shared rooming-house where I had first known Miss X. But there the resemblance ended. I was, in every way, starting afresh. After glimpsing the comforts of Leo Baeck House, I needed to learn to accept Mrs Y's hair-raisingly, labour-intensive existence. There had to be better ways of ironing sheets than with a miniature flat-iron, heated manually over the stove (though as Mrs Y was quick to point out, with a flat-iron there is little danger of electrical fires).

I also had to learn that there is more than one way for people to respond to the *Shoa*, and the private memories of loved ones and a way of life gone forever. On these subjects Miss X could only bear to give minimal information, often leaving me aching with frustration for more details. Eventually I realised that my curiosity was selfish, and that her personal mechanism for surviving the unspeakable had to be respected.

Contrarywise, as Mrs Y became used to regular visits, she began to talk about the past a great deal. About how it felt to be in domestic service; about life with her husband, a watch-maker and, above all, about the remote village in Czechoslovakia where her family kept the village store. It is a rich tapestry of recollection. I feel that I now know these places and people almost as well as I know my own past, seen simultaneously through the eyes of the 80-year old pensioner, middle-aged refugee, young woman, and shy, but observant, child.

My visits have also led to small, but significant, improvements. Being hard-of-hearing Mrs Y often didn't answer the telephone – making contact difficult. However, a call to Laura Howe, Volunteers' Coordinator, ensured that, within days, AJR's Social Work department installed an extension, plus waist-high sockets in both rooms. Later Mrs Y mentioned that her refrigerator was not working too well, and did I possibly know. . . . It was repaired very cheaply and efficiently. This was closely followed by the 'borrowed' fan-heater, greatly appreciated in her arctic bedroom.

For all on the AJR's books the usual losses of old age are accentuated by the destruction of family life 50 years ago. Volunteer visiting gives us the opportunity to restore the balance in a small way. *'The world is judged by the majority of its people, and an individual by the majority of his deeds. Happy is he who performs a good deed: that may tip the scale for him and the world.'* (Eleazer ben Simeon.)

All you need is an open mind, an open heart and spare time. Perhaps you, too, could find yourself 'surprised by joy'. □

RESIDENTIAL CARE

We would like to remind our readers that, from time to time, vacancies arise in the residential care Homes administered by the Otto Schiff Housing Association.

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WHO IS WHO IN THE AJR OFFICE

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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
Agnes Alexander
Day Centre Organiser
Sylvia Matus
Volunteers Co-ordinator
Laura Howe
Membership/Reception
Sarah Hannen/ Joanne Botsman

Endurance and Optimism

The Spadework of the Founder Members

Of the nine members of the first AJR Executive, five already served in Jewish organisations. The financial resources of the others, with one exception, were also limited. It was only gradually that 'settled' refugees, already established in the professions or in business, lent their co-operation and support to the struggling young organisation.

All the Executive members had been active in Jewish life before they came to this country. The Chairman, Adolf Schoyer, was the only Orthodox member of the Board of the Jewish Community in Berlin. The head of an old-established metal firm, he carried on in this trade in England, albeit on a smaller scale. He devoted much of his time to the AJR office, which he visited daily. He was endowed with all the qualities required of a chairman, co-ordinating the deliberations in committee most effectively and presiding at public assemblies.

Establishing contacts

The Vice-Chairman, Adolf P. Michaelis, a banking expert by profession, had been associated with the Zionist movement since his youth. He was particularly successful in establishing contacts with Jewish and non-Jewish public personalities due to his negotiating skill and a proficiency in English which far exceeded that of the majority of newcomers.

The Hon. Secretary was Dr Walter Breslauer. Before coming to England in 1935 he had been Director of the Berlin Jewish Community. He acquired an English Law degree (LL.B) and practised as an international lawyer. When war broke out his particular field of advisory work drastically decreased, so he took on a clerical job with the Jewish Board of Guardians (now 'Jewish Care'). His outstanding qualities as a diligent and methodical worker were linked with unsurpassed personal modesty. He rendered signal services to the Executive and the various sub-committees which were set up for the steadily expanding workload of the organisation. Because of his administrative experience, he was very aware of the difficulties with which the understaffed office had to cope. After the war he took a leading part in negotiations with the German authorities on restitution and compensation legislation.

The Hon. Treasurer (there was not much treasure to be looked after in those days) was Dr Kurt Alexander. He had been a successful lawyer in Krefeld, where he was also a member of the City Council. Actively associated with Jewish affairs since his youth and student days he was chairman of his local Jewish community and, on a national level, he played a responsible role as Vice-Chairman of the *Centralverein* and presidium member of the *Reichsvertretung*. Like many who had lived in comfortable circumstances before their emigration, he readily adjusted his life to the modest refugee status. Shortly after his arrival his expert knowledge made him a valuable official of the Wiener Library. Two years after the foundation of the AJR he was appointed its General Secretary. This was to inaugurate a decisive new phase in the history of the organisation.

United Restitution Organisation

By his strong personality, initiative and experience he consolidated the AJR internally and strengthened its external position. When the war ended the contacts established with corresponding organisations in Palestine and the United States resulted in the foundation of the Council of Jews from Germany, with Dr Alexander as its Hon.

Secretary. In 1947, when the German legislation on restitution was still in its initial stages, he established a Restitution Office as a special department of the AJR and was instrumental in the foundation of the world-wide United Restitution Organisation (URO) with the financial help of the Central British Fund, the American Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency. In 1949, he re-emigrated to the U.S.A., where he again worked for URO. He died suddenly, while delivering an address in memory of a fellow member of the K.C. fraternity.

Equal representation

Though the AJR kept aloof from Jewish partisanship, its founders considered it important to secure an equal representation of Liberals, Orthodox and Zionists on the Executive. A leading Orthodox personality in Germany was Abraham Horovitz, a lawyer in Frankfurt. Horovitz belonged to the Orthodox wing which advocated co-operation with other sections of the community, as opposed to the adherents of the *Trennungsortodoxie*. In this country he worked as a continental lawyer. A highly cultured, open-minded man, his contributions to the deliberations of the Executive were extremely valuable.

The third Orthodox member of the Executive was the noted Orientalist, Professor Eugen Mittwoch. Unfortunately, his co-operation came to an early end with his sudden death in 1942.

A most colourful and many-sided member was Shalom Adler-Rudel. Born in Czernowitz, he was a leading social worker in Berlin under the auspices of the *Gemeinde* and later of the *Reichsvertretung*. Originally, he was mainly concerned with the wellbeing of the *Ostjuden*, but when the Nazis came to power his work was increasingly devoted to German-born Jews in need of help. Expelled by the authorities, he came to England where he served as a liaison officer between the world-wide Jewish relief organisations. He was actively involved in rescue efforts for Jews trapped on the Continent and, after the war, alleviating the stress of survivors. A gifted politician he also participated in the negotiations which resulted in the creation of the State of Israel. He eventually settled in Jerusalem and became the first Director of the Israeli section of the Leo Baeck Institute. He died in 1975.

AJR Information

The only other member of the first Executive happily still with us, is Dr Ernst G. Löwenthal. A former official of the *Central-*



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verein, he was in charge of the Guarantee Department of the Jewish Refugee Committee at Bloomsbury House in London. When, after the removal of the wartime paper restrictions, *AJR Information* came into being in 1946, he and Herbert Freeden (now in Israel) became co-editors of the monthly, assisted by the present writer. Löwenthal's flair for publicity was of particular value for the Executive. In 1947 he went to Germany as a member of the London based Jewish Relief Unit and, subsequently, held various responsible positions in the social and administrative spheres. He now works as an indefatigable contributor to Jewish papers all over the world. Being familiar with the history of Jewish communities and the background of important German Jewish personalities his standing as chronicler is unique.

Beth Wilfrid

A special position was held by Wilfrid Israel. The great-grandson of the founder of the N. Israel department store in Berlin and, on his mother's side, of the Victorian Chief Rabbi N. M. Adler, he was born in England and held dual nationality. Notwithstanding his widespread English family and social connections, he identified staunchly with the refugee community, and his membership of the Executive added prestige to the standing of the AJR. His seed-money helped to reduce the many financial difficulties in that initial period. His life was cut short in a most tragic way. Returning from a rescue mission in Portugal in 1943, his plane was shot down by the Germans. His name is perpetuated in the Kibbutz Hazorea, founded by the German-Jewish youth movement *Die Werkleute*, to which he had bequeathed his comprehensive art collection. The museum where these interesting and rare pieces are exhibited bears the name *Beth Wilfrid*. It has become an attraction to all art-minded Israelis.

When the AJR came of age, the event was marked by a special anniversary issue in October 1962. In his article about the Old Age Homes, the late Hans Blumenau, the first Chairman of the House Committee at Otto Schiff House, wrote: 'Work for the Homes will have to be done for at least another 20 years.' Since then almost 30 years have passed, and work on the Homes has not only been continued but expanded. A new, fully integrated, generation has come to the fore, new tasks have been taken on, and the AJR has become part and parcel of Anglo-Jewish life.

□ Werner Rosenstock

The Chairmen

Whilst many organisations limit the terms of office of their chairmen, the AJR has always been in favour of continuity. Thus it has only had five chairmen (including the present one) during the past five decades.

The first Chairman, Adolf Schoyer, returned to Germany in 1953 and was succeeded by Dr Hans Reichmann, who, after the re-emigration of Dr Alexander, had been appointed Hon. Secretary of the Council of Jews from Germany and General Secretary of URO. At that time, URO was accommodated in the AJR offices at Fairfax Mansions. This proximity enabled Dr Reichman to follow up the day-to-day work of the AJR at close quarters and give advice and guidance. His personality was shaped by the awareness of our heritage as German Jews. It was mainly due to his initiative that the Council published the book *Bewährung im Untergang* (edited by E. G. Löwenthal) carrying short biographies of those Jewish communal leaders who had stayed with their people and perished. He also vigorously fought for a share of the communal, heirless and unclaimed property, recovered by the so-called successor organisations (Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation and Jewish Trust Corporation).

An indelible mark

Dr Reichmann died soon after relinquishing the chairmanship in 1963 and was succeeded by his Vice-Chairman, Alfred Dresel. After obtaining his law qualifications, Dresel worked with the old-established banking house Mendelssohn & Co in Berlin. He left an indelible mark on the history of the AJR by his contribution to the establishment, and subsequent running, of the Old Age Homes. From the very beginning, he was a member, and later Chairman, of their Management Committee. He thus had a decisive share in the work for the elderly in our midst, from the acquisition of building sites to deliberations with architects, from the admission of applicants and the selection of senior staff members to the assessment of the financial position. His relationship with the staff of the AJR was particularly cordial. After the war, he participated in the work for just restitution and compensation legislation and, as a practising lawyer, helped many Nazi victims by successfully representing their claims. He retired from the chair in 1974 and was appointed Hon. Life President. He died in 1987.

The fourth Chairman, and predecessor of the present holder of the office, was Werner M. Behr. At an early age he had become *Prokurist* of the house of N. Israel, a position which resulted in a bond of friendship with Wilfrid Israel. One of his outstanding achievements was his share in setting up the 'Thank you Britain' Fund, whose Appeals Committee worked under his chairmanship. Altogether, £100,000 was raised and given to the British Academy for the award of research fellowships to postgraduates. At the memorable handing-over ceremony in 1964, the main speaker was the Nobel Prize winner Professor Hans Krebs. Mr. Behr, who was awarded the OBE for his work in the establishment of the 'Thank you Britain' Fund, retired from the chairmanship in 1977 and died soon afterwards.

Needless to say, the work of these men would have come to nought had they not been able to rely on the co-operation of their colleagues on the Executive, and, more importantly, on the great number of enthusiastic men and women who have helped keep the AJR going in the course of the past 50 years. □ W.R.

Postscript

AJR chairmen have always been ably supported by their Vice-Chairmen, who, as already indicated, frequently succeeded them. Additionally, the Association has had the benefit of a number of dedicated members who occupied the office of Hon. Treasurer.

For many years it was Max M. Pottlitzer who had responsibility for the Association's financial health until his early death in 1962. He was succeeded by Dr. Frank E. Falk, a professional accountant, also well known for his extensive help and advice given to many members in connection with their restitution and compensation claims. In addition Frank Falk achieved, through his tenacious presentation of our case before the competent authorities, tax exemption for recipients of German pensions. He held the office of Hon. Treasurer until 1977, when he became Vice-Chairman; on his retirement in 1987 he was appointed Hon. Vice-President. He is still active in his professional capacity.

Ten year tenure

His successor was Ludwig Spiro, an engineer with much industrial management experience. Throughout his ten year tenure of the office he took an active part in all aspects of AJR work and for much of the time was also Chairman of the management

continued on page 20

committee responsible for the administration of the old age homes for refugees. He played a leading role in the establishment of the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, which continues to operate very successfully. On his retirement from office in 1987 Mr. Spiro was appointed Hon. President of AJR, a position he still enjoys, while continuing to contribute actively to AJR work.

Significant role

On the administrative side the officers and Executive were for many years able to rely on Dr. Werner Rosenstock in his capacity of General Secretary. His tenure of this office is legendary – he personified the AJR. The pages of past issues of this journal, which he was instrumental in starting and edited single handed until 1982, testify to his significant role in the conduct of the Association's work.

From 1963 to 1976 AJR had a Deputy General Secretary in the person of Dr. Ernst Lomnitz. Apart from the duties implied in his title he took a particular interest in the welfare of the residents in the old age homes. One of the results of his ministrations to their needs was that many of them expressed their gratitude by way of legacies to the AJR Charitable Trust, enabling the Association to expand its activities to the benefit of its members.

In 1976 Self Aid of Refugees amalgamated with AJR. Dr. Rosenstock became Director of the joint organisation, while Mrs. Shirley R. Taussig, previously secretary of Self Aid, succeeded him as General Secretary, retaining that position for 6 years.

Dr. Rosenstock's long tenure of office came to an end with his retirement in 1982, when he was made an honorary member. He still actively pursues his various interests, and occasionally writes for *AJR Information*.

Since 1977 C. Theo Marx has been chairman of AJR, while Max M. Kochmann has combined the offices of Vice-Chairman and Hon. Treasurer from 1987. Mrs. Katia Gould is Hon. Secretary, and Mrs. Lydia Lassman joined the organisation as its Administrator in 1983. An appreciation of their contribution to our work must needs await a future opportunity.

□ C.T.M.

NOTICE

A full report on the 1991 Annual General Meeting will appear in the August issue of *AJR Information*.

Founder Members

The AJR pays tribute to the following Founder Members

Miss E. Adler
Mrs A. Austin
Mrs R. Brent
Miss K. Conrad
Mr F. Dunston
Mrs O. E. Fabian
Dr H. Feld
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Mr J. Sachs
Mrs E. H. Salinger
Mrs E. Selig
Mr P. E. Shields
Mr. M. Vanson
Dr A. Weiner

If you are a founder member and have not yet contacted us please do so

SB's Column

Erich Kästner rediscovered. A thriller shown on German TV, called *Die verschwundene Miniatur* is a film version of a Kästner book of the same name. Younger audiences learned that the writer who had given pleasure to thousands of readers with his social satire *Fabian*, and to millions with *Emil und die Detektive* (as well as writing a great deal of poetry) became a non-person in Nazi Germany. Postwar he was embittered by his failure to gain the recognition he so richly deserved.

From German stages. Musicals and operettas dominate theatre programmes, East and West. There is steady interest for *Anatevka* (Fiddler on the Roof), recently revived at Duisburg, Rostock and Erfurt; the theatre in the re-named city of Chemnitz staged *White Horse Inn*, Kuennecke's *Vetter aus Dingsda* could be seen at Osnabrück, and Berlin's 'Theater des Westens' produced the musical *Grand Hotel* starring Leslie Caron, evoking memories of Vicki Baum's classic.

At Hohenems (Vorarlberg), home of the annual Schubert Festival (which this column mentioned last month) the *Landesarchiv* opened a Jewish museum. Hohenems had a small pre-war Jewish community covering the Bodensee area.

Richard Tauber, born 100 years ago, was the subject of many celebrations all over the continent (and also in this country) during the past weeks. Reviewers who regularly praise the prominent tenors of to-day, still find the mellowness of Tauber's voice an unrivalled phenomenon. Much has been written about Tauber, about his beginnings in Austrian Linz, his rise to fame in Berlin in the realms of opera, and his unique collaboration with Franz Lehar, also about his later years as a singer, conductor and composer in Britain until his untimely death at the age of 56.

Obituary. Willy Boskovsky, concert master of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, founder of the Vienna Octet and Quartet that bore his name, has died in Switzerland at the age of 82. He became known worldwide as 'Second Johann Strauss' when conducting the orchestra from the violin, and in that capacity initiated the annual Viennese New Year concerts which he himself conducted for 25 years; none of his famous successors (e.g. Lorin Maazel and Claudio Abbado) achieved the same universal popularity. Nowadays, these concerts are regularly transmitted to practically every country in the world. □

Alice Schwab

Art Notes

This year's major exhibition at Kenwood is entitled *The Artist's Model: Its Role in British Art from Lely to Etty* (until 31 August). Among the works shown is *The Academicians* by Zoffany from the Royal collection together with works by Romney, Rowlandson, Turner and Constable.

Sir Roy Calne is Professor of Surgery at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. He is also a painter and *The Gift of Life* at the Barbican (until 2 August) is his first one-man show.

After many years in the doldrums Berlin is once again bustling with artistic life. *Metropolis*, a provocative and rewarding exhibition at the Martin Gropius Bau (until 21 July), shows the work of 72 living artists from 20 countries chosen by Norman Rosenthal of the Royal Academy and Christos Joachimedes.

The B.P. Portrait Award 1991 at the National Portrait Gallery continues until 1 September. 608 entries were received for the competition. The exhibition includes eight works that have been short-listed by the judges and 46 other works of merit.

Fred S. Worms will be opening an exhibition of two Israeli artists (Yaacov Boussidan and Ayla Friedman) at the Ben Uri on Sunday, 7 July (3–5 pm). The exhibition continues until 28 July. The Manor House Society recently held an exhibition of the work of six South African artists. Included were works by Tamara Katz, who was born in Cape Town, her mother being a refugee from Germany now living in England.

A commemorative exhibition and auction in support of the work of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees will be held on 8 July in Selfridge's Exhibition Hall and will continue through that week. About 120 works will be on display and so far about forty artists have donated works for sale. The auctioneer will be Mr Mark Bench of Phillips, who have waived their usual commission.

The Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts at the University of East Anglia, Norwich has recently been extended under the direction of Sir Norman Foster, the distinguished architect and through the generosity of the Sainsbury family. The centre is directed by Derek Gilman. A Tate Gallery Collection exhibition *The Transformation of Appearance: Andrews, Auerbach, Bacon, Freud and Kossoff* will be on show at the Sainsbury Centre (24 September–8 December).

The Tate Gallery is worth making a day's expedition. A good start can be made at the Coffee Shop Gallery where there is a small documentary display relating to Sir John Rothenstein, director of the Tate from 1938 to 1964. Then on to the Lower Galleries to see more than 150 watercolours, drawings and prints by William Blake (1757–1827), together with a small group of paintings by his followers, John Linnell, Samuel Palmer and George Richmond.

Karl Friedrich Schinkel: A Universal Man is the title of an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum (until 27 October). Schinkel was one of the greatest classical artists of the 19th century. He designed the Altes Museum, the Schauspielhaus and the Neue Wache in Berlin. The exhibition includes furniture, sculpture, silver and over a hundred paintings, designs and architectural drawings.

The 500th anniversary of the birth of Henry VIII is being celebrated at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich with an exhibition *Henry VIII at Greenwich*. The exhibition (until 1 September) comprises 250 Tudor treasures assembled from all over the world, including gold, silver, portraits, jewellery, illuminated manuscripts, armour and weapons. Amongst the exhibits are Holbein paintings and drawings and the armour worn by the king at the Field of the Cloth of Gold. □

Lehar Melodie

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Božena, Rúžena,
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Das Alles lockt die Gäste
nach Prag unterm Hradschin.

Kommst Du in dieses Land
gleich wirst Du ein Gourmand.
Man muss bei diesem Essen
auf Kalorien vergessen.
Knedlík und svíčková
und šunka úzená,
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Homes away from home

The Otto Schiff Housing Association

Life in the Homes

Most people don't make the decision to sell up and go into a home for fun, yet, approached in the right spirit, serenity, companionship, stimulation and fun can all be found. One joins a community of contemporaries with similar backgrounds; some tall, some small, some clever, some less so, some good, some bad, some gregarious, some loners.

Each home is laid out to suit all. One's own room is as comfortable as one makes it. There are shared little kitchens on each floor – like in a university hall of residence – to make one's own tea or coffee, with a fridge to keep one's special goodies in. There are communal lounges and dining rooms to make life easy. One can have a friend for a chat in one's room before going down together for lunch or dinner.

During the day there are plenty of activities, organised by trained staff and volunteers, in which one can join. For the body there is physiotherapy to take care of one's minor aches and pains. For more serious conditions treatment is available in specially designed rooms with the most up to date equipment. There is gentle keep fit or music and movement for all who care to take part.

For the soul there is music, sometimes live, sometimes recorded, arts and crafts, quizzes, current affairs, video and slide shows, board games and cards, all on a regular basis. There is also the Jewish study group, which discusses Jewish history, art and culture as well as the background to festivals, which often consists of sampling delicious foods and tidbits. The highlight of the month is the birthday party which is shared by all.

The minibus is usually available for a weekly shopping trip as well as more ambitious outings, including concerts and art exhibitions. For all those whose legs are in reasonable condition Kenwood is within walking distance. Every home has a beautiful, well kept garden for the not so mobile. Needless to say all can come and go as they please. The staff are devoted to the care and comfort of the residents and do their utmost to make life as agreeable as possible. In case of illness well qualified nursing care is available in every home and in the new nursing wing attached to Heinrich Stahl House.



Leo Baeck House, seen from the 1st floor summer garden of the new Balint House.

Photo: Newman.

How it began

In 1949, under the Chairmanship of the Central British Fund for Jewish Relief and Rehabilitation, the Jewish Trust Corporation for Germany was established. This began the history of the Homes through the recovery of heirless Jewish property in the British Zone of Germany and the British sector of Berlin.

By the end of 1960, when much of the work of the Trust Corporation had been completed, some twenty million D-Mark had been made available primarily for the creation of old-age homes for victims of Nazi persecution. This led to the establishment of five homes in London and one in Manchester, the latter under the care of the Morris Feinmann Trust. Responsibility for the London homes became the task of the Allocations Committee of the CBF.

Otto Schiff House in Hampstead was opened in 1955, followed in 1958 by Leo Baeck House in the Bishops Avenue. A home in Kew, named after Otto Hirsch, was commissioned in 1958 but its location did not prove popular and it was closed in 1974. As demand for residential care continued to increase another large property in the Bishops Avenue was acquired and suitably converted. This House, named after Heinrich Stahl, was opened in 1962. At the same time the building of Osmond House, in the grounds adjacent to Leo Baeck House, was completed. It was fortunate that in these years large suitable properties in the Bishops Avenue had become available at very advantageous terms.

Much thought had been given to the problems of the many elderly refugees still

able to live on their own often under most unsatisfactory circumstances. To provide them with sheltered accommodation the construction of Eleanor Rathbone House in Highgate was launched. The building was a tower block with 54, mainly single room, flats with kitchen and bathroom. The building was completed and occupied by the end of 1969. One third of the funds for this project were provided by the AJR, the rest by the Allocations Committee.

Working Together

The management of the Homes, including all matters of finance, appointment of senior staff and arrangements for medical supervision, was the responsibility of the Management Committee. Overall control continued to rest with the CBF. From the very beginning invitations had been extended to the AJR to join both the Allocations and Management committees and this led to many years of happy and successful cooperation between the two organisations.

From the start the Management Committee decided to delegate registration of applicants for the Homes and admission procedure to the AJR who, by virtue of their position within the community, were in the best position to undertake this work. By 1975 there were 196 refugees in residential care and a further 52 in sheltered accommodation.

The Management Committee applied stringent controls in the selection of applicants. This included a medical examination as well as a review of the applicant's finances. Preference was given to the most

needy and for many years nobody was admitted whose capital exceeded six thousand pounds.

The Volunteers

When the operation of the Homes began waiting lists swamped available capacity. Most of the applicants were aged between 60 and 70, generally in good health. This enabled each home to operate with a degree of independence, very different from the highly professional structure required to meet today's demands. At that time the day to day operation of each home was under the direction of a matron, supported by a house committee consisting of volunteers who each performed a specific function relieving matron and senior staff of many duties and responsibilities. The devoted help of these volunteers – usually members of the AJR – contributed greatly to the splendid development of the homes. This arrangement worked extremely well as both residents and volunteers were so much younger than is the case today.

Changes In The Management Structure

Late in the 1970's with the considerable increase in the average age of residents and their growing frailty, care in the homes had to be adjusted throughout the organisation and in particular to meet the very special requirements for which Osmond House caters. It therefore became necessary to introduce more professional management and many functions, formerly left to the individual homes, became the responsibility of central management. This relieved house committees and volunteer visitors of some of their earlier tasks and allowed them to concentrate on visiting and befriending residents, helping with shopping and organising social functions and anything else designed to ensure adequate occupation and entertainment for the residents.

Waiting lists for places in the homes and demand for sheltered accommodation continued to lengthen and in 1982 a study of existing facilities and future requirements was commissioned. This resulted in recommendations to convert Otto Schiff House – which due to age and modest capacity had proved increasingly uneconomic – into sheltered flatlets. Residents would be transferred to the Bishops Avenue Homes where sufficient land existed for extensions to both Heinrich Stahl and Osmond House, thereby achieving a more effective concentration of facilities. This study also recommended that the overall capacity available for residential care should not be increased but that every

opportunity be taken to upgrade existing facilities.

1985 A Housing Association is formed

Whilst everybody agreed that major modernisation and refurbishing of the homes – some of them had been in service for over 25 years – was overdue, lack of funds was a major problem. Over the years the number of physically handicapped residents had increased considerably and more suitable facilities for their care became necessary.

The funds of the Allocations Committee were by now no longer adequate to finance requirements. An approach had therefore to be made to the Housing Corporation – a government agency funded by the Department for the Environment – for help. This was ultimately forthcoming but, coupled with requirements of the Inland Revenue, it was necessary to establish the homes as a separate organisation divorced from the normal activities of the CBF.

On the 1 January 1985 a new independent organisation, functioning within the framework of the Housing Corporation, was created. It was named 'CBF Residential Care and Housing Association'. This was later changed to 'Otto Schiff Housing Association'.

Planning for the Future

In 1986, with substantial financial support from the Housing Corporation, a new splendidly equipped wing, named after Charles Jordan, was added to Heinrich Stahl House. This wing now accommodates the organisation's nursing home. In early

1991 Balint House, also largely financed by the Housing Corporation, was opened and takes care of former residents of Otto Schiff House.

Whilst the building and development plans have received considerable support from the Housing Corporation, the corporation requires that on average some 30 percent of the total cost is met by the Otto Schiff Housing Association. This made fundraising necessary. As the AJR also needed to raise funds for their social services it was agreed that the AJR Charitable Trust would launch a joint appeal on behalf of both the AJR and the Otto Schiff Housing Association, as separate appeals requiring the support of the same community would not be desirable. To date this joint appeal has reached nearly £530,000, including a contribution from the Balint Trusts of £400,00. Over half the sum raised has already been applied towards meeting the shortfall between the actual cost of the work and the contribution of the Housing Corporation. This includes the completion of Balint House.

Stage Two of the Appeal

Throughout their existence the homes have admitted applicants on the understanding that they can stay for the remainder of their lives, irrespective of ability to pay. This policy, despite its financial implications, remains central to the organisation's objectives. New residents with insufficient means depend on support from the Department of Social Services. This leaves a shortfall of £100 to £200 in the weekly cost of a resident, thereby greatly increasing the Association's annual deficit. This has become a major problem as a growing number of residents have neither German or Austrian pensions nor other income or capital. The funds secured by the Trust Corporation, which for so many years defrayed the annual revenue deficit, are no longer sufficient to meet the requirements of today.

All available forecasts assessing demand for residential care and sheltered housing for members of our community indicate that we must plan for another ten to fifteen years. Under the circumstances, the Second Stage of the Residential Care Appeal will be launched shortly aimed to secure substantial contributions helping to reduce the Otto Schiff Housing Association's annual revenue deficit. The future of the homes and with it the care of hundreds of elderly and infirm from within our own people is at risk. We must not fail them.

□ L. Spiro

REMEMBER

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

FAMILY EVENTS

Diamond Wedding

Heimel Karl and Alice Heimel (née Grosz) are happy to announce the 60th anniversary of their marriage, which was solemnised at the Turner Synagogue, Vienna, on July 26 1931.

Walters Congratulations to James J. Walters, formerly Warschauer, and Ellen, née Cahn, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary on May 5 1991.

Golden Wedding

Sanders Sally and Rudi Sanders (Formerly Zweig) celebrate their Golden Wedding on August 4, 1991.

Deaths

Lichtenstein In loving memory of Paul Lichtenstein who passed away on May 6th. He enriched the world with his music and goodness of heart. To his devoted wife Hanni

and family, we send heartfelt condolences. Pauline Todd and Helen in California.

Simon Lisle Simon (née Aal), died June 9 1991, aged 79. Sadly missed by family and friends.

Stern Dora Stern, former matron at Bunce Court School and Jewish Welfare Board, died nine days before her 90th birthday, in May 1991. Remembered by many friends. She was deeply appreciative of the care she received at Osmond House.

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Letters to the Editor

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Letters to the Editor

SELF HELP

Sir – I would like to thank you for the kind comments made on the occasion of my 80th birthday. I would also like to thank all my colleagues in the office for the charming and touching surprise they had ready for me when I came into work that day.

A most pleasant result of the item being printed was that an old army comrade, whom I had not seen in nearly fifty years and is now resident in Falkirk, Scotland, saw the piece and was able to get in touch.

I am glad that the assistance I have been able to give the AJR has been of some value to the organisation, but I must say, loud and clear, that giving this assistance has been of great value to me. My advice to those who feel lonely or neglected but are still mobile is: go and help others and thereby help yourselves.

Sumpter Close
London NW3

Gary Leon

SIR YEHUDI AT 75

Sir – I was glad to see the article 'Sir Yehudi at 75' in the April issue – but was deeply disappointed already when reading the subtitle.

Too much of the piece consisted of snide

allegations and accusations levelled at a musician for whom the writer has obviously little sympathy and no affection.

Was he, then, the right person to be given space for this birthday celebration?

Sir Yehudi Menuhin has given countless people immeasurable joy, beauty, even solace throughout his long and varied career. Neither the founding of the Bath Festival nor that of the Yehudi Menuhin School are a 'publicity seeker's' attempts at self-aggrandizement: they have been too solid and lasting in their results. I myself have had the pleasure of being at one stage closely associated with the Thames Chamber Orchestra, many of whose members also played with Menuhin: those I spoke to were unanimous in their admiration and affection for him as conductor and friend.

It is customary to give the subjects of birthday tributes their due. Mr Rotter has singularly failed to do this, and I feel ashamed of your usually fair and rational paper for having committed into print what sounds like the effusion of personal spite and envy.

Barnaby Mead
Gillingham

Anna E. C. Harvey (Mrs)

SEPARATED BY A GULF

Sir – I find Mr Bleier's statement that 'the creation of the State of Israel destabilised the area (Middle East)' difficult to understand. In his view it was Israel which caused Saddam Hussein to invade Iran and Kuwait, the Syrians to invade Lebanon, the Sudanese Moslems to go war with the Christian South and murder thousands, etc. Without some evidence his 'submission' is not convincing.

On the other hand, I would claim that British policy at the Evian Conference in November, 1938, which refused to let refugees from Hitler's Germany into Palestine, prevented thousands of Jewish lives being saved. Similarly, without Israel today, the Falashas and the Soviet Jews wishing to emigrate would face a bleak future.

So it is not tiny Israel, legitimately established, which is causing the murder of Kurds and Shias in Iraq, but it is Israel, which presents 'a light unto the nations', in showing how the world's growing refugee problem can be solved, since she settled over 2 million refugees since 1948.

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Henry Toch

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His 540th ingenious plan foiled, a disgruntled husband decides to take out his own subscription.

The snows, and shows, of yesteryear

Two books and a documentary on stage and screen personalities of the interwar years have just appeared in Germany. One of the books is a labour of filial piety about Alfred Grünwald. He wrote the text of *Die Rose von Stambul*, *Countess Maritza* and *Viktoria und ihr Husar*, whose respective composers – Leo Fall, Emerich Kalman and Paul Abraham – earned a measure of immortality in the Silver Age of Operetta. The librettist, on the other hand, remained largely unknown, and was given to complaining 'Everybody knows Mozart, but who has heard of Schikaneder?'

Caught up in the Nazi takeover of Austria, Grünwald had real reasons for complaint. He made a hazardous escape via Switzerland, France, Morocco and Portugal to the United States. Here he was quite unable to gain a foothold either on Broadway or in Hollywood and died, unsung, a decade later. His son Henry did rather better. After a successful journalistic career, climaxed by the editorship of *Time* magazine, he became U.S. ambassador to Austria. In that capacity he was – ultimately – in charge of the consulate in front of which, 40 years earlier, his father had queued day and night in an endeavour to escape death.

From Russia with Love

The other book is a biography of Lotte Lenya, whose life was even more colourful – and notorious – than her stage persona. Born in postwar Britain, she would have been the subject of a bulging 'at risk' file at the local Social Services department. Frequently beaten by her drunken coachdriver father, Lotte became a streetwalker at the age of twelve. What saved her was a visit to an aunt in Switzerland, where she found work in the theatre. Moving to Berlin she met the writer-composer team Brecht and Weill, who gave her lead roles in *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* and *The Threepenny Opera*. She married Kurt Weill and emigrated to the States with him. The marriage was far from happy, but after Weill's death she fought Brecht's widow Helene Weigel untiringly in the courts over their respective shares of the royalties. She wowed Broadway in *Cabaret*, and scored an outstanding screen success as the sadistic KGB operative in *From Russia with Love*. Thereafter Lotte Lenya faded from view, but attracted marginal attention through a sequence of unsuitable marriages to

younger men (one of them a homosexual) before dying ten years ago.

The documentary was about G. W. Papst, whose film version of the *Dreigroschenoper* is an acknowledged classic of world cinema. Papst first came to prominence in the mid-Twenties with the (silent) *Die freudlose Gasse*, the cast of which included a very young Greta Garbo. At the height of his powers around 1930 he made, in addition to *Threepenny Opera*, a film version of Wedekind's *Lulu* with Louise Brooks, and *Kameradschaft*. The latter was about a pit disaster along the Franco-German border, where miners of one nationality come to the aid of their comrades – and earlier wartime enemies.

Having made an anti-nationalist film, Papst emigrated to France after Hitler's accession to power in 1933. Six years later he caused widespread consternation by returning to his native Austria, meanwhile transmogrified into the *Ostmark* of Greater Germany. Here he directed several films, including *Paracelsus*, with covert, but unmistakable undertones of Nazi ideology.

Postwar, Papst regained some credit with a screen version of Kafka's *The Trial*, before dying in the 1960s.

The documentary about this pioneering film director is of intrinsic interest. What gives it an additional resonance are interviews with his former cinematic co-workers. The emigre actor Francis Lederer reminisces on screen in (accented) English, German and Czech. Hilde Krahl, whose career in Goebbels's dream factory benefited from her Aryan ancestry, provides the high- or low-point of the documentary. Recollecting what happened in 1942, the year of mass deportations, she crumpled up in front of the camera, the screen went blank and all that could be heard was her sobbing on the sound track.

□ R.G.

Entfremdung

Mehr als fünfzig Jahre sind es
Seit ich Österreich verliess,
Was sind heute die Gefühle
Zu dem Land das mich verstieß?
Ja was nützen schöne Landschaft,
Gute Speisen, Autobahn,
Wenn so viele deiner Bürger
Umarmten den Verfolgungswahn.
So, anstatt nach Wien zu reisen,
Fahre ich zum Konsulat
Wo ich Gleichgesinnte treffe,
Flüchtlinge vom Attentat.

□ Lora Renyar

Obituary

Fritz Hallgarten

Born in 1902, in Winkel, Germany, Fritz Hallgarten was the son of a vintner and wine merchant.

Aged 12, with his father away on active service in WW1, he had to look after the family business. He read law at the Universities of Heidelberg and Frankfurt where, in the 1920s, anti-Semitism was already rife on the campus. He joined a German-Jewish duelling fraternity and on one famous occasion challenged and fought, one after another, three students who had made anti-Jewish remarks.

After qualifying in law he practised in Wiesbaden, where he met and married Friedel Liebmann, herself a law graduate. Their marriage was close and happy, lasting until her death 56 years later.

An outspoken critic of the Nazis, Hallgarten had to leave Germany in a hurry in 1933. Unable to resume his legal career, he became a wine-shipper, acting as his father's agent. It was Fritz Hallgarten who introduced the British public to the wines of Alsace. (The Germans were furious when, in 1937, he marketed a 'Liebfraumilch d'Alsace'.)

In the early summer of 1941 Hallgarten, along with thousands of other 'friendly' enemy aliens, became His Majesty's guest on the Isle of Man.

The House of Hallgarten, guided by Fritz and his brother Otto, prospered in the post-war years. He became the doyen of the German wine trade and wrote many wine books, a number of which became standard works.

In his retirement Hallgarten returned to the law. Re-admitted as a lawyer in Germany, he specialised in protecting brand owners from the incursions of the EEC laws. At the age of 79 he won a seminal case at the European Court in Strasbourg. □

NOTICE

The book 'Second Chance', reviewed in the June edition, is still available at the special price from:

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