

AJR Information

Volume XLVII No. 7
July 1992

£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss . . .

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Palace and press

Press gossip about the Royal family is the price we pay, however reluctantly, for freedom of expression. If unchecked, it could ultimately have undesirable consequences. One might be parliamentary legislation circumscribing press freedom. Another, potentially even more far-reaching, would be the discrediting of the entire monarchical principle. Monarchy, though somewhat outmoded, promotes stability. Presidents, as de Gaulle and Nixon have shown, do not. Even non-executive presidents can, *pace* Waldheim, be a disaster. It would be the height of paradox if a Conservative Britain swung towards Republicanism. In such an event the *journalle* will have a lot to answer for. □

In the aftermath of Los Angeles

A tale of two ghettos

Jews and Blacks are both similar and different. Their greatest similarity lies in the common and never-to-be-forgotten experience of persecution – an experience distilled in the word ghetto. For European Jews ghettoisation meant social exclusion and residential confinement on the order of popes or princes. Ghettos for American Blacks were not created by government fiat; rather they resulted from White prejudice and their own inability to break out of the inner-city poverty trap.

Black deprivation, it must be borne in mind, transcends the merely material to encompass the lack of a stable family structure. Slavery severed the bonds of family life and in the 130 years since its abolition that grievous damage has not been repaired.

Jews, on the other hand, remained models of family cohesion even after Emancipation released them from the conformity engendered by ghetto life. Generations grew up with fathers as well as potent role models: talmudic sages, later bankers and businessmen, and, finally scientists and artists.

Young Blacks with 'absentee' fathers have a narrow range of role models drawn either from show biz or the world of sport. Neither entertainment nor sport – as demonstrated by Jimmy Hendrix or Mike Tyson – are pursuits likely to inculcate essential middle-class values of self-discipline and deferred gratification.

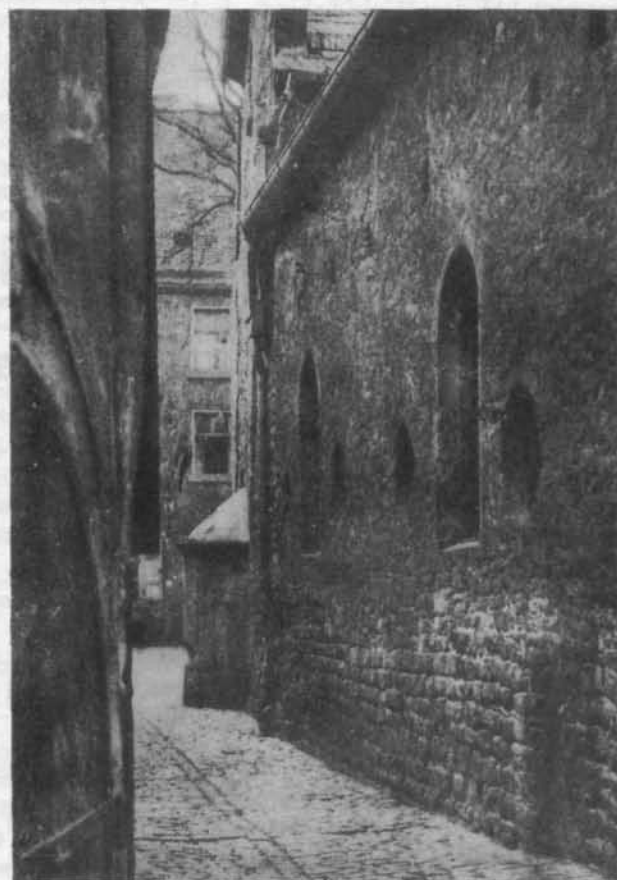
In the last 30 years or so other potential Black role models have emerged in the shape of charismatic politicians. Alas, most of them – from the Nkruhmas and Mugabes of post-colonial Africa to Malcolm X and Farrakhan in the U.S.A. – have turned out to be idols with feet of clay.

Jews had a contrary experience since Israeli statehood. However much we may smart under the current negative image of the Jewish State, we can still take pride in the fact that neither a Likud nor a Labour government in Jerusalem would dream of tampering with the country's basic democratic structure.

In the U.S. Black teachers and others schooled in the negro-centric ideologies of Farrakhan and Dr Jeffries have educated a generation of ghetto youths to compensate for deprivation with pathological hatred – of 'Whitey', of Jews, of Koreans and so forth. In an atmosphere where a sizable minority of Afro-Americans believe that U.S. government laboratories produced the Aids virus to wipe out Blacks, the savagery of the Los Angeles rioters becomes explicable.

The bitterness surrounding the Rodney King case owed much to the fact that no politician occupying the White House since Lyndon Johnson has had the statesman's vision to mobilise the resources of (what is still) the world's richest country to create a less race-divided society.

The Nazis made much of Europe *judenrein*. Since no conceivable scenario can make the United States a country of uniform pink pigmentation, the heirs of Abraham Lincoln will have to devise means of promoting Black-White amity.



A street in the Jewish quarter of mediaeval Worms.

Red Cross accusation

Israeli treatment of detainees in the Occupied Territories has been sharply criticised by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. The Red Cross said that it believed Israeli troops were using physical and psychological pressure to obtain information and confessions in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. □

Judith Kerr honoured

Judith Kerr received a rare honour by having a primary school in Berlin Wilmersdorf named after her. The daughter of the famous critic Alfred Kerr, Judith is herself the author of a well-regarded children's book entitled *When Hitler stole the red rabbit*. In a speech at the naming ceremony she accepted the honour in the name of the children who had perished. □

Not a patch on Moshe

The French national press have been having great fun with some old photographs of Jean-Marie le Pen which seem to indicate that in the early 1950s his eye patch was on the other side. The rumour is that Jean-Marie's press office have refused to comment on suggestions that the patch may be a pure affectation adopted in admiration of that great hero of the French National Front Moshe Dayan. □

'Our' man in Europe



Fred Tuckman and Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Photo: private.

The refugee turned politician in his adopted homeland is a rare specimen, but he does exist. The U.S.A. had Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, and the U.K. the parliamentarians Alf Dubs and Fred Tuckman. Dubs, characteristically, heads the British Refugee Council, and Fred Tuckman was a Euro MP for ten years.

Born at Magdeburg in 1922, Fred came to Britain in 1939 with his mother and sisters. During the war he served as a wireless mechanic in the RAF. Postwar he took a degree at the London School of Economics, entering LSE as a 'pink' Fabian Socialist and leaving as a pale blue Bow Group Conservative. (His Bow Group contemporaries included Sir Geoffrey Howe and Leon Brittan.) After graduating Fred worked for Marks & Spencer, then as Company Secretary and Personnel Manager for BIA Ltd, and eventually joined Hay Management Consultants. The last named sent him to Southern Africa and, from 1970, to Germany.

The German posting had its pitfalls. Interviewing a prospective employee, Fred told him he was a Jew. 'Why' asked the other 'are you telling me this? You wouldn't tell me if you had VD!' So that his children should be brought up in this country, Fred commuted between England and Germany weekly for almost ten years.

On a parallel track he had meanwhile embarked on a political career, initially in local government. He served on Camden Council, where he chaired both the Library and Arts, and Parks and Open Spaces committees. At the first direct European elections in 1979 he stood as Conservative candidate for Leicestershire. His adoption

meeting took place in historic Belvoir Castle, whose chatelain, the Duke of Rutland, proposed him.

Elected, he became the Euro Tories' spokesman on Social and Employment matters. This was a difficult assignment, as Mrs Thatcher did not share the *Soziale Marktwirtschaft* concepts dear to continental centre-right groups like the German CDU. He also played a key role in the Euro-Parliament's Latin American delegation, where he argued for more sensitive treatment of poverty-stricken debtor countries.

Labour's victory in the 1989 Euro elections put an end to Fred's almost permanent transit between London, Brussels and Strasbourg. Approaching 70, the indefatigable veteran of business and politics can now channel more of his energies into the presidency of the Anglo-Jewish Association. (The 500-strong AJA organises lectures, publishes a journal, and runs an Anglo-Israeli scholarship scheme.)

'Politician', these days, has a derogatory connotation miles removed from Aristotle's *zoon politikon* (i.e person involved in civic affairs). Fred Tuckman, OBE, is the sort of person who gives politics a good name. □ R.G.

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A Rhenish memorial



The memorial is unveiled in Sinzig. The Mayor stands to its right, next to him is Mr Richard Meyer.

Photo: private.

Sinzig – a small town in the Rhineland – had Jews living in it intermittently since the 11th century. In the 1930s the community comprised 16 families earning their living from trade in live-stock and agricultural produce. After Kristallnacht a few Jews emigrated; the rest perished.

Postwar Sinzig, a larger and more prosperous town, showed no traces of the former Jewish presence. This was an omission Richmond-resident AJR member Richard Meyer resolved to rectify. Since retirement he conducted a one-man campaign for the erection of a Jewish memorial in his birthplace. After four years – and repeated journeys – his efforts bore fruit in the erection of a memorial stone on the site of the destroyed synagogue. The unveiling of the memorial fittingly took place on Yom Hashoah 1992; the two main speakers at the ceremony were Richard Meyer and the mayor of Sinzig. □

Entombed in silence

Rechnitz is a village on the Austrian/Hungarian border where it seems that time has stood still for the last 45 years. 'Welcome at the border to Asia' was how an old man with a Wehrmacht cap on his head invited us to his market-garden. We had begun research for a documentary on its past, the Nazi crimes done there and the consequences for today.

Little in today's appearance of Rechnitz points to the past. No signs, no roots, silence. A graveyard is the solitary reminder that there was a large Jewish community till the events of 1938. Beside the fire-station a

postwar apartment-house bears a small plaque: 'Here once stood the synagogue'.

'In 1938 I was going to Vienna by train', one of the few survivors of the Rechnitz community told me in Leeds, 'when a young man entered the compartment in SS-uniform. He smiled at me. As children we used to play together, but now he said: "today we go to Vienna and kill Jews".'

In 1944/45 when Rechnitz was integrated into a hurriedly built system of fortifications to keep out the Russian Army, Hungarian Jews were brought there as slave labour, under horrible conditions. During the night of 24 March, ten days before the Red Army conquered the area, local Nazis together with SS killed about 200 sick and exhausted Hungarian Jews newly arrived from Köszege. The dead bodies were quickly buried.

In 1946, the massacre having become public, Soviet officials arranged a trial. The only eye witness, a former SA-man, imprudently announced that he would reveal the truth. A week before the trial opened in Vienna, he was found dead in a wood near Rechnitz, and his house burnt down. Because of political influence this crime, too, was never cleared up.

In recent years the Vienna Jewish Community started searching for the mass grave to give the martyrs a decent Jewish burial. But difficulties arose; maps were forged, interviews with witnesses sabotaged, threats uttered.

Excuses, lies and silence – Rechnitz is a metaphor for Austria's engagement with Nazi crimes. Instead of helping to fulfil a fundamental obligation the past is repressed. Open anti-semitism still thrives.

Even a committee of influential local personalities could not break through the wall of silence in Rechnitz.

The University of Vienna began a search for the graves by taking infra-red aerial photos. Experts started to dig across an area of 20,000 square meters. However, none of our efforts, including intense questioning of the villagers, yielded any results.

Like a second death, the silence of the people of Rechnitz covers the past and refuses the victims a fundamental human right.

This is the theme of our documentary film. If you can contribute anything, if you (or your relatives) had lived in Rechnitz until 1938, or did forced labour there, please contact us. Any scrap of information could be important. (Extrafilm, Große Neugasse 44/24, A-1040 Wien, Tel.: (43)-(1)-5625603.)

□ Eduard Erne

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Reviews

Pearls of humanity

Eric Silver, *THE BOOK OF THE JUST*
Weidenfeld and Nicholson Ltd. £16.99

A Jewish refugee arrived one day in the mountain resort of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon in south-eastern France. He went from door to door seeking shelter from the German invaders and their Vichy French allies, but was afraid to admit that he was a Jew. For four days the villagers turned him away. Eventually he confessed that he was Jewish. Doors opened immediately. "If only we'd known", the householders said. "Of course there's room for you."

This is one of the scores of accounts that Eric Silver relates in his latest work *The Book of the Just*. In essence it is a collection of fairy-tales that came to pass in this century's darkest hour. Pearls of humanity spill over from page to page. It is a wonderful book, but then how could it be otherwise!

Historians have estimated that anything between 50,000 to 500,000 people aided the victims of the Nazi machine. Silver's account is neither chronological nor thematic; rather it is a compilation that, taken as a whole, conveys what life was like under the Nazi jackboot.

A blind eye

Within a cultural framework that legitimised wholesale slaughter, it is, sadly, not surprising that millions of Europeans turned a blind eye to, or even participated in, the destruction of European Jewry. What is surprising, however, is that so many chose to see and to act.

Silver demonstrates that righteousness is not the province of a nation, class, religion or ideology. From Japanese to Germans, countesses to peasants, Catholics to Mus-

lims, Socialists to Fascists some men and women fought for the Jewish right to life.

The author relates how a Muslim, Mustafa Hardaga, offered refuge to a Jewish family in Sarajevo and how Mustafa's father-in-law, Ahmed Sadik, was executed in Jasenovac for helping Jews. In June 1985 his daughter placed flowers on the floor of Ohel Yiskor at Yad Vashem. I wonder what Serbs, Croats, Muslims and Jews should make of that?

Trouser checks

Over and above stories of courage the book revels in the glories of human ingenuity. We hear how Dr Joseph Jaksy of Bratislava whisked a Jew onto the operating table and opened up his stomach in order to prevent the Gestapo from taking him away. How he performed operations that made it look as though Jewish men had only recently been circumcised so as to prevent detection at the notorious 'trouser checks'.

In what Silver describes 'as the most ghoulish of all Holocaust operations' he tells how a British sergeant-major POW, Charles Coward, struck a deal with a German in charge of a gang of workers to deliver three corpses for cigarettes, chocolate, coffee and soap; and how, working in tandem with the resistance, he arranged for three Auschwitz inmates to escape as they were marched to the gas chambers in Birkenau. Coward beckoned the men into a ditch during the march and then scattered the three corpses along the roadside for the Germans to find so that their records would tally. As a footnote to this tale Silver relates that when Coward was invited to Israel to receive his medal his Jewish employers refused him paid leave.

Tunnelling the depths

The work is as much an insight into the banality of evil as the profundity of righteousness. The reader is guided through heaven and hell simultaneously, reinforcing the notion that good cannot exist without evil and that it is only by tunnelling into the depths of despair that one can appreciate how noble humans can be.

My main complaint about the book is the sheer volume of stories that Silver squeezes in. Account after account blends the themes of fear, indignity, courage and altruism so that they merge into a remorseless torrent of shining moral rectitude. By the end of the book the reader is shell shocked, unable to distinguish between one account and another.

Had Silver restricted the volume and concentrated more on delving into the character traits of his heroes, he may have been able to offer a deeper insight into the recurring question thrown up by the subject: What motivated these men and women to risk their lives for people who, in most cases, they did not previously know?

Some of the rescuers were motivated by simple humanity. 'I helped human beings at a time when they were not treated like human beings' says Hugo Armann, a German sergeant-major. Others were prompted by a hatred of the Nazis. 'After we had saved two people, we'd be even with Hitler if we were caught, and with every person saved beyond that we were ahead.'

Alone and rejected

Others still were driven by religious teaching. In a beautiful story we read how the villagers of Andonno in Italy came one by one bearing gifts to two families of Jews after hearing a sermon given by the local priest on Christmas eve. 'Just as our Saviour couldn't find any lodging and was born in a manger, alone and rejected, so are Jews today alone and rejected.'

Citing cases studied Silver sheds some light on the answer. 'A decision to act was

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ALL LEGAL WORK UNDERTAKEN

taken individually and often on the spur of the moment . . . The decision to say "Yes" was already there in the rescuer's character and way of life.'

Perhaps moral courage is a quality that defies sociological definition, but can it be instilled? Eva Fogelman thinks so: 'If we instruct our children to value all life, empathize with people in distress, and tolerate differences among people, we could create a society in which Auschwitz would be unthinkable.' I pray she is right.

□ Peter Grunberger

Creativity amidst destruction

Terezín: THE MUSIC 1941-44. Two CD set. Volume 1, Chamber Music. Volume 2 Opera and Songs.

This two CD set is a tribute to the four most significant composers in Terezín: Pavel Haas, Hans Krása, Victor Ullmann and Gideon Klein.

Gideon Klein (born 1919) was very active in Terezín, as a composer, pianist and organiser. Both works, on this recording, show a precocious talent. In the impressive three movement *Sonata for Piano* could it be that arpeggio pattern, heard at the beginning of the central Adagio movement, is a ghostly reminiscence of the opening bars of the Berg Violin Concerto, which Klein may well have heard in Vienna before the war? The *String Trio* is closer to the folk-inflected world of Janáček and Bartók. The two brief outer movements frame the emotional kernel of the work – a haunting variation on a Moravian folk song.

Viktor Ullmann (born 1898), best known for his opera *The Emperor of Atlantis*, was already an experienced composer and conductor before his incarceration in Terezín. He studied with Schoenberg in Vienna. The *String Quartet No. 3*, is a tightly argued work in four movements that run continuously. The opening music, of almost Straussian opulence, returns many times during the work to bind the structure together. The second movement, an ironic 'dry' waltz with a brief contrasting middle section, gives way to the richer *fugato* developments of the *largo* third movement. Similarly the tensions of the stark octaves of the very short final movement (*Allegro Vivace*) are resolved in the return to the opening in a wonderfully satisfying way.

This work, well performed here by the Martinu Quartet, should be part of every string quartet's 20th century repertoire. Perhaps less striking, but similar in its tight

motivic and cyclic structure is the 'Piano Sonata No. 6'. Of Ullmann's songs for mezzo soprano and piano, on the 2nd CD devoted to vocal music, the most outstanding are the autumnal *Abendphantasie*, a setting of Hölderlin, and the 3 songs on Yiddish texts. Ullmann, like many non-practising Jews under such dire circumstances, become more aware of his Jewish identity and these touching Yiddish songs are an expression of this renewed pride. The second song, *Margerithelech*, is especially attractive, the running scale passage in the piano accompaniment recalling Schubert's E flat impromptu. These songs are beautifully performed by Emilie Berendsen, with David Bloch at the piano.

Real discovery

The real rediscovery is the short 2 Act children's opera *Brundibár* by the hugely talented Hans Krása (born 1899). He studied with Zemlinsky, but from the evidence of this opera and the short *Tanec* (Dance) for string trio, Krása's music is much closer to the world of *Les Six*, characterised by their use of popular music, concise ironic humour, and the clarity of their scoring. The opera tells the simple story of a wicked organ-grinder Brundibár who steals the earnings of two children trying to save their sick mother. Despite its clear anti-Nazi intent, the triumph of good over evil, *Brundibár* was chosen several times by the Nazis as a showpiece for foreign observers. It was performed 55 times, and the opera's catchy melodies were well-known throughout Terezín.

Bright, pulsing music

Pavel Haas (born 1899) arrived in Terezín a sick and broken man, and it is due to the persistent encouragement of his energetic colleague Gideon Klein that Haas was persuaded to participate in the musical life of Terezín. Haas's *Four Songs on Chinese Verse* (translated into Czech by Bohumil Mathesius), composed in the spring of 1944 were, like *Brundibár*, also a great success, and repeated many times. The songs directly reflect his anguished state of mind. The first and third songs are impassioned yearnings for freedom and hope, and have in common a distinctive four note motive which recurs insistently as an *ostinato* in the third song *Far is the Moon of Home*. The bright pulsing music of the second song *In a Bamboo Grove* appears again at the end of the final *A Sleepless Night* to complete the work.

The recording comes with an informative and attractive booklet; the only regret is that we are not given the libretto of

Brundibár, or the texts of the Ullmann and Haas songs. However, the booklet does include some fine sketches of the four composers drawn by Petr Kien, who also, incidentally, wrote the libretto for Ullmann's opera *The Emperor of Atlantis*.

□ Nick Gotch

A Tribute

Edward Isaacs MEMORIAL TO ILYA Walker & Carson Ltd Sheffield, 1991, £6.95

Ilya Frischmann was born in Kuarti in Russian Lithuania in 1902, and qualified as a dentist in Königsberg in 1932. He was distantly related to the author who, as guarantor, enabled him to come to England just before the outbreak of World War Two. After a stay at the Kitchener Camp at Richborough he joined the British Army in which he served throughout the War. Subsequently he had a successful career, specialising in orthodontics.

When he and his wife passed away within a short time of one another (there were no children) he bequeathed his estate to three Jewish charities, each of which benefited to the extent of some £65,000.

Ilya Frischmann also left the story of what had happened to him from the time he qualified in 1932 until his escape to England in 1939, and this is the central feature of the book.

It records the bestiality of the Nazis. Ilya's mother was one of those murdered on the instructions of Gauleiter Koch, a man Ilya felt determined to see brought to justice, as he eventually was. It also records the help he received from two righteous gentiles among his patients. Countess von Lehndorff, who hated the regime, went out of her way to assist him; sadly she came to a distressing end. The Lithuanian Customs officer Kubartis also gave invaluable help, and after the war Ilya went to great lengths to try to trace him, so that he could perhaps repay him in some way.

Edward Isaacs' book contains some remarkable photographs as well as background material on the densely Jewish-populated area where Ilya was born and spent part of his life. There may well be a number of survivors in this country to whom the information will be of interest, as well as to their families.

Altogether this publication warrants wide circulation.

It is available at £6.95 from the Jewish Memorial Council Book Shop, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0EZ. □

Plotting to save lives

Tad Szulc, *THE SECRET ALLIANCE*, Macmillan, 1992, £17.50

From the troubled years which followed the Second World War, up to the present, we have learned this and that about the fate of Jewish communities and individual Jews. Perhaps we know the outlines of the efforts to save people from the Holocaust, or of the rescue of the black Jews of Ethiopia and the Jewish dwellers in Arab lands, but we don't know the half of it. Tad Szulc's book provides that half.

Murky events

Szulc is one of those renowned *New York Times* journalists responsible for throwing light on murky events (he exposed the Bay of Pigs attempt to invade Cuba and overthrow Castro). He has not spared his ability to get to the bottom of matters in this his latest book.

The Secret Alliance is less harrowing than accounts solely predicated on suffering and dying. Here we have determination and even optimism in the midst of disaster, plotting for the sake of salvation, personal and communal dedication. And concealed in it all is a major historical theory, namely that the illegal leaders of the new Exodus who defied both the Nazis and the British Empire to save the remnants, and the American Jewish organisations and individuals who provided the money, were the true founding fathers of the State of Israel.

Hard-won victories

We all know the name of Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service; but many readers will be surprised to learn of its origin as an agency of rescue – not of military espionage in which it was to become so outstandingly successful. After the State was declared, rescue of the remnants was still one of the most important tasks of the men and women now bearing proud political and/or military titles, the fruits of hard-won victories.

Many surprises

This is not a whodunnit; nevertheless, there are many surprises. I shall confine myself to revealing that among the Gentiles who helped to save many lives were the subsequent Pope John XXIII and Prince Sadrudin Aga Khan – the former obliging the King of Bulgaria to save 'his' Jews during the war, the latter bargaining with Saddam Hussein at the height of an anti-Jewish persecution in Iraq.

□ John Rossall

Hostel boys



The above photograph of residents of an ORT Hostel in Leeds appeared in 'The Yorkshire Post' during WWII. Do any of our readers recognise themselves amongst the footballers?

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Letters to the Editor



A BALLOT-PROOF FUTURE?

Sir – When you list a number of present and past MPs who harbour ‘anti-Jewish or (antisemitically tinged) anti-Israeli sentiments’ you do not make clear which you consider to be anti-Jewish, and which anti-Israeli, conveying the impression that you don’t think the distinction really matters. The tendency of some Jews, especially in representative positions, to be careless about this distinction may create the very antisemitism of which they complain. Do you have any evidence that any of these MPs have expressed anti-Jewish sentiments, or indeed, that their anti-Israeli sentiments are ‘antisemitically tinged’? Many Jews, inside and outside Israel, are very critical of aspects of Israeli government policy; and to describe MPs who express criticisms of, or even hostility towards, Israel as ‘(dis)gracing’ benches in the House of Commons is an unworthy gibe.

Kensington Park Road
London W11

Ralph Blumenau

‘I furthermore think that Carthage should be destroyed’ was how Cato invariably concluded his speeches in the Roman Senate. The MPs I listed are latter-day Catos in relation to Israel. To meet their criticism in full the Jewish State would have to dissolve itself. To work towards that end – in both senses of the word – smacks of antisemitism. Ed.

MENACHEM BEGIN

Sir – There are some omissions from Mr Toch’s obituary. The main resistance to the British Occupation, and to Arab aggression, was carried out by the Haganah. In comparison the Irgun was a minuscule organisation. The Irgun terrorised Arab civilians, thus contributing to their mass exodus, and they have never denied this. The Haganah condemned the killing of innocent Arab civilians, and when Count Bernadotte was murdered Ben Gurion declared the Irgun an illegal organisation. Begin’s greatness, to which Lord Jakobovits refers, lay in the peace treaty with Egypt. It is also to his credit that he carried Israeli public opinion

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on the evacuation of the Sinai. The invasion of Lebanon was a catastrophe from which Israel still suffers. We should recognize Begin’s achievements without forgetting his disasters.

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Ilford, Essex

Peter Prager

Sir – According to Lord Jakobovits the late Menachem Begin was ‘the greatest of Israeli Prime Ministers – and certainly the most Jewish’.

Was Begin more ‘intensely Jewish’ than either David Ben-Gurion or Golda Meir?

How does one measure ‘Intensity of Jewishness’?

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Kurt M. Oppen

OUTSTANDING CLAIMS

Sir – My mother and her sister are still seeking the restitution of their family’s property in Leipzig. It has become clear since German unification that the city authorities are determined to drag their feet and exploit every legal loophole they can to duck their obligations. A letter from the city’s finance director last February made it clear that Leipzig intends to put its economic recovery before justice to its former citizens; he wrote that property claims accompanied by a viable investment plan would be given priority.

It has recently been reported that the Queen’s state visit to Germany next October is almost certain to include a trip to Leipzig. We think that before she goes, the Queen should be made aware of how that city is behaving towards some of her subjects.

If any other British subjects with similar claims against Leipzig wish to join us in writing to the Palace and the media, please contact my mother, Mrs L. Engelhard, at 119 South Meadows, Park Lane, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 7SF.

Stephen Engelhard

DIE WESSELY

Sir – Apropos of Mrs Wartenberg’s remarks: I never claim that my reports about various personalities are complete. Thus, Paula Wessely’s film activities during Nazi days (which she regretted, but seemingly carried out under duress) were not mentioned; nor were her letters to Ernst Lothar and Max Reinhardt in the U.S. in

which she thanked them for having taught her the art of acting and wished them well.

Stefan Bukowitz (SB)

URMSTON CEMETERY

Sir – I am British born but my husband, a German refugee from Berlin, took me to visit Weissensee cemetery in 1977, as it was there in 1931 that his mother was buried. I was immensely impressed with the state of the place, particularly as the cemetery in Urmston where my parents are buried is a shambles, and I have not been able to get anything done about cleaning it up. (This is the Jewish cemetery, of course.)

Carrington Road

Mrs Leah Martins

Urmston, Manchester

BOUQUET FROM A SOLO AUDIENCE

Sir – I visited the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre on the first weekday of the extended hours to listen to Dr Hans Freund singing. Alas, I arrived too late and the performance had ended. Dr Freund was unhappy that I had made the long journey from SW1 to NW3 in vain so he and his accompanist played especially for me. A charming young Japanese lady with a radiant smile performed *Rondo Capriccioso* by Saint-Saëns beautifully, by heart.

I enjoyed this very much and just wanted to inform you about it.

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Miss I. Deutch

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JULY

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Martin Byatt
- Sunday 5* Gerald Benson Entertains
at the Piano
- Monday 6* Music for a Summer
Afternoon – Heather
Brown (Flute) & Rachel
Dale (Harp)
- Tuesday 7* Schubert Lieder & Music
by Strauss & Lehar –
Helene Wold
accompanied by Jeremy
Cooke
- Wednesday 8* 'CAMERATA TRIO' –
Maureen Lawton and
Stephen Paisley
accompanied by Stephen
Salter
- Thursday 9* Piano Duo – Judy
Magnus & Gillian Sonin
- Sunday 12* Duo Cello & Piano
Recital – Elizabeth
Rehfeld & Armand
D'Anjour
- Monday 13* Justin Joseph Entertains
at the Piano
- Tuesday 14* From Schubert to Show
Tunes – Clare Graydon-
James accompanied by
Danny Kingshill
- Wednesday 15* Hans Freund: A Step Into
The Past
- Thursday 16* Eddy Simmons Sings &
Entertains with Piano
Accompaniment
- Sunday 19* An hour with Debbie
O'Brien (Piano)
- Monday 20* Operatic Excerpts – Alisa
Spivack & Joe Gordon
accompanied by Rosa
Butwick
- Tuesday 21* June Moore & Gerhart
Hamburger at the Piano
- Wednesday 22* Brickbats & Bouquets –
Fiona Wise accompanied
by Phil Cunningham

The AJR at Work

The fun of the fair-weather



Day Centre Open Day.

Photo: Newman.

A combination of bright sunshine, a very high turnout and a general sense of optimism about the future made this year's Open Day at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre one of the most successful ever.

The fine weather enabled the volunteers running stalls to set up shop *al fresco*, giving

the whole affair a more continental atmosphere as visitors sat outdoors to eat and drink whilst watching the hustle and bustle of the day going on around them. Such was the pleasure to be had at this event that many people stayed until after 7 p.m.

Much of the sense of optimism was engendered by this enthusiastic use of the garden facilities. The newly extended hours at the Day Centre will allow people to enjoy the summer weather in a relaxed atmosphere until well into the long evenings.

Although the annual Open Day is, essentially, a social event, on this occasion it also provided a taste of things to come. The flavour was delicious. □ M.N.

- Thursday 23* Jack Davidoff & Jules
Rubin Entertain on
Violin & Piano
- Sunday 26* Edna Connolly Entertains
– with Accordion
accompaniment
- Monday 27* (a) Outing to Althorpe
House
(b) Musical Gems from
the Past – Bernard
Wilcox & Valerie
Monese accompanied by
Leslie Barnes
- Tuesday 28* Take a Quick-Step Back
in Time with Geoffrey
Strum & Johnny Walton
- Wednesday 29* Kol-Rinah – Solos &
Duets by Hanny
Lichtenstern & Sue &
Peter Heimann
accompanied by Geoffrey
Whitworth
- Thursday 30* The Dulcet Tones
- AUGUST
- Sunday 2* How to be an Author –
Talk by Irene White
- Monday 3* Take a Quick-Step Back
in Time with Geoffrey
Strum & Johnny Walton
- Tuesday 4* The Stanley & Bertha
Lishak Duo (Violin &
Piano)

AJR TAKEAWAY MEALS SERVICE

Members can now take advantage of the catering facilities offered at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, in the comfort of their own homes.

Meals consist of three courses: soup, main dish (a choice of fish or meat), and dessert. The cost is only £1.50 per meal.

Clients who do not attend the Day Centre can collect meals at 15 Cleve Road between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday to Thursday. All dishes are deep-frozen, ready to be re-heated in a conventional or microwave oven.

**For further details please contact
SYLVIA MATUS 071-328 0208**

Our Annual General Meeting



Just a few of those in attendance at our AGM.

Photo: Newman.

Regular attenders at AJR General Meetings have been encouraged by the steadily increasing turnout over the years. 1992 was no exception, with the glass-walled hall of the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre filled to capacity. What made the high attendance even more notable was the coincidence of the meeting with a shutdown of the London Underground due to bomb scares, and the consequent traffic chaos.

In his Chairman's address Mr Theo Marx recalled the highlights of the AJR's Jubilee

Year in 1991: the anniversary dinner and the special edition of *AJR Information*. The annual charity concert, too, had attained its usual success. However, various factors – inflation, the rising cost of hiring the hall and of booking top-quality artists – mean that the charity concert threatens to become a liability rather than a fund-raising asset. The format of future concerts is presently under discussion; meanwhile, they will continue to be staged in the usual manner and all members are urged to

support them, and to bring friends and relatives as well.

In his succinct speech Mr Marx also praised the efforts of the AJR social services, whose workload has increased considerably in the past year. The take-away meals service, only recently initiated, has also proved very popular. Plans are afoot to expand this to include a meals-on-wheels delivery for less mobile members. The afternoon sessions at the day centre have shown great promise. 'All in all', he said, 'the AJR is in good shape'.

Concerning the more distant future, he asked members to encourage their children to play a part in the Association. The increasing number of younger faces in this year's AGM audience gave grounds for hope that aspirations for the future would not be in vain.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked the AJR staff, ably led by Lydia Lassman, for their hard work on members behalf over the past year.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr Max Kochmann, opened his address with an amusing apology: 'I'm sorry that figures are so dull'. To make up for this he delivered his speech with despatch, emphasising that the demands for aid upon AJR funds are steadily increasing. The main area of expenditure is support for the Otto Schiff Housing Association (OSHA), whose annual shortfall accounted for 49 per cent of the AJR Charitable Trust's outgoings in 1991. Help is also given to the aged who have to live on state pensions. Although legacies have provided substantial additions to the Trust, more has to be spent each year. The contributions made by Self Aid and the annual concerts are, under present circumstances, barely noticeable. Inroads are being made on the Trust's reserves, and expenditure will rise again in the coming year.

There followed the election of the Executive Committee, which proposed – as well as Mr M. Durst, who was co-opted during the year – two new members: Mrs H. Goldsmith and Mr C. Dunston. All were elected by acclamation. The following members were re-elected: Mr C. T. Marx, Chairman, Mr M. M. Kochmann, Vice-Chairman and Hon. Treasurer, Mrs K. Gould, Honorary Secretary, Mrs E. S. Angel, Mrs M. Brook, Mr J. H. Dunston, Mr A. C. Kaufman, Mr H. E. Levy and Mr W. D. Rothenberg.

The speeches over, questions were invited from the floor. One of the liveliest question-and-answer sessions seen at an AGM in years will provide food for thought for all present for some time to come.

The final item on the agenda was a talk by the editor of *AJR Information*, Mr Richard Grunberger, entitled *In my own write*, a review of which appears on this page. □

In my own write



Mr Richard Grunberger.

Photo: Newman.

After an introduction in which he paid homage to illustrious 'predecessors' – Maximilian Harden, Hugo Bettauer, Karl Kraus – Mr Grunberger turned to the joys and trials of editing *AJR Information*. He summed up his editorial philosophy in the acronym HAPS – the initials of heritage, acculturation, politics and solidarity.

Though written in English, unlike the New York-based weekly *Aufbau*, AJR

Information looked on the German-Jewish heritage as a source of pride and inspiration. As to acculturation, he considered some former refugees as still insufficiently anglicised; the 'difficult' vocabulary some readers complained of might induce them to reach for their dictionaries and enlarge their grasp of English. On the intrusion of politics into the journal – another occasional source of complaints – he believed, with Aristotle, that man was a political animal; he had never made party-political statements but confined himself to attacking anti-American or anti-European bigotry.

Lastly solidarity. Given the scattered, and sometimes isolated, nature of the readership, the publication of the journal each month over the last half century was itself an expression of solidarity. But our solidarity extended beyond the refugee community to Jewry worldwide; *AJR Information* was focusing on such contemporary flashpoints of conflict as Croatia and Slovakia, and would always show concern for the true interests of Israel.

Mr Grunberger ended by thanking his readers who, to judge by their response to the April questionnaire, approved of his editorship. □

FAMILY EVENTS

Deaths

Abraham Traute Abraham passed away on 28 May after a long illness. Missed by Marion Casson and family and her many friends. She was loved by all who knew her.

Bryant Paul Bryant died on 21 May 1992. Sadly missed by his wife, family and many friends.

Heller Peter (Fritz) Heller died on 24 March 1992, aged 81. Missed forever by his adoring wife Ruth and their son, Jonathan.

Hulton Henry Alfred Hulton died 2 June 1992, aged 81. Adored husband and father, much loved by extended family. Greatly missed.

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Simmons Edwin (Erwin) Simmons passed away peacefully on 16 May, in his 91st year. Deeply mourned by his wife, family and friends.

Zacks Lotte Zacks passed away on 18 May. Sadly missed and always remembered by her friends, Lyddia Bieber, Charlotte Franklin and Alice Jacobi.

In Memoriam

Clay Walter Clay died 12 July 1991. Missed so much by those you loved - loved so much by those who miss you. Stella, Pnina and Moshe.

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Alice Schwab

Art Notes

Art and War at the Imperial War Museum (until 11 October) is an important exhibition of the work of Wyndham Lewis (1882–1957). Together with the Wyndham Lewis Memorial Trust over 60 paintings and drawings have been brought together, as well as books and magazines. Wyndham Lewis's Vorticist paintings are now recognised as the introduction of Modernism in British art. A lavish catalogue with over 60 colour reproductions, sponsored by the Henry Moore Foundation, has been produced by Lund Humphries (price £18.50).

Rachelle Bomberg, niece of the artist David Bomberg, is London born but lives in South Africa. Her first major exhibition in England is being held at the Ben Uri Art Gallery (until 26 July).

Caroline Wiseman, barrister turned art dealer, of Wisemans Originals, has recently established the Modern Art Collectors' Club. She is selling a wide selection of original prints by well-known artists at prices from £100–£850. Members of the club receive catalogues free and a 5% discount on all purchases. **Urban Art** is a group of three German artists who in 1991 received a grant from the Berlin Senate to work in London for a year with the Whitechapel Art Gallery. **Bulk-Heads – Abschotten** is the title of an exhibition of window-installations by the Group at the Goethe Institut (until 17 July).

Camden Arts Centre is showing new work by Markus Hansen, a young German



Magritte, *La clairvoyance (Clairvoyance)*, 1936, oil on canvas.

Hayward Gallery.

artist (until 5 July) and also new work by Terry Setch, an artist living and working in South Wales. The Rona Gallery has recently shown Dora Holzhandler's 'Spring in Paris'. Some of her delightful oils, gouaches and watercolours can still be seen at the gallery. Once again Lumley Cazalet is showing charming little oils by Robert Bates who now lives in Ireland. Examples of his work are always available at the gallery.

The summer exhibition at Jonathan Clark, 18 Park Walk, SW10 is a grand display of important works by many artists, including Brockhurst, Piper, Paul Nash, Hepworth, Sutherland, Hitchens, Ceri Richards, etc.

It is well worth visiting the Crafts Council's exhibition **Influential Europeans in British Craft and Design**. Of the exhibitors more than half came originally from

Germany or Austria and include such well-known names as Zika Asher, Hans Coper, F. H. K. Henrion RDI CBE, Margaret Leischner, Margret Marks, Lucie Rie, Hans Schlegler and Berthold Wolpe. The exhibition finished on 14 June, but an illustrative catalogue including biographies of all the participants is available at the Crafts Council Gallery Shop, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 9BY.

Finally, a reminder of the **Magritte exhibition** at the Hayward (until 2 August) which must be seen. And also, why not an expedition to the Tate to see paintings by David Hockney (until 26 July), William Blake (until 16 August), Turner & Byron (until 30 September) and works by Richard Hamilton (until 6 September)?

SB's Column

Classic Literature. Within the space of one month the Berlin Schiller-theater performed works by Goethe, Schiller, Lessing, Molière and Gerhart Hauptmann. Whilst the importance of teaching classical drama is stressed in educating German adolescents, the latest syllabus for British secondary schools by contrast, puts more value on reading 19th century novels, viz. Jane Austen, Dickens and the Brontës.

The Jewish museum in Munich mounted an exhibition in memory of Raoul Wallenberg in which heart-breaking amateur photographs testify to the enormous task which the Swedish diplomat undertook in order to save Jewish lives. Thousands of

Hungarian Jews were rescued by the undaunted, indeed heroic, efforts of Wallenberg who issued 'protective passes' in Swedish blue and yellow colours. Speculation about Wallenberg's ultimate fate has gone on for decades.

New York. One spring evening, after Leonie Rysanek had sung Clytemnestra in Strauss's *Elektra*, nine hundred 'Met' subscribers gathered at the Waldorf Astoria in celebration. Discovering that the nonagenarian Sir Rudolf Bing was present they all rose from their seats in tribute. Bing, director of the Met for 23 years is, sadly, afflicted with Alzheimer's disease. Leonie Rysanek who was a great favourite under Bing's directorship, believes he fully understood and appreciated the gesture.

Birthday. Austrian-born musicologist Dr Kurt Pahlen is 85. Dr Pahlen, one-time

conductor of the Metropolitan Philharmonic society of Buenos Aires, became known internationally as author of the book *Music of the world*, a comprehensive history of music. Now living in Switzerland, he occasionally visits Austria to lecture there.

Obituary. The phrase 'end of an era' can hardly be more apposite than at the graveside of Marlene Dietrich. Dietrich who died in Paris, aged 90, and was buried in Berlin is remembered as an outstanding actress and cabaret artiste. A special article will appear in the August issue. – Vienna's theatre-going public mourns the death of Vilma Degischer, longest-serving member of the Josefstadter Theater. Widow of Hermann Thimig, she had her 80th birthday last autumn (as reported in this column, November 1991). □

In response to readers' requests we are serialising *A History of the Jews in the German Speaking Lands* by Ralph Blumenau MA, B Litt (Oxon), lecturer in Jewish History at U3A

Part I: From Roman Times to the Eve of the Crusades

Introduction: The Jewish Diaspora before the Romans

A brief sketch of the dispersal of the Jews before the time of the Romans will be useful to see what brought the first Jews to German-speaking lands.

The dispersal began with the destruction of the Kingdom of Israel by the Assyrians in 720 BCE, who deported what were to become known as the 'ten lost tribes of Israel'. The dispersal was continued in 586 BCE, when the Babylonians deported the population of the Kingdom of Judah. When Babylon was defeated by the Persians in 538 BCE, the King of Persia allowed the Jews to return to their homeland, now under Persian rule and known as the province of Judea, and many (though not all) Jews under his rule availed themselves of this permission, so that Judea again became a centre of Jewish life.

In 332 BCE, Alexander the Great defeated the Persians, and Judea became part of his empire, stretching from Egypt to the frontiers of India. On his death in 323 BCE his empire fell into three parts; Judea was first ruled by the Ptolemies from Egypt (323 to 198 BCE) and then by the Seleucids from Syria (198 to 166 BCE). Jews moved freely in the territories of their Hellenistic rulers; before long there were more Jews living outside than inside Judea: it is estimated that in the Ptolemaic period perhaps a million Jews lived in Egypt compared with half a million in Judea. In Judea the Jews remained basically an agricultural people; but many who migrated became merchants and traders, laying the foundation of an activity which will play such an important role in later Jewish history.

Judea becomes part of the Roman Empire

At first the Hellenistic dynasties respected the religious traditions of the peoples they ruled; but the later Seleucids abandoned this tolerant attitude and tried to force Hellenistic culture on the whole of their empire. In Judea this led to the revolt of the Maccabees (166 to 164 BCE), who managed to re-establish a Jewish kingdom under the Hasmonean dynasty; but in the course of throwing off Seleucid rule, they

made an alliance with the growing power of Rome. A few years later Rome conquered both Seleucid Syria and Ptolemaic Egypt, and became the arbiter of the dynastic disputes which sprang up in the Hasmonean dynasty. They effectively put an end to it in 48 BCE, first installing the Herodians as client rulers and then, in 6 BCE, ruling Judea directly as part of the Roman Empire.

By that time the Romans had already conquered the North African coast, Spain, Gaul, and the Germanic tribes west of the Rhine and south of the Danube; and again many Jews moved within the boundaries of the Empire to which they now belonged. Some enlisted in the Roman armies, some were traders and artisans, and some will have moved involuntarily: in 66 CE the Jews of Judea rose against Roman rule; the rebellion ended with defeat and with the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE. A further revolt, under Bar Kochba, took place from 132 to 135; this time the Roman reprisals were even fiercer. Large numbers of Jews were sold as slaves outside of Judea; some being brought by their owners to the furthest reaches of the Empire on the Rhine and the Danube.

The Jews in Germany under the Romans

The earliest reference we have to a Jewish community in Germany dates back to the year 321 CE, in a document sent by the Emperor Constantine to one of his officials in Cologne: the community was to provide contributions for the construction of the capital being built at Constantinople. A document ten years later specifically excluded rabbis and synagogue officials from having to make these contributions.

By this time Constantine had been converted to Christianity (312) and had issued the Edict of Milan which established toleration for Christians throughout the Empire; during the reign of the Theodosius (379 to 395) Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire.

This was a very serious matter, because by that time a virulent hatred of the Jews had become part of the message of the Christian Church. This had begun when

some of the Jewish followers of Jesus had, under the influence of St Paul, transformed the teachings of Jesus in ways that were unacceptable to followers of Jesus who adhered to traditional Judaism; and in the year 60 a breach between the two groups took place. Soon after that the Gospel of Mark was written, and the hostility towards the Jews became increasingly explicit in the Gospels that followed. This in turn became the basis for the hatred of the Jews expressed by St Jerome and other Church Fathers. So Theodosius, when making Christianity the official religion of the Empire, also barred Jews from all government or municipal offices (394).

The 'Dark Ages'

However, by that time the Roman Empire in the West was in terminal decline. Rome itself fell to the barbarians in 410. The barbarian invaders indeed accepted Christianity, but most of them were Unitarians, adherents of the Arian heresy which accepted Christ as a prophet, but not as part of a Divine Trinity. Consequently they were much less hostile to the Jews; and in much of western Europe the Jews were left in reasonable peace for about 200 years. That period ended in the early 7th century for the Jews of Spain under the Visigoths and for those of France under the Merovingians. The Merovingian dynasty lasted until 751. Then come the Carolingians, whose greatest ruler was Charlemagne. He ruled over both France and Germany; the German Jews, who had not suffered like their French coreligionists, now fell, together with them, under the rule of a benevolent monarch.

The Jews under the Carolingians and Ottonians

Charlemagne (764 to 814) encouraged the settlement of more Jews in his Franco-German Empire, valuing them as traders, doctors and scholars. He allowed the Jewish communities jurisdiction over disputes among their own members, and this was the beginning of Jewish communal authorities which would last into the 19th century. Later Emperors continued this policy towards the Jews: the Ottonian Emperor Henry IV confirmed and extended their privileges in 1095. A Bishop of Speyer in 1084 invited Jews to settle in his diocese declaring them to be the ornaments of any city. There were now especially dense settlements in the Rhineland, and communities along the Elbe and the Danube. Jews began to handle trade between Christians and Moslems, were participating in the commerce that was being generated

by an increasingly urban society. Their religion enjoined hospitality on fellow-Jews who came from other lands. Whilst the Christian world had a lingua franca in Latin, and the Muslim world had one in Arabic, the Jewish traders, travelling between these two areas, had the advantage of sharing a common language, and in addition made a point of becoming multi-lingual, of becoming scholars in other languages.

Gershom's commentaries

Under Charlemagne three centres of Jewish scholarship grew up: one in France at Narbonne, one in Mainz, and one in Worms. At the end of the 10th century an important Jewish scholar taught first at Narbonne and then came to Mainz. He was Rabbi Gershom, also known as Rabbenu ('Our Teacher'). He wrote a very clear and influential commentary on the Talmud at a crucial moment in history. Before his time, the authoritative centre of Jewish scholarship was in Mesopotamia; Jews from all over the world submitted problems of Talmudic interpretation to the two great academies of Surah and Pumbeditha. But Mesopotamia was declining at this period, and the two academies would indeed close down in 1034 and 1040 respectively, just a few years after Gershom's death in 1028. For the Jews of Germany and France therefore Gershom's commentaries became the authority through which the ancient traditions of Talmudic scholarship were handed down and kept alive. Similar developments were taking place at the same time in Spain; but Gershom seems to have been unaware of the commentaries produced in Spain; and it is at about this time that the Central European or Ashkenazi communities looked to one centre of authority and the Spanish or Sephardi communities looked to another. This was perhaps only to be expected, since the cultural and political history of the Jews in Spain and Portugal was at that time quite different from that of the Central Europeans; but there is not the space to discuss this further here.

Gershom issued rules for his own community which became accepted as a model for Jews all over Germany and France. The most important of these was the official establishment of monogamy among Jews, though this had of course become established unofficially anyway in lands under Christian government.

Rabbi Shelomo ben Isaac

An even more distinguished luminary of the scholarly communities of Mainz and of

Worms was Rabbi Shelomo ben Isaac, better known as Rashi (1040 to 1105). He, too, produced commentaries on the Talmud, and these became the basic texts throughout Central Europe, and would themselves give rise to further commentaries for many generations. Initially the production of these further commentaries was almost a family monopoly: two of Rashi's sons-in-law and three of his grandsons were particularly notable as 'tosaphists'. ('Tosaphot' means 'supplements'.) Rashi had lived his later years in Troyes, in France; and his descendants likewise lived in that area: but German as well as French Jews regarded the family as their leader. The most famous of the grandsons was Jacob Tam ('Tam' means 'perfect'), who convoked the first Jewish synods since Talmudic times, usually in towns and at times when important trade fairs were being held. Among the decisions made at such synods were: that Jews should not seek redress against other Jews in Christian courts; and that they should not accept leadership posts in the Jewish community from Christian sources, but should obey only those leaders elected by the community itself.

This anxiety to protect themselves against the Christians had become the more pressing since by Tam's life-time Europe was in the grip of the Crusades. Tam himself was all but killed in a riot during the Second Crusade; and the Jews of Europe were now caught up in one of the most horrific episodes of their history. □

OPEN DAYS IN THE HOMES

Osmond House
Sunday 12 July
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Sunday 19 July
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Sunday 2 August
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Entrance £2 (Children £1)

Heinrich Stahl House
Sunday 30 August
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Qom, Kabul, Sarajevo

The recent aggressive resurgence of Islam has been the second stage of the reaction of Third World societies to domination by the West. In the 1950s and '60s the Arab masses looked to left-leaning secularists like Colonel Nasser and the Algerian Liberation Front to shake off the heritage of colonialism. The achievements of Nasser and Boumedienne ultimately fell far short of expectations, leaving a vacuum which Islamic fundamentalism has filled.

Islamic militancy received a powerful impetus from Khomeini's Iranian revolution in the late '70s; even if Teheran's zest for *jihad* has somewhat abated in the meantime, a fundamentalist revival of sorts has taken place in countries as far apart as Indonesia, Pakistan, Sudan and – latterly – Algeria. Now two more states can be added to the list of fundamentalist strongholds: Afghanistan and Bosnia.

Afghanistan is a country cursed by a historic inheritance of unappeasable inter-tribal hatred – even though the same medieval Muslim ethos imbues the racially disparate Kalashnikov-toting tribesmen. This augurs ill for future national stability, and Afghan instability could further unsettle the Muslim Republics of the defunct Soviet Union.

And now Bosnia, recently granted recognition as an independent state! Its Muslim president Alija Izetbegovic in 1970 published an Islamic Declaration, for which Tito clapped him in prison. The Declaration envisaged 'the creation of a united Islamic community from Morocco to Indonesia' and produced two interesting re-writes of history. 'Just a few thousand genuinely Islamic fighters forced England in the 1950s to withdraw from Suez' reads one. The other denigrates Turkey, which 'as an Islamic state ruled the world, but as an imitation of Europe represents a third-rate country'. More ominously, Izetbegovic stated that there could be no peace or coexistence between Islamic faith and non-Islamic political and social institutions.

Bosnia poses both a lesser and greater danger to European stability than Afghanistan. Lesser because of its miniscule size as a Muslim heartland – greater because it is on our continent, and close to several million Muslims in Albania and European Turkey.

It would be nothing short of a historic paradox if the demise of Communist Yugoslavia resulted in the creation both of an ultra-Catholic Croatia and a Muslim fundamentalist Bosnia.

□ R.G.

Cookery Corner

No. 4 BAKED VEAL ESCALOPE

Ingredients:

1 Veal escalope per person
 ½ clove crushed garlic per portion
 Sliced green & red peppers
 Soya sauce
 Lemon juice

Method:

Place veal escalope on piece of silver foil. Spread crushed garlic over it. Place slices of red and green pepper on top. Add seasoning to taste. Pour generous dash of soya sauce over the whole. Add 1 teaspoon of lemon juice. Fold silver foil over, completely enclosing the meat, and place in a moderate oven for 40 minutes.

Serve with new potatoes and side salad.

□ M.N.

Search Notices

Werner Meyer, born Cologne, circa 1921, mother Irma. Last known address Scarsdale New York & **Gunter Loeb**, born Cologne circa 1920, father Victor, mother Berta. Interned in Canada, last known address: Quebec. Please contact Richard Meyer. Box No. 1214.

Ruth Sara Herzberg, born Kassel, 22/4/1903. Parents Jakob and Grete. Please contact Mrs Ruth Gliffe (nee Meyer) daughter of Elise Meyer (nee Matto) via International Tracing Service, Grosse Allee 5-9, W-3548 Arolsen, Germany. Quote ref. No. T/D-1 226 742.

John Jackson, formerly Hans Josephy, son of Richard Josephy. Lived in Glasgow and moved to London about 2-3 years ago. Sought by Marion and Nanny Josephy, New York. Contact: Katz, Oxford: 0865-58874.

Information is sought for a research project on *Jüdische Sondererziehung im Dritten Reich* with special interest in the names of the relevant institutions, documents, pictures etc. Replies to: Professor Joseph Walk, Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem, P.O.B. 8298, Jerusalem 91082.

Peter Würfl, born 11 January 1931 and **Jochen Würfl**, born 15 June 1932, from Dangast/Varel, East Germany. Father died Sachsenhausen 1943. Mother Auschwitz, 1943. Grandparents Ferdinand Baruch and Lina Baruch-Cohen. Peter and Jochen should contact: Emile E. Edelmann at Reviitam AG, Treuhandgesellschaft, Schneuchertstr. 12, 8033 Zürich, Switzerland where they will be given details of a property to which they may be heirs.

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40 Years Ago this Month

Shortly after the appearance of 'Britain's New Citizens', the Organisations of Jews from Germany in the United States and in Israel with which the AJR is closely cooperating under the auspices of the 'Council of Jews from Germany', also edited special publications to mark the anniversaries of their foundation. The American Federation of Jews from Central Europe, founded in the same year as the AJR, issued a brochure, and the Organisation of the Immigrants from Central Europe in Israel, the Irgun Olej Merkas Europa (IOME) reviews its activities during the past two decades in a special and considerably enlarged edition of its excellent weekly 'Mitteilungsblatt'.

Like 'Britain's New Citizens', the American publication is centred not around the activities of the 'Federation', but around the wider issues involved. Whereas, however, the booklet of the AJR in the first place deals with the relationship between the former refugees and their new environment, the American brochure lays more stress on the special position of German Jewry. Such an approach is highly gratifying at a time at which the merits and the spiritual heritage of German Jewry are in danger of being distorted or of falling into oblivion. In his introductory article Leo Baeck writes that by its widespread achievements German Jewry had left its indelible impact on the history of mankind.

In his interesting essay 'The Forgotten German Jew', Max Gruenewald regrets that the attitude towards the Jews from Germany, many of whom hold important positions and do important work, may sometimes be summarised by the formula 'For the German Jew everything, for the German Jews nothing'.

AJR Information July 1952.

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Birthdays

Mr James Walters

James Walters will be 85 on July 29. Since his arrival in Britain, in 1936, he has lived in Guildford, where he has made his distinctive mark on the civic and religious life of the district.

In 1938 he became the Chairman of the Mayor of Guildford's Refugee Committee. Under his guidance the committee issued many visas in order to save Jewish lives. Mr Walters held the position of Chairman until 1946. He was also a member of the Fire Service throughout the war.

After the war he founded his own company, manufacturing oil-burners. While running the company full-time he remained an active member of society. In 1960 he organised a World Refugee Concert which raised a considerable amount for the Mayor's Appeal Fund.

In 1975 Mr Walters retired from work, after spending the last two years as a consultant. Upon retiring he was approached by the local authorities who asked for his help on behalf of the Spastics Society. Accepting the challenge he joined the Fund Raising Committee of the Society's White Lodge, Chertsey. Not content merely to attend meetings, he did a great deal of work in the home itself.

James Walters is the son of the late Rabbi Dr M. Warschauer of Berlin, about whose life and works he has written and spoken very movingly over the years. He has been

married to Ellen Ruth (née Cahn) for 61 years. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Mr Walters has not lost his vigour, a great deal of which, these days, he puts into cultivating his beautiful garden. We wish him and his wife many more years of happy harvesting. □

Dr Hans Feld at 90

There are few people who can claim to have had three careers, but HAF, whose birthday is on July 15, can do so with pride.

He gained his Dr jur. after studying in Berlin, Freiburg and Würzburg. His love affair with the film industry began in 1926 in Berlin, where he became the editor of *Film Kurier*. When the Nazis came to power the Feld family moved to Prague. In Prague Hans worked in the film industry as a film cutter and dialogue director. At the same time he established a new magazine: *Die Kritik*. In 1935 he came to Britain, where he founded and edited *World Film News*.

Shortly afterwards he took up a new direction and became involved in a food importing concern, eventually becoming the Director. Although he remained in the food importing business for 50 years, he never lost interest in the film world.

In his eighties Dr Feld's third career took off. He became an advisor extraordinaire to film buffs and film makers worldwide. In 1982 he was awarded the *Filmband in Gold*

by the *Bundesministerium des Innern* in recognition of his services to the German film industry prior to 1933.

Dr Hans Feld has not confined his life to film and food. His interests and activities are wide ranging. He was a founder member of the AJR and one of the founders of the Leo Baeck Institute in England. He was a member of the Institute's Executive Committee for many years and also held the position of Honorary Treasurer.

At 90 Hans Feld's curiosity is still boundless and his mischievous sense of humour and love of life provide a lesson for us all. □

Obituaries

Kurt May

Kurt May, Director of the United Restitution Office (URO), from its foundation to his retirement four years ago, has died aged 95.

Born and educated in Meiningen (Thuringia), he volunteered in 1914 and served in the front line. After the war he obtained his legal qualifications and set up a successful practice in Jena.

The Nazis at first exempted veterans from racial discrimination, a concession revoked by the 1935 Nuremberg Laws. Kurt May did not wait until then, but, giving up his practice, emigrated to Jerusalem. There he opened what quickly became a most fashionable dress shop (with the Queen of Jordan amongst his customers).

Returning to Germany after the war, he

became the Director of the Legal Department of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation (JRSO). In 1955 he was appointed Director of URO, with headquarters in Frankfurt and branches in nineteen countries. He was an important advisor on legislative problems and led test cases to the highest courts. Thousands of persecutees benefited from the efforts of this man who combined legal qualifications with administrative gifts and political nous.

Kurt's mind was as alert in his nineties as it had been when he began the work thirty-two years earlier.

He is survived by his widow Vera May, until her retirement *Senatspräsidentin* at the Frankfurt High Court. Their daughter, Miriam, a journalist, is married to the writer John Gross.

□ W.R.

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Something to be proud of



The new conservatory at Heinrich Stahl House (left) being officially opened by Mr & Mrs Frank Odell.

Photos: Neuman.

Until recently the dining room at Heinrich Stahl House was just that, a functional area serving its purpose efficiently. It is a different picture today. The room has been extended to accommodate more people in greater comfort with larger windows to give it a wider aspect. The *pièce de résistance* of this transformation is the addition of a conservatory. Its official opening took place on Sunday 10 May.

The guests of honour were Mr and Mrs Frank Odell. Other guests included the Deputy Mayor of Barnet, Councillor John Hedge and Mrs Hedge, Mr David Cope-Thompson, Honorary President of CBF World Jewish Relief, and Messrs Werner Mattes and Theo Marx, Chairmen, respectively, of OSHA and the AJR.

Hardship endured

Addressing an audience of 200 Mr Ludwig Spiro, Chairman of the House Committee and former Chairman of the Housing Association, praised the foresight of those who had established the homes in The Bishops Avenue almost 40 years ago. Since that time, he continued, the average age of residents had steadily risen and now stood

at about eighty-six. The consequent increase in the level of care called for, and the need for more extensive facilities, combined with the effect of inflation, have, inevitably, led to higher operating costs. Nevertheless, a constant desire to maintain a pleasant environment to compensate, in some small way, for the hardships many residents endured in earlier, darker days led to the implementation of this project.

Practical help

Mr Odell was consulted on how best to raise the funds necessary to complete the venture. His practical help came in the form of a very substantial cheque, which allowed the work to commence. All present and future residents are greatly indebted to him, and Mr Spiro warmly expressed appreciation of Mr Odell's generosity.

The Deputy Mayor then spoke, expressing his, and his Council's, admiration of the quality and high standards of care provided in the OSHA homes which, he said, gave the Borough of Barnet 'something to be proud of'.

Mr Mattes, who spoke next, restated

OSHA's aim to serve the aging refugee population by providing a home-like environment for those no longer able to live or look after themselves independently.

Opening and unveiling

To complete the formal part of the proceedings Mr and Mrs Odell were invited to cut the red ribbon and declare the new conservatory officially open. This was followed by the unveiling of a plaque recording the Association's appreciation of the Odells' generosity.

Mr Odell responded briefly and modestly with expressions of thanks for the compliments heaped upon him. The whole ceremony was conducted with charm and humour, with no sign of the clock-watching that frequently accompanies such occasions. All the speakers, perhaps infected by the bright sunlight flooding through the hall, spoke entertainingly with a light touch.

Afterwards all guests, including many residents and staff, enjoyed a fine buffet and took time to admire the new building at their leisure. □

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