

# AJR Information

Volume XLVIII No. 4  
April 1993

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Don't miss . . .

**Writer of wrongs**

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Royals** p13

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Indians** p16

**Then and  
now**

Israel's deportation of 400 (Arab) Palestinians – which Douglas Hurd denounced as illegal under international law – continues to attract opprobrium. Actually it follows a precedent set by HM Government which, curiously enough, none of the censorious commentators seem able to recall: in 1944 the mandatory authorities deported 250 (Jewish) Palestinian terrorist suspects from Latrun camp to Eritrea – whence most only returned four years later. Could this be a case of selective memory, and not only at the FO? □

*Dabbling grubby fingers in the ashes*

## Perverters of historical truth

**A**nother sequence of sombre anniversaries – from Hitler's accession in January to that of the Warsaw Ghetto Rising in March – is behind us. Impressive ceremonies in various countries marked these (blood)red letter days.

Nonetheless, the lessons of history have still not been properly absorbed. Last winter alone saw the dissemination of several perversions of historic truth in this country. Two of them were closely linked. *The Times* (stablemate of the *Sunday Times* which retained David Irving's services) let Alan Clark present Dr Charnley's already slanted Churchill book through his own distorting prism. The reviewers' reception of the Clark-Charnley thesis that a warmongering Winston Churchill destroyed any chance of a negotiated peace with Hitler in 1940/1 was so comprehensively negative that it need not concern us here.

What does concern us is Clark's and Charnley's subtext that even more than six million Jews were expendable. Total indifference to other people's suffering has always distinguished Alan Clark's thought processes, but this time the historicising expolitician (author of *Operation Barbarossa*) also showed a shaky grasp of the facts: he dated the Wannsee Conference a year later than it actually took place. This is crucial since in January 1942, the

authentic date, Hitler looked like winning the war.

Dr Charnley compounds the offence when he says the Holocaust which he wrongly places in the years 1943/4 – but which started with the Einsatzgruppen massacres of 1941 and saw its climax in 1942/3 – was Germany's reaction to impending defeat. In other words, a tenured teacher at the History Faculty of the University of East Anglia is either woefully ignorant of the facts or manipulates them to sustain a specious argument. In either case he is unworthy of the appellation 'teacher'.

And what about the appellation 'Jewish refugee'? Some bear it with pride – others with shame. Among the latter is Herbert Braunsberg who told the German School at Richmond that he had some understanding for German interwar antisemitism. For one, there were foreign Bolshevik Jews in the country, and for another, observant Jews would not visit non-kosher homes.

The first assertion is Goebbels-inspired tosh. Most German Communist leaders were non-Jews: Liebknecht, Pieck, Münzenberg, Thälmann, Torgler. The only foreign Jews among them – Luxemburg and Leviné – were dead by 1920. The point about Orthodox exclusiveness sounds strange after Braunsberg's 50-odd years in Britain, country of Plymouth Brethren, Jehovah's Witnesses, Rastafarians and suchlike.

But then, after over half a century's U.K. residence, Braunsberg has, in his own words, no English or Anglo-Jewish friends. This suggests that his views reflect not so much political insight as psychological feelings of exclusion.

Alan Clark is politically 'fascistic' (in the words of a House of Commons motion signed by 30 MPs); psychologically he is afflicted by the hubris that often comes with inherited wealth.

As to Dr Charnley, he craves notoriety and denigrates Churchill not unlike Herostratus who, for the sake of fame, burnt down the Temple of Diana at Ephesus.

If, 50 years after Goebbels, we have to endure renewed perversions of the truth by the likes of Clark, Charnley and Braunsberg, we take comfort from Marx's dictum that when history repeats itself it occurs first as tragedy and then farce. □

### WE HAVE MOVED

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Note: The Paul Balint AJR Day Centre  
remains at 15 Cleve Road.

## Certificate of Appreciation

Long-time AJR member Laura Biegler has been awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Women's Royal Army Corps Association for her work on their behalf. She was invited to the Association's Annual General meeting, in the Victory Services Club, to receive the award on 3 April.

Recipients of the Certificate are chosen by a vote of the Council of the WRACA, of which the Duchess of Kent is President. □

## Kindertransporte recalled

The exhibition *The Last Good-Bye* (The Rescue of Children from Nazi Europe) which has been touring will be on display at the Manchester Jewish Museum until 20 April.

The play *Kindertransport* by Diane Samuel, winner of the 1992 Verity Bargate Award will be staged at the Cockpit Theatre, Gateforth Street, London NW8 from 13 April. The ticket office can be phoned on 071-402-5081. □

## Odious comparison

It had to happen! Israel's deportation of 400 Hamas activists to its Lebanese 'security zone' has been compared to Nazi Germany's deportation of thousands of innocent Polish Jews to no-man's-land before Crystal Night in the columns of the *Salzburger Nachrichten*. □

## Nein! Minister

It is a notorious fact that during the anti-foreigner riots in Rostock last August the police stood by. Mecklenburg's Interior Minister Lothar Kupfer not only ordered this inactivity in the face of arson at a Vietnamese hostel, but afterwards expressed a 'certain understanding' for the rioters. Almost half a year after the outrage he was at last dismissed from his post. □

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## Profile

### Writer of wrongs



Robert Muller.

Photo: private.

Soon after the Nazi takeover Goebbels dispatched an emissary to Hollywood to ask Erich Maria Remarque, of *All Quiet on the Western Front* fame, to return to Germany. When the author turned down the invitation the emissary warned him that he would suffer pangs of *Heimweh* (homesickness) for ever after. '*Heimweh*' scoffed Remarque, 'What d'you take me for – a Jew?'

This anecdote flashed through my mind when I interviewed Robert Muller, but more of that anon.

Robert was born in Hamburg in the mid-1920s. His father, a stage designer, had the good fortune of obtaining work outside Nazi Germany in 1937. Alas, the work was in Vienna. Driven back to Hamburg by the Anschluss the Mullers eventually left for England. Robert came to foster parents in South London and attended a technical school, where he did badly in practical subjects but soon outshone all his classmates in English.

His mother meanwhile worked as a maid and the father cleared air raid rubble. In 1942 they received a last Red Cross message from the grandmother left behind in Hamburg. (Half a century later Robert still calls losing her the key event in his life.)

As a 16-year old school leaver he got an office boy's job in Soho. This humdrum job turned out to be the bottom rung of a steeply ascending ladder. The office happened to be that of the American film company that made *The March of Time*. Robert's colleagues encouraged his innate journalistic flair, and by 1944 he worked for the U.S. Office of War Information. 1945/6 saw him in Munich as a U.S.-uniformed contributor to the picture magazine *Heute*.

Back in peacetime London he worked as a freelance, got married, and eventually became the drama critic of the *Daily Mail*. Tiring of theatre criticism he moved to the Isle of Man and wrote half a dozen novels, all of them now out of print. One – *The World that Summer*, which centres on the tragedy of his grandmother – has, however, been shown in TV adaptations both here and in Germany.

In the late 1960s, coinciding with the break-up of his first marriage, he received offers of film and television work from Germany. Since then he has pursued a dual career, and done a fair bit of commuting. In the U.K. his work has reached a wide audience in the form of TV adaptations of such classics of European literature as Zola's *Nana*, Heinrich Mann's *Der Untertan*, and Schnitzler's *Frau Beate und ihr Sohn*. (Robert Muller also has a personal link with modern classics: all the female leads in Samuel Beckett's plays were written for his second wife, Billy Whitelaw.)

Frequent film work in Hamburg gave him the idea of taking root in his birthplace once again. (Remarque wasn't so wrong, after all!) Today he owns an apartment in his native district of Eppendorf; Hamburg will also see the premiere of his latest play, *Der Unheimliche*, later in the year. In the interim Robert Muller – who never visits Israel, and says he is happiest in New York – continues his long-distance commuter's existence between Suffolk and Hamburg which, he claims, best suits his split personality. □ R.G.

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ALL LEGAL WORK UNDERTAKEN

## Encountering the past

**O**n a fine and sunny morning we drove through a splendid wood – containing beeches, among other trees – and straight into Concentration Camp Buchenwald.

It was a large and curiously empty-seeming place with a few buildings of whose erstwhile functions one is only too well aware. The rest resembles a theme park with restaurant and comfort station and tourists nosing about.

While discussing an inscription we were suddenly spoken to by a woman.

'Wo sind Sie her?' (Where are you from?). 'England'.

'Ah, England'. A moment's hesitation...

'Wissen Sie, dass ich in diesem Lager war?'

It was a good opening... She told us she had lived in the camp in the household of an SS officer called Müller.

In a film or TV drama this person would somehow bear the stamp of Satan, but scrutinise her as I might, she was nothing but a pleasant, kind, quietly-spoken elderly lady, who had felt the urge, after all those years, to show her husband and son this scene of her past life. And she seemed to feel a compulsion to tell us as well.

### Zeitzeuge

She had been doing her compulsory year's service in the camp and saw herself as a *Zeitzeuge* (witness of the time).

When I asked if she had been an auxiliary SS woman she denied it firmly. Her description of the job yielded something like a mixture between a skivvy and a British wartime landgirl.

What most exercised her mind was the fate of Frau Müller, pregnant at the time of liberation. The awful Müller had 'scarpered' as the Americans approached, and the new masters, the *Häftlinge* (her description of the prisoners, a jarring bit of SS speak) had set the dogs on her; the very dogs her spouse used to set on *them*.

Our story teller was herself interrogated, but not tortured or even threatened. In fact, one of the ex-prisoners, who (according to her) had been in the camp for 'defrauding his father' – withal an educated young man – proposed marriage outside Weimar post office. Frau Müller died in hospital. SS Müller? No idea.

We asked about the Jews. For a moment the open, honest face of our chance acquaintance was a mask of embarrassment. 'They weren't around any more', she all but whispered. The Americans questioned her about the notorious human skin

lampshades of Ilse Koch. Of course she knew nothing about that. She was believed. She certainly believes it herself. . . .

Some days later, tired after a long drive, we decided to stay overnight in Neustadt an der Saale, a small Franconian spa town with medieval ramparts where relatives of my wife's had lived before the deluge. We tried at an *hotel garni*. Run by an old couple it seemed pleasant enough. We were the only guests, and something about us was making the couple a little uneasy.

At breakfast next morning the wife served us amicably, but the decrepit old fool of a husband hung about evidently keen to talk to us.

### How the war started

He had been in Russia, and his tales were at first nothing, run-of-the-mill old sweats' reminiscences. He relived scenes of mowing down oncoming Ivans with his machine-gun while we drank our coffee and hoped he would go away. Next he told us how the war had started – the true gospel according to Josef Goebbels.

Britain and France had envied a resurgent Germany which only wanted to shelter its far-flung countrymen. Then the Jews had taken a hand in driving us all into war.

When we mentioned that we were Jews, he insisted that he had been a simple conscript with no evil deeds on his conscience; he had merely killed Ivans in self-defence during battle.

His wife became more and more uneasy, but as a former Sudeten German she resented the fact that we had travelled in Czechoslovakia. He produced more Nazi ideas: Jews in Germany had all been traders and dealers; particularly those in Neustadt.

Told that my wife's father had been a plumber, he shrugged: 'All right then, but in Neustadt they all were. 'And what happened to the few Jews of Neustadt?' Shoulder-shrugging ignorance.

The macabre thing is that when we left, they wished us *Gute Reise* and proffered rolls for our provisions. □ *John Rossall*

## Kaddish in Czechoslovakia

**I**n Kolin, last June, a world meeting of former citizens took place. Services were held at the old synagogue. Hundreds of Jews from Czechoslovakia and abroad, including the Israeli ambassador, took part. At both Jewish cemeteries – the older one was founded in the 15th century – Kaddish was said, 50 years after the deportations.

In Kojetin, in November, a memorial tablet was unveiled at the former synagogue, which today is used by the Hussite sect. An ecumenical prayer was said, by the local pastor and by Rabbi Romain of Maidenhead, where a torah scroll from Kojetin is in use.

In Hermanuv Městec, a memorial day was held in November with a walk through the former street of the Jews (who lived here since the beginning of the 15th century), the synagogue, the former Jewish school and the ancient Jewish cemetery. At the latter a memorial tablet was unveiled for the 247 Jews of the town and the vicinity, who perished in the Holocaust. □

## Latvian memorial service

A major memorial service will be held in Riga for Latvian Nazi victims. The event has been organised by the Latvian Jewish Courier, which keeps survivors and their descendents in touch. From 10 June to 17 June groups from Israel, America and, hopefully, Britain will be attending. Anyone who is interested in being a part of the British group should contact Mr Hugh Rank via this journal, Box No. 1242. □

## France remembers – at last

France is to have an annual day of mourning on 16 July to commemorate the round-up of 13,000 Parisian Jews in 1942. Coincidentally the Vichy police chief, René Bousquet, 83, who was responsible for *la grand rafle* is to be prosecuted. These long overdue decisions reflect a growing awareness of France's not inconsiderable share in the guilt for Nazi crimes. In view of official prevarication – President Mitterrand recently had a wreath laid at a Pétain memorial – the forthrightness of Marguerite Duras is all the more welcome. The famous author was fined £1,400 for calling Le Pen's National Front 'murderers, pigs and the scums of modern times'. □

## Permanent witness

The Board of Deputies and Leicester University's Centre for Holocaust Studies are to publish survivors' personal recollections in collaboration with Vallentine Mitchell. □

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## Reviews

## Illusory symbiosis

*German-Jewish symbiosis – an illusion*, Arnold Paucker (ed.), LEO BAECK INSTITUTE YEAR BOOK XXXVII. Secker & Warburg, 1992, 683 pp., £27.00

At a time when historical revisionism receives serious consideration it is reassuring to know that the Leo Baeck Institute continues to research German-Jewish historiography; its Year Book not only 'refutes pseudo-scientific twaddle' (to quote the editor) but gives a wide readership an insight into its uniquely valuable work.

The present volume leaves no doubt as to the Institute's high academic standards, reflected in each of the contributions. Its subtitle 'Enlightenment and Emancipation, Anti-Semitism, War and Resistance' indicates the areas of research. The first four essays deal with the religious aspects of German-Jewish participation in the process of acculturation. There were, it is suggested, ambiguities in the acceptance of the Jew into the new inter-faith relationships and, in particular, German-Jewish rites of interment were perceived by the host community as running counter to the prevailing spirit of 'modernity'. A review of the efforts made by a number of Jewish theologians to come to

terms with the demands of their 'enlightened' times concludes the section.

There follows a collection of discussion papers which reassess the effects of emancipation on the Jews of Germany from the Congress of Vienna up to the Holocaust. There are four key dates. In 1789 the French Revolution started the process, but Waterloo and the defeat of Napoleon acted as a brake until the brief period of democratic uprisings in 1848/50. Thereafter, the liberal approach continued, albeit precariously, until all legal disabilities were removed in 1870/71.

The central issue of the volume is addressed in a passionately argued presentation by Wolfgang Benz who avers that the 'German-Jewish symbiosis' was never more than an illusion. This thesis, supported by reference to certain post-war German attitudes, carries considerable conviction, even in the light of the somewhat cautionary critique offered by Prof. Herbert Strauss in his comments on the four papers in the section.

The Jewish identity and its expression in Zionism, in political activism and in participation in the armed struggle against Hitler is brought further into focus by a series of essays. Only a few can be cited here. Thus Robert Wistrich demonstrates that the presumed ideological immunity to anti-Semitism of the European labour movement in its formative years (and even later) is as much of a legend as the claims concerning middle-class symbiosis. Equally spectacular is the painstaking analysis of the attempts made by a handful of righteous German gentiles to rescue Jews from extermination by taking them into hiding at considerable personal risk. This well-documented paper is a valuable contribution to the study, initiated by Professor Samuel Oliner, into the motives which inspired rescuers and rescued (see 'The Banality of Good and Evil' *AJR Information*, February 1990).

Some Jews, of course, took part in active resistance, as the article on four Jewish women Communists makes clear. Another article points up the fact that acts of reconciliation (as distinct from restitution) were not unknown in Communist East Germany.

A number of contributions are dedicated to Dr Arnold Paucker, whose term of office as editor ends with the present publication. They pay tribute to his considerable achievements, of which volume XXXVII is so outstanding an example.

□ David Maier

## Topical reprint

Wolfgang Koeppen, *DEATH IN ROME* (Michael Hofmann), Hamish Hamilton, 1992, £9.99

This book, written in 1954, was long forgotten but has suddenly been found to have stood the test of time.

The mirror the author holds up to his fellow countrymen shows two interrelated families at a reunion in the Italian capital. What lifts them out of the ordinary is their names: one branch is called JUDEJAHN, and the other PFAFFRATH. Judejahn is unambiguous, *Pfaffe* translates as priest. Now comes the first 'whammy': Gottlieb Judejahn is a top SS killer on the run; the Pfaffraths were on top during 'Weimar', played ball with Hitler and belong to the new ruling establishment.

## Thorn in the flesh

Whammy No. 2: ex-SS General Judejahn never complains about his surname (it must have goaded him into ever greater excesses), but hates his baptismal name. He does not want to be reminded of God. He likewise hates his son Adolf who is a deacon preparing for the Catholic priesthood. His nephew, Siegfried Pfaffrath, is also a thorn in the flesh of his parents, being an atonal ultra-modern composer, and a paedophile homosexual to boot.

The priest-to-be escaped from the chaos of the collapsing Reich in the company of a young Jewish camp survivor. They saved each other's life. Siegfried, a British PoW, managed to get in touch with a celebrated emigré conductor, Kürenberg, and his Jewish wife.

In the neutral environs of Rome, which has its own ballast of history, Fate now spins its web. Gottlieb Judejahn is there to buy weapons for an Arab country whose army he is reorganising. He has diplomatic status and a new identity. But mostly he wants to complete the Final Solution which he considers to have been insufficiently final. Above all he lusts after Jewish females for sex and murder, and attempts to kill Kürenberg's wife Ilse. He is also saddled with his own spouse Eva who wishes he had perished like a Wagnerian hero.

Gottlieb has a stroke and is shriven at the instigation of his pious son. And Siegfried Pfaffrath is left agonising over his music, his sexual orientation and a Germany whose past belongs to the evil Judejahn, and whose future is problematical.

□ John Rossall



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## Süss mixed with Metternich

Walter Isaacson, *KISSINGER*, Faber and Faber, 1992, £25

Reading this monumentally thorough biography encompassing the climax of the Cold War one feels at times as though one were looking at the story of Jud Süß brought up to date – with, happily, a very different ending.

Henry Kissinger, like the hero/villain of Feuchtwanger and Hauff, hailed from Southern Germany, though from Bavarian Fürth instead of Württemberg. Like Süß he held great power under a ruler who found his trouble-shooter more than useful, but neither liked nor trusted him; the latter at times with good reason.

### Lame rejoinders

President Nixon was an antisemite who delighted in making derogatory remarks about Jews in the hearing of Henry K, and even used the term 'Jew boy'. And the erstwhile Heinz Alfred made lame rejoinders and, on the whole, grovelled before the Californian *petit bourgeois* who had, however, big ideas and ambitions. These 'exchanges' would occur in the presence of Kissinger's rivals and enemies, and when Nixon's tape mania was revealed later, Henry was appalled to find his poor showing recorded.

Yet this was the U.S.A.'s 54th Secretary of State who upheld the global balance by his frantic 'shuttle' diplomacy as Egypt and Israel nearly triggered a nuclear strike during the 1973 Yom Kippur War. He extricated the U.S.A. from the Vietnam morass and made a friend of Chou En-Lai, China's great foreign secretary. All this was not achieved without a genius for going behind people's backs. Nevertheless, he was one of the few members of the Nixon administration to escape with credit, even fame, from the Watergate fiasco.

Withal, Henry – 'of the thick glasses and even thicker accent' and roly-poly-figure, earned himself the reputation of a ladies' man, even a 'swinger' – and again he escaped without the mud of scandal sticking to him. There was one divorce, and a lasting and happy second marriage.

Yet the American debut of this man, who exercised almost supreme power, was as an academic historian of the Metternich era. In fact Count Metternich could be retrospectively described as the Kissinger of Napoleonic Europe!

□ John Rossall

## Platz Angst

'Happy the land that needs no heroes.'  
(Brecht)

Time was when no street map of a German town was complete without a Bismarckstrasse; later none lacked an Adolf Hitler-Platz. Came the 'German catastrophe' and all those goose-stepped on squares reverted to their original names. At least they did so in the West. In the East the authorities renamed squares, streets, schools etc after heroes of the 'Anti-Fascist struggle' as part of their programme for re-educating the population. Most people are familiar with such excesses of DDR nomenclature as Karl Marx-Stadt and East Berlin's Stalin Allee – which latter name duly disappeared in consequence of Khrushchev's rewrite of Soviet history.

Eventually, of course, East Berlin itself disappeared as a separate capital city, and with its demise a whole set of DDR-specific place names fell into a black memory hole. But this created a new problem best described by the age-old adage 'throwing out the baby with the bathwater'.

The drawback of the post-1990 wholesale erasure of names of heroes of the 'Anti-Fascist struggle' is that some of them really were heroes. Thus the – currently unpersoned – Georgy Dimitrov cut a heroic figure in German history by standing up to Goering in the Reichstag Fire Trial. The fact that he also acted as Stalin's henchman in his native Bulgaria does not give town

councillors in the five new German Länder the right to consign him to oblivion.

Another victim of the post-Unification purge is Hanns Eisler, a composer once made much of in East Berlin. It is true that Eisler, together with Brecht, Arnold Zweig and Anna Seghers stretched a threadbare cultural figleaf over the DDR's essential nakedness; he, nonetheless, deserves commemorating both as a modernist composer of opera and film scores, and as an engaged Anti-Fascist.

Reversing the DDR-propagated falsehood that Communists were the only true anti-Nazis a town council in Thuringia has assumed that all anti-Nazis were Communists, and have committed the unpardonable offence of actually renaming a street with the honourable name Geschwister Scholl Strasse.

But the most bizarre instance of confused thinking, not to say *mauvaise foi*, in this sphere comes from the West Berlin borough of Wilmersdorf. There the local council wanted to rename a street after Walter Benjamin, the Jewish philosopher of culture who committed suicide on being turned back at the Spanish border in 1940. The proposal met with opposition from many residents. Some objected to the complications and costs involved – which, given Benjamin's importance in modern thought, is to say the least, petty-minded; worse still, a few nay-sayers argued that the philosopher's name sounded too much like that of Hilde Benjamin, Ulbricht's hardline Minister of Justice in the 1950s, to be acceptable.

□ R.G.

### COMPENSATION CLAIMS GERMANY

Under a new Agreement regular hardship payments will be made to victims of the Holocaust who were hitherto unable to apply for or received only inadequate compensation payments.

Claims may be filed by persecutees who were held in concentration camps for at least six months. Those who were confined in ghettos or lived in hiding for at least eighteen months are also entitled to claim.

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### GERMAN BOOKS BOUGHT

A. W. MYTZE

1 The Riding, London NW11.

# Letters to the Editor

## PRECONDITION FOR PEACE

Sir - I wonder when somebody will tell the Arabs that they cannot expect any true peace negotiations until they make it possible for minorities to live peacefully in Arab countries. This, of course, applies to Jews just as much as to others.

Little statelets based on religion, language or ethnic history just are no longer possible in the 20th century.

Cheyne Court, Canning Road  
Ulrich Pick  
Croydon

## SÜD-TYROL TIME WARP

Sir - From 1936 to 1938, I stayed at a German Jewish boarding school close to Meran, where most of the pupils had parents still in Germany. This school was then forced to close - not because it was Jewish, but because the Italians did not wish to have a German school in this German-speaking area which they tried to assimilate into their own culture. As it happened they did me a great favour, as this caused my father to send me to England early in 1939.

Meran, at that time, had a thriving Jewish community with one kosher luxury hotel, and two kosher boarding houses, all filled

with refugees from Germany who used it as a sort of halfway house.

Are there other readers who were at this school?

Holders Hill Avenue  
London NW4  
Ludwig Levy

## GERMANOPHOBIA

Sir - I would like to voice a protest against the present editorial policy of your journal. The extreme attitude against everything German is really quite unacceptable.

Many of my friends have already intimated that they will not allow the paper over their doorstep. RG - call a halt and adopt a more constructive attitude in keeping with the present vast majority of Germans!

Chalton Drive  
London N2  
Dr E. Hornung

*Dr Hornung should ponder the strong showing of the Republicans in Hesse after the most intense anti-xenophobia campaign ever in the German media.* Ed.

## THE FIRES OF ROSTOCK

Sir - What is it about some ex-German Jewish refugees that they cannot forget the brain-washing they received, when young, in Prussian school history lessons?

You are right in refuting the argument that Frederick was a 'judophile'. You are also right about Maria Theresa, who was, like all the crowned heads of her time, a judophobe. But you fail to make an important distinction. Maria Theresa suffered from almost religious mania, and certainly from ruined knee joints (from kneeling in her private prie-dieu). She was Empress *von Gottes Gnaden*, by divine right, and thus, to her mind, Jews - as long as they were of this persuasion - questioned the 'divine' right of her throne. This explains why in the Austrian Empire Jews who embraced the Christian religion were given full civic rights, commissions in the army etc, while in other European states, including Prussia, this was not so. Frederick II was, like his librarian Voltaire, an atheist. The religious aspect was as irrelevant to him as to the Nazis, and for the self-same reason. Frederick's anti-Jewish attitude stemmed from racism pure and simple.

Connaught Avenue  
Grimsby  
E. H. Kenneth

## ASKING THE WRONG QUESTION

Sir - Mordechai Vaanunu was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment, which Ruth Willers calls 'a comparatively short sentence'. For the past six years he has been in solitary confinement in a cell measuring 6 ft x 10 ft with a drain hole that doubles as shower and lavatory. Once every two weeks he is allowed a visit from his family, separated from them by a metal screen. The excuse that this cruel and degrading treatment is to save him from attack by other prisoners is sheer hypocrisy.

His 'crime' was to expose the nuclear conspiracy of Israel's authorities accumulating an arsenal of horrifying weapons when the superpowers are trying to dispose of them. This gross misuse of Israel's scant resources was never authorised by the people of Israel, to whom it represents a threat as great as to its neighbours.

The people who waste millions of shekels on such foul weapons and who profit from fat defence contracts under a cloak of secrecy have the temerity to question the motives of a man who followed his conscience.

Just back from a visit to Israel I am heartened by a groundswell of public dissent from the aggressive militarism which is so uncharacteristic of our people.

Vaanunu's friends will not rest until he is freed and Israel once again will shine as 'a light amongst the nations'.

Potter Street  
Pinner, Middlesex  
H. S. Grünwald

## QUOTE MISQUOTE

Sir - I have been reading *AJR Information* for longer than I care to remember and have always found it immaculately printed. Alas, no more. Schiller did *not* write 'Wo dein sanfter Fluegel weih't' (p. 13, February issue) but 'weilt'.

Has everyone in the Editorial office forgotten their German?

Winston Avenue  
London NW9  
M. Smith

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**ERUV OVER OUR HEADS**

Sir – The orthodox lobby clamouring for an Eruv in Golders Green seem, to me, to have made a serious mistake in presenting their argument in favour of this 'symbolic' zone, and caused a great deal of trouble for themselves and everyone else.

Would it not be much easier simply to declare the whole British mainland an Eruv, with the coast as natural boundaries, and only tell the people who actually want to know?

Tufnell Park  
N7

M. Weldon

**LOCATING THE ROOTS**

Sir – There is no 'German infection' of which Hitlerism is but one manifestation. To tar German traditionalist, patriotic, 'jingoistic' (if you wish) attitudes with the same brush as mass-murdering, corpse-robbing Nazism is totally unfounded.

Hitlerism came into power in Germany – like Bolshevism in Russia – owing to exceptional circumstances; its roots are not in Germany but in France (Gobineau and Chauvin) and England (H. S. Chamberlain), and in the multinational Habsburg empire (Lueger).

Bishops Close  
Old Coulsdon, Surrey

G. Schmerling

**BLACK AND BLUE**

Dear Mrs Lassman – I wish you would stop the Editor printing tripe he considers funny. I am not the only reader who hates him for wasting good space. Black and Blue is idiotic. He should invite brainy AJR members – we have many scientists and doctors – to contribute. If he cannot get contributors let him print fewer pages.

Grove End Gardens  
London NW8

Peter W. Johnson

**BOUQUETS**

Sir – I find AJR Information very useful – in fact excellent.

Tiddington Road  
Stratford-on-Avon

K. Mannaberg

Sir – Thank you for continuing to provide your readers with such a really splendid magazine which I read from cover to cover each month without putting it down once.

Alders Close  
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**Musical 'diarist'**

Anne Frank wrote her wartime diary in a cramped Amsterdam hiding place, amid fear and inter-family friction. Michael Tilson-Thomas, in contrast, is a musical jet-setter who divides his life between London, as principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, and Miami, where he conducts the New World Symphony Orchestra.

Some strange artistic alchemy brought these two together, and the result was Tilson Thomas's first major composition, *From the Diary of Anne Frank*, premiered at the Barbican last year.

The 'trigger' for the work came from actress Audrey Hepburn who, herself a survivor of the Nazi occupation of Holland, suggested that UNICEF (of which she was spokesperson) commission the piece. The composition contains passages from the *Diary* which she read at its Gala premiere.

For Tilson-Thomas, writing about Anne represented a return to the emotional, melodic composition of his late teens, which he abandoned at the time for conducting. 'They were not' he told me 'avant-garde enough. I respected *avante-garde* music, but it wasn't what I wanted to say'.

**Eternal tragedy**

On the podium the 46-year old Californian is arresting and mercurial – not unlike Anne herself. He agrees that they share mercurial, quicksilver natures. He relates to the orchestra with dynamism, explorative vigour and sheer joyousness. Watching him in rehearsal gives one a sense of the sixth form common room, perhaps another link with Anne Frank. And of course *Anna* represents intense youthfulness to him, darkened by the eternal, overarching tragedy of the Holocaust.

'I wanted to represent her character as a little bird of contradictions, and to suggest the horrors and privations she endured as well as her very remarkable spirit.'

To convey the grief of the Holocaust he used tunes and phrases from the *Kaddish*, but points out that these are not as mournful, as lachrymose, as they appear.

'The *Kaddish* is sung on solemn occasions, but the words are all to do with the blessings and magnifications of life' he says. His composition stirs him, not just on account of its personal nostalgia but because, he explains, it contains a great deal of exciting, dance-like music.

In her more optimistic moments Anne wrote: 'I am young and strong and am living a great adventure. I am still in the midst of it

and can't grumble the whole day long'.

Tilson-Thomas admits he is less attracted by her literary talent than her 'voracious intelligence, darting about from subject to subject, with this wonderful sense of humour, and at the same time observing things happening in the world'. He adds:

**Conversational and direct**

'There's no question that she was a remarkably talented and perceptive person. I don't think she was unique. You could see her literary talent, but a lot of the time you feel she is very conversational and direct.'

Tilson-Thomas admits to feeling in touch with Anne, almost it seems, in a psychic way. Whenever he was stuck for inspiration he stared at her picture on the piano and asked her to help him.

'Although her words convey a state of peace and resolution, somehow there is an indication of her fate' he suggests. Confronting the Holocaust as a composer and his own past as a Jew through the 'Diary', disturbed him. His own grand-parents founded the Yiddish Theatre in New York, and through them he inherited a tradition of Hebrew and Yiddish folk-songs. (The fate of members of his family, who lived in Russia at the time of the Second World War remains unknown.)

'In the end I decided to try and represent it through Anna's eyes. I can imagine that she herself would probably have liked it. If it does not quite speak with the same voice, it reflects the exuberance I felt at 18.'

□ Gloria Tessler

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## New concert venue

The genial atmosphere and sense of community experienced at the annual AJR concerts has in no way diminished over the decades, but ticket sales have unfortunately declined over the past two years. Consequently the Queen Elizabeth Hall is no longer financially viable as a venue for the event. This may actually be good news for those of our members who found a long autumnal trairpse across the South Bank complex less than appealing.

However, regular concert-goers, for whom this annual musical event was a red-letter day in the social calendar, need not despair. We are delighted to announce that this year's Annual Charity Concert will be held at the Royal Academy of Music in Marylebone Road, on Sunday 17 October. Programme details will appear in the May issue. This change of venue will in no way diminish the high musical standards consistently achieved over the last half century.

When we informed the South Bank Centre that we were ending our 26 year association they expressed regrets, adding:

*Everyone at the South Bank was very sad to hear that you have decided to look for a smaller venue for your annual concert. Your concerts at the Queen Elizabeth Hall have been enjoyed by a huge number of people – not only is their artistic quality extremely high but you are also raising funds for a very*

## Sal Srebnik Library opened



Holly, Clare and Ella.



Claudia (Didi) Srebnik.

Clare, Holly and Ella have no conception of what it means to be alone. They are beautiful children, much loved and secure in the heart of their family. They fear nothing and have nothing to fear. For these reasons it was especially fitting that they should be chosen to declare the new library at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre officially open. These children represent the newest generation to grow from the

*worthwhile cause. We are sorry to lose a valued promoter.*

The Royal Academy of Music concert hall has a seating capacity of four hundred, so members are advised to return booking forms as early as possible after receipt in order to ensure tickets. (Please note that there are no facilities for wheelchair users at the Royal Academy.) □

roots of the refugee community, many of whom had their own childhood brutally interrupted. The library is a gift to members of the first generation from the children's grandmother, Claudia (Didi) Srebnik.

Just prior to the ceremony, Mr C. T. Marx, Chairman of the AJR, thanked Mrs Srebnik for her generosity in funding and administering the new service. He also praised her foresight in identifying a 'gap' in the many facilities already available at the Day Centre. In reply, Mrs Srebnik dismissed gratitude, saying that it was she who had received a 'new lease of life' from her 'job'.

The Sal Srebnik Library will entail a great deal of work and responsibility. We are grateful to Didi, even though she denies we should be, for taking on this task and hope that it gives her, and those who use it, much pleasure for many years to come. □

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#### Afternoon entertainment –

APRIL	
Thursday 1	Judi Merri's 'Foolish' Pot-Pourri – Judi Merri-Frowde accompanied by June Moore (Piano)
Sunday 4	Isabel Beyer & Harvey Dagul Entertain at the Piano
Monday 5	CLOSED AFTER LUNCH
Tuesday 6	CLOSED
Wednesday 7	CLOSED

Thursday 8	Justin Joseph Entertains at the Piano	Tuesday 27	Musical Gems from the Past – Bernard Wilcox (Tenor) Julia Binneti (Soprano) accompanied by Ron Wilson (Piano)
Sunday 11	CLOSED	Wednesday 28	The Dulcet Tones
Monday 12	CLOSED	Thursday 29	The Two R's Cabaret – Richard Moody (Tenor) accompanied by Robert Douglas (Piano)
Tuesday 13	CLOSED	MAY	
Wednesday 14	Little Pieces of Light Classical Music – Jeremy Henderson (Piano)	Sunday 2	The Balaton Hungarian Folk Dance Group
Thursday 15	The Stanley & Bertha Lishak Duo – Violin & Piano	Monday 3	CLOSED
Sunday 18	Take a Quick-Step Back In Time – Geoffrey Strum accompanied by Johnny Walton (Piano)	Tuesday 4	A Concert given by Gitte Sorensen (Flute) & Vegard Lund (Guitar) of LIVE MUSIC NOW – The Scheme which brings Music into the Community
Monday 19	Continental Cocktail – Helen Mignano (Soprano) accompanied by Sylvia Cohen (Piano)	Wednesday 5	Light Classical Music – Bahiya Callan (Soprano) & Lianne-Marie Skrinari (Soprano) with Piano accompaniment
Tuesday 20	Songs & Arias – John Freeman (Bass) and Helen Blake (Soprano & Piano)	Thursday 6	Musical Harmony – Jack Harris & Happy Branston
Wednesday 21	The Songmakers – Jack Harris accompanied by Happy Branston (Piano)	Sunday 9	METROPOLITAN POLICE BAND
Thursday 22	June Moore & Gerhart Hamburger at the Piano		
Sunday 25	The Beaufort Ensemble		
Monday 26	The Valerie Hewitt Show accompanied by Anne Berryman (Piano)		

**FAMILY EVENTS**

**Birth**

Treitel A son Alex to Terry and Richard on 14 February 1993, in New York.

**Birthday**

Aronheim Dr Lotte Aronheim, née Stettin, of the Vera Solomon Centre, Kfar Saba, Israel, celebrated her 100th birthday on 20 February 1993, with her vast family and many friends.

**Deaths**

Flatter Frieda Flatter, born Oberländer, widow of Bruno Flatter, beloved mother of Felix and George, grandmother of Susan and Michael and adored great grandmother of Dov, Yael, Benjamin and Clare, died peacefully on 20 February 1993 in her 94th year.  
Josephs Dr Olga Josephs (née Herzberg) died peacefully in her

home on 10 February 1993. Desperately missed by her son Gerald, daughter-in-law Rosalind and granddaughters Marina and Nicola.  
Wetzler Hans Wetzler, born Dusseldorf 1909, came to England 1933. He died peacefully on 17 February. He will be much missed by his family and friends and remembered for his kindness, generosity and tolerance.

Wolken Dr Arthur Peter Wolken of Maida Vale, died suddenly on 2 February 1993 aged 85. Much missed by his many patients and friends.

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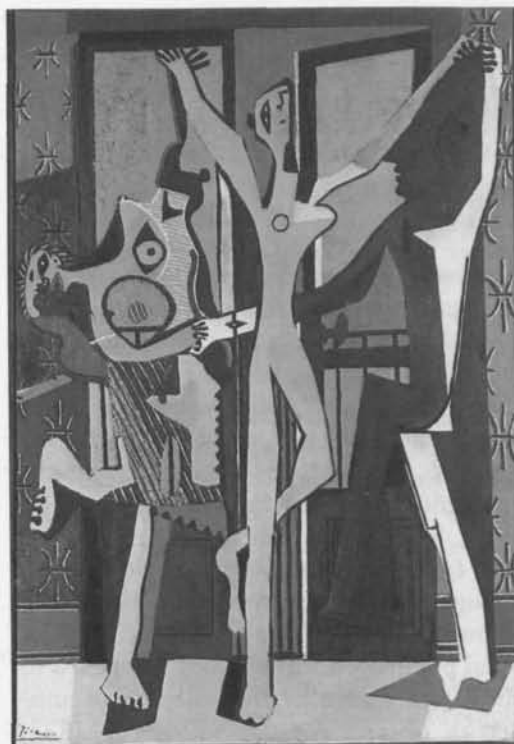
Alice Schwab

# Art Notes

The next exhibition at the Hayward Gallery *Georgia O'Keeffe: American and Modern* (until 27 June) should be interesting. O'Keeffe was renowned for her large flower paintings and haunting landscapes of the American South-west. At the same time the Hayward Gallery is showing three classic light installations by James Turrell. Turrell has an enormous studio in a hangar at Flagstaff Airport, Arizona, and is the only artist known to have acquired an extinct volcano.

A great treat is in store at the National Gallery with the showing of *Tradition and Revolution in French Art 1700 to 1880* (until 11 July). This exhibition drawn from works at the Musée des Beaux Arts in Lille includes such famous paintings as David's *Belisarius*, Delacroix's *Medea*, Courbet's *Après-dîner à Ornans* and superb paintings by Chardin, Boucher, Greuze, Gericault, Corot and Sisley (some of these artists are hardly represented in British public collections).

This year the British Museum Society (the friends of the British Museum), is celebrating its 25th anniversary. An exhibition *Modern Graphic Art in Britain: Gifts from the British Museum Society* is on show until 25 April. Also at the British Museum (until 25 April) is *The Art of Watercolour: The Royal Watercolour Society Collection*. The Society was founded in 1804 by artists seceding from the Royal Academy. The 100 works on display, dating from the first decade of the 19th century to the present day, have been selected from the finest watercolours in the collection.



Picasso, *The Three Dancers*, 1925.

Photo: courtesy Tate Gallery.

The Victoria and Albert Museum is showing (until 6 June) *African Themes*, newly acquired photographs and prints by three artists, David Goldblatt, Maud Sulter and Faisal Ammar Abdu'allah. Goldblatt is very well-known in South Africa as a reportage and documentary photographer. At the Tate is the fourth annual display of its collections *New Displays*. The large gallery, Room 15, houses a remarkable display *Portraits and Allegories in European Art, 1910-1950*, including works by Picasso, Beckmann, Chagall, Derain, Stanley Spencer and Lucian Freud.

Finally the eminently successful *Pirates, Fact and Fiction* exhibition is coming back to the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich (until 5 September). Many of the most popular features of the original exhibition have returned. □

## SB's Column

**50 years ago.** During the dark days of war when news from the Continent consisted of tank battles, little was heard in England of actors, singers and the fate of former celebrities. It was 1943 when Zarah Leander sang in her last film *Damals*, leaving Germany soon afterwards for her native Sweden. At the same time, vast entertainment-hungry audiences in Nazi Europe were amused by the Hans Albers film *Münchhausen*, unaware that the officially maligned Erich Kaestner, had written the script under a pseudonym. Carl Orff, at the time a little-known composer scored a triumph with *Carmina Burana*. In the United States, Franz Werfel's *Jacobowsky and the Colonel* had its Broadway premiere with Curd Juergens and Danny Kaye in the main parts.

**Profile of an actor.** A Salzburg exhibition throws light on Oskar Werner, a very gifted performer who, however, lacks the discipline for acting in an ensemble. Member of the 'Burg' in the Forties and Fifties, he failed to make Vienna his artistic home; falling out with his superiors he chose an international film career (*Jules et Jim*, *The Spy that came in from the Cold*). He was originally married to Elisabeth Kallina who showed early talent in Rostand's *L'aiglon*.

**Recent guests** at the Vienna State opera were Kiri te Kanawa, much acclaimed as Richard Strauss' *Arabella*, and Nicolai Ghiaurov who sang in Mussorgsky's *Khovantchina* 35 years after his first appearance there.

**Obituary.** Marko Rothmueller, a most impressive baritone, has died, aged 84. A Croatian Jew, he started his career in pre-Nazi Germany, going on to Vienna and Switzerland. At the Royal Opera House, he sang *Rigoletto*, *Amonasro* and *Wozzeck* accompanied by forceful acting. Roles in Glyndebourne included the premiere of Stravinsky's *Rake's Progress*. After 1959 he sang for a while at the Met in New York, and later taught at Indiana University. □

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How the Jews of Mesopotamia saved  
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Apr. 26th. Stella Rosenak, M.A.  
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## A history of the Jews in the German-speaking lands

## Part 8: The French Revolution and Napoleon

## The French Revolution and the Jews

The French Revolution inscribed on its banner the Rights of Man, and Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. These were soon extended to the Jews. We have already seen in Part 7 that civic equality for the Jews was enacted in January 1790, though the deputies from Alsace at first managed to exclude the Jews of that region. France had acquired largely Germanic Alsace from the Holy Roman Empire only about 100 years earlier, and anti-Jewish prejudices were still deep-rooted. The Jews of Alsace, unlike those in the rest of France, were still physically and culturally isolated in German-style ghettos, and thus deemed unassimilable. But during 1791 the Jacobins, committed to the radical implementation of revolutionary principles, came to exert more influence on the National Assembly, and in September that year secured the emancipation of the Jews of Alsace also.

Revolutionary France went to war with the rest of Europe in 1792; and, especially after Napoleon came to power in 1799, French armies drove all before them and overran the Low Countries and much of Germany. The areas west of the Rhine were annexed to France in 1801; in 1806, the greater part of Germany to the East was constituted into the Confederation of the Rhine under French protection; and in the following year the kingdom of Westphalia was carved out for Napoleon's brother Jerome.

## Napoleon and the Jews

In France and the areas annexed to it Napoleon confirmed the emancipation of the Jews after being assured, first by an Assembly of Jewish Notables, and then a *Sanhedrin* of religious leaders, that they considered themselves citizens of the state, regarded its other citizens as brothers, and were willing to give this state their whole-hearted allegiance, and to defend it (1807). By this time the Jews were so enthusiastically grateful to France that they rejected any idea of a divided allegiance: their reply made the point that they viewed Jews of other countries as strangers whom they had had no problems in fighting.

Nevertheless Napoleon still discriminated against the Jews of Alsace: in 1806 he had described them as a nation of spies and

usurers and, doubtlessly responding to local pressure, had declared a year's moratorium on debts owing to them. Now he maintained that it would take time till, weaned of their 'anti-social' characteristics, they would merit the full freedoms of French citizens. In 1808, he imposed economic restrictions of near-Prussian severity on them. By the end of the decade, Napoleon had fallen; and the Bourbon government, though reactionary in many other ways, allowed the restrictions to lapse. That the local population was still not reconciled to them was shown by the outbreak of anti-Jewish riots in Alsation villages in 1823, 1832, and 1947/8.

## The Jews of Germany

Almost wherever the French armies went they proclaimed religious freedom and broke down the walls of the ghettos. The exception was Bavaria, which played an important part in Napoleon's diplomacy as an ally against Austria: consequently he did not compel the Bavarian ruling classes to emancipate the Jews. But elsewhere the Jews fared better. Jerome's kingdom of Westphalia became in many ways a show piece for French enlightenment. Christian Wilhelm von Dohm, the author of *On the Civil Amelioration of the Jews* (see Part 7), had left the service of Prussia for that of Westphalia, and helped to shape its 1808 constitution which enshrined the complete equality of the Jews. The Grand Duchy of Baden followed suit in 1809.

Though Prussia lost considerable territory during the wars, it was not occupied by France, and until nearly the end of the Napoleonic period the legal situation of the Jews in Prussia remained as it had been. But the trend started by Moses Mendelssohn continued, and Berlin's Jewish intelligentsia became steadily more strongly established. A notable feature of the period were the *salons* of some remarkable Jewish women which provided an intellectual and social meeting ground for Jews and Gentiles. There was Henriette Herz, the wife of the distinguished doctor Marcus Herz; Amalie Beer, daughter of a banker and mother of the composer Giacomo Meyerbeer; Rahel Levin-Varnhagen, daughter of a jeweller. Among the visitors to these salons were Goethe and Schiller, the Humboldt

brothers, Schleiermacher, Brentano, Schlegel and Tieck as well as Mirabeau and Mme de Stael when on visits to Berlin. Despite the fact that their Judaism seemed to be no obstacle to these friendships with Christians, some of the salon Jewesses eventually accepted baptism: Rahel Levin in 1814 when at the age of 43 she married the diplomat Karl August Varnhagen; Henrietta Herz in 1817, under the influence of the theologian Schleiermacher.

By the time of these conversions, the Prussian state had emancipated the Jews. The French had massively defeated Prussia at the Battle of Jena in 1806, as the result of which she temporarily lost her Polish provinces, with their concentration of orthodox Jews, to the Napoleon-created Grand Duchy of Warsaw. A new generation of politicians had drawn the conclusion that many of Prussia's *ancien régime* structures put her at a disadvantage against the dynamism of France. They initiated a whole series of reforms. The loss of the Polish provinces probably made it easier for the Prussian Chancellor, Karl August von Hardenberg, to include the Edict of 1812 granting the Jews equality of status, although it still excluded practising ones from state appointments. There seems to have been little racial anti-Semitism involved: a Jew who converted to Christianity could enter government service.

This presented many Jews with a temptation. Already steeped in secular studies, they now gained admission to universities and were therefore educationally qualified for state service. Consequently a number of them, having advanced so far, accepted baptism simply in order to gain entry to public positions. Historians talk about a 'conversion epidemic' among the Jewish intelligentsia. Sometimes the converts were merely theists (see Part 7) who regarded orthodox Christianity as lightly as they had come to regard orthodox Judaism. Why, they thought, should they handicap themselves in their careers for the sake of credal confessions which meant so little to them? Some tried to conceal their origin; others proudly acknowledged it. All of them identified themselves with German culture and, just as their French counterparts had done, proclaimed their patriotic devotion to the state.

□ Ralph Blumenau

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## Rothschilds and Royals

Continued from March issue

The appointment of Lord Rothschild to the presidency of the London Institute of Jewish Affairs 250 years after the birth of Mayer Amschel, the founder of the dynasty, prompts a brief retelling of the much-told Rothschild story.

### London

In England the story begins with Amschel's third son Nathan. He was a legend in his lifetime. Cinema goers of a certain age are likely to remember how he was portrayed as such in a remarkable performance by George Arliss – the way he stood on the floor of the London Stock Exchange, top-hatted, leaning against 'his' pillar; how, thanks to the family's unique courier network, he learned of the outcome of the Battle of Waterloo some 24 hours before anyone else in Britain and how – not simply by shrewd exploitation of this knowledge – he became one of the richest men in the country. In point of fact, he lived in relatively modest style and showed disdain towards publicity and worldly honours. Thus he was not unduly worried when, in 1816, his bothers, but not he, were granted the Imperial Austrian patent of a heredi-

tary title (the family crest first showing four, and not the later five, symbolic arrows in the famous cluster).

It is worth noting that his son Lionel declined an English baronetcy when it was offered in 1849. From then on Queen Victoria refused to grant him a peerage when his name was put forward again, although she was on visiting terms with other members of the family. He was the first professing Jew to enter Parliament; his greatest service to Britain was the acquisition of Suez Canal Company shares. Lionel's grandson Walter rendered an even more signal service to the Jewish people as recipient of a letter from the Foreign Secretary which the world knows as the Balfour Declaration.

### Paris

James was the youngest son of Mayer Amschel. Although he never took on French nationality, he sought the company of members of Parisian high society. He came to be one of the closest friends of Louis Phillippe, the bourgeois King of France, as well as his financial adviser. His house in the rue Laffitte was described by Heinrich Heine as 'the Versailles of . . . money'. In due time he went on to build a flamboyantly extravagant palace, the Château de Ferrières, where he was visited by Napoleon III.

The occasion was one of considerable splendour, with illuminations and a concert given by the Paris Opera chorus conducted by Rossini. Considering that James de Rothschild was not one of the Emperor's favourites this visit was indeed a major triumph.

### Vienna

In Vienna, his elder brother Salomon had a rather harder road to tread in order to obtain imperial recognition, not to mention any kind of closer personal relationship. Although he had a friend at court in the person of Prince Metternich, he was himself restricted by the slow pace of emancipation in the Hapsburg lands. Only when he had become one of the largest landowners and could no longer be excluded did he obtain the gracious acknowledgement of His Imperial Majesty. He sought no more and was satisfied that he had thus achieved significant progress towards the confirmation of unencumbered civil rights for the Jewish subjects of the Dual Monarchy. But not until 32 years after his death was a Rothschild, his grandson Salomon Albert, actually received by Emperor Franz Joseph.

Perhaps the most bizarre of all the Rothschilds' royal encounters involved two of Salomon Albert's sons. In September 1936, not long after the conclusion of the Hitler-Schuschnigg pact, King Edward VIII and Mrs Wallis Simpson visited the Austrian capital. Though admirers of the German leader, the couple visited Baron Eugene von Rothschild and his American-born wife Kitty at their palatial home, Schloss Enzesfeld.

In June 1937 the Baron and his wife were guests at their friends' wedding in Paris. Much of the couple's honeymoon was spent in Germany, meeting the Nazi hierarchy. And thus, when Eugene's brother Louis was in the hands of the Gestapo, the Windsors were obvious intermediaries in the negotiations to secure Himmler's approval for his prisoner's release (naturally for a substantial ransom of money and property). Louis Rothschild's health was ruined, but his life was spared.

This Rothschild rescue effort was, of course, largely a family affair. But there were others. For since the days of Mayer Amschel, the Rothschild name has been synonymous with helping fellow-Jews, often anonymously, never grudgingly and always with the very greatest generosity. That, rather than a heritage of royal connections, is, we may be sure, the hallmark of the new President of the Institute of Jewish Affairs.

□ David Maier

### STERNBERG CENTRE FOR JUDAISM

#### Highlights

**Sunday 18 April.** 8.00 p.m. 'Loving the Dead' – a film and talk by Mira Hamermesh.

**Tuesday 20 April.** 8.00 p.m. Pacifism and the Jews – Museum Lecture.

**Wednesday 28 April.** 8.00 p.m. Judaism and Psychotherapy (1st in a new series).

**Until 22 April.** A Celebration of Life. The art of Margaret Russell. Exhibition.

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## THIS ISRAEL

### Intifada

Since its inception five years ago Arab-on-Arab violence has cost 750 lives. During the last year Hamas and Islamic Jihad carried out 30 terrorist attacks, leaving 13 Israelis dead.

Yosuf Alrai, a masked 22-year old Hebron Palestinian, shot in the groin by IDF members, had his life saved by an IDF doctor and the Hadassah-University hospital's trauma unit.

### Ecology

The United World College, an institution dedicated to world peace under the patronage of Prince Charles, is to set up a branch in the Negev which would concentrate on desert ecology.

Kibbutz Sde Boker has developed an innovative environmentally friendly stationery tape, called Ecotape. Though 'green' it comes in several colours.

### Telecommunication

Bezek, Israel's telephone company, have installed a prayer fax machine at the Wailing Wall. Now pious Jews from all over the world can simply dial the number and their message will be inserted in a crack in the Wall.

### Tourism

Around 2,500 new hotel rooms are soon to be built in Tiberias – almost doubling the city's present capacity – in an effort to

transform it into a giant pilgrimage centre. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres also broached the topic of Catholic tourism during his recent meeting with Pope John Paul II.

### Israel Philharmonic Orchestra

Founding date: 1936.

Initiator: Bronislaw Huberman.

Launch conductor: Arturo Toscanini.

First musical director: Wilhelm Steinberg.

Current conductor: Zubin Mehta.

Number of subscribers: 32,000.

Largest ever audience: 200,000 Israelis at Ha-Yarkon Park, Tel Aviv.

### 'Church-State' relations

Ex-Sephardi Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef: 'The National Religious Party should be dumped in the rubbish bin'. NRP Knesset Member Shaul Yahalom: 'His words are a travesty of Judaism. He doesn't deserve to be mentioned in the same breath as religious Zionists who have served the nation as pioneers and in the army'. □

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## THIS ENGLAND

Left-arm bowlers seem likely to die younger than right-armers.

*Peterborough in Daily Telegraph*

Dr Kalim Siddiqui, leader of the self-styled British Moslem parliament, said: 'I do not want to kill Rushdie. We will just break every bone in his body'.

Dr Siddiqui's grasp of the rule of law must be as tenuous as his grasp of the human physiology; clearly no one could survive the kind of attack Siddiqui threatens.

*Daily Express leader*

Eton has always produced famous criminals as well as statesmen. The only moral of the Guppy case is that anyone who has a son who seems certain to become a criminal should send him to Eton. This will improve his chances of sinning with style.

*Times leader*

It was remarked after Mr Lilley's ordeal that members of the senior common room had stood idly by while he was being pelted with eggs. Let me assure Mr Lilley that he was fortunate. In the 1960s, the dons were throwing eggs as well as the students.

*W. F. Deedes on meetings at the London School of Economics, Daily Telegraph*

Lilley carried on his speech, pausing only to deliver another of his memorable one-liners: 'Politicians are often accused of wearing their hearts on their sleeves, but it is not common for one to wear his lunch on his suit'.

*Times Diary*

It is no more cynical than being in an alliance with Stalin to defeat Hitler.

*Norman Tebbit asked on TV if it would be cynical for Tory MPs to vote for the Social Chapter* □

### VERSE AND WORSE

#### WALTON VIA DOLOROSA

No bystander's 'You cannot blame me'  
Nor any word of exculpation  
Weighs in the scales when little Jamie  
Asks why his life had short duration

#### HOME ALONE

Mascara running down her face  
They flew back Yasmin in disgrace  
If I were asked I think I'd rather  
That they had found the absent father

#### ERUV

Performing a high-wire act  
One needs a head for heights, plus tact,  
But shouters of 'You're up the pole'  
Too, ought to show some self-control



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## Obituaries

### Hans Jonas

Rhineland-born Hans Jonas who died, aged 89, in New Jersey was a philosopher whom personal inclination, no less than external circumstances, kept well out of the ivory tower. He was a member of *Blau-Weiss* as well as a PhD candidate under Heidegger at Freiburg, a soldier in the British Army, and a lecturer at Israeli and North American universities. Jonas's main work was concerned with the demythologising of religion and the adjusting of ethical codes to breakthroughs in modern medicine. While he increasingly enjoyed the respect of academic colleagues Jonas also attracted media publicity when, at a theology conference at Drew University, U.S.A., in 1964, he roundly accused his (still living) former mentor Martin Heidegger of Nazi sympathies. □

### Frances Maybaum

Frances Maybaum, wife of the late Rabbi Dr Ignaz Maybaum, died in Balint House at the age of 89. Together with her husband and their children, Michael (whose ultimate death was a grievous loss for her) and Alisa (now Mrs Jaffa) she came to this country after the 1938 pogroms under the auspices of the Chief Rabbi's Emergency Fund. Like for many other refugee families, the initial period was not easy. Yet things changed, when her husband was elected Rabbi of the newly founded Edgware and District Reform Synagogue. Throughout the years, she was an indispensable helpmate to him in his creative scholarly work. She also established a cordial relationship with members of the Synagogue, as well as with students who regularly met in the house for lectures and discussions.

She will be sadly missed by her friends, including the dwindling number of those who had already known her in Germany. We extend our sympathy to her daughter and her grandchildren in this country and in Israel. □

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## Birthday

### Dr Werner Rosenstock, 85

Werner Rosenstock is one of the best known names in the British refugee community, and has been for almost half a century.

For 41 years he dedicated himself to the work of our Association, becoming its General Secretary when it was founded in 1941 and editing this journal for almost four decades. In that time his sure administrative touch and tenacity in pursuing the goals of the AJR have assured him of a permanent place in the annals of its history.

Dr Rosenstock's elephantine memory, combined with his analytical powers, ensure that he remains in constant demand as writer and commentator on past, and present day, issues.

Last year the Rosenstocks took up residence in Heinrich Stahl House. Visitors to their apartment soon notice that the phone rings often and the typewriter seldom gathers dust.

We wish Dr Rosenstock many more busy years together with his wife Susanne in their new home. □

*A full profile of Dr Rosenstock appeared in the August 1991 issue of AJR Information.*

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## Austrian Compensation

We understand that efforts are being made at present by the Vienna Jewish Community to press for a lump sum payment from the Austrian Government for Austrian victims of the Holocaust. The outcome may well depend on the number of people registering their interest. Prospective claimants should, in the first instance, write to:

*Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien*  
Seitenstettengasse 4  
1010 Wien

giving their name and former name, current address, date and place of birth, last address in Austria, date of emigration and dates of any concentration camp stay.

You will then get further information from the Kultusgemeinde. □

## Search Notices

Ich suche Information ueber die Soehne von **Max Schlesinger** (geb. 1913) Schulfreund meines Vaters, wohnhaft Reichsbachstrasse, Dresden: **Rudolf Schlesinger** (geb. 1913). **Claus Schlesinger** (geb. 1917). Sie besuchten das Kreuzgymnasium. Rudolf erlernte bei Bondi & Maron das Bankgeschaef. Dr Voigt Friedrich-Hegel (ehemals Daheim) Str. 7 0-8207 Dresden. Tel: 0351/4711695-5

Information wanted from Austrian or German nationals who came to England from Italy in 1939. Please contact Fritzi Gould: 071-289 0246.

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## Chiefs and Indians

**A**llen (pointing to copy of *Jewish Chronicle*): See this headline here about the Chief? Who d'you think they're talking about?

Gilbert: Clinton, I s'pose.

A: Why Clinton?

G: Because whenever an American president appears in public the band plays 'Hail the Chief'.

A: Well you're wrong. The J C means Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks.

G: Trendhogs, eh, if you forgive the *treif* expression.

A: Why trendhogs?

G: Because it's trendy to make everything short and snappy. Chief instead of Chief Rabbi, head instead of headmaster, chair instead of chairman. I ask you, where will it end?

A: Exactly. If a less than hands-on headmaster plays Charles I in a school play you could call him a detached head.

G: Ouch!

A: Alright, I'll give you something more wholesome. During a Council meeting the man with the gavel is taken ill and rushed to hospital. Headline: Chair put to bed.

G: Ha, ha.

A: And with an 18-year old guardsman in the same ward, because he fainted on parade, you'd get the headline: Chair in bed alongside tallboy.

G: Enough already. Let's talk about something serious.

A: For instance?

G: For instance (pointing to copy of *The Guardian*) this piece here called 'The Wind of Revulsion'.

A: Pardon.

G: That's what Gazza should have said. Listen (reads from newspaper) When Paul Gascoigne actively aspirated through the muscles of his oesophagus - *gripped* to you - on Italian TV the noise reverberated through the whole country. . . . The article then goes on to quote

Verdi's Falstaff, Shakespeare's Sir Toby Belch and the Chinese custom of burping after meals in token of appreciation.

A: Whoever wrote that must be a real *Weltbürger*.

G: Not cosmopolitan enough, I'm afraid.

A: What did he leave out?

G: The Jewish angle.

A: In which way?

G: He could have called the Chinese after-dinner custom *grêps-de-chine*.

A: You're asking for a lot.

G: O.K. But why no reference to a classic like Steinbecks *Greps of Roth*?

A: Are you sure you don't mean *The Gripes of Roth*.

G: No, no, no. That was *Portnoy's Complaint*. . . . Anyway we're getting off the subject.

A: Which is?

G: That British journalists time and again deliberately leave out the Jewish angle. Over Charles and the Camilla Gates affair, for instance.

A: Camilla Gates? Don't you mean Camillagate?

G: Camillagate? (Laughs) So you've also fallen for the trick that denies the Israelis their due.

A (astounded): The Israelis?

G: Sure! MI5 called it the Camilla Gates affair in tribute to the head of Mossad.

A: Who is that?

G: Zvi Gates.

A: Never heard of him.

G: I should hope not. After all, Mossad is a secret service.

A: So how do you know?

G: I noticed that whenever Israeli undercover agents meet they use the password *Zvi Gates*.

A: Enough of this tomfoolery. Is there a Jewish angle on Prince Charles, or isn't there?

G: I should say there is, but the press won't let on. They keep printing Saxe-Coburg-Gotha instead of Sacks-Cohnberg-Gotha. Sacks, of course shows that the Royal are related to the Chief Rabbi. From the Cohnbergs Charles, in particu-

lar, has inherited his artistic interest. Remember the 'Carbuncle' speech? People whose surnames end in -berg are always artistic. Schönberg wrote *Moses and Aaron*, Goldberg wrote the Bach *Variations* and Venusberg wrote *Tannhäuser*.

A: Maybe yes, maybe no. However, you haven't explained the Gotha bit.

G: Well, no one's perfect. But consider this: Prince Albert's favourite composer was Mendelssohn, Queen Victoria's favourite Prime Minister was Disraeli, Edward VII's favourite banker was Ernst Cassel, and George VI would only cross the road at a Belisha beacon.

A: Alright, alright, point taken. But seriously, do you think Prince Charles will be the Last of the Mohicans?

G: To give you an answer with a Jewish angle: he will if he goes on the warpath with a *milchige* tomahawk.

□ R.G.

### 40 Years Ago this Month

#### EINSTEIN REFUSES GERMAN HONORARY OFFICE

Professor Albert Einstein has declined to become an honorary member of the local Ulm Group of the International Anti-War Organisation (Internationale der Kriegsdienst-Gegner). He stated that whilst he was in agreement with the objects of the organisation he could not accept the honorary membership, because, after the crimes committed by Hitler Germany, he refused any participation in German public affairs.

#### MOSLEY AGAINST ADMISSION OF REFUGEES

In his paper 'Union', Sir Oswald Mosley raises strong objections against any plans of admitting Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe. 'They will make no better citizens of Britain', he says, 'than the flood that reached our shores in the 1930s. Let us put the British people first.'

*AJR Information April 1953.*

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