

AJR Information

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Don't miss . . .

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Divided

counsels

German Jewry is currently split with the national leadership approving, and the local community objecting to, Berlin's brand new War Memorial. Although *Zentralrat* Chairman Ignatz Bubis cuts a much more statesmanlike figure than Berlin's communal leader Jerzy Kanal, the latter seems to be right in this instance. A memorial that brackets murdered Jews together with fallen German soldiers as 'victims of war' fails to differentiate between genuine victims and – however reluctant – perpetrators. □

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ALL OUR
READERS
A
HAPPY
CHANUKAH

The pitfalls of 'purity' in politics

Greens, Reds and Browns

Green, as in greenhorn, used to be a perjorative term connoting raw and inexperienced. Since then the word has gone upmarket; nowadays it means ecologically sound and environment-friendly.

The German Greens – a party on the way to becoming the third force in that country's politics – have coupled pacifism with ecological concerns. At a recent conference they voted to scrap the *Bundeswehr* and start arms reductions worldwide. The proposer of the motion drew thunderous applause with the slogan 'No more war, no more Auschwitz!'

This idealistic argument was opposed by Daniel Cohn-Bendit, the only – metaphorical – 'Auschwitz survivor' among the assembled Greens. An advocate of armed intervention to save Bosnian Moslems from genocide, Cohn-Bendit was thus cast in the paradoxical role of arguing in favour of German militarism.

Interestingly enough Schönhuber's *Republikaner*, starting from the opposite end of the political spectrum to the Greens, have arrived at a not dissimilar position. They don't actually want to disband the *Bundeswehr*, but merely bar it from any foreign 'entanglement' (such as peacekeeping), where German national interest is not directly involved. This

'keep-our-boys-at-home' attitude is all of a piece with the rightwing gut reaction against anything which puts global or European considerations above the *sacro egotismo* of the Fatherland.

The Republikaner are actually claiming that all they want is a German counterpart to Lady Thatcher – i.e. someone for whom the national interest overrides all others – in power at Bonn instead of the current bunch of Eurofederalists. Whatever significance one attaches to Schönhuber dressing up in shreds of Thatcherite respectability, the fact remains that in Germany *les extrêmes se touchent*: the far Right opposes the dispatch of soldiers to Bosnia or Somalia, while the Greens want the country to follow the example of Costa Rica and disband its army altogether.

This calls to mind another pacifist paradox: in the Gulf War, German peace campaigners demanded Western inaction while Saddam Hussein was targeting Israel for genocide.

Thanks to Saddam's defeat, the Middle East has moved on since then and September brought the Israel-PLO peace accord. This accord was, to a considerable extent, facilitated by the new co-operative orientation of Russian foreign policy – a fact symbolised by Foreign Minister Kozyrev's speech on the White House lawn.

As for Russian home affairs, these have presented a unique paradox of late: a parliament claiming to be a constitutional bulwark against presidential dictatorship bloodily dissolved by a President ostensibly pledged to democratic reform.

That is one way of looking at Russia's 'Second October Revolution'. Another way is this: had Rutskoï and the parliamentarians won Russia would have resumed destabilising the Middle East and kiosks peddling the Protocols of Zion would have reopened in Moscow and St Petersburg.

Thus, if one studies the tangled interconnection between the Gulf, Israel, Germany and Russia, one sees the 'purists' proved wrong over and over again. Pacifist opponents of the Gulf War shouting 'No blood for oil' would merely have left Saddam Hussein supreme in the Middle East; by the same token vociferous anti-Yeltsinites like Ken Livingstone and Harold Pinter would apparently prefer Rutskoï to have led Russia back – along a non-capitalist road – to the clearcut certainties of the Cold War. □



Detail of a Torah crown, Galicia, early 19th century.

Fraenkel Prize

The Wiener Library in London is pleased to announce that the Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History for 1993 has been awarded as follows:

Dr Mark Mazower (U.K.) and Dr Nathan Stoltzfus (U.S.A.) shared the prize open to all entrants; Stefan Kuehl (Germany) was awarded the prize for entrants under 30, and the entry by Anthony Kauders (UK) was highly commended by the committee.

In 1994 there will again be two distinct Fraenkel Prize awards, both for unpublished works in the field of contemporary European history: one of \$5,000, open to all entrants, and one of \$3,000, open only to those under 30. For more details, please write to the Administrative Secretary, Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1N 2BH. □

HILARY'S AGENCY

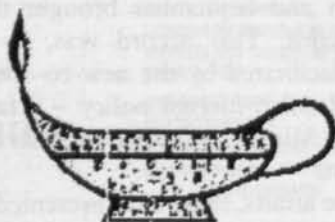
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Profile

Man of parts



Frank Steiner.

Photo: Newman.

Deddington is a small Oxfordshire town with houses built of Cotswold stone. Among its residents one is so involved in local affairs that he knows the provenance of every building and was a candidate for the parish council. He also happens to be a reader of – and occasional contributor to – *AJR Information*. However, as Frank Steiner walks Deddington's leafy lanes and exchanges greetings with his neighbours, even Shaw's Professor Higgins would be hard put to deduce from his demeanour and speech that he had been born a judge's son in interwar Vienna and been christened Franz.

Christened is the operative word. The Steiner parents were Jewish converts to Catholicism. Franz accordingly attended the Benedictine-staffed Schottengymnasium – a school the Nazis disbanded not long after the Anschluss. Franz came to England on a Kindertransport. His parents found refuge in Hungary (with help from the Church) but did not manage to survive.

Over here Franz – now Frank – found continuity of a sort by spending several terms at Belmont Abbey School, near Hereford, where his teachers were again Benedictine brothers. After a spell at Central Camp, Douglas, Isle of Man – where the judge's son smilingly recalls Michael Kerr (subsequent Lord Justice of Appeal) as a fellow internee – he combined commercial jobs with evening study for an Economics Degree. The qualification enabled him to become a civil servant at the Board of Trade. After a wartime stint in Whitehall he was seconded to the Paris office of the

Organisation for European Economic Co-operation, administrators of the Marshall Plan. Infighting at the OEEC made this a far from happy experience and Frank 'fled' back to England and into the oil industry. This move also produced a kind of continuity: the Manchester Oil Refinery Group had been set up by the continental entrepreneurs Tugendhat and Kind. When the Manchester group was swallowed up by one of the oil giants he joined a large city stockbroking firm for whom, in a pioneering initiative, he set up a European bridgehead in Vienna. His last job in the 'square mile' was in a partnership headed by the Chairman of the Stock Exchange.

Throughout this variegated life Frank has kept equally busy outside of working hours. A Young Liberal activist in the postwar years, he was subsequently involved with the Catholic media as honorary U.K. correspondent of the Austrian Kath-Press agency and the German language section of Radio Vatican. In the 1980s the Huguenot Tercentenary and *The Times* obituary to Amadeus Quartet member Peter Schidlof made him contemplate a project on the refugee contribution to British life. A letter to the *The Times* brought together various interested parties and eventually triggered the publication of R. M. Cooper's study *Refugee Scholars*.

Clearly, Frank Steiner, public spirited City gent, Catholic Jew and Central European Englishman, is a man of parts.

□ R.G.

East-Germany and Berlin

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AJR and OSHA

Our readers will be aware that for many years AJR has given financial support to the Otto Schiff Housing Association (OSHA), who now administer the residential homes for elderly refugees in London.

The first home was opened as long ago as 1954, and by now OSHA has in its charge four homes offering full residential care for about 200 people, including nursing care for about a quarter of that number, all of them located in the Bishop's Avenue in Finchley. They manage another small residential home in Golders Green on behalf of the Leo Baeck Housing Association Ltd. In addition there are two houses offering sheltered accommodation in one of which, namely Eleanor Rathbone House in Highgate, the AJR has a one-third interest.

In the early years most of the refugee residents were able to pay the full cost either out of their German pensions or otherwise, and where this was not the case local

authority or DSS subsidies covered the cost of their maintenance. The accruing relatively small deficits were covered by the Allocations Committee, a part of the former Jewish Trust Corporation, which originally established the homes, and charitable contributions.

During the last ten years or so the situation has changed dramatically. Many of the residents now entering the homes neither receive pensions nor have the funds to pay for their upkeep. The Allocations Committee's resources have been exhausted, and under new legislation in force since April this year the number of new residents supported by local authorities is greatly reduced. Such support, where it is forthcoming, will generally not cover the full cost of maintenance. Added to this must be the fact of the continually rising cost of providing services to residents of much greater age than previously, employing the qualified staff needed, and maintaining and improving buildings and equipment to meet present day standards and requirements.

It is not surprising that these changes have brought growing annual deficits. Towards their reduction the AJR Charitable Trust, supported by the receipt of legacies, is contributing the sum of £500,000 for the three years ending 31 December 1995. Together with earlier contributions, including the proceeds of our appeal three years ago, generously subscribed to by our members and friends, the financial support from AJR over some ten years amounts to approximately £1.5 million, making us OSHA's prime financial supporter.

Since OSHA took over the recruitment and admission of residents, previously handled for many years by a separate AJR department, we no longer have any direct input in the administration of the homes. Our interest in its work is represented through our members on OSHA's Council and Management Committee, where they seek to contribute towards securing efficient and caring management and prudent use of financial resources. The substantial financial support referred to above is further testimony of that interest. □

New German payments for children's education

Under recent German legislation, small *Renten* (pensions) can be paid to the mothers (or, in certain cases, fathers) – who must be Nazi persecutees – of children born outside Germany prior to January 1, 1950.

Mothers born in 1920 or earlier will, on application, receive a *Rente* of DM 33 per

month for each child. In addition, there will be a payment of arrears for each child as follows:

Year of mother's birth	Arrears of <i>Rente</i>
1900–1906	approx. DM 2000
1907–1911	approx. DM 1700
1912–1916	approx. DM 1300
1917–1920	approx. DM 1000

Where a German pension is already received, the monthly amount will be added to the pension.

Mothers born between 1921 and 1933

A contribution period of at least 60 months will have to be established. For the first year of the child's life, a contribution period of 12 months is automatically accepted. The remaining months can be filled by social insurance contributions made in the UK or voluntary contributions retrospectively from January 1, 1981 (which can also be paid to increase the basic pension). The 'baby' pension will then be paid from the date of the mother's 65th birthday. Where a German pension is already received, the 'baby' pension will be added.

Fathers born between 1921 and 1933

The position is similar to that for mothers. The parents have to agree between themselves who is to claim the 'baby' pension.

Further details of the, very complicated, legislation cannot be included in this article. The applications must be made prior to December 31, 1994 to the *Bundesversicherungsanstalt fuer Angestellte*, 10704 Berlin, Germany. Applications after that date do not qualify for any arrears of pension. Details of the name, date and place of birth of children born after emigration, as well as personal details of both parents' including name, date and place of birth, dates of marriage and emigration, should be stated.

For those already in receipt of a pension it will help if photocopies of German Pension *Bescheide* and most recent *Anpassungsmittelungen* (as from July 1, 1993) are attached.

AJR Social Service Department update

As you will note from the above article the 'baby' pension obtainable for each child is quite small. Unless you already receive a German pension you will, undoubtedly, have to supply a large number of documents and fill in numerous detailed forms – so it may not be worthwhile claiming if less than two or three children are involved. □

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Reviews

The longest hatred

Reviews of three films shown at the Ninth Jewish Film Festival, NFT, 11-23 October, 1993

DEFICIENCY (Carences) Director David Rozenberg; WHY WE'RE HERE (Warum Wir Hier Sind) Director Samuel Davis.

Roland, a young man of ill-defined background, starts work at a tree nursery in Southern France and becomes lodger of the elderly Madame Martin who mothers him. Though he develops some rapport with her, he remains an introvert taken up with body-building and reading Nietzsche in his spare time. Ironically he only becomes 'socialised' when a workmate recruits him into the Neo-Nazi Party; there he finds comradeship and recognition.

Roland's (literal) bleeding as a new Party activist involves beating an old tramp to death. Shortly afterwards he discovers that Madame Martin, whom he thought to have been in the Resistance, is in fact a Jewish camp survivor. In spite of her many past kindnesses he murders her in cold blood to prove his Party loyalty.

Deficiency is a persuasively developed, well-acted film, whose impact loses nothing from the fact that it tells a true story from the early Eighties. In the post-screening discussion David Rozenberg explained his choice of title: Roland's deficiency, i.e. lack of parental love, had turned him into a homicidal fantasist. He added that cinemas in France would not screen the film out of fear of Neo-Nazi bombs.

In Germany it hasn't come to bombs yet, but Jewish cemeteries are routinely vandalised. The opening shots of *Why We're Here* are of a man walking through Frankfurt's cemetery. The current cemetery director has had a close connection with graves since the Holocaust, when he hid in a tomb while his family were carted off to Treblinka.

The focus then switches to other members of the Frankfurt community. The elderly explain how they settled down there, either as postwar DPs or as returnees from Israel and other places offering few material rewards. Then we are shown a middle generation, German-born but weighed down by their parents' traumas. Finally the young, who seem well-rooted for all that their elders keep – metaphorically speaking – their suitcases permanently packed.

After the film its director Samuel Davis, David Rozenberg and Diane Samuels

(author of *Kindertransport*) discussed the rise of the Right in Europe. Alas, it must be said that none of them was very illuminating. Davis declared himself a-political, Rozenberg lacked sufficient grasp of English to articulate his ideas, and Ms Samuel talked mainly of scripts she had written, was writing, or planned to write.

What lifted the lacklustre discussion was a contribution from the 'floor', drawing a clear distinction between general race hatred and antisemitism. The speaker argued that if, for instance, there were no Turks in Germany there would be no more Turcophobia – while antisemitism persists in countries without any Jews.

It is indeed a pseudo-religion, one of mankind's Satanic curses! □ R.G.

NEW GERMANY (*Neues Deutschland*) Directors: D. Levy, M. Pfeiffer, G. Kroske, P. Groning, U. Janson. Germany, 1993

Five filmmakers were contacted by the WDR's TV drama department and asked to contribute toward an omnibus film about the 'New Germany', to take as their starting point the 'hot autumn' of 1992 and make short films about escalating right-wing radicalism.

Without Me, directed by Dani Levy, is the story of a young Jew living in united Berlin. Increasing racial attacks make him paranoid, uneasy and no longer able to estimate the danger in a situation. He cannot communicate his resulting powerlessness to his girlfriend, nor explain it to his worried mother who is urging him to leave Berlin,

'You must leave when you are no longer wanted'. He takes up karate, but a martial art is no defence against the weight of history. Ultimately Simon must decide why, as a young Jew, he should stay and what his place is within Berlin.

Levy's question of identity is posed again by Maris Pfeiffer in her film *A Place, A Suicide*. A severely handicapped man, injured in a car crash, commits suicide after being insulted and spat on by a gang of teenage boys in front of his wife: 'Under Hitler they would certainly have gassed you'. The film reconstructs through interviews with his wife, family photographs and diary excerpts, the inner life of a man whose death could easily have remained unnoticed. By personalising a direct result of fascism, the inability of the fit to accept the 'other', Pfeiffer claws at the comfort blanket of group mentality, the cornerstone of oppression.

Gerd Kroske's *Short Circuit* uses a documented incident as the jumping-off point for his satire on the Germany vision. A technician repeatedly cuts off the electricity during Helmut Kohl's election speech. Just how much was unification thought out is Kroske's question, expanded through news footage intercut with the technician's drama and subsequent flight. During the silences Kohl and his cabinet shuffle awkwardly, waving occasionally at the gathered crowd – pale spectres of the big men they think themselves to be.

Philip Groning's *Victims, Witnesses* is an extended interview with two punks who were set upon by a gang of ultra-right fascists after taking a wrong turning in their car. They are the victims and the witnesses of the title, caught by chance in an opportunistic attack.

Uwe Janson's *Holy Cows*, last in the screening, is more narratively based than any of the others and appears, deceptively, easier to watch. A left-wing documentary film maker accepts an invitation by two Neo-Nazis to come to their hideout and make a film about them and their views. What happens then is a gradual escalation in horror as he is kidnapped and tortured, never sure whether he is to be freed or not.

Unlike documentaries which encourage apathy by making the audience feel that something worthwhile has been accomplished simply by the viewing, *New Germany* directly confronts the individual. These aren't carefully edited accounts, but raw and powerful calls to action. A thought provoking bill.

□ Linda Gibson

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המרכז ליהדות
במאנור האוס

From the poet of 'Freude ...' to Freud

WALLENSTEIN *The Pit, Barbican (in repertory);*
HYSTERIA, *Royal Court Theatre*

The Thirty Years War seems quite topical these days, with all the current talk of privatising prisons and even the postal service. In such an atmosphere military entrepreneurs who set up their own limited companies (in both senses of the word), not to mention armies, appear as obvious figures of interest.

Wallenstein is one of Schiller's history-inspired plays like *Don Carlos* or *Maria Stuart*. (History-inspired rather than historical, because in them the poet intermingled fiction with fact.) He turned the mentally defective Don Carlos into a hero, and staged an imaginary face-to-face encounter between Mary Stuart and Elizabeth I. Schiller's poetic licence with the *Wallenstein* story is the intrusion of the historically non-existent Younger Piccolomini into the plot.

And plot is indeed the operative word. *Wallenstein* is plotting against the Emperor who has invested him with the supreme command, and is in turn plotted against by the envious Elder Piccolomini. The Younger, though in love with *Wallenstein's* daughter, refuses to fight for him because he feels bound by his oath of allegiance to the Emperor. This puts him in the same camp as his father, though for totally opposite – *i.e.* honourable – reasons.

A world largely peopled by doubledealers and selfseekers has no place for idealists, and the son perforce dies in a suicidal skirmish. *Wallenstein* is duly punished for hubris, but the Elder Piccolomini triumphs.

Schiller apparently saw *Wallenstein* as prefiguring Napoleon. It is also assumed that he focused on the Thirty Years War as a bloody miasma of intrigue and selfseeking in a personal reaction against contemporary events in France where the springtime promise of Revolution had turned into the nightmare of the Terror.

This was also the reaction of English writers from Wordsworth to Dickens. For all that Schiller is rarely performed over here, and the RSC deserve high praise for putting on *Wallenstein*.

I expected this drama of epic proportions to occupy the Barbican's main stage and was surprised to see it confined to the Pit. Nor was I cheered by seeing the cast in quasi-modern dress and the acting area bereft of props.



Henry Goodman as Freud in *HYSTERIA*.
Photo: Richard Mildenhall.

In the event, none of this mattered. Francis Lamport's translation and Tim Albery's direction gave the play a narrative drive that gripped the audience. *Wallenstein* truly came across as Schiller's hybrid figure – a visionary self-aggrandizer – and the Elder Piccolomini exuded reptilian suavety; the less exalted plotters were superbly realised mercenary thugs of tigerish disposition. Even the acting of the starcrossed young lovers was so precisely pitched that it avoided the pitfalls of Schiller's over-idealised characterisation. All in all a memorable evening.

'A memorable afternoon' was how Stefan Zweig described his visit in late 1938 to Freud's Hampstead home in the company of Salvador Dali. (The Surrealists had elected the discoverer of the subconscious their patron.) Dali, Zweig recalls, had been so tactless as to sketch Freud's cancer-ravaged jaw on a piece of blotting paper in the course of the visit.



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It is probable that Terry Johnson, reading Zweig's account of the mismatched encounter between the egregious Dali and the near-moribund Freud, decided to make it one ingredient of the play he was gestating. The other, more important, ingredient is the intrusion into Freud's home of a young woman – or possibly a figment of his own imagination – claiming to be the daughter of a turn-of-the-century Viennese patient.

The unbidden guest gains admission by threatening suicide, and then, to make Freud collaborate, strips off her clothes as a form of blackmail. Her mother, it transpired, had killed herself after Freud had discharged her as a patient in the mistaken belief that her hysteria was cured. From here on the mother's case history becomes entwined, in Johnson's skilful plot development, with recent allegations that Freud had falsified his own findings to placate the prudish Viennese establishment. (According to his detractors, he had been an opportunist who switched from ascribing hysteria in young women to early sexual abuse by their fathers, to calling such incest self-imagined, the result of girlish father fixations and desires to supplant the mother.)

Sadly it seems that the playwright has taken on board the detractors' slur on Freud's reputation as an utterly truthful, fearless dragon slayer. Nor was I altogether happy with the third strand of the plot which involves Freud's Jewish doctor's attempt to stop him publishing *Moses and Monotheism* (which identifies Moses as an Egyptian). To drive home his point about the Nazi-menaced Jews' need for kinship with Moses, the doctor breaks the news of the Kristallnacht pogrom to Freud, whereupon the latter predicts his abandoned elderly sisters' dreadful fate.

All in this chimes in awkwardly with the ingeniously plotted humorous thread that runs through the play. *Hysteria*, I hasten to add, contains all the classic paraphernalia of farce: confused identities, double takes, unexpected entries through French windows, naked girls in closets, ladies' flimsies on the floor, mens' discarded trousers and so forth. It also has in Henry Goodman a superb actorly interpreter of Freud.

Judging by *Hysteria* Terry Johnson is an assiduous scholar and consummate farceur all rolled into one. One can, however, hear the clashing of gears as he moves from one persona into the other. To sum up in Freudspeak: a case of unresolved schizophrenic tendencies.

□ Richard Grunberger

Malignant and sublime

Paul Lawrence Rose – WAGNER: RACE AND REVOLUTION, 1992, Faber, £20

Some Wagnerians have been baffled by Wagner's transition from the social radicalism of a barricade fighter in 1848 to the extreme racist antisemitism of his later years. Which is the real Wagner – the freedom-loving revolutionary or the rabid racist? Professor Rose argues that the question is meaningless. At the core of Wagner's revolutionism – and of all German revolutionary and romantic nationalist thought from Fichte onwards – was antisemitism. Jews were 'the emblem of inhumanity and the greatest obstacle to human liberation'.

Wagner was a prolific writer of essays throughout his life; and in many ways, as Rose shows, they are intimately connected with his music dramas. In 1850 (while he started work on the Ring) he published *Judaism in Music*. In this turgid essay, Wagner pronounced the Jews 'incapable of artistic works of merit because their cultural roots are outside the true German tradition'. He went on to ridicule the music of the synagogue, which allegedly gives the real German a 'feeling of repugnance, mixed with those of horror and ridicule when he listens to such gurgling, yodelling and prattling which confuses our senses and our mind'. Alberich (in the Ring), the classic antisemitic portrayal of the Jew driven by lust for power and money, was given distorted music and contorted words.

Some of Wagner's muddled later writings read like a surrealistic jumble-sale. In a rambling, mishmash of an essay, *Religion and Art*, Wagner truly surpassed himself. He managed to combine thoughts on racial decline, vegetarianism, geology, penal reform, the cult of the Virgin Mary and other unrelated topics (all of them touched upon, in Robert Gutman's works) with the aplomb of ignorance. A later supplement to this essay, *Heroism and Christianity* is a sort of explanatory essay for Parsifal. The ideas of the Aryan Christ (first conceived by Fichte in 1804), and the corruption of racial blood are central.

It is impossible to reconcile Wagner's vicious racism with the quality and beauty of much of the music. If only *Parsifal* was pure symphonic music, and not a music drama! Music, as Hans Keller said, can only be about music. There can be no such thing as a fascist dominant 7th. However, *Parsifal* is a music drama, with a libretto written by Wagner (as, indeed, he wrote the libretti of

all his operas). This compelling book is required reading for all interested in Wagner as a forerunner of Nazism, and compulsory travel reading for blindly devoted Wagnerians making their annual pilgrimage to Bayreuth.

□ Nicholas Gotch

Sweets for the sweet

Gretel Beer, CLASSIC AUSTRIAN COOKING, Andre Deutsch 1993. £17.99

Gretel Beer's first book on Austrian cooking was published nearly 40 years ago. Since then it has never been out of print. Throughout the many editions of *Austrian Cooking* no changes have been made to its contents. Although Gretel sometimes wanted to make improvements and add many delicious regional dishes to the book, she decided, wisely, to leave well alone. Instead of tampering with her original work she has produced a new and bigger book: *Classic Austrian Cooking*, which has just been published and looks as if it will go on running every bit as long and as successfully as her first work.

Classic Austrian Cooking is not for weightwatchers, as anyone who has sampled Austrian cuisine will be aware: puddings, biscuits, cakes and pastries are its pride and crowning glory. More than half of the first book was filled with recipes for desserts, even though post-war food rationing still limited the range of many home kitchens when Gretel wrote it. The new book similarly disregards the mundane considerations of cost and calories, concentrating on the sheer luxury and richness which can be achieved by the lover of food who loves to cook. It is crammed with recipes for puddings and cakes made with finely ground nuts instead of flour, fruit tartlets and slices, party gateaux and rich chocolate dishes. The faint-hearted and weak-arteried need not apply.

One of the 'special' recipes contained is for a chocolate cake which Gretel's mother-in-law's cook, Kati, kept a close secret for over 50 years. Gretel writes: 'She always shut the door firmly on anyone daring to come near "her kitchen" before she would even start to break up the chocolate... I am honoured indeed to be the only member of the family to whom she has entrusted the recipe for this marvellous gateau.' The list of ingredients for the cake is impressive: 160 g plain or bitter chocolate, a dash of rum, 100 g butter, 150 g icing sugar, 1 flat teaspoon vanilla sugar, 4 eggs, 150 g ground walnuts, butter and flour (or ground

walnuts) for the cake tin, 2 heaped table-spoons of apricot jam and, to top it off, chocolate icing. For the full recipe you will have to get hold of a copy of the book.

For many years Gretel provided recipes for the Woman's Pages of the *Daily Telegraph*, which I edited. Her standards were always high. Substitutes and synthetics were out, corners never cut and consistently perfect results. In the early days of shortages her mother-in-law would send packets of real vanilla sugar from Vienna, slipping them into her husband's pockets when he visited. More than once suspicious customs officers fell upon these little packets filled with white powder; they must have been disappointed when they cut them open and the scent of vanilla filled the air. These situations could have proved embarrassing for Gretel's husband Hans as he was a well respected lawyer. Smuggling did not figure highly on his list of hobbies and interests.

As well as the many desserts, this book has a wonderful selection of recipes for soups, sauces, fish, meat and vegetable dishes. It will be much used and long remembered.

□ Winifred Carr

Regular readers will be aware that Gretel Beer contributes a regular column to AJR Information. This month's recipe, for a head-turningly delicious chocolate cream gateau, can be found on page 14.



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Letters to the Editor

WHO IS A JEW?

Sir – I accept Mr E. H. Kenneth's contention in your October issue that to refer to someone as a Jew who rejects *any* identification with the Jewish community is tantamount to accepting the criteria of racism. But nowhere in my articles have I called Jews either a nation or a race (though I have stated the historical fact that some Jews, like Moses Hess, did consider themselves as members of a Jewish nation).

And I cannot allow Mr Kenneth to share the self-proclaimed prerogative of Karl Lueger, the antisemitic mayor of Vienna, who also claimed that *Wer ein Jud' ist, bestimm' ich*. It is not for Mr Kenneth to decide that, because I am not religious, I am no longer a Jew. I do not consider myself a Jew by nationality, by race, or by religion; but I do consider myself a Jew by virtue of identifying myself as part of the Jewish community.

I recognize that this community is *in part* a community of fate, and I agree that it is the racism of outsiders that has made it so. The experience of persecution has made many who did not consider that they belonged to that community accept, some willingly, some reluctantly, that they do after all have an identification with it.

Kensington Park Road
London W11
Ralph Blumenau

Sir – I disagree with E. H. Kenneth's belief that Jews are neither a race nor a nation, outside Israel, and that legally only members of the Mosaic religious community are Jews. Such legalistic approach is unrealistic, and to base it on religion alone is too narrow. Having left Berlin in 1938, my formative years were spent in Prague, Theresienstadt and Auschwitz. My formative environment was a Prague thronging with refugees from Germany, Austria and the Sudeten. Tens of thousands of them had nowhere to go. By 1939 their fate was sealed.

There were two consequences of our condition. We were acutely aware that we could not rely on anybody else in any other country. We had to have a country of our own. Herzl's picture was everywhere. We adopted Jewish as our nationality and discarded all others. We didn't mind being Jewish by race. We were certainly not Slav, nor Germanic, nor Hungarian. If we were related to Arabs that was unfortunate considering the role they had recently

played, but that couldn't be helped. If anybody called us 'Jew' – trying to be derogatory – we simply said yes, we were, so what. We went further. We called ourselves 200 per cent Jews, Jews by race as well as Zionists.

At the risk of upsetting some readers, religion never entered into our ideology. We would not exclude anybody on account of his or her degree of observance. We were not going to fall out over that. We would, however, have excluded, and held in contempt, all those who were not prepared to till the land or to defend the *Judenstaat*. What we dreamed of was drilling with weapons, not to be always at the receiving end of a gun, being able to give as good as to receive. The reader of the *Independent* who objected to that knew very little, and cared less, about recent history.

It had become unthinkable to identify oneself with Czechs, Slovaks, Germans, Austrians, French, Russians, all of whom contributed to our extermination, personally and collectively. Assimilation had not been the answer. That we were the same, and counted as the same, and were the equals of our neighbours who would tolerate our difference, was *la grande illusion*.

Warren Lane
Ipswich, Suffolk
Frank Bright
(née Brichta)

WORD SHPIEL

Sir – Some years ago the orchestra in which I played decided to perform Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*. My fellow horn player promptly translated this as 'Songs of a travelling salesman'.

White Ledges
London W13
Dan Gold

ARE JEWISH AND ISRAELI SYNONYMOUS

Sir – Your October editorial does not give a straight answer but implies that they are. May I suggest you rethink this. Jews throughout the world do not consider themselves synonymous with Israelis and if they did, it would open up very major and serious problems.

Warren Road
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey
F. P. Korn

UNENGLISH WINDSORS

Sir – Looking at the wedding photographs of Lord Linley and his bride, made me reflect on the strange quirk of fate that the throne of this country has never been

occupied by an English monarch. The present royal family is a successor to Anglo-Saxon, Norman, Angevin, Scottish and German dynasties. So many far above average erudite people contribute to *AJR Information* and are reading it, that it would be interesting to know whether this is unique or whether other monarchies are in the same position?

Laverstock
Salisbury, Wiltshire
(Mrs) Renée Obbard

PLAIN ENGLISH, PLEASE

Sir – I have been reading the *AJR* journal for many years and although I find both articles and letters very interesting, many of them I find very difficult to understand.

While some of you are professors, I and most of my refugee friends are ordinary housewives who do not have your command of the English language.

In future, I would appreciate it if the writers of both articles and letters in your journal bear in mind the points I have made before putting pen to paper!

Avery Gardens
Gants Hill, Ilford
Mrs G. Finkeltaub

FRIENDLY FIRE CASUALTY

Sir – Mr Zander (see October issue) may go 'ourgh' from now until *Mashiach Zeit*, but does not alter the facts of the eventual extinction of Jews in the *galut* via intermarriage – so aiding the monstrous Hitler scheme.

Those who marry out and say let the children decide, are ignorant of Christian antisemitism. They are also dishonest. You cannot throw a few grains of sand (us) on to a sand beach and expect to find them.

Lindsay Drive
Kenton, Middx
H. Needham

JEWISH CHRISTIANS

Sir – My mother, a refugee from Vienna, posted to me the article by Francis Steiner (December 1992) plus an ignorant letter about Jewish Christians by Alfons Jochim (March 1993).

Whereas for Jews to believe in Jesus remains a controversial issue, that does not mean that we should be denied the right to answer our critics. Jewish Christians have in no way abandoned the true God; we believe the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament together show Jesus to be the Messiah. This is our right, and just as no Jew likes to be persecuted or misrepresented, the same principle is appreciated by Jewish Christians.

Grove Hill
London
Robert Weissman (Rev)
Christian Jew Foundation

Letters continued on page 8 col 1

Diabolical follicles

The poet calls the eyes the mirror of the soul. Lombroso gauged a man's character from the bumps on his head. Graphologists seek clues to character in handwriting, palmists in the line of someone's hand.

I prefer to look at the area above, beside and below a man's mouth. Anyone sporting moustache, beard or side-whiskers strikes me as deeply suspect. In fact in my book the merest outcrop of hair on a person's face shows an aversion to democracy.

Farfetched, I hear you say. To which I can only reply: 'They laughed at Christopher Columbus when he said the world was round'.

To substantiate my case I offer examples from the three areas which have given the world most trouble: Russia, Germany and the Middle East.

First Russia. While others fondly

imagined that the Communist revolution augured change in that country's history, I always remained doubtful. Why? I had seen photographic evidence that (bearded) Lenin and (moustachioed) Stalin had hardly less facial hair than their predecessors Tsar Nicholas and Rasputin. Nor could the superficially clean-shaven Brezhnev hood-wink me; I saw through his ruse of re-deploying Stalin's moustaches higher up on the face. Khrushchev, the stop-gap between Stalin and Brezhnev, went out of his way to eschew their hirsute look. The reform-minded Gorbachev was similarly clean-shaven. The same, of course, applies to Yeltsin, whose opponent Ruskoi sports – surprise, surprise – a walrus moustache.

Hairy Herrenvolk

Second, Germany, where even the linguistic evidence supports my theory: hairy folk translates as Herrenvolk. Not that history isn't proof enough. The bewhiskered Wilhelm the First and Bismarck were followed

by the Kaiser, Hindenburg and Hitler, with respectively handlebar, walrus and Charlie Chaplin moustaches.

Then came a tonsorial revolution which gave grounds for hope: Adenauer, Willy Brandt and the two Helmut, Schmidt and Kohl, were one and all clean-shaven.

Lastly, the Middle East. Here, of course, the picture is somewhat obscured by the prevalence of keffiyehs, yashmaks and yarmulkas. Even so, studying facial follicles can pay analytical dividends. The first telltale signs of Iraq's warlike intent appeared when the entire army officer corps sported moustaches cloned from President Saddam's. Contrariwise Israel's determination to beat swords into ploughshares became evident to me when the clean-shaven Rabin worsted salt-and-pepper-moustached Shamir at the last Knesset election.

It may take two to tango in Argentina; in the Middle East it takes two clean-shaven men to dance cheek to cheek. Unfortunately for Rabin, Assad of Syria has a moustache. Nor could Arafat be described as entirely clean-shaven. Nonetheless, the fact that he habitually sports two days' growth of beard instead of the real thing could be a hopeful pointer to a less hair-raising future.

□ R.G.

PUNCTURED ALIBI

Sir – On a visit to Meran my eye was caught by a poster advertising the exhibition *Schöne Zeiten/Bel Tempi*, organised by the local Jewish community.

The exhibition was of extracts from official orders, diaries and letters of camp staff, with photographs taken mostly by Nazi guards. Clearly, many of the guards were very enthusiastic about their work of destruction and killing. The texts showed that the gassing of men, women and children was not regarded as murder by them, rather as essential to preserve the purity of the German state. They enjoyed their work. *A small number refused to take part and recorded the fact that they had been assured by their superiors that no disciplinary actions would follow such refusals.*

Tooke Close

Paul Samet

Pinner

PROGENITOR'S OFFSPRING

Sir – Threadbare indeed was the attempt in the poem which you penned to hypnotise us all, like Mesmer, to hide your grandad was a *klesmer* most famous for his hurdy-gurdy – and his name was Monteverdi

Aberdare Gardens

Ezra Jurman

London NW6

FRIENDLY ENEMIES

Sir – I read Ralph Blumenau's review of David Cesarani's book with some mixed feelings, especially the bland line he adopted on internment.

What irritated me was his somewhat curt dismissal of the fate of the *Dunera* deportees. I feel strongly that it is for those who were on the *Dunera*, and who subsequently languished in the Australian desert, to forgive or not to forgive, as the case may be – and not for Mr Blumenau on their behalf, as it were.

The whole episode of the deportations, which were scandalously mismanaged, deserves being analysed on its own terms. This is precisely what David Cesarani attempted.

Coniston Close

Dr F. Parkinson

Chiswick, London W4

AJR MISINFORMATION

Sir – The profile of Berta Sterly printed in your October issue contains some inaccuracies which concern my family.

1. My uncle's name was not Irving Zeligmann as printed but Erwin Seligmann.
2. He was never the Secretary of the Club 1943 but its Chairman – a position he held from 1975 till 1987 when he became Honorary President.
3. He did not die in 1979 but in December 1989.

A tribute to Erwin Seligmann on his 95th birthday appeared in your issue of June 1988 written by Berta Sterly herself. The above facts were also contained in his obituary published in your issue of March 1990.

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The AJR at Work

The sailor home from the sea



Paul Mazzina.

Photo: Newman.

Until May this year Paul Mazzina was a volunteer worker at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre. In June he became a full-time member of staff. Since then he has earned plaudits from his colleagues and Day Centre members alike. He

has been described as: 'a great asset to the Day Centre', 'a thoroughly charming man', 'not afraid of hard work', and, perhaps most tellingly, 'one of us'.

But who is he, what does he do and how did he come to work at Cleve Road?

Paul was born in Dorking, Surrey in 1932. At the age of 18 he joined the Royal Navy. For the next 17 years, as a navy medic, he served all over the world. Sometimes he bore sole responsibility for the well-being of the entire crew of the ships on which he served. By the time he left the service in 1967 he ran the Casualty Unit of the Naval Hospital in Gosport, Hants. A man of action, Paul concentrated on the paramedical side of his profession. As a qualified Basic Emergency Medical Technician he learned how to deal with problems from the perspective of one who is expected to be first on the scene of an incident. When off duty he played football and swam for the Royal Navy.

Back in 'civvy street' Paul developed an interest in the pharmaceutical aspects of the medical profession, spending four years in the pharmacy of the London Hospital in Whitechapel. Subsequently he was able to put his experience to use in other fields: he

worked in a hair clinic, which he gave up when he understood it to be, in his words, 'a bit of a con'; later he joined a chemical manufacturing corporation where he developed formulae designed to remove graffiti from buildings.

In 1992 Paul took early retirement. However, he maintains his interest in things medical and keeps abreast of new developments in the field. He was introduced to the Day Centre by a friend who drives members to and from the residential homes. In addition to his duties as a member of staff and Medical Assistant he gives lectures on *Safety in the Home* and *Coping With Serious Illness*. 'I've only had to deal with a couple of emergencies in my time here', he says 'What's really important to remember is that we are dealing with a lot of elderly and frail people who need *advice* more than anything else'.

Paul Mazzina says he enjoys working at the Day Centre and feels perfectly at home there. The staff and members to whom I spoke were unanimous in their opinion that he was a true gentleman who, they all hope, will continue to feel at home for a very long time to come.

□ M.N.

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Thursday 2

THE PLEASURES OF MUSIC – Satya Barham (Soprano) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano)

Sunday 5

Judi Merri-Frowde & Offsprings Perform Old & New Favourites with June Moore at the Piano

Monday 6

MUSIC FROM MOZART TO GERSCHWIN – Miranda Roberts (Soprano) accompanied by Phillip Mountford (Piano)

Tuesday 7

LACHEN u. WEINEN – Ruth Warren (Soprano) accompanied by Gary Cole

Wednesday 8

CHANUKAH CONCERT OF LIGHT – Nikki van der Zyl & Michel Liebermann accompanied by Rosa Butwick (Piano)

Thursday 9

CONNAUGHT OPERA BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE YOUTH CHOIR – Conducted by Sue Strauss – Accompanied by Andrew Levy (Piano)

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Monday 13

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Tuesday 14

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Wednesday 15

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Thursday 16

Cantor Marshall Stone Sings Songs by Bernstein, Bock & Berlin – Followed by a Closing CHANUKAH Sing-a-Long – accompanied by Sheila Games (Piano)

Sunday 19

CLOSED MUSICAL DELIGHTS – Kate Taylor (Soprano) accompanied by Ruth Leber (Piano)

Monday 20

Tuesday 21

END OF YEAR CONCERT – Marion Grant (Piano) and Lorely Teppich (Violin)

Wednesday 22

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE – Piano Duo with Michael & Olga Schreider

Thursday 23

CLOSED AFTER LUNCH

Sunday 26

CLOSED

Monday 27

CLOSED

Tuesday 28

CLOSED

Wednesday 29

CLOSED

Thursday 30

CLOSED

JANUARY

Sunday 2

CLOSED

Monday 3

CLOSED

FAMILY EVENTS**Birth**

Morland Paul and Claire (nee Platt) are delighted to announce the arrival of a lovely daughter, Sonia Julia Miriam. Mazel Tov to grandparents Ingrid and Henry Morland of Wembley and Janette and Michael Platt of Wimbledon.

Birthday

Zadek Elisabeth Zadek (via Trisnera 7, Losone/Ti. Switzerland) celebrated her 100th birthday on the 25 November 1993. In London she worked with Professor Demuth and the Wiener Library. Heartfelt good wishes and warmest greetings go to a very special person from her friends in London.

Deaths

Lee-Lichtenstein Dr Edith Lee-Lichtenstein, born 1906 in Vienna, died in London on October 23, 1993. Mourned by big sister Kate Fielding and nieces Evelyn Page and Marian Fielding.

Mendel Dr Alice Mendel of Leeds, dear mother of Rachel, died on 9 November. She will always be remembered by her relatives,

including Bernard and all in Israel and the USA, as well as her many friends.

Roth Helen Roth (nee Blum) passed away on 30 October 1993 in her 87th year. Sadly missed by her many friends, to whom she was devoted.

Singleton Annie Singleton on 11 September and Charles (Curt) on 10 November 1993. Remembered by relatives and friends.

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Volunteer drivers required to take people home from Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, Sundays at 7 p.m. Please help. Expenses can be paid. Phone Laura Howe, AJR office: 071-431 6161 Tuesday–Friday or Marion Sipser, Paul Balint AJR Day Centre: 071-328 0208 Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

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Correction

Part of the opening sentence of
"Backwards to the future" (front page,
November issue) should have read:
Hungarian Premier Antall recently
arranged the re-interment – and not
retirement – of Admiral Horthy.

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Alice Schwab

Art Notes

Annely Juda has been awarded the richly deserved Art Cologne Prize by the Association of German Galleries and the Cologne Fair. The award reflects Annely's successful career as an art dealer for almost four decades.

The Sainsbury Centre in Norwich is showing *Pablo Picasso - Dreams and Lies*, (until 19 December). The 65 works in the exhibition cover the whole of Picasso's career from 1905 to 1971. A simultaneous exhibition at the Sainsbury Centre, *Alberto Giacometti: Paris sans fin*, comprises a selection of litho prints from a portfolio executed in the last years of the artist's life.

The John Denham Gallery is showing paintings, collages and assemblages by *Walter Nessler* (5-24 December), including *Townscape*, an oil painting he only recently completed (prices £750-£3,300).

There is an important exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery (until 23 January 1994) of works by *Thomas Eakins* (1844-1916), now recognised as one of the greatest American painters. In Europe he is almost unknown and the only one of his works in a public collection is in the Musée d'Orsay, Paris.

To celebrate the centenary of *Ben Nicholson's birth*, the Tate Gallery is mounting a major retrospective exhibition until 9 Jan '94. It presents works from all periods of Nicholson's life and also includes an important display of archival material.

The British Museum is showing *Old Master Drawings from Chatsworth* (until 9 January) with a fully illustrated catalogue by Michael Jaffé (special Museum bookshop price £14.95). The Museum has of late been assembling a collection of Israeli graphic art with the intention of holding a major exhibition within the next five years, so that Israeli artists become known to the broadest possible public. A large group of prints by Jacob Pins was acquired in 1992, and works by Yehuda Bacon have also been acquired.

The Royal Academy is showing *Drawings from the J. Paul Getty Museum* (until

23 January). About 120 drawings are on show including fine works by the great masters of the Italian, Dutch, French, Spanish and German schools.

The Redfern Gallery is showing new paintings by *Brendan Neiland* (until 18 November). From 7 December the exhibition can be seen at Reading College. The Redfern Gallery is also showing (until 18 November) a centenary exhibition of Felix H. Man's photographic portraits of artists. Man (Hans Felix Sigismund Baumann) was born in Freiburg im Breisgau in 1893. He pioneered the concept of photo-journalism and, after his emigration to England in 1934, was the leading photographer of the *Weekly Illustrated* and Chief Photographer for *Picture Post*. He died in 1985.

The Hayward Gallery is showing (until 6 February) the first comprehensive exhibition of work by the talented British artist Roger Hilton, who died in 1975, including a number of small gouaches which he produced whilst confined to his bed for the last few years of his life. Concurrently, the Hayward Gallery is showing new installations, sculpture and paintings by Julian Opie.

The enterprising Whitechapel Art Gallery is showing *'Bill Viola: Unseen Images'* (until 13 February). Viola is a leader in the field of video installation. The exhibition consists entirely of such installations, all dating from 1992, many of them reflecting the life of the body. A catalogue is available at the gallery (price £15).

Most of us recall with affection *Carl Giles's* cartoons for the *Daily Express*. A 50 years' celebration of his work is at the National Museum of Cartoon Art, Camden (until 23 December).

The winner of the Singer and Friedlander watercolour competition was Martin Aubert with his *After the Hurricane*, a picture of a beach ravaged by the storms of 1987. The competition was the idea of Tony Solomons, founder of the merchant bank Singer and Friedlander. The prize money (£25,000) makes it the most important of all contemporary watercolour competitions.

The Ben Uri Art Society is mounting a new exhibition of *Artists from the Negev* (6-19 December). The seven artists whose work is being displayed, Sally Levin Bar, Dorit Dinur, Rac Joseph, Rachel Kroupp, Anna Andersch Marcus, Moti Sade and Rina Shtelman, are all members of the Negev Art Association, the southern Israel branch of the Israel Art Association. Works in pencil and charcoal, watercolours, gouaches and mixed media are being shown. □

SB's Column

Berlin. Lack of financial support has meant curtains for three of Berlin's most illustrious stages: the renowned Schillertheater, Schlossparktheater and Werkstatt closed their doors during the autumn. This is not only regrettable from the artistic point of view (the Schillertheater had a great history): over 550 permanent staff lost their long-standing employment.

Wallenstein in London. When, some years ago, Schiller's *Räuber* was produced in this country under the title *The Highwaymen*, translation and production were blamed for the poor reception of that 200-year-old-play. This time, London's New Barbican theatre presents the 'German Shakespeare's' verse epic *Wallenstein*.

Hamburg. The Thalia theatre celebrated its 150 year jubilee with a performance of *Richard III*. The part of Queen Margaret was taken by the now almost legendary Agnes Fink.

Birthdays. Susi Nicoletti, Vienna Burg actress for more than 50 years, widow of former Burg director Ernst Häussermann, is 75. She has, over the years, interpreted scores of dramatic and comic rôles, partnered by Käthe Dorsch, Curt Juergens, Ewald Balsler, Theo Lingen and Paula Wessely.

Obituaries. The death, at 71, is announced of Joanna Maria Gorvin, German stage actress who studied under Gustaf Gründgens, and was a most versatile interpreter of playwrights ranging from Sophocles to Molnar. She achieved most of her successes in post-war Berlin.

Erich Leinsdorf, the Austrian-born conductor, has died in Zürich at the age of 81. An assistant to Bruno Walter and Toscanini in Salzburg, he went to the United States before the Anschluss because Jewishness debarred him from a post at the Vienna Opera. Post-war he frequently visited Europe, appearing in France, Belgium and Austria. He achieved a life-long ambition by conducting *Meistersinger* (1959) and *Tannhäuser* (1972) in Bayreuth. Apart from his work at the 'Mer', he was principal conductor of the Boston Symphony orchestra. □

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CONTEMPORARY PAINTING
AND SCULPTURE

A HISTORY OF THE JEWS IN THE GERMAN-SPEAKING LANDS

Part 15: the Weimar period (I)

Although antisemitism had been growing quite strongly in both Germany and the Habsburg Empire in the generation before the outbreak of the First World War, we have seen that its most extreme exponents appeared to be losing ground soon after the turn of the century, whilst economic and cultural importance of the Jews continued to grow. Then the fall of the German and Austrian Empires at the end of the war saw what looked like the further weakening of the conservative classes and the initial establishment of governments headed by socialists in both countries. As socialist and liberal parties had always opposed antisemitism, the Jews could expect a continuation of their integration into all aspects of society. The architect of the Weimar Constitution was the Jewish Minister of the Interior, Hugo Preuss, and this Constitution was indeed ultra-democratic, with all civil rights fully guaranteed.

Jews in Politics

The Jews were well represented in the leadership of the socialist and liberal parties. In the liberal FDP there were Preuss and the Foreign Minister, Walter Rathenau; in the SPD were Philip Scheidemann who had actually proclaimed the Republic just before Armistice Day and who became its first Prime Minister; and Rudolf Hilferding,

several times Finance Minister. The left-wing socialists (USPD) were led by Hugo Haase and counted among their numbers the head of the first soviet government in Bavaria, Kurt Eisner (1918), and the man who briefly succeeded him when Eisner was assassinated, Ernst Toller (1919). That government was replaced by a Bolshevik triumvirate, all of whom were Jewish: Max Levien, Eugen Leviné, and Towia Axelrod. So was one of the two leaders of the Spartacist (Communist) revolt of 1919 in Berlin: Rosa Luxemburg.

Austria

In Austria the Jews were even more strongly identified with the left. There was no longer a Liberal Party in the First Austrian Republic; and there was no welcome for Jews in the two bourgeois parties, the Christian Social and the Deutsch-Nationale Volkspartei, since both had an openly antisemitic programme. Until 1920 the Social Democrats were part of the coalitions governing Austria (and Victor Adler was briefly Foreign Minister in the month before his death in November 1918). When the Socialists left the government, the Christian Social Party, in coalition with groups to the right of them, dominated the government. True, the bark of the right wing parties was then rather worse than their bite: the governments did not actually introduce any

antisemitic legislation; they veered disconcertingly between populist rhetoric against the Jews on the one hand and disclaiming antisemitism on the other. Many wealthy Jews were more alarmed by Socialism than they were by antisemitism and actually contributed to the bourgeois parties, even more so when, in 1933, the Austrian Chancellor Dollfuss banned not only the left-wing parties but the Nazi party also. Both he and his successor Schuschnigg depended at that time for protection against Nazi Germany on Mussolini; and Mussolini in those days expressed contempt for antisemitism and urged his clients not discriminate against Jews. But antisemitism was so strong among their followers that all the same the Austrian governments connived at boycotts of Jewish stores and businesses, and the law courts did not deal as firmly as did those of Weimar Germany with attacks on the Jews. The police had anyway no power to intervene in disturbances on university campuses, where there were frequent instances of antisemitic rowdyism. The governing body of the university was as bad as the students: a *numerus clausus* reduced the number of Jews studying at Vienna University by 90 per cent.

Reduced influence

The Austrian Nazis assassinated Dollfuss in July 1934. Schuschnigg seemed well disposed towards the Jews; but even under his government, administrative measures steadily reduced Jewish influence in public life: Jewish doctors were increasingly passed over for promotion; the old Bar Association was dissolved and the new one had only two Jews on the executive instead of the previous twelve. The number of Vienna's Jewish municipal employees (including teachers) was drastically reduced: by 1937 there were only 154 out of a labour force of 22,600.

For the extreme antisemites all this did not go far enough: and after Hitler came to power in Germany, the Austrian Nazi Party grew rapidly. The general impression is that antisemitism was the most popular feature of the Nazis in Austria, whereas many of the Germans who supported Hitler ranked antisemitism rather low among the reasons for doing so. As has been said 'the Austrians made poor Nazis but excellent antisemites'.

Wealthy Jews, as we have seen, preferred Dollfuss and Schuschnigg to the Socialists; but the majority of politically active Jews supported the left-wing parties. However, even the socialists exploited popular antisemitism and their press frequently mocked the bourgeois parties for 'subservience' to

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'Jewish' capitalism. True, they said they had nothing against Jewish workers; but the party showed distinct nervousness that the Jewish presence in its leadership provided a hostage to antisemitism. When Dollfuss forcibly destroyed the socialist control of 'Red' Vienna in 1934 and then banned the socialist party, there is evidence that some workers blamed their defeat on Jews in the leadership and, as we have seen, the purging of the municipality which followed took a heavy toll of its Jewish employees.

Völkisch Groups

Of course, antisemitic right-wing groups and parties made the most of the Jewish presence on the left. In Germany the *Freikorps* (demobilised soldiers who reconstituted themselves into military units) relished the task of smashing the Spartacists and the Bavarian revolutionaries and killing their leaders in 1919; there was a host of *völkisch* and rabidly antisemitic parties, the largest of which had some 20,000 members when it was suppressed after one of these assassinated Rathenau in June 1922. Other antisemites joined the largest of the conservative parties, the nationalist DNVP whose 1920 programme included the elimination from public life of Jewish and alien influences. When the DNVP toned down the virulence of its rhetoric after the murder of Rathenau, the most militant of the antisemitic groups seceded from it. And of course there was the Nazi party, of which Hitler had become the leader in 1921 and which staged the unsuccessful Munich Putsch in November 1923.

The Putsch failed; the traumatic crises of the immediate post-war years, culminating in the horrifying inflation of 1922/23, were brought under control and the two general elections in the following year gave the Nazis a derisory 6.8 per cent and then 2.8 per cent of the vote. True, the coalition governments which governed the Republic no longer included Socialists after 1923 (with the exception of 1928 to 1930) and there was much less direct Jewish participation in government; but the courts and the police had quite a good record against antisemitic hooliganism, and Jewish cultural and economic activities and influence continued to flourish.

To be continued
□ Ralph Blumenau

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Once a traitor, always a traitor?

The Case of Carl von Ossietzky reviewed

In 1990, an elderly woman living in Sweden applied to the German courts for a case to be reopened after an interval of 60 years. Her name was Rosalinda von Ossietzky-Palm and the court case – heard in 1931 – was one in which her father, one of the leading German journalists of his day, had been branded a traitor for the disclosure of military secrets. Had the verdict of treason been passed two years later, of course, by a National Socialist court, it would undoubtedly today be viewed as a clear miscarriage of justice. As it is, the case has remained firmly closed.

Carl von Ossietzky was editor of *Die Weltbühne*, arguably the most influential weekly in Germany during the Weimar Republic, a mouthpiece of left-wing intellectual opinion and said to be read by anybody who was of any importance. In 1929, *Die Weltbühne* published 'Windiges aus der deutschen Luftfahrt' (Dodgy dealings in German aviation) by Walter Kreiser, an expert who set out to expose secret military aviation projects explicitly forbidden by the Treaty of Versailles (to which Germany had been a signatory).

In Berlin, the Ministry of Defence started legal proceedings against Kreiser and Ossietzky, his editor; by the time the case came to court Kreiser had fled the country, leaving Ossietzky to stand trial alone. In one of the most celebrated court cases of the Weimar Republic, Ossietzky's four defence lawyers – all well-known men – pleaded that not only had the substance of Kreiser's allegations already been raised in the Reichstag, but that it was also common knowledge in aviation circles. The court rejected their argument and sentenced Ossietzky to eighteen months' imprisonment for treason. The verdict led to something of a furore, both at home and abroad, especially since Kreiser's revelations of secret and illegal German rearmament were never denied by the Ministry of Defence.

Ossietzky served only eight months of his sentence, being amnestied at Christmas 1932. Only weeks later, however, he – with thousands of other opponents of the newly elected Nazi party – was arrested on the night of the Reichstag fire. While a number of Ossietzky's fellow-prisoners of that night were eventually released from imprisonment, he himself would never be free again.

This was not for want of trying on the part of the international community. The case received much publicity abroad and a

campaign was launched that resulted in Ossietzky being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize at the end of 1936. (The Nazis were so incensed that a concentration camp inmate should be honoured in this way, that German citizens were prohibited from becoming Nobel laureates for the duration of the Third Reich.) Though the campaign's organisers hoped that, in the event of Ossietzky actually being awarded the prize, Hitler would have no option, from the point of view of Germany's international reputation, but to allow him to travel to Oslo to collect it, their hopes were dashed: Ossietzky, his health ruined by years of imprisonment, died in May 1938 – in hospital, admittedly, but still under Gestapo supervision.

Ossietzky's only child Rosalinda went into exile in 1933. Although still a child during her father's final, painful years, she was very aware of his suffering and conscious, too, of the dishonour brought on his name, and that of his family, by the treason charge. Recently, encouraged by signs that some Germans, at least, regard her father in a very different light – the University of Oldenburg is presently named *Carl von Ossietzky-Universität* – and with the help of some sympathetic German lawyers, Rosalinda von Ossietzky-Palm determined to apply for her father's case to be reopened.

In 1990, therefore, she submitted her application, to the Berlin Court of Appeal – which turned it down some months later on the grounds that she had failed to come up with new evidence (the prerequisite for a successful application of this sort). Undaunted, she lodged an appeal, applying in the second instance to the *Bundesgerichtshof* (Federal Supreme Court).

In December 1992, however, the second application, like the first, was dismissed, a decision which had been preceded, ominously enough, by a recommendation that the appeal be turned down from the Chief Federal Prosecutor, Alexander von Stahl. What in 1931 had amounted to betrayal of military secrets, the *Bundesgerichtshof* stated, could not in 1992 be declared a democratic duty.

Sixty years ago, Carl von Ossietzky wrote that the stigma of being branded a traitor was more terrible than prison. Today, even with a Nobel prize to Ossietzky's credit – and a university named in his honour – officially the stigma remains.

□ Charmian Brinson/Marian Malet

Cooking with Gretel Beer



Chocolate Cream Gateau

This sounds far more complicated than it actually is – and you will be rewarded with one of the most luscious yet light chocolate cream cakes you've ever tasted.

For the cake:

6 eggs
3½ oz (100 g) plain chocolate
3 tablespoons water
2 oz (60 g) unsalted butter
5 oz (140 g) icing sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla sugar
5 oz (140 g) ground unblanched almonds
butter and flour for the cake tin

For the filling:

2 oz (60 g) unblanched almonds
5 oz (140 g) plain chocolate
4 tablespoons water
5 oz (140 g) unsalted butter
1 tablespoon icing sugar
1 heaped teaspoon vanilla sugar
2 egg yolks

Pre-heat the oven to Gas Mark 4½, 360°F, 185°C. Butter and flour a 10" spring-clip cake tin.

Separate yolks and whites of five of the eggs. Break chocolate into small pieces and put them into a small, thick saucepan with the water. Stir over a low heat until the chocolate has melted. Remove the pan from the heat and leave to cool. Cream together butter and sugar, beat in the vanilla sugar and beat well together until the mixture is very light and fluffy. Beat in the five egg yolks, one by one, beating well after each addition. Stir in the cooled chocolate and the sixth egg. Whisk the five egg whites until stiff, fold into the mixture, alternately with the ground almonds. Put the mixture into the prepared cake tin and bake for 50–60 minutes. Test the cake before taking it out of the oven and leave to cool a little in the tin before turning out. Set to cool completely on a rack or a hair sieve.

For the filling, put the almonds on a baking sheet and set them to brown lightly in the oven, then grind them. Break the chocolate into small pieces, put them in a thick saucepan, add the water and the icing sugar and stir over a low heat until the chocolate has dissolved completely. Cook very gently until the mixture has thickened slightly, then remove from the heat and leave to cool. Cream butter with the vanilla sugar until light and fluffy, then beat in the cooled chocolate mixture and the egg yolks, beating well after each addition. Finally stir in the ground almonds.

Cut through the cake once and fill it with half the chocolate cream. Spread remaining cream over top and sides. You can also reserve some of the ground almonds and sprinkle them over the top. □

40 Years Ago this Month

The Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh addressed a company of Jewish notables assembled at a banquet in the Guildhall, London, to celebrate the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Forest in Israel. His Royal Highness warmly praised the loyalty and service of British Jewry: 'We in the British Commonwealth and Empire (he said) can count ourselves fortunate that the Jews made this their second home. In science, politics, industry and commerce they have brought us great benefits, and as I saw myself at the Jewish ex-servicemen's parade (last November) they did not shirk fighting for us'.

As President of the British Athletic Board, the Duke also honoured the Jewish community when he officially opened the Maccabi Stadium running track at Hendon.

Another member of the Royal Family, the Duchess of Gloucester, visited the West Central Jewish Club to mark the Club's diamond jubilee year and the official opening of its new premises.

AJR Information, December 1953

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ALL LEGAL WORK UNDERTAKEN

Obituaries

Dr Charles Kapralik – A Personal Tribute

The death of Dr Charles Kapralik on November 1 at the age of 98 evokes memories of a happy co-operation which lasted almost three decades.

As Secretary of the Central British Fund he was one of the initiators of the Jewish Trust Corporation (JTC) which oversaw the recovery of heirless, unclaimed and communal property in the British Zone of Germany. He was appointed Secretary of the JTC and, together with Dr. Reinhold Lachs, succeeded in making substantial assets available for constructive relief activities for Nazi victims in their countries of resettlement.

In this country, the major part of the fund was used for the erection and maintenance of residential homes and flatlets for the elderly. To implement the work, a Management Committee was set up, comprising representatives of the CBF and of the AJR. The secretaries of the two organisations, Dr Kapralik and I, were *ex officio* members of the Committee. In the beginning some

difficulties arose from the fact that we were the junior party and the CBF the senior because it had the funds (albeit strictly separated from its ordinary accounts). This seniority was sometimes quite inadvertently forgotten when we spoke at AJR meetings about 'our' Homes and were taken to task by Dr Kapralik. Yet these differences were irrelevant, and no Prussian civil servant could be more efficient than Charles Kapralik. In the course of time we got closer and closer and the co-operation developed into genuine affection and comradeship.

And now we should enumerate his many achievements. Yet we have to economise and can do so with a good conscience, because they were recorded in these columns every fifth year, commencing with his 70th birthday tribute. One of the works which will survive him is his meticulous description of the achievements of the JTC, entitled 'Reclaiming the Nazi Loot' in two volumes (1962 and 1971).

His financial expertise and familiarity with the relevant legislation made him a valuable Vice-Chairman of the Board of the United Restitution Office (URO).

Last, but not least, his fellow refugees from Austria are indebted to him for his untiring efforts on their behalf, which have resulted in relief measures and special social insurance regulations for Nazi victims. It testified to the esteem in which he was held that he was honoured with one of the highest Austrian awards bestowed on a British citizen in the post war period.

In 1981 he became a resident of Heinrich Stahl House, one of the Homes he had helped to build up. As he became increasingly dependent on others the staff of the Home did everything possible to ease the plight of 'Doctor K.'.

Now the Decrescendo has ended and the Finale has been reached.

□ Werner Rosenstock

Helene Jacobs

One of the most remarkable personalities in the fight against Nazi racial persecution has died in Berlin aged 87. Helene Jacobs did her utmost to help the victims of Hitlerism during the war. She procured false documents for them, and even sent food parcels to Auschwitz under her full name and address. For this work she was imprisoned in 1943 and only liberated in May 1945.

Postwar, she received one of the highest honours of the German Federal Republic. She was the co-founder with Professor Harder of the *Institut für Kirche und Judentum* (Institute for Church and Judaism), and also worked in various other organisations serving a similar purpose. In cooperation with Rabbi Lubliner and Prelate Günther she helped to create a permanent working circle of Christians and Jews in Berlin. In 1983 she was awarded the Buber-Rosenzweig medal, and Israel honoured her at Yad Vashem. We shall always keep her in grateful memory.

□ Dr T. Zondek

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Search Notices

Helga Furstenberg lived in the Grunewald, Berlin and went to the Bismarck Lyzeum (now Johanna von Puttkamerschule), emigrated to Britain 1937/8. Please contact Peter Prager, 17 Roy Gardens, Ilford, Essex IG2 7QG. Phone 081-590 5203.

Relatives of **Rahel Behrend**, the author of *Verfemt und Verfolgt*, an account of her experiences in Germany 1933–44. The book was published in the form of letters to her husband. Their children, Peter and Hannah came to Britain alone in 1938. I am trying to find out if there is an English edition of the book: Thena Kendall, 13 Croftdown Road, London NW5 1EL.

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Funeral rites – and wrongs

When Faust dies at the end of Goethe's drama heaven and hell are left contending over his soul. So much for literature: in the real world quarrels over dying man's soul tended to be fought out – at least in the bad old pre-ecumenical days – by zealots of competing faiths.

Since Judaism is not a proselytising religion the rabbis were never parties to death-bed contention. The same can hardly be said of Catholic priests, though even they were probably less 'interventionist' than relatives or friends of some Central European culture heroes. Alma Mahler-Werfel was a tireless – and tiresome – Catholic proselytiser. She encountered no resistance from Gustav Mahler, a convert since bachelor days. Things were different with Werfel whom she told to leave the Jewish faith if he wanted her for a wife. The writer who, anyway, felt a lifelong attraction to Catholicism (pace *Barbara oder die Frömmigkeit* and *The Song of Bernadette*) readily accepted her condition. Even so he refused to take the further step of actually converting on the grounds that 'one doesn't leave a besieged fortress'. Ultimately, when Werfel had breathed his last, at Beverley Hills in 1945, Alma made a priest give baptism to the still warm corpse.

If in Werfel's case the moment of 'conversion' could be exactly pinpointed, total vagueness surrounded the spiritual allegiance of Joseph Roth. None of the mourners attending his Paris funeral in 1939 had an inkling of his religious status at the time of death. The Jewish-born Roth had waxed so nostalgic about the vanished Austro-Hungarian Empire that he was widely rumoured to have embraced the faith of the Habsburgs. This seemed likely, but no one at the graveside knew for certain. In consequence, as Roth's coffin was lowered into the ground, one section of the mourners recited 'Our Father, who art in

Re-opened for business



Mr Werner Mattes and Glenda Jackson MP.

Photo: Newman.

On Sunday 3 October the world-famous actress-turned-politician, Glenda Jackson MP, officially opened Otto Schiff House in Netherhall Gardens, North-West London. The former residential care home had been closed for conversion and enlargement to provide 23 self-contained flats for elderly Jewish refugees.

The beautiful house, purchased in 1955, operated for many years as a residential care home. However, the recently established Balint House, in The Bishops Avenue, is better appointed to provide the facilities, amenities and services required by increasingly frail and less mobile members of the community.

heaven' while the other said *Kaddish*.

Kaddish was also said on another – and truly schizophrenic – funeral occasion. The burial of the Jewish-Hungarian film mogul Sir Alexander Korda took place in England in 1956, with arrangements in the hands of the only son of the deceased, Peter de Korda. Peter, a half-Jew, was so antisemitic that he never referred to Alexander as his father, but only as 'the old Jew'. He also invented a fictitious gentile mother for his father, to make himself three-quarter 'Aryan'. Worst of all he debarred his uncles – or anyone Jewish – from attending the funeral which was conducted according to the Anglican rite. (Graham Greene, a

The opening ceremony, hosted by Mr Werner Mattes, Chairman of the Otto Schiff Housing Association (OSHA), was attended by a large gathering of guests representing all the organisations which participated in the funding of the project, including AJR Chairman Mr Theo Marx. His Excellency the Austrian Ambassador and the Mayor of Camden were also in attendance.

The new flats provide comfortable, modern accommodation for those who no longer wish to live alone, but value their independence highly. We wish everyone who will enjoy living at Otto Schiff House over the coming years a long and happy residence. □ M.N.

prominent mourner, had actually suggested Catholic obsequies; the deceased had always felt spiritually close to the Roman Church.)

In the event Korda's Judaism was not entirely blotted out: debarred from the funeral, the brothers went to a nearby synagogue and said *Kaddish* for the man originally born Sandor Kellner in a dusty Pusztá village. □ R.G.

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