

# AJR *Information*

Volume LI No. 7  
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Don't miss . . .

**A Dickens of a claim**

Richard Grunberger, p3

**Socialist & sensualist**

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**Leonora Hellman's 100th birthday,** p8

**Red-brown Russia**

In the presidential poll many erstwhile Zhirinovskys supporters voted Communist – a less than surprising switch. Though Zhirinovskys' real father had, like the Communists' spiritual one (Marx), been Jewish, both parties peddled antisemitism. Clearly xenophobia is a tiger Yeltsin needs to ride to retain power and though Chechnya, alas, proved him adept at that, he remains the only major player committed to reform □

Reflections on the Israeli elections

## The bullet-scarred ballot

For three hundred years Germans called France *der Erbfeind* responsible for a catalogue of misdeeds from burning Heidelberg to occupying the Ruhr. The French had an even grimmer list of memories, climaxed by Nazi atrocities during the Second World War.

Yet from 1945 onwards these hereditary enemies found it in their mutual interest – and in that of generations yet unborn – to draw a line under the past. The result: the birth of the EU, and Europe's first half century of peace in a thousand years.

Monet, Adenauer and Schuman who wrought these epoch-making changes, were farsighted statesmen with widespread electoral support. Peres, a statesman imbued with a no less grandiose vision, alas, failed to elicit similar backing.

The May election in Israel was less a contest between head and heart than between rationality and gut-feeling. The country always had an intransigent core of religious and jingoist hardliners. What gave 'Bibi' victory were floating voters, whose gut reaction to the Oslo Accords (stipulating concessions that triggered more rather than fewer outrages) was one of – understandable – panic.

It ill behoves us who daily board buses free of Hamas bombs to sit in judgment on Israel's voters. The Diaspora, nonetheless, has a huge emotional stake in the Jewish State – which obliges us to express misgivings about the electorate's decision at a crucial juncture in the country's history.

Voting the hardline Right into power simultaneously endangers peace with the Arabs and civil peace among the Jews. Coming so soon after the Rabin assassination it places additional pressure on the fragile internal cohesion of Israeli society.

'Is this still my country?' sobbed many a left-leaning voter (with kibbutznik forebears who had laid the foundations of the State) on 30 May. The question was echoed by Israel's Arab citizens, a 700,000-strong group unconnected with Hamas – or PLO – terror. Peres' defeat also shocked Arafat

into silence. He may well have been a flawed negotiating partner, but to see him upstaged by Hamas in this fashion was not to Israel's advantage.

A Fortress Israel policy could, admittedly, work in the short term – but we have seen where the *laager* mentality ultimately landed the South Africa Nats.

One final consideration. The majority of the nine million Diaspora Jews know how much they owe to the West's multicultural liberalism. Apprehension that the Jewish State of tomorrow might well not share those values, will do little to strengthen worldwide Jewish solidarity.

Still – we humans are so constituted that we always look for the light at the end of the tunnel. So let us hope against hope that the new administration in Jerusalem will 'renege' on their election promises. It was, after all, their spiritual mentor Menachem Begin who confounded all expectations by making peace with Egypt □



The Knesset, Israel's Parliament, in Jerusalem

## Profile

## Model member

**M**adeleine Brook, AJR Trustee and Management Committee member, grew up in a Viennese middle-class family – her father was a manufacturer of clothing accessories – and attended the enlightened Schwarzwaldschule. The fact that her mother had Swiss nationality enabled Madeleine, too, to escape to Switzerland in 1938, while the father went to Sweden.

In Zurich she attended a commercial college and obtained a business diploma. Due to the Swiss phobia about refugees overcrowding the labour market she first had to work semi-illegally (at a sanatorium for psychiatric patients) but was eventually allowed to look after refugee children under the aegis of the Red Cross.

The postwar years took her to Sweden and the USA, where she worked for a travel agency. In the early 1950s she married a fellow refugee and took up domicile in the UK. They had a son, and after some time she became a rep for a firm making rhinestone buttons. She involved herself in community work as a member both of WIZO and of AJR.

Widowed in the early 1970s, she married Henry Brook, becoming the stepmother of the writer Stephen Brook (of *The Club* fame).



Madeleine Brook

Madeleine's involvement in the work of AJR steadily intensified. After the opening of the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre she assumed responsibility for provisioning and running the shop in Cleve Road. Her main contribution to the Association, though, has for many years been connected with the annual concert. She has helped with the sale of tickets – and especially of advertising in the concert brochure (a key source of revenue).

In this endeavour she displays a charm and enthusiasm capable of thawing the resistance of the most curmudgeonly potential advertiser. Characteristically, she would not even let the recent onset of illness interfere with her work for the 1996 concert. We wish her a speedy recovery.

□ RG

Deportations from Western Europe to Auschwitz began in 1942 and were referred to in the British press, but the destination of the trains remained unknown!

Asked by Weizmann and Shertok to bomb the death camps, Churchill ordered "get anything out of the Air Force you can and involve me if necessary." Unfortunately, nothing of significance resulted. Churchill's efforts to obtain a joint Anglo-American declaration on the extermination of the Jews were nullified by the Americans. In an article for the 'JC' he wrote that "Jews bear the brunt of suffering"; with his support, 4,500 Jewish children were helped to escape from the Balkans.

Churchill called for Allied punishment of war criminals specifically for their persecution of the Jews. He wrote to Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden of "the most horrible crime committed in the whole history of the world" whose perpetrators should be put to death.

Revisionists have asserted that Churchill's prescience and protests were not his own – rather those of the Jews who paid him to express them. Sir Martin Gilbert's evidence substantiates the contrary. From 1940 onwards Churchill refused to make peace with Hitler and mobilised every effort to defeat Nazi Germany and bring to justice those who had committed such unparalleled crimes.

□ Ronald Channing

The Wiener Library's  
Bernard Krikler Memorial Lecture

## Churchill and the Holocaust

**S**ir Martin Gilbert adduced ample proof of the consistency with which, from 1932 onwards, Churchill both publicised and condemned Nazi persecution of the Jews.

Having witnessed persecution in Germany "solely on the grounds of race", Churchill warned of the danger to Polish Jews in Parliament and pleaded for minimal immigration restrictions to be placed on refugees from Europe. He described German Jews as "stripped of all power", declared a "foul and odious race", and subjected to every kind of persecution. He actually spoke of the "blotting out" of German Jewry.

Immediately on assuming the premier-

ship in May 1940, Churchill came under pressure from Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax and others to open negotiations with Hitler. He rejected their advice and ruled out any accommodation with Hitler, thereby avoiding Britain falling into the trap of 'Vichy' satellite status.

Contrary to the Foreign Office position that Jewish concerns were purely administrative matters, Churchill ordered all items of Jewish interest to be put in his despatch box. Despite British reverses in Europe, North Africa and the Atlantic in 1941, Churchill assured Chaim Weizmann that the British White Paper restricting Jewish immigration to Palestine would not be put into operation. That same year Churchill commended a "Jewish state in Western Palestine" to the War Cabinet.

Hitler's invasion of the USSR in June 1941 brought SS killer squads into action. Despite German messages being decrypted at Bletchley Park, only a fragment of the scale of the killing was revealed.

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## A Dickens of a claim

**M**adness, it is said, is to genius near allied. Lord Byron was certainly known as 'mad, bad and dangerous to know'. And now the *Journal of Clinical Psychology* reveals that literati – poets, playwrights, novelists – are generally madder than members of the general public.

To substantiate its thesis the Journal pinpoints the degree of derangement of individual writers on a scale from one to six – and gives Evelyn Waugh top ranking. Unsurprisingly, Auberon Waugh objected to this. I can't see why he should: when Waugh senior returned from his wartime mission to Yugoslavia he per-versely insisted that Marshal Tito was a woman in drag.

It also annoyed Auberon that the Journal adjudges novelists the maddest, playwrights relatively less mad, and poets the least mad among all types of writers. Here, I must say, I agree with him. Surely no-one was madder than the playwright Brendan Behan who, invariably drunk, would boo performances of his own plays from the back of the stalls.

Another mad – sorry, I'll rephrase that: maddening – playwright who is no stranger to pubs is Harold Pinter. However, if, impelled by curiosity, another saloon bar habitué lets his gaze rest for more than a second on the famous Pinter face, the playwright is liable to lunge at him with a shout of 'Who d'you think you're looking at?'

With Pinter we are, of course, in the realm of Jewish literati – a disparate group ranging from giants of wisdom (Primo Levi) and good sense (Saul Bellow) to near-homicidal screwballs like Norman Mailer, the Erich Maria Remarque of the War in the Pacific, and frustrated wife-killer, once ran for Mayor of New York. Campaigning during an unusually cold winter, he was asked how he would deal with the snow blanketing the city, and answered 'I'd p..s on it'.

So much for Jewish writers in general – what about our own refugee writers? They, too, would amply repay investigation by mental health inspectors.

The Nobel Prize winner Elias Canetti gave me the distinct impression that, like a latter-day Mr Rochester, he kept his wife hidden from the public gaze at Hampstead. The polymath Arthur Koestler was a wife-batterer who, when

drunk, would throw punches at fellow writers (e.g. Albert Camus) or policemen.

Refugee-descended Tom Kempinski refused to have his plays staged in Israel, 'a racist state on a par with South Africa'. Hilde Spiel returned to Austria *twenty years after the war* partly because she felt snubbed by her London PEN colleagues Stephen Spender and John Lehmann. Back in Vienna fellow *Remigrant* Friedrich Torberg, a staunch anti-Communist, promptly started a vendetta against her for advocating the lifting of a ban on Brecht's plays.

Last, but by no means least: Erich Fried, arguably the most eccentric of the whole *galère* of refugee writers. Admittedly, Fried had a father who ran Kafka's a close second. (Fried senior dubbed his son, who limped and showed political awareness at six, a 'Bolshevik cripple'). The damage wrought by Erich's physical father was further compounded by his spiritual ones: Marx, Freud and Wilhelm Reich.

Only such an 'inheritance' can explain an episode of Fried-specific macabre risibility. In 1934, when Hitler had already been in power for a year across the border, barmitzvah boy Erich entered his Vienna synagogue singing the Horst Wessel song – and was promptly thrown out.

His propensity for besmirching what Jews hold sacred resurfaced three decades later when he wrote a poem virtually equating Zionists with Nazis, and gave it the prayer-derived title 'Hear, O Israel'.

Jewish self-doubt left the poet with an acute identity problem. Though wedded to the German language and naming his British-born sons Hans, Klaus, etc, Fried never became a *Remigrant*; London-based, and married to an Englishwoman, he even discouraged his children from learning German.

Cut off in this way from their ever more famous father's work they had to rely on him for the information that he was 'as famous in Germany as Dickens in England'.

That claim is, I think poetic licence. I also think that Fried's (sometimes poetic) pronouncements on sex – which cannot be quoted in a family newspaper – refute the aforementioned statement in the *Journal of Clinical Psychology* that poets are comparatively saner than other groups of writers.

□ Richard Grunberger

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## Polish property restitution

**F**ollowing a short article on Polish property restitution in *AJR Information*, Mr Ernest Hayman has kindly sent us a copy of a letter received by him from Mr Piotr Polz, Polish Consul in London.

Mr Polz points out that, at present, there exists only a draft reprivatization law which may be modified following the recent change of government.

According to the present proposal, persons entitled to claim back property lost by nationalisation or migration are former owners, or their statutory heirs, *if they are Polish citizens and live permanently in Poland or persons living abroad if they reacquire Polish citizenship and settle permanently in Poland within the period stipulated to lodge applications for reprivatization* □

## Reviews

## Where murder went unpunished

Gordon Brook Shepherd, *THE AUSTRIANS, A thousand-year odyssey*, Harper Collins, £25.00.

When the Habsburg court poet wrote "while others wage war you, happy Austria, marry" he was mixing a half-truth with a whopping lie. The half-truth was the notion that the Habsburg Empire resulted purely from dynastic marriages without resort to arms. While Emperor Maximilian I (ca.1500), admittedly proved a consummate matchmaker, Austria had a major share in the Turkish campaigns, the Thirty Years' War, the Seven Years' War, and the Napoleonic wars. She, moreover, bears crucial responsibility for World War One, and through her ecstatic reception of Hitler helped precipitate World War Two.

So much for the half-truth; where the court poet's true mendacity lay was in his appellation of Austria as "happy". Probably no other country has – *pace* Schubert, Mahler and Hugo Wolf, Lenau and Trakl and Raimund, Nestroy and Grillparzer – produced so many tormented geniuses. Nor was it an accident that "curing the sickness of the soul", i.e. psychoanalysis, was pioneered in Vienna. It would, in fact, require a latter-day Freud with an additional degree in PR to establish why a people so given over to rancorous self-pity as the Austrians should be popularly associated with Strauss waltzes, Lehar operettas and *The Sound of Music*. The widespread misreading of the Austrian mind was neatly encapsulated by Pope Paul VI who, shortly before Waldheim's presidency, called the country "an island of the blessed."

What is the source of the Austrian malaise? Gordon Brook Shepherd, an expert Austria-watcher, traces it to a deep-seated identity crisis. Are the Austrians a nation in their own right or a German tribe whom the Habsburgs severed from their blood brothers and yoked together with assorted Slavs and Hungarians?

Austro-German affinity runs like a red thread through the calamitous prehistory of both World Wars. When Bismarck locked the waning Habsburg empire into the German embrace, the only prominent Austrian to gainsay him was the (unfortu-

nately self-destructive) Crown Prince Rudolph.

In 1918 Austrian leaders of every hue yearned for an Anschluss. Twenty years later Anschluss mindedness fused with anti-semitism to make the country give Hitler a welcome worthy of the Second Coming.

Ten years after the war in which the Allies had dubbed them Hitler's first victims, fewer than 50% of Austrians considered themselves a separate nation. That proportion, Brook-Shepherd informs us, has since increased appreciably. So far so good – but what of the antisemitism in which the Austrians outdid their German blood brothers?

Simon Wiesenthal has alleged that the Austrian tenth of the population of Greater Germany "accounted for" half of all Holocaust victims. Brook-Shepherd ventures no opinion on this estimate but he reprints in full Wiesenthal's 1966 memorandum to Chancellor Klaus. An excerpt reads "Hundred-and-fifty members of the Austrian Police Battalions 12, 314 and 322 operating in Poland, though clearly identified as murderers, have had no action taken against them; some have even been reinstated in the Austrian security services."

The rest is silence.

□ Richard Grunberger

## "Life goes on"

Trude Levi, *A CAT CALLED ADOLF*, Vallentine Mitchell (*The Library of Holocaust Testimonies*) 1995.

When Trude Levi was on holiday in Germany some forty years after the end of the war, she was shown a small cat which, because of its habit of raising one paw, was called Adolf by its owner. Although trivial in itself, this incident upset her greatly and contributed to her decision to write about her life. She writes in anger, because she suffered unspeakably in Auschwitz and Buchenwald, surviving only because her German guards left her for dead by the roadside; in sadness, because she had a disappointing first marriage and tragically lost her son; in gratitude, because her second husband gives her 'a reason to carry on' and to enjoy much of her present life, 'at least on the surface'.

But her 'inner life' is still that of the former concentration camp inmate. Gertrud Mosonyi (as she then was) was twenty when the Germans occupied her

native Hungary and deported her from the small town where she had been brought up by caring Jewish (but strictly non-religious) parents. Although she lived to be liberated, she continued to suffer years of illness and deprivation. She was brought to France by a fellow-survivor, only to be betrayed and humiliated. Eventually she secured a place at the Sorbonne as a mature student. She met and married a Hungarian violinist who suffered from a psychiatric illness. For a time they lived in South Africa, where their son was born. They moved to Israel, then returned to South Africa. They came to London in 1957 where she worked for various Jewish organisations. Her marriage finally broke down and she obtained a divorce. She remarried in 1970 and her son, by now an Oxford graduate, married a few years later. But in 1979 he took his own life in a fit of depression.

Today, 'life goes on' for the author of this moving autobiography. She has shown remarkable courage in putting pen to paper and in doing so has performed a valuable service. As Martin Gilbert points out in his foreword, there is a need for such memoirs as hers to be published. Their authors speak, as she does, not only for themselves but for the six million who cannot.

□ David Maier

## Socialist and sensualist

George Dreyfus (composer) Volker Elis Pilgrim (librettist) *DIE MARX SISTERS*, Bielefeld Opera

After the first performance of the *Magic Flute* the librettist Emanuel Schikaneder allegedly complained that Mozart's music had spoiled his beautiful text. There can, indeed, be instances where music and text of an opera are of equal importance, and this is one of them.

The plot of the 'Marx Sisters' hinges on the fact that Karl Marx was anything but a model husband. In 1850 he fathered an illegitimate child on a domestic. This contradicted the public image he wished to cultivate, and his blueprint for creating a better world than under capitalism. Hence the birth had to be concealed; his friend and patron Friedrich Engels obligingly took responsibility. However, the same mishap occurred in 1862 when Marx made another member of his household pregnant. This time abortion appeared to be the only solution. Today's

continued on next page



continued

'politically correct' term *choice* had not yet been invented, and would indeed have been inappropriate: women, particularly of the lower classes, had to do as they were told; often with unfortunate results, as in this case: the mother-to-be died in the process.

The action of the opera takes place during the night prior to the operation and its twelve brief scenes intermingle Marx's dreams, guilt feelings, unconscious desires and memories. All this is shown not as tragedy, but grotesque comedy in a stylistic mixture of Victorian music hall and Monty Python. (Characteristically, the cast, in spite of the title, contains no female singers). It is, perhaps, not surprising that the reviews next day offered widely different interpretations of the work causing George Dreyfus to exclaim: "I have worked on this opera for over a year. I am deeply grateful for, at long last, having been told what it means!"

There was possibly a certain bitterness in this remark. For most reviewers had overlooked a vital element in the com-

position: Karl Marx was, throughout, seriously obsessed with his Jewish origins. In the opera this is indicated by the frequent presence of his parents accompanied by recurring rhythms with undertones of the Sabbath celebrations and the *berachot*. And the words are sung in Hebrew. But Marx's parents were baptised and so, of course, was he. The opera includes a scene in which the baptism is re-enacted, a very subtle indication of Marx's subconscious guilt feelings.

Performers and the production were highly praised and, indeed, Bielefeld has taken enormous - and successful - trouble over the matter. On the libretto and the music there was less unanimity. In fact, a few members of the audience booed both librettist and composer. One critic complained of lack of musical depth and development. Another called the opera 'Marx with his trousers down'. According to a third, with whom I agree, the score gave the content its serious dimension, was surprisingly effective and often created the impression of good film music.

□ C F Flesch

## Then and now

Mary Brainin Huttner, *NEW WORLD FOR OLD*, Schuco Publications, £4.25

The title of this collection of poetry refers to the dark shadows of the Anschluss in Vienna and the author's escape, at the age of five, with her family to England.

She has divided the poems into three sections. The first, concerning her life now, ranges from sleeplessness to ageing and from how to explain what 'lesbian' means to one's grandchildren, to transcendental meditation.

The second part concerns her childhood and the title poem is one of the best. It is the most serious part of the work.

The third section is generally light-hearted, verging on doggerel but she writes with wit and precision about frustration in a hospital and on the telephone. The last poem of all, 'Mirage' moved me:

'I run towards the house and cry:

'I'm home from school!'

There's no reply."

Here she allows her feelings to come through but although her tutors describe her work as satirical, I feel she has over-used it, to the detriment of its impact. Together with her unvarying use of rhyme and rhythm it has become a strait-jacket.

Perhaps it is time that this poet let herself explore words and images with more freedom. She has written amusingly and accessibly and her work is appealing but now she should spread her wings.

□ Jill Bamber

## 50 YEARS AGO

### REPORT FROM HOLLAND

Of the communities in Belgium, France and Holland, the Jews in Holland suffered by far the greatest losses. From 140,000 Jews only 23,000 have survived, and out of 25,000 Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria, not more than about 3,000.

One of the reasons for these heavy losses is the fact that Holland was totally dominated by the Nazis. Apart from the military occupation, the Netherlands were governed by a 'Reichsstatthalter' who enveloped also the civil administration in his Nazi grip. Moreover, in that small and flat country it was almost impossible for a comparatively large group of people to disappear into hiding places.

Immediately after the deportation of a Jewish family, all their assets and belongings were usually taken by the Nazis. Whilst decrees have been issued for compensation, their practical results are still negligible.


There are 2,000-3,000 Jewish orphans who were hidden by Dutch families. It is one of the greatest worries of Dutch Jewry to find ways and means of bringing those children back into a Jewish atmosphere □

AJR Information, July 1946

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## Letters to the Editor

### WHAT'S IN A NAME

Sir – Your May editorial reflecting on the Flick donation to Oxford is less than fair to Lord Weidenfeld. You are no doubt aware – although you do not say so – that the Ethical Committee examined and approved the donation. Lord Weidenfeld was among those who advocated that the Flick family should compensate the former slave labourers.

Grafton Road Sir Sigmund Sternberg  
London NW5

### MALIGNED THERSITES

Sir – The lines which Martin Anson quotes in the May issue are from Schiller's *Das Siegesfest*. In spite of his liberal outlook, Schiller took over Homer's maligning of Thersites. In contrast, my late father, Victor Ehrenberg, wrote (Oxford Classical Dictionary, article on 'Democracy'): "Beginning with Thersites, there were always movements against the rule of the noble and the rich, as the lower ranks of free people tried to win full citizenship" and I F Stone, in his 'The Trial of Socrates' (Picador 1988, p34), describes the Thersites episode in the Iliad as "the first attempt of the common man to exercise freedom of speech".

If there were more justice in this world, Thersites would be the patron saint of the TUC. But there isn't, and the treatment which Thersites received from Agamemnon and his cronies closely parallels that which Scargill has received from Thatcher and hers. But let those of us who owe our lives to a more liberal Britain remember Thersites with affection, so that in another 3,000 years, Scargill may be remembered similarly.

Great Quarry Professor Lewis Elton  
Guildford, Surrey

### BAYREUTH-FIXATED BERNARD

Sir – I have no axe to grind for Bernard Levin. In fact, I read *The Times* in spite of his articles. Hence I am not at all interested in his opinions, let alone his "logic".

We all know that Richard Wagner was

an antisemite, had a great many other severe character blemishes and was a genius in one particular field – music (I don't think much of his librettos). A work of art, once completed, stands and falls on its own merits. Its creator no longer matters, nor do his opinions, unless they are propagated in the piece in question.

There must have been a great many writers and painters who were antisemites. For that matter we could, if we were so inclined, construe every Last Supper or Crucifixion as an antisemitic outpouring. I am not aware that this prevents people of our race from admiring them – and quite rightly.

Fortune Green Road CF Flesch  
London NW6

Sir – I judge music by its quality, I find the personality of a dead composer irrelevant. Adolf Hitler thought otherwise, so he banned the music of Jewish composers. I have no wish to follow in Hitler's footsteps.

Putney Hill GF Manley  
London SW15

### FOLLOW MY LIEDER

Sir – Fischer-Dieskau never concealed the fact that he was inducted into the German army during the war. Schwarzkopf and Richard Strauss were pragmatic Nazis, *Mitläufer*, like most Germans; nevertheless, Austrians like Schwarzkopf can justly be accused of having been ideological Nazis.

Where on earth did John Levy get his information that Walter Legge was a Jew?! I have it on very good authority that he came from a 100% Christian English working class background; he also was an antisemite, who gloried in the fact that he had many enemies. Schwarzkopf therefore could not have whitewashed her Nazi past by marrying him.

Carisbrooke Road Henry Mortimer  
Leicester

Sir – To insinuate that Elisabeth Schwarzkopf married Dr Legge only to hide her Nazi past, is malicious nonsense, even if one is not enraptured by the role

she played during the thirties.

However, to state that Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau had to 'admit' his service in the Wehrmacht in a radio interview, is crass, witchhunting ignorance. Fischer-Dieskau was 16 in 1943 (he had already sung the *Winterreise* in a town hall in Berlin) and has on innumerable occasions referred to his experiences in Russia where he was force-drafted. After the war nobody did more than he to help re-establish Germany as a centre of artistic and cultural life.

Your correspondent represents a regrettable tendency for searching for the devil's tail behind every German. There are still too many Germans who learnt nothing from the past, but one wishes that other European nations with a sinister past did half as much to cleanse themselves from an unforgivable past as Germany did – and still does.

P.S. *AJR Information*, I often think, should not be a monthly, but a weekly publication.

Temple Fortune Hill F Shelton  
London NW11

### BIG BERTHA

Sir – You describe the special long-barrel siege gun, which bombarded Paris in 1917 and 1918 with very little effect, as *Dicke Bertha*. This is incorrect. The rather squat 42cm mortars, used rather successfully in 1914, to reduce the fortresses on the frontiers of Belgium (Liège) and France, were nick-named *Dicke Bertha*. They were, of course, both products of Krupps.

Linden Lea F H Edwards  
London N2

### THE 'CHRISTIAN' KLEMPERERS

Sir – John Levy in his letter *Follow my Lieder* (May issue) mentions in passing that the conductor Otto Klemperer was 'of course a Jew'. What is, however, less known is that he was actually baptized and became a Catholic. This is documented in his cousin's, Victor Klemperer's, recently published diaries: *Ich will Zeugnis ablegen bis zum letzten; Tagebücher 1933-1945*, Berlin; Aufbau-Verlag, 1995.

In connection with this, it might be of interest to mention that Victor Klemperer himself became a Protestant in 1912, the very year his father, Rabbi Dr Wilhelm Klemperer, died. Victor Klemperer suf-



ferred from a severe assimilation complex. This is well illustrated in his, and his siblings', decision to place the announcement of their father's death in the newspaper omitting the title Rabbi.

In 1934 Victor Klemperer recalls the following verse which he wrote in 1912:

*Wärst Du als Pastor heimgegangen  
Es stünde hier in grossem Prangen  
Doch starbst Du armer Gottesdiener  
Nur leider Gottes als Rabbiner  
Die Würde musste mit Dir sterben  
Sie ist nicht gut für Deine Erben.*

This time Klemperer asks himself: 'How has this omission helped?'

Middleton Road Yvonne Alweiss  
London NW11

### BAMBERG REMEMBERS

Sir - I was very interested in your report on 'Bamberg' (May issue) as I have family connections with the town. It is encouraging to hear that the permanent exhibition *Juden in Bamberg* has been started by Herbert Loebel.

Eton Road Nora Henry (née Loewi)  
London NW3

### WINNER TAKES NOTHING

Sir - I felt both elated and humble on discovering that I had won first prize for translating the Buchenwald Camp song. I am giving the money to the budding Holocaust Museum at the Imperial War Museum.

May I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of *AJR Information*: its high journalistic and literary standards, not to mention its values, are a delight. I should love to be able to give you first prize in the editing stakes.

Chester Close Bea Green  
London SW13

### THE THIRTIES REMEMBERED

Sir - I am extremely grateful for your printing my search notice about Edith Fay in the April issue.

I am including a tribute to her in an article that I am writing on my former Jewish friends. As a schoolboy at Steyning Grammar School in West Sussex, I met my first refugees from Germany and learnt of Nazi horrors at first hand in the 1930s.

Camerton Close Eric Linfield  
Salford  
Bristol

### BRICKBAT

Sir - I do object to the tone of some of the recent articles and letters in the journal. I was particularly incensed by Richard Grunberger's article on Richard Wagner and Bernard Levin. Whatever Wagner's attitude towards Jews - and there are many people in England and the world over who hold similar views - he wrote immortal music which gives enjoyment to millions of people, including myself. For this alone the man should be accepted despite any controversial views he may have held. After all, he was entitled to his views as long as he did no personal or physical harm to anyone. He was arrogant and self righteous - so what?

I do feel that *AJR Information* should confine itself to matters concerning German refugees and leave controversial matters to newspapers which specialise in these subjects.

Red Lane G.V. Wolf  
Disley  
Cheshire SK12 2NP

### THE FLICK AFFAIR

Sir - I have just returned from Hessisch-Lichtenau, near Kassel, where during the war I was a slave-worker in an 80% Flick-owned factory.

Here during the last few weeks I got quite involved in the Flick affair, partly to stop Friedrich Flick having a chair created in his name, partly because there are a number of my camp-mates who having returned to Hungary after the war, could not apply for compensation from the Germans. I am still hoping to be able to persuade the present Flicks to fund a trust at least to help these ex-slave-workers who today are old and living in penury.

Oakhampton Road Mrs Trude Levi  
London NW7

### REFUGEES FROM MUNICH

Sir - My attention was recently drawn to the existence of the 'Jüdisches Museum München', when I was sent a copy of their brochure.

According to this, there appears to be a lack of documentation of the fate of Jews from Munich who fled from persecution. A request is made for such family histories and data to be sent to Dr. Andreas Heusler, Stadtarchiv München, Winzererstraße 68, 80797 Munich.

Pinner H Peter Sinclair  
Middx

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# The AJR at Work

## Happy 100th birthday!

Leonora Hellman celebrated her 100th birthday at Heinrich Stahl House in London surrounded by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Born Leonora Kohn in Ebelsbach, southern Germany, in 1896, her parents sent her to finishing school in Hanover before she embarked on a career as a book-keeper and stenographer. With a wry smile, she recalled her days as a young lady being chaperoned to dances and fancy dress balls, wearing long crinoline dresses and travelling in horse-drawn carriages. The outbreak of World War II brought this lifestyle to an abrupt end.



Leonora Hellman celebrates her 100th birthday at Heinrich Stahl House, London.

Leonora married her childhood friend Fred in 1920. He spoke fluent Spanish and regularly visited both Mexico and Cuba before being enlisted into the army. Mrs. Hellman recalled Germany's hyperinflation, when what was sufficient house-keeping money at the beginning of the week would buy only a loaf of bread at the end. However, with their two sons Paul and Gerald, they came to enjoy care-free holidays in the Rosenau, Saxe Coburg and Schloss Banz.

In March 1933 harassment of Jews forced the family to seek refuge in England where, faced with widespread unemployment, they found life to be hard and refugee aid organisations like the AJR (of which she later became a member) and the CBF did not yet exist. The family became members, and the boys were Barmitzvah, at Hampstead Synagogue. When in 1966 Fred Hellman died, Leonora became an active member of Belsize Square Synagogue, visiting housebound and hospitalised members and helping wherever there was a need.

A true matriarch, Leonora derives enormous pleasure from her ever-growing family, members of which came from Australia and America to celebrate her 100th birthday together with all her carers and friends at Heinrich Stahl House. Highlight of this very special day was the arrival of the Queen's Telegram which brought a smile and a tear to her face □

## South London's memories

Members of South London AJR recounted their experiences to other members at a recent meeting of the group.

Ludwig Mayer talked about his late sister Clara who was a journalist with Reuter's news agency and South London News. Walter Woyda played compositions featuring Joseph Schmidt and talked about the celebrated tenor's life. Mr H Perls spoke about his early training as a dental mechanic in South Africa which led eventually to his qualifying as a dentist in England.

Among other equally fascinating contributions, Helen Aaronson described the managerial position she had held at Phillips in Nigeria, while Herbert Wolf recalled the years he worked for Marks & Spencer. Everyone made their presentations with great good humour.

*'The Music of Moscheles'* will be presented by Henry Roche at the next meeting of SLAJR on Thursday 18th July at 2pm at South London Liberal Synagogue, Streatham SW16. Please call Ken Ambrose on 0181 852 0262 for further information.

□ Ruth Leggett

## WHO'S WHO IN THE AJR

### Head Office:

Ernest David - Director  
 Carol Rossen - Assistant to Director  
 Agi Alexander - Head of Social Services  
 Norah Gittings - Social Worker  
 Wendi Wilson - Social Worker  
 Ruth Finestone - Social Worker  
 Estelle Brookner - Social Services Assistant  
 Debbie Picker - Volunteers Co-ordinator  
 Katia Gould - Sheltered Accommodation  
 Richard Grunberger - Editor  
*AJR Information*  
 Ronald Channing - Publications and PR Manager  
 Andrea Goodmaker - Publications Assistant  
 Gordon Greenfield - Accountant

### Day Centre:

Sylvia Matus - Day Centre Organiser  
 Renée Lee - Assistant Organiser  
 Joanne Fresco - General Assistant  
 Joan Kupler - General Assistant  
 Esther Blumstein - Care Assistant  
 Susie Kaufman - Catering Manager  
 Jeff Heywood - Head Chef  
 Ya'akov Azulay - Assistant Chef  
 Adil Bouanani - Kitchen Assistant  
 Mary Matovu - Kitchen Assistant  
 Janine Brockiner - Sunday Organiser  
 Joseph Pereira - Caretaker  
 David Drey - Driver

## AJR 'Drop in' Advice Centre at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

15 Cleve Road, London NW6 3RL  
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 following dates:

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 Thursday 11 July  
 Tuesday 16 July  
 Monday 22 July  
 Wednesday 31 July  
 Thursday 8 August  
 and every Thursday from  
 10am to 12 noon at:

AJR, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a  
 Frognaal, London NW3 6AL

No appointment is necessary, but please bring  
 along all relevant documents, such as Benefit  
 Books, letters, bills, etc.



## Message from the Director

At the time I am writing this little article, it is just over three weeks to the year's longest day and at 5pm it is dark enough to put on the lights, while outside it is grey, cold wet and windy.

Perhaps by the time you read these words, we may have had a glorious sunny June and are looking forward to a splendid summer. Perhaps or perhaps not.

The world used to laugh at the Englishman's preoccupation with the weather, but now weather forecasts have become international, and people everywhere wonder if it's going to freeze or burn, and if one needs to put on a sweater or take an umbrella. Whole industries depend on the weather. Recently I spoke to a restaurateur who said he had lost hundreds of customers because of bad weather, while the gas companies' profits soar because of the unending winter.

Even more important is the effect of weather on people's attitudes to life. If it is fine and expected to stay that way, pavements sprout tables and chairs in front of cafés, and there is a general air of cheerfulness around, while grey skies bring with them a grey approach to life. But before you rush to tell me, I know that too hot is just as depressing as too cold. It's just that a blue sky is such an uplifting sight.

Although science has not managed to cure or prevent countless illnesses, there is an impression that perhaps one day it might do so, but masters of the universe or not, nobody believes that the science of mankind will ever master the weather. It is beyond the reach of democracies or of dictators. This is just as well. One does not have to have a too pessimistic view of human nature to fear what might happen if man ever learned to control the weather. One could imagine monopolies selling fine weather. If the polar ice caps could be melted, millions of people would die from flooding. On the other hand we might produce a new ice age, from which too, there would be few survivors.

On the whole, I think it is undoubtedly better not to be able to control the weather. Surprisingly, there are not many regions in the world where it is perfect, so we might as well put up with the delicious uncertainty, because not many of us have the option of moving to these few areas of paradise. In any case, it gives us a subject of conversation. Have a nice day!

□ Ernest David

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*Afternoon entertainment* -

### JULY 1996

- |           |    |  |
|-----------|----|--|
| Monday    | 1  | JERUSALEM 3000 CELEBRATION SONGS - Noa Lachman (Soprano) accompanied by William Hancock (Piano)              |
| Tuesday   | 2  | GLENDIA JACKSON MP talks on 'Women in Parliament'  |
| Wednesday | 3  | THE GEOFFREY STRUM & HELEN BLAKE DUO   |
| Thursday  | 4  | SUMMER MUSIC & SONG - Sue Kennett (Soprano) accompanied by Gordon Weaver (Piano)                             |
| Sunday    | 7  | CHILDREN FROM THE LONDON SUZUKI MUSIC SCHOOL - Directed by Jane O'Connor                                     |
| Monday    | 8  | JUDI - BIMBI & RUFUS MERRIFROWDE Entertain for the Summer - accompanied by June Moore (Piano)                |
| Tuesday   | 9  | THE DULCET TONES   |
| Wednesday | 10 | THE BERKELEY TRIO  |
| Thursday  | 11 | MY SONG OF LOVE - Katina Seiner accompanied by Daphne Lewis (Piano) with Guest Artist Laszlo Easton (Violin) |
| Sunday    | 14 | DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT   |
| Monday    | 15 | OPERA OPS - Accompanied by Margaret Gibbs (Piano)  |
| Tuesday   | 16 | OPERA YOU LOVE - Sara Meadows  |

- |           |    |  |
|-----------|----|--|
|           |    | accompanied by John Field (Piano)  |
| Wednesday | 17 | THE SUNSHINE SINGERS   |
| Thursday  | 18 | FOUR STRINGS EACH - Lucy White (Violin) & Juliet Davey (Piano)   |
| Sunday    | 21 | DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT   |
| Monday    | 22 | YOUTH MUSIC CENTRE ENSEMBLE - Violin - Viola - Cello & Piano   |
| Tuesday   | 23 | SONGS MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME - Sylvia Hartman & Sergei Bezkorvany (Violin) accompanied by Geoffrey Boywer (Piano)             |
| Wednesday | 24 | GOLDEN GREATS OF JEWISH MUSIC - Nina Gottesman (Guitar)  |
| Thursday  | 25 | C L O S E D - FAST OF AV   |
| Sunday    | 28 | DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT   |
| Monday    | 29 | LET ME SING FOR YOUR SUPPER - Douglas Poster   |
| Tuesday   | 30 | MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT by Doris Samuel accompanied by Marian Hartman (Piano)  |
| Wednesday | 31 | HERE IS MUSIC YOU WILL REMEMBER - Anthony Hawgood (Tenor) Arlene Coyle (Soprano) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano) |
| AUGUST    |    |  |
| Thursday  | 1  | A PARTY AFTERNOON - Dorothy Sayers (Piano & Accordion)   |
| Sunday    | 4  | DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT   |
| Monday    | 5  | THE GEOFFREY STRUM & HELEN BLAKE DUO   |

**FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Deaths**

**Parnes.** Freda Parnes, widow of George, died peacefully 5th May aged 85. Greatly missed by sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, sister, brothers and their wives, cousin and many other relatives and friends. She led a hard life, but was always full of fun.

**Ney.** Lotte Ney, née Friedlaender, born Stade, died suddenly after a short illness on 8 May. Much loved wife of Arthur, and mother and mother-in-law of Marjorie and David, Angela and Yaki. Grandmother of Caroline, Matthew and Inbar.

**Sharman.** Walter Sharman (Schartenberg), born Zierenberg near Kassel, died 27th April aged 82. Elder statesman of Newcastle Jewry whose community extends its sympathy to his wife Elizabeth, daughters Dorothy, Marion and Susan, sons-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Weiss.** Augusta (Gretel) Weiss died suddenly and peacefully on May 13th at the age of 87. She will be sadly missed by her brother Dr. Kurt Weiss and his family in Haifa, and by all her friends.

**Hirschberg.** Edith M Hirschberg, née Lindemeyer (Lindsey), born 27.4.19 in Düsseldorf, has peacefully passed away after a long illness on 13 April 1996 in St Joseph's Hospice, London. Her memory will live for ever in the hearts of her loving husband Hans, sister Eva, brother John, niece Carolyn and nephews David and Simon who mourn her deeply, and all those dear friends of the Hyphen Club who knew her from its early formation under the leadership of Peter Johnson.

**Leighton.** Henry Leighton, beloved husband of Renee, father

of Monica and Yvonne and brother of Eve, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on 16th May at the age of 76. We miss him terribly.

**Cohn.** Margarete Cohn passed away aged 93 on 4 June. A very special person who is deeply missed by her son Michael, grandchildren Richard, Tom and Jack and by family and friends. All who knew her reserve a place for her in their hearts.

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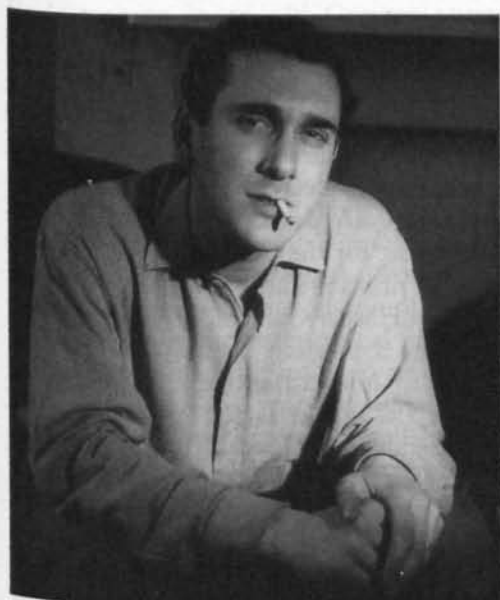
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Alice Schwab

# Art Notes

At the National Portrait Gallery (1 August to 13 October) *Literati: Photographs by Mark Gerson* will be on display. For over forty years Gerson has been synonymous with photographs of writers. This exhibition charts the rich diversity of his talent.



Harold Pinter, photograph by Mark Gerson, National Portrait Gallery

Also at the National Portrait Gallery (15 June – 15 September) there will be an exhibition *Assembling the Family: Photography and Family Portraiture*, sponsored by Marks & Spencer. This exhibition will explore the history of early family photography up to 1890, and contrast it with the work of contemporary photographers.

The Degas exhibition at the *National Gallery* continues until 26 August. It will be shown later this year at the *Art Institute of Chicago*.

The Eve Arnold In Retrospect and Derek Jarman, A Portrait exhibitions at the *Barbican Art Gallery* continue until 8 August. These exhibitions will be followed (12 September-15 December) by Erwin Blumenfeld: A Fetish of Beauty. Blumenfeld was an innovative fashion photographer and this chronological exhibition shows some 250 photographs from Blumenfeld's life in Berlin, Amsterdam, Paris and New York.

David Hockney, one of Britain's most

celebrated artists, can be seen at *Annely Juda Fine Art*, at the re-scheduled time of 31 October 1996 to 18 January 1997. This exhibition will be David Hockney's first show at a private gallery in London since 1989.

At *Camden Arts Centre* from 12 July to 8 December the next exhibition will be *New Contemporaries*, the UK's most important annual showcase for students and recent graduates. From David Hockney to Damien Hirst, the exhibition has consistently launched the careers of British artists.

*Ben Uri Art Society* exhibitions will include one of over 60 works from their collection to be shown at the *University Gallery, Leeds*, from the 7 September to 1 November 1996. It will include David Bomberg's *Ghetto Theatre*, Samuel Hirszenberg's *The Sabbath Rest*, and Jacob Epstein's portrait bust of writer Sholem Asch.

From 4 July to 9 August the *Royal Watercolour Society* is showing their summer open exhibition 1996, at the *Bankside Gallery* □

## SBs Column

The *Volksoper*, Vienna's second opera house, will start the autumn season with Gounod's *Faust* followed by *Carmen* and *Zar und Zimmermann*. Then there will be weeks of Johann Strauss, Kalman and Lehar works, interspersed by performances of Offenbach's *La Périchole*, *Kiss me Kate* and *My Fair Lady*.

The *Quadfliegs*, father and son. Will Quadflieg's reputation as a veteran German actor has been overtaken by his son Christoph who is a television 'regular'. This year, father and son gave readings entitled '*Väter und Söhne*' in several German cities reciting from the works of Schiller, Schnitzler and Thomas Mann.

Almost re-born. Critics hailed the reappearance of 82-year old Hungarian all-round star Marika Röck in a sing-and-dance show, after years of absence from

the stage, as nothing short of miraculous; her performance was described as of 'undiminished fiery freshness'.

It would have been a 100th birthday. Austrian Radio told the life story of Hungarian-born Attila Hörbiger, stage and film actor who started his career in Prague where he met his future wife Paula Wessely. Of undisputed talent, he was politically, alas, the opposite of his brother Paul, whose anti-Nazi activities earned him a prison sentence during the war. Attila acted up to the age of 90, dying in 1987. The three Wessely-Hörbiger daughters are all actresses; the middle one, Christiane, a member of the *Zürich Schauspielhaus*, starred in the film comedy *Tafelspitz* (screened at the London Goethe Institute last month) opposite Austria's favourite actor Otto Schenk.

*Birthday*. Franco Corelli, the Italian *Heldentenor*, most prominent during the fifties and sixties, had his 75th birthday. Although he sang mainly at La Scala in Milan, he made notable appearances at the New York Met and sang Cavaradossi in *Tosca* at London's Covent Garden in 1957 □



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## RESTITUTION NEWS

### Swiss banks

Repeated intervention from Jewish circles to the Swiss Bankers' Association finally introduced a new system to facilitate the search for accounts of Holocaust victims. New guidelines have been issued and anyone who wishes to claim should contact:

Swiss Banking Ombudsman -  
Mr Hanspeter Hani,  
Post Office Box 8027 Zurich,  
Switzerland.

A claim form and data sheet for tracing dormant accounts will then be forwarded, as well as details of charges for the search.

### Property in Eastern Europe

We have been advised that the United Restitution Organisation, at 18 Gruzenberg Street, 65811 Tel Aviv, Israel, is ready to assist former Polish and Romanian citizens, who previously owned real estate, to submit their claims for the return of their rights and property.

URO's telephone number is:  
00 9723 517 5204  
and their fax number is:  
00 9723 517 0655

Basic conditions for Romanian claims:

1. Romanian citizenship (passport) valid before 29 January 1996.
2. The property claimed should still be in existence (i.e. not demolished).
3. Proof of ownership; and for heirs, certificate of inheritance.

The claims for Romanian compensation have to be submitted **BEFORE 29 JULY 1996** at the district commissions or with the Bucharest Municipality.

### Voyage of the St. Louis

The AJR now has confirmation that a number of the survivors from that ill-fated passage will be present on Sunday 14th July at 4pm for the showing of the film *The Voyage of the St. Louis* at Harkness Hall, Birkbeck College, Malet Street, London WC1.

One of the most poignant scenes in the film shows children playing a game called 'passports' where two small boys guard a gate on the ship and refuse entry to other children who have replied "yes" to the question "are you Jewish?" However, you will be admitted to the film if you contact the Administrative Secretary of the Wiener Library on 0171 636 7247 to reserve seats □

## AJR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 9 June 1996

Changing the Annual General Meeting to a Sunday clearly proved popular as more than a hundred members attended, a significant increase on last year.

Max Kochmann, speaking on his retirement as Chairman, said that although there had been many changes since he joined the Management Committee in 1977, principal issues were still relevant to-day - the relationship with the Otto Schiff Housing Association, pension problems and the search for new activities.

In the coming years he anticipated that AJR would work even more closely with Otto Schiff, for example by seeking to provide services to people in their own homes, and would try to encourage younger people to join. Mr Kochmann expressed his gratitude for the support he had received from staff, volunteers and the Management Committee.

David Rothenberg, Hon. Treasurer, announced that the AJR Charitable Trust had guaranteed a substantial proportion of Otto Schiff's planned expenditure for the refurbishing of Osmond House.

Officers and members of the Management Committee were declared duly elected. Mr Andrew Kaufman, the new Chairman, thanked Max Kochmann and presented him with a gift in appreciation of his long service to the AJR. Although he regarded himself as representing the next generation, he would seek continuity allied with a need to respond to changing circumstances.

The proposed changes to Rule Five of the AJR's constitution were unanimously approved.

A stimulating address was given by George Clare who put forward the controversial thesis that Germany had been no more antisemitic or racist than any other country. (*Excerpts to be published in our next issue*) □

### 48th Annual AJR Self Aid Concert

Not only did the concert of highlights from popular opera and operetta raise £6,500 towards the funds of Self Aid, whose expenditure is due to rise this year, but a good time was had by all.

Rarely has there been such a pleasant and happy atmosphere. Intellectual it was not, but enjoyable it was. Many people complimented us on the innovation and were impressed by the talent shown by the singers from the European Chamber Opera.

Once again the AJR owes a large debt to the volunteers and staff who worked so hard to ensure the concert was a success, and we look forward to seeing another large audience enjoying the 49th concert on 14 September 1997.

□ ED

## Eli Wiesel's motivation

In 1945, one of the first things that the young camp survivor Eli Wiesel asked for on regaining his freedom were a pen and paper to keep a diary; he has made an entry every day since. In London on a short visit for the publication of the first volume of his memoirs (*All Rivers Run to the Sea*, Harper Collins), Professor Wiesel spoke at a meeting, organised by Jewish Care, of his "adjustment to death" - where the act of living itself appeared abnormal. Immediately after the war he settled in France and in 1949 went to Israel as a French journalist and still writes his books in French.

"To live without a past is worse than to live without a future", Prof. Wiesel suggested, yet he complained that mankind was ill-equipped for the next century - preferring space exploration to bringing people closer to one another. While he, the author of more than 30 books and a Nobel prizewinner, admitted that writing was an agony which he would prefer to avoid, he regarded the obligation to educate younger generations as his main motivation.

□ RDC





## Kindertransport revival

For the uninitiated, the opening scenes of Diane Samuel's play *Kindertransport*, revived at the Palace Theatre, Watford, offer a potted history of the escape of some 9,000 children from the threat of Nazi oppression prior to the outbreak of World War II. Leaving their parents behind to their fate, the children adapted and adopted new lives and identities in England.

Diane Samuel's play only comes to life when the daughter of today's generation finds written in an old German story book that her mother's name was Eva and not Evelyn. Seeking to discover her own origins, firstly she tackles her grandmother – played with northern matronly aplomb by Jean Boht – who admits to adopting her daughter, and then Eva-Evelyn, played as a mature middle-class sophisticate by Diane Quick. Evelyn denies any memory of the past until forced into briefly admitting historical realities, before returning to her adopted persona.

The child Eva-Evelyn is played with assured switches between English and German accents as appropriate by Julia Malewski, making her first professional stage appearance. The set, an all-purpose attic, takes us from 1938 Germany to contemporary England.

Kindertransportee and AJR member Henry Goldsmith was pleased that the message of *Kindertransport* was being taken to non-Jews. His own recollections of the loss of his family who were deported to Minsk brought emotions that time could not erase.

□ RDC

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3-course meals cost £4 each plus £1 per delivery.

Phone Susie Kaufman on 0171 328 0208

for details and assessment interview.

Meals can also be collected from 15 Cleve Road, Mondays-Thursdays.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS – JULY 1996

- |      |    |   |
|------|----|---|
| Mon  | 1  | Liszt & the Faust Legend: John Elton MA(Oxon). Club '43, 8pm  |
| Tue  | 2  | Doris Samuels entertains with piano and song. JACS, 2pm   |
| Tue  | 2  | Newgate Prison to Botany Bay, a talk by Cyril Silvertown. Jewish Museum, Finchley, 8pm, £2  |
| Sun  | 7  | Erich Korngold, Hollywood Composer: His Life & Works presented by musicologist Jessica Duchon. Sternberg Centre, 8pm, £6.50 (£5 members)  |
| Sun  | 7  | Ronald Senator, composer: Presents his book <i>Requiem Letters</i> , Royal Overseas League, 7.30pm, £7.50. Booking, Spiro Institute 0171 431 0345   |
| Mon  | 8  | Club '43 End of Season Party: Hans Freund entertains. 8pm   |
| Tue  | 9  | Alan Miller shows slides & recalls holidays in Rome & Lincoln. JACS, 2pm  |
| Sun  | 14 | Yiddish Theatre: illustrated talk by Ruth Schneider, daughter of dramatist & actress Abish & Clara Meisels. Jewish Museum, Camden Town, £5  |
| Sun  | 14 | Voyage of the St. Louis: AJR/Wiener Library, Birkbeck College, WC1, 4pm, £5   |
| Tue  | 16 | Rose Younger presents selections of poetry and humour. JACS, 2pm  |
| Thur | 18 | Moscheles, the Jewish Composer: talk and piano recital by Henry Roche. South London AJR, 2pm. Call Ken Ambrose on 0181 852 0262 for venue   |
| Sun  | 21 | Jon Silverman, BBC Home Affairs Correspondent: Journalist of the Year gives an illustrated talk on Reporting War Crimes. Spiro Institute, Kidderpore Ave., NW3, 7.30pm, £10 incl. refreshments. Booking 0171 431 0345 |
| Tue  | 23 | Ruth Schneider gives a fascinating history of Jewish  |

- Theatre. JACS, 2pm
- Tue 30 Monty Moss, Chairman of the Covent Garden clothier Moss Bros, tells members about the famous company's history. JACS, 2pm
- Ongoing: Yiddish Theatre in London until 10th November. Jewish Museum, Camden Town, Sun-Thurs, 10am-4pm, £3
- August
- Sun 4 Rabbi William Wolf: 'Present German Jewry', Stanmore Community Centre, Honey Pot Lane, 2.15pm, £2.50. Booking 0181 882 1638/452 9681

### ORGANISATION CONTACTS

Club 1943, meets at Belsize Square Synagogue. Hans Seelig 01442 254 360

JACS at Belsize Square Synagogue, NW3 4HX. Tel: 0171 794 3949

Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1. 0171 636 7247

Sternberg Centre for Judaism, 80 East End Road, Finchley, NW3 2SY. Tel: 0181 346 2288

Jewish Museum, either Sternberg Centre (as above) or at: 129/131 Albert Street, Camden Town, NW1 7NB. Tel: 0171 284 1997

University of Sussex Centre for German-Jewish Studies. Diana Franklin 0181 455 4785 or 01273 678 495

Spiro Institute, Kidderpore Ave., London NW3 7SZ. Tel: 0171 431 0345

### OPEN DAYS IN THE OTTO SCHIFF HOMES

#### Osmond House Tea Party

14 July at 3pm  
Entrance £3

#### Balint House Cabaret by candle light

Belsize Square Synagogue  
4 August

#### Heinrich Stahl House

1 September at 3pm  
Entrance £3

## Cooking with Gretel Beer



### B'soffene Liesel (Drunken Lizzie)

This was my contribution to the Continental Cook-in at Osmond House, a very light, moist pudding doused in mulled wine. You can use ground almonds – unskinned – instead of the ground walnuts or even a mixture of walnuts (or almonds) and good breadcrumbs, but in that case be rather generous with the rum. And if you like a stronger taste, use the wine undiluted with water. I baked the pudding in a loaf tin which gave six generous portions (in fact I doubled the quantities and made two puddings as we were catering for twelve at the lunch), but a ring mould, savarin tin or a Guglhupf form would all be equally suitable.

#### For the pudding:

3 eggs  
3 lightly heaped tablespoons caster or icing sugar  
3-4 lightly heaped tablespoons ground walnuts  
1 tablespoon rum  
butter (or margarine) for the cake tin  
ground walnuts for the cake tin  
1 teaspoon vanilla sugar

#### For the mulled wine:

½ pint (1/41) red wine (medium dry)  
¼ pint (1/81) water  
2-3 tablespoons sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla sugar  
A little cinnamon rind  
2-3 cloves  
Pared or finely grated orange rind

Butter and flour (or dust with ground walnuts) a loaf tin or other suitable cake tin. Pre-heat oven to Mark 4, 350°F, 180°C. Moisten ground walnuts with rum. Separate egg yolks and whites. Whisk yolks with sugar and vanilla sugar until thick and almost white in colour. Whisk eggwhites until stiff and fold into

the yolks, alternately with the ground walnuts. Tip mixture into the prepared baking tin and bake for about 35-45 minutes – until the top feels slightly firm and the cake has shrunk slightly away from the sides of the tin.

Whilst the mixture is baking, put the wine into a thick saucepan, together with the water, sugar, orange rind and the spices. Heat gently until the sugar has dissolved, then bring to the boil.

Carefully remove the cake from the tin and allow it to cool a little on a rack, then set it in a warmed deep dish. Slowly strain the hot wine mixture over the cake, allowing it to soak up as much as possible. Serve warm, cut into slices with the remaining wine poured over it – with a bowl of lightly whipped cream flavoured with rum if you want to be extravagant □

## Continental cook-in

A Continental cook-in at Osmond House was a splendid occasion to disprove the old saying that 'too many cooks spoil the broth.' Four expert Continental cooks were invited by Tony Shepherd, Otto Schiff Housing Association's Chief Executive, to demonstrate their favourite recipes to four of Otto Schiff homes' own head chefs.

Susie Kaufman, catering manager of the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, introduced the session and AJR's head chef Jeff Heywood prepared the main course, *Huhn mit Jägersauce*. Dorli Neal, former head of home at Heinrich Stahl House, excelled at making the soup, including delicious *nockerln* as well as cauliflower with crispy fried breadcrumbs, and some *farfel* to embellish the menu. It was left to me to provide the pudding, *B'soffene Liesl* (Drunken Lizzie), which is my recipe for this month's *AJR Information*.

Considering that we were new to the kitchen it all went off very well indeed. Afterwards we 'ate our work' in the beautifully-set dining room at Balint House where we were joined by Alan Blacher, Chairman of Otto Schiff homes, Tony Shepherd and senior members of staff. Having passed this ultimate test, the chefs planned to prepare the same menu for their residents. They were also looking forward visiting the Café Royal at the special invitation of head chef Herbert Berger and hoping to learn some of the secrets of one of the world's great banqueting houses.

□ Gretel Beer

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## Obituaries

## Hermann Kesten

The death of Hermann Kesten snaps posterity's last link with Weimar literature. Born into Nuremberg's Jewish middle class in 1900, Kesten made his name while still quite young. His first novel *Joseph sucht die Freiheit* earned him the prestigious Kleist Prize, in the same year as he became a director of the Kiepenheuer Verlag. Post-1933 he ran the Amsterdam-based emigré publishing house Allert de Lange, sponsoring works like Klaus Mann's *Mephisto*, while continuing his own writing career.

The beginning of the war found him in Nice, sharing a house with Joseph Roth and Heinrich Mann – all three in the throes of feverish literary creation as a diversion from the horrors unfolding around them.

Escaping to New York, Kesten became active in the Emergency Rescue Committee, which assisted refugee writers. He continued to write in German – *Die*

*Zwillinge von Nürnberg* (1946) *Meine Freunde die Poeten* (1959) – and eventually moved back to Europe. Here, alternating between residences in Rome and Basle, he acted as a mentor to the postwar generation of German authors □

## Walter Sharman

Walter Sharman, who has died aged 82, was born into an observant family near Kassel and received industrial training in knitting technology. Coming to Britain in 1938, he found work on a Trading Estate near Newcastle, in which town he settled permanently. He married a fellow refugee, started a family and eventually established his own glove-knitting manufacture.

A dedicated member of our Association, Walter Sharman also held a number of communal offices within Newcastle Jewry. A co-founder of Gosforth Synagogue and active participant in the Council of Christians and Jews, he was much in demand as an invitation lecturer in Holocaust Studies. We extend our sympathies to his family □

## Opposite sides of a shared history

Six hundred people crowded into the lecture theatre of the Royal Geographical Society at a conference organised by the Second Generation Trust. They listened to the son of survivors from Nazi concentration camps and the son of a high ranking Gestapo chief discuss how they had been brought together in a group set up by Professor Bar'On in Israel. The BBC documentary *Children of the Third Reich* was also shown, followed by a question-and-answer session moderated by Lord Alf Dubbs.

The object of the meeting, a precursor to a major conference planned for Berlin in 1997 and aimed at descendants of the Holocaust, was to learn from history as a step to a more positive future.

Many of the second and even third generation have been affected by the events of the Holocaust. Some have not. It is our duty to the victims of the Holocaust not to forget them, nor the circumstances in which they were murdered, but the need of present and future generations is to build a climate of relationships in which events of this kind would be unimaginable. □ ED

## SEARCH NOTICES

**Wesel.** Searching for erstwhile Jewish citizens of Wesel, lower Rhine, for research work. Contact: KH Schulte, Am Lochtenberg 42, 41844 Wegberg, Germany.

**Ludwig Bamberger.** A Jewish banker who worked in London for his uncle's firm Bischoffsheim & Goldschmidt in 19th century. Biographer would like to identify descendants, archives or publications about those families. Please write to Benedikt Koehler, 9 St. Augustine's Mansions, Bloomburg Street, London SW1V 2RG.

**'Lizy' Hofbauer.** Gertrud Hofbauer (Mrs. Chinn) is seeking her sister Lizy, born 1 July 1926 in Vienna. Last heard of in April 1941 c/o Frau Bloch, Vienna I Rotenturm Strasse 31. Our mother Clarisse Hofbauer was Swiss from Zurich, family name Lang. Father Adolf Hofbauer had a shop in Vienna I Vorlaufstrasse, Tuchlauben. Family of 5 children lived in Vienna II at Untere Augarten Strasse 36/22 till March 1938, then various addresses in Vienna: 1940 – Porzellangasse 49A, 1941 – Seegasse 3/3. Please ring or write to Mrs G Chinn, 11 Guy Thornycroft Court, Toll Gate Road, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1TL. Tel 0158 487 5912 □

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## NEWSROUND

**Hitler worshipper**

Swiss banker François Genoud committed suicide at the age of 81 in imitation of his hero, Adolph Hitler. A life-long supporter of National Socialism, Genoud was suspected of protecting Nazi war criminals and controlling war treasure in Swiss banks. He gave financial support to the defence of Adolf Eichmann and Klaus Barbie and to anti-Israel Arab terrorists.

**Cheesebürgerkrieg**

Following Israel's recent elections, the significant increase in the representation of religious parties in the Knesset has encouraged Orthodox Jews in Jerusalem to call for the closure of the city's non-kosher Macdonald's fast food restaurant.

**Candidate**

German-Jewish leader Ignatz Bubis has decided to stand as a Liberal Democrat (FDP) candidate in next year's elections for Frankfurt city council. Frankfurt's Jewish community of 6,000 is the second largest in Germany.

**Newspaper Jubilee**

The Berlin newspaper *Jüdische Allgemeine Wochenzeitung* has marked its 50th anniversary with a souvenir edition which recalled war crimes trials, missing person reports, compensation issues and the attitudes of Germans towards the Third Reich.

**Oxford chair**

The Oxford Chair of European Thought is to be established with the support of an anonymous donor. Dr. Gert-Rudolf Flick withdrew his funding following criticism from Holocaust survivors and other Jewish organisations which objected as his grandfather Friedrich Flick had made extensive use of slave labour to found the family fortune.

**Cesarani's return**

Prof. David Cesarani is to return as director to the Wiener Library from the Manchester University post he held for the past year. He will also take up a new chair in twentieth-century European Jewish history at Southampton University.

**New master**

Lord Woolf has been appointed Master of the Rolls, the second highest judicial office in England. Lord Woolf has earned a formidable reputation not least from his chairmanship of inquiries and government reviews of judicial practice.

□ RDC

**One Man's War****Part II****Master builder**

Red Cross parcels were issued occasionally. This helped a lot and was the centre of much activity and conversation. I constructed for myself a little stove from a discarded meat and vegetable tin into which fitted another slightly smaller one with a handle fixed. I cut an opening into the front of the outer tin to house a small can from a Shippam's paste container. Into this container, I put a little beef dripping with a little cloth as a wick, so I could brew myself a cup of tea. The tea leaves were used a number of times, eventually dried and rolled into a cigarette. The milk was thick, sweetened, condensed. I often swapped a tin of meat for two tins of milk or jam; the sugar was more important to me and, quantity-wise, I was also better off. An Australian, who came to our block to play chess, noticed my little stove and asked me to make one for him. He frequently smuggled lard from the kitchens (where he had contacts), which replaced the dripping as fuel. His name was Jack Ellis and we became great friends.

In our barrack was one soldier whom nobody could fail to notice because he was abnormally short. Much shorter than King Hussein, more like Ronnie Corbett. At that time I had never spoken to him – he came from a different unit, the Royal Engineers – but I knew he was from Vienna. His name was Franz Meyer, he had white hair and was about 45 years old.

One day our captors announced they were looking for a master builder to erect a small house or guardroom just outside the perimeter fence. Among others Meyer applied for the job; holder of an Austrian diploma of a master painter and decorator he was also an excellent carpenter and builder. With the chance to go outside the camp one automatically became an *oisher* (Yiddish for entrepreneur). One could take out chocolate (absolutely none available in Germany) and smuggle anything in. One immediately became *persona grata* to various committees inside the camp. The radio operators needed parts for their illicit sets, the escape committee had lists of things they required and were prepared to pay for. One could look for civilians prepared to part with musical instruments for the camp orchestra, bribed with chocolate,

but officially paid with worthless German marks.

Now, suddenly, everybody was a builder, but nobody had any references. What proof did you have that you built St Paul's Cathedral? Meyer was not an educated man, but he was very shrewd. All he asked for was a wooden board, some sheets of paper, a pencil and ruler and some details. He then submitted three plans, which also consisted of a quantity surveyor's estimate. When the German colonel saw what Meyer presented, his lower jaw dropped. Regaining his composure, he shouted, "I don't want to see anyone else", and after he found out that Meyer spoke German (he spoke precious little else) he was over the moon and ordered beer for everybody.

Meyer selected a team of about a dozen men, none of whom were solicitors or accountants in civvy street, and they did an excellent job.

These twelve men were allowed to carry six wicker baskets between them in and out of the camp. Officially, these baskets were destined for carrying firewood, but the Germans knew that an extra slice of bread was not much of an enticement to do this hard work and that they had to look the other way sometimes, as long as it did not breach security or facilitate escapes.

This working party left the camp gates every morning and was checked and counted several times and the same again on its return. One evening a Hauptmann Richter stood at the camp gates. He was from the *Abwehr* or Intelligence. He shouted, "Corporal Meyer, what are you carrying in these baskets?" Everybody knew Meyer by name. Meyer knew that the officer could order the baskets to be tipped over, but that didn't bother him at the moment. He worried about a crystal they finally got hold of for a radio set. Meyer was extremely quick witted, in fact he outwitted the German officer. He jumped to attention, saluted, and shouted, "*Ich melde gehormsamst* (Beg to report) I am smuggling four loaves of bread." After a pause the officer replied, "Thank you for being so honest – *lassen Sie sich's gut schmecken!*"

(to be continued)

□ H P Weiner

**AJR**

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