

Don't miss . . .

**Coca-colonised
Israel**

Richard Grunberger
p3

Glory descending
Eric Sanders p12

**Scarred – not
scared**

Ronald Stent p13

Disastrous mistake

The EU is disastrously wrong to oppose US measures against firms investing in Iran. Whatever one's doubts about the US embargo on – already enfeebled – Cuba, Europe must not blind itself to the fact that the Iranian mullahs threaten everything the West stands for. They use oil revenues to fund the flow of volunteers and weapons to Mid-Eastern, and other, trouble spots – wherever opportunities for generating chaos present themselves. Islamic terror ought to be stopped by whatever means lie to hand □

A thought for the High Holy Days

Forgiveness has been a duty and a teaching of Judaism through the ages, and this autumn festival season puts an intense focus upon it. Without forgiveness revenge would be rampant, the spiral of violence in the world would outpace even its present speed, and our hearts would be corroded by festering resentment, or by an anger and hatred that never abates.

But it is also one of the most difficult attitudes for one human being or one nation to extend to another. It demands a degree of generosity and magnanimity which most of us find it hard to summon up from within ourselves.

That is why Judaism has worked out a clear discipline of forgiveness. And it starts *not* with the victim but with the offender.

The first step is confession. The one who has done wrong must say so openly, and say so to the person wronged.

The next step is repentance – a realisation of error, a resolve not to do it again, and a willingness to make good what has been damaged, restore what has been stolen or destroyed. If that is not possible, there must be a readiness to compensate.

Every West German Government from Konrad Adenauer to Helmut Kohl has lived up to that demand to the tune of countless millions. My own financial commitments to my late mother would have been very much greater but for the pension that the West German Government paid her.

This act deserves firm recognition whenever the relationship between Jews and Germans is discussed. And this recognition might help those refugees, or children of refugees, who still agonise over visiting the present Germany.

When someone has said sorry, when someone has offered to pay compensation or made restitution, the onus of forgiveness then shifts to the victim. That is the next demand of Jewish teaching. And I know some of the difficulty.

At the turn of this secular year it will be 32 years since my sister was killed in a car accident on the A1 outside Peterborough. That wound has never healed.

I cannot tell you how I would feel or how I would behave if today, tomorrow or at any time I met the man who without a driving licence drove the car in

which she was a passenger, or the man who allowed him to drive it. It would be easier if either had ever contacted my mother, myself or any other member of my family to say they were sorry.

Three decades on, is it time to wipe that slate clean? I recognise the need, and I must keep trying. I also understand, just a little, how desperate is the difficulty as well as the need.

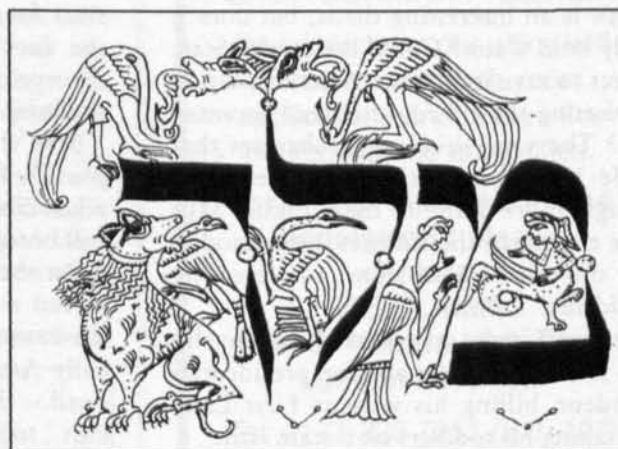
Judaism knows nothing of saints and angels in the way that Christianity understands them. We know only human beings who have taken on a huge inner challenge – and won.

Nelson Mandela would not today be president of South Africa, nor would he have been fêted recently at Buckingham Palace, if he had not found within himself the huge magnanimity of forgiveness. Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin would not have taken the first vital steps towards a Middle Eastern peace without it. And without it Jehan Sadat would not today be speaking from Zionist platforms and raise money for Israeli causes.

For the sake of the lives entrusted to them, Yassir Arafat and Binyamin Netanyahu must try in the year now beginning also to find some of that generosity within themselves.

And for the sake of peace in our souls, so must we. For it is within our own souls that all peace on earth begins.

□ Rabbi William Wolff



Kabbalistic decorations around the word 'Melech', King, from a 13th-century prayer book.

Profile

Honour thy father...

Franz D Lucas is the scion of a Jewish family whose presence in Marburg-an-der-Lahn can be attested as far back as the Thirty Years War. He is profoundly aware of his roots, especially of the inheritance of his father Dr Leopold Lucas, rabbi of Glogau in Silesia, and outstanding Judaic scholar.

Franz had just completed his gymnasium years when the Kristallnacht pogrom drove him to emigrate to Bolivia. Arriving in La Paz on his own he readily found employment in the metal business which was about to enjoy a wartime boom. Working hard, he established his own firm in 1946 and set it on a course of expansion. In his spare time he frequented *La Otra Alemania*, a club of anti-Nazi Germans and refugees; later, with the dispersal of the refugee community he became an active Rotarian and wrote weekly articles on economic topics for the country's leading newspaper.



Franz D. Lucas

His salient role in the metal trade caused him to be appointed Thai Consul-General and subsequently Dean of the Consular Corps at La Paz; the Thai and Belgian Governments also awarded him

high decorations.

He married a Bolivian-born dentist in 1960. The couple sent their children to be educated in England, following them in the late seventies.

In retirement Franz Lucas has bent part of his formidable energy to the task of honouring the memory of his martyred father. He prompted the re-publication of his writings in Germany, and endowed a prize the University of Tübingen awards annually to protagonists of tolerance. (Recipients of the Leopold Lucas Prize so far include the Dalai Lama, Fritz Stern and the late Bruno Bettelheim).

He was also the moving force behind the erection of an impressive memorial to the vanished Jewish community of Glogau (nowadays Glogow in Poland). In addition he caused his father's birthplace, Marburg, to rename one of its streets Leopold Lucas Strasse.

And, if one is so inclined, one could also read Franz Lucas' work for Christian-Jewish understanding, plus his membership of the IJA Council, as well as of the AJR, as acts of filial piety.

□ RG

'Coca-colonised' Israel

Binyamin Netanyahu's election victory has generally been attributed to the Israeli public's concern about security in the fraught aftermath of the Oslo agreement. One or two commentators have, however, advanced another hypothesis: Israelis were less worried over lack of security than erosion of their identity by creeping Americanisation. (Americanisation in this context is a catch-all phrase denoting not only Coca-cola and Macdonalds, but a Western value system bereft of specifically Jewish content).

This is an interesting thesis, but does it really hold water? Could the Jewish State expect to save itself from Americanisation by electing the US-educated and accented Bibi? The very electoral mechanism that made Netanyahu Prime Minister – although more Labour than Likud MPs were elected to the Knesset – was modelled on the US system for electing presidents.

Unsurprisingly, once elected, Netanyahu also showed a penchant for presidential grandeur, billing his wife as First Lady and taking his toddlers on a state visit.

Another, and more positive, American trait of Bibi's is his youth – think JFK,

think Clinton – at the time of reaching the highest office in the land. Additional attributes he shares with those youthful *Landesväter* are good looks, an adroit television manner, and a quasi-sexual charisma absent from the image of any previous Israeli leader with the exception of Moshe Dayan.

At a more serious level, Bibi is also deeply American in his approach to the economy, where he favours the free interplay of market forces, with, at best, a marginal role for the state.

But let's not get too serious. For me the final clinching proof that Netanyahu is far more Americanised than his hapless rival for the premiership has to do with the fact that the US invented 'serial divorce'. (Reno is, after all, situated in the State of Nevada).

Bibi was on to his third marriage – plus X liaisons – by his early forties, while Shimon Peres is a septuagenarian still boringly linked to the same spouse.

On the other hand Peres has been observed riding on the Sabbath, and since the motor car ranks as an even more typically American invention – think Henry Ford – than Reno, it isn't all that difficult to see him as contriving the de-Judaisation of Israel.

□ Richard Grunberger

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Echoing the Grand Old Man

I take as my text Gladstone's dictum of well over a century ago 'We are part of the community of Europe, and must do our duty as such'. I am first of all a Jew and secondly and foremost a European.

This is not contradictory, because the Nazi catastrophe could never have happened had not psychotic suspicion and jealousy between Europeans, nurtured by their secular and spiritual leaders for centuries, culminated in the mechanised mass slaughter of the Great War.

Without the mind-numbing, heart-freezing cataclysm of 1914-18, which reduced the value of a human life to the cost of a machine-gun bullet and blunted all human feelings, Auschwitz would not have been possible.

Europe's great post-war statesmen, Monnet, Schuman, Adenauer and de Gasperi, recognised this. The founding fathers understood, however, that a united Europe had to be built gradually, and based not on emotional idealism but on foundations of hard-headed economic self-interest. This was Britain's true motive for joining, but doing this also meant letting Imperial by-gones be by-gones and becoming European. It took a while for this truth to sink in, but when the media, and our more reactionary politicians, woke up to it they screamed louder and louder as the EEC, with each step it took towards the EU, trod on their xenophobic corns.

"Useless to say", Robert Harris wrote in the *Sunday Times* recently, "that the traditions of the British nation of which we might, perhaps, be most proud - rationalism, tolerance, reserve, good manners, common sense, unflappability - are the very ones the tabloids most disgustingly undermine. Useless to object that in their crude refighting of the Second World War, in their hijacking of all their patriotism for their narrow right-wing cause, they dishonour the memory of those who fought against fascism".

His reference to World War II revived memories of 17-year-old me stepping from the Lufthansa plane, which had flown me from Berlin-Tempelhof to London-Croydon after Crystal Night, and of queuing up in front of the Immigration Officer, who, now that I come to think of it, resembled a leading Eurosceptic MP (no names, no pack-drill). On discovering

that I had an Irish Free State - as it then was - visa, but not a British transit one the man looked grim. Told by his superior to let me in, his expression of disdain showed his feelings at the arrival of yet another foreign Jew.

Uniting nations and peoples is never quick, easy, or painless. There were, the Bible tells me, quite a few Judahsceptics among the Israelites of yore, and I trust that forming the EU will be less bloody than the creation of the AU (American Union), so fiercely resisted by Union-sceptic General Robert E Lee.

□ George Clare

The St Louis

People crowded into the Harkness Hall at Birkbeck College to watch Maziar Bahari's sensitively made video on *The Voyage of the St Louis*. Andrew Kaufman chaired the meeting which opened with a short talk by Dr Louise London, who set the episode in context of the immigration policies, in 1939, of the various countries involved. In the case of Cuba, the issue seemed to be one of corruption. Subsequent negotiations (not shown in the film) indicated that Cuba would have given shelter to the refugees for \$500 per head.

As is well known, the United States and Canadian governments of that period were not particularly friendly to Jews, but one has seen from events around the world since 1945 that refugees are not welcome anywhere.

When the ship came back to Europe in June 1939, Britain took the largest number of its passengers, while most of those who were accepted by Holland, Belgium and France were subsequently deported.

The director Maziar Bahari, an Iranian Moslem living in Canada, said he had made the film as a graphic demonstration of the effects of intolerance. A lively discussion took place, involving the survivors from the ill-fated voyage, seven of whom came to the showing.

Dr Jo Reilly, Education Officer of the Wiener Library, welcomed this joint AJR/Wiener Library project and hoped there would be many more. We shall certainly look for opportunities.


□ Ernest David

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Reviews

Before Bloomsbury meant the House

BLOOMSBURY/FREUD: *the Letters of James and Alix Strachey*, edited by Perry Meisel & Walter Kendrick (Chatto and Windus, £14.95).

When the intellectual and cultural riches that the Jewish refugees brought to Britain in the 1930s are undervalued, as happens only too often, one name above all can set the record straight: Sigmund Freud. For in 1938 Freud, banished from Vienna, chose to set up his analyst's couch not in New York or Paris, but in London, the capital of his favourite country. So it seems somehow fitting that the English translation of his works, the acclaimed *Standard Edition*, should tower over all other editions. This prodigious achievement we owe to James Strachey, younger brother of the essayist Lytton Strachey,

and his wife Alix. Both were stalwarts of the Bloomsbury Group, and enjoyed the customary insignia of that company: cutting references in Virginia Woolf's diaries, and marked sexual promiscuity (mostly with members of their own sex) that however never undermined their deep and enduring mutual affection.

This fascinating interplay between Bloomsbury and psychoanalysis appears at its clearest in the letters exchanged between the couple while Alix was in mid-twenties Berlin, undergoing analysis with Karl Abraham at the Berlin Polyclinic. This book is a selection of that correspondence between Berlin and London, edited with human sympathy and with commendable scholarship so as to illuminate the different realms of the psychoanalysts in Berlin, the Bloomsbury coterie in London and the private relationship between James and Alix.

Her portraits of the great analysts then writing and practising in Berlin – often less than flattering – make compelling reading, especially in the case of Melanie Klein, whose decision to settle in England

was in no small measure due to Alix. The letters are also testimony to a real and lifelong love between two sensitive and highly intelligent people, though it has to be said that the recurrent strain of antisemitism in Alix's letters is repellent (her relations with the psychoanalysts were however unqualifiedly philosemitic). Overall, the reader is treated to a regular guide to the manners, mores and mentality of Bloomsbury.

What the book is *not* is what the editors claim it to be, a picture of the cultural richness of Weimar Germany as it danced, in Peter Gay's phrase, on the edge of a volcano. For a start, there is in it very little sign of the volcano that was to erupt in 1933, as Alix seems virtually unaware of political developments.

The famed decadence of Weimar Berlin is evident only in the plethora of balls that Alix attended, while many of the defining icons of Weimar art and culture, from *Im Westen nichts Neues* to *Der blaue Engel* still lay in the future.

□ Anthony Grenville

Second generation

Anne Karpf *THE WAR AFTER* Heinemann 1996 £16.99

The author presents her readers with the distillation of half a lifetime's struggle with a crushing inheritance. Though ostensibly a personal history, *The War After* exemplifies the adjustment problems of all traumatised camp survivors and their – similarly, though differently – traumatised children.

Anne Karpf was one such child. Her Polish-born father managed the feat of coming out of Stalin's wartime labour camps alive and unbroken in spirit. Even more miraculously, her mother survived the *Shoah* thanks to superhuman resilience and a mind-boggling stroke of good luck: a trained pianist, she was asked by Amon Goeth – the crazed sadist in charge of Plaszow Camp 'immortalised' in *Schindler's List* – to play at his birthday party.

How does a postwar child adapt to parents weighed down by such a macabre freight of memories? The far-from-lighthearted answer to the question is with extreme difficulty.

For one, the normal relationship between the generations is stood on its head:

instead of the parents watching over their vulnerable offspring, the child, from an early age, feels duty bound to ward off evil from parents who have already suffered so much.

For another, the normal growing-up process, which involves intermittent juvenile rebellion against parental edicts simply cannot be gone through. Anne Karpf was far too sensitive a child to make her parents unhappy by the run-of-the-mill teenage tantrums which occasioned the hoary Jewish joke 'You have no children, so what do you do for aggravation?'

But the attempt at being a model child exacted its own punishment. From a toddler onwards Anne suffered eating disorders and raging skin disorders, necessitating the attention of a dermatologist, continued into her twenties and thirties. By the latter date though, she had, in fulfilment of her parents' hopes, established herself as an Oxbridge-educated media personality. Not that professional success created cloudless skies. There was the problem of Anne's non-Jewish partner and her own difficulties with the subliminal antisemitism encountered in 'polite society'. Above all there was the Sisyphean burden of the *Shoah* that hangs over postwar Jewry. Anne Karpf's last chapter, a description of a visit to her

family's Polish roots, strangely ends on an almost positive note. "A couple of young Jewish women I met in a bar in Kazimierz told me how enraged they got when foreigners asked them endlessly about the war, as though Poland were purely a cemetery, whereas they were trying to build some contemporary Jewish presence". And – if you'll pardon the pun – that's what this book is: a building block for the Jewish present.

□ Richard Grunberger

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Tom the rhymer of risches

Antony Julius, *T.S. Eliot – ANTISEMITISM AND LITERARY FORM*, Cambridge University Press, £30

Why should one poet's antisemitism be so significant? One reason is the profound influence Eliot has exerted on the literary scene. I can still remember the excitement, as an undergraduate, of my first encounter with his poetry. Here was a new, a truly modern voice, using a spare but contemporary idiom full of daring images; "Let us go now, you and I/When the evening is spread out against the sky/Like a patient etherised upon a table.."

At that time his detached misanthropy expressed in vivid thumbnail sketches marked a welcome change from the blander verse of his 'Georgian' predecessors. Indeed, every poet writing since owes some debt to Eliot for inventing an idiom which is particularly suited for expressing the 20th-century experience.

Yet even then, an odd line here and there such as "Chicago, Semite, Viennese" was disturbing, but we didn't understand its full implications or take it seriously. Nor was there any protest from academics about the antisemitism in several poems. One can only guess that for

non-Jews it was par for the course, and Jews were used to ignoring insults.

Antony Julius refuses to do this. In his detailed analysis of the poems he shows that, contrary to the contentions of some critics, it is possible to write 'good' poetry which expresses vicious and unfair sentiments. In this way all Jews are pilloried by implication as ugly, greedy and corrupt.

Likewise, in Eliot's prose there is a narrow conservatism which deplores liberal dissent as destructive and equates culture exclusively with Christianity. He sees 'freethinking Jews' as a threat to Western civilisation, but nowhere shows respect for the 'traditional Jew' either.

Eliot excised some of the more vicious passages in his *oeuvre* from later editions, but is this a sign that the earlier poems were part of a youthful arrogance which the older poet repudiated? Julius thinks not as, even when details of the Holocaust were coming out, Eliot showed little sympathy for its victims. The book ends with an account, already published in Danny Abse's autobiography, of a meeting at the Poetry Society at which Emmanuel Litvinov read a poem which passionately attacked Eliot's prejudiced, unfeeling attitude to Jews. Eliot is said to have sat through it all with bowed head, muttering "a good poem, a very good poem".

□ Martha Blend

A small town in Germany

Martin Ruch, *VERFOLGUNG UND WIDERSTAND IN OFFENBURG, 1933-1945*, Reiff Schwarzwaldverlag.

This publication is one of a series of documents of *Persecution and Resistance* in this middling town in the *Land* Baden-Württemberg. It deals with the fate of its small number of Jewish citizens, but also lays much stress on the fate of non-Jews, such as German political and religious opponents of the regime, as well as gypsies and slave labourers.

It is clear that the book provides an example of the fate of such places all over Germany with, of course, some specifics attached. Though ostensibly just documentation, it includes some horrifying events that did not occur everywhere, even in the last throes of the Nazi regime.

Offenburg accommodated a work camp containing survivors of the death factories in the East, many of them Jews. Three days before the French Army entered the town, the prisoners were massacred by the guards, some by very crude methods indeed. The bodies were found in a cellar. The Jewish dead now lie in the Jewish cemetery.

Some of the book is taken up by interviews with local citizens. Surprisingly – or, on second thoughts, not so surprisingly – the vanished Jews were remembered as honest, upright people. One wonders where the Nazis went.

□ John Rossall

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Name games:

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU

The jury is still out on whether to accent the first part of his name, as in Lessing's *Nathan the Wise*, or the second, as in the – 'yahoos' of Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*.

PRESIDENT MANDELA

Given Mrs Winnie M's conduct, should his name not be Hamilton, rather than Nelson Mandela?

GENERAL LEBED

The 64,000 rouble question: will the Kremlin Houdini turn him into a *Yelzinnsoldat*, or will he prove too *lebedig* for comfort? □



BULLETS-SCARRED BALLOT

Sir - Like their Israeli counterparts, leftists in the UK community seem to be bad losers. You condemn the patriotic Israeli Jews - 56% of the Jewish population - who voted for Binyamin Netanyahu, as an "intransigent core of religious and jingoist hardliners".

If anything is being endangered by the vote it is the appeasement policy of the last four years, not true peace. All Jews, whether in Israel or abroad, want peace, but they don't want it to be the peace of the grave....

How much more appropriate it would have been if, instead of maligning the democratic decision of Israeli voters, you had devoted the editorial to the 50th anniversary of the Kielce program, which proved beyond any doubt the need for a strong, Zionist Israel.

East Hill
Wembley Park
Middx
RWillers

Sir - I very much liked your editorial in the July issue.

Boundary Road
London NW3
(Professor) Walter Elkan

DICKENS OF A CLAIM

Sir - It is unlikely that I am the only reader of *AJR Information* who finds Richard Grunberger's cynical and vicious contributions offensive. They are often also incoherent.

It is a pity that the editor does not seem able to control his anger and to prepare and set to order his own literary material.

Gainsborough Road
London N12
G Cohn

BOUQUET

Sir - I enjoy reading *AJR Information*. Keep up the good work.

Hildaville Drive
Westcliff
Essex
Mrs Ursula Wimborne

RIGHTEOUS GENTILES

Sir - I would like many more people to know that Stephen Smith, with the help of his brother James and their mother, has created a Holocaust Memorial Centre in Nottinghamshire to teach schoolchildren, and other interested groups, the facts of the Holocaust. *Beth Shalom*, as the centre is known, was converted from the family home, to which the museum, a meeting hall and most beautiful gardens were added.

Although still only 29, Stephen Smith is already internationally acknowledged as an authority on the subject to which he has dedicated himself. Stephen and his family are not Jewish.

It has made me feel extremely thankful that such people exist. Had there been many more Christians like him during World War II, history might have flowed along another course.

Netherhall Gardens
Hampstead, NW3
Clare Parker
(See item on page 8)

WAGNER

Sir - The letters of C F Flesch and G F Marley (July issue) cannot remain unanswered.

Of course there have always been antisemites in the arts, but surely nobody more effectively so than Richard Wagner? For G F Marley to write 'I judge music by its quality and find the personality of a dead composer irrelevant' is naïve in the extreme.

Although undoubtedly some of his music is sublime, Wagner was not just a great composer. To further his personal pseudo-religion in his operas, Wagner the man wrote his libretti first; then the music. He advocated the concept of an Aryan master race and the elimination of all 'Untermenschen', especially the Jews.

Wagner the man's essay *Judaism in Music* (1850) is one of the most virulent antisemitic tracts ever published. Der Stürmer quoted gleefully from it in the 1930s.

Hitler and the Nazis used Wagner the man, his ideas, and his seductive music all

too effectively in their programme of purification. Wagner's words and music became their hymn-book for the Holocaust.

How is it possible to separate them?
Fitzjohn's Avenue
London NW3
Lawrence Lowenthal

FOLLOW MY LIEDER

Sir - Your correspondent criticising Fischer-Dieskau for serving the Wehrmacht is wrong, and I hope he'll think again. When I was in Norway, dealing with special prisoners, one of them was ex-Auschwitz Kommandant Aumeier. He was captured because the German army under General Böhme refused to help the SS.

Last week I lunched with some German students. The young people are different. Our task is simply to tell them what happened; if their grandparents were criminals let them work it out and deal with their own problem.

India Street
Edinburgh
Robert Fürnberg/Farnborough

THE SITES MALIGNED

Sir - My eyes popped out of my head when I read Professor Elton's letter (July issue), with its laudatory mention of Arthur Scargill as a modern Thersites. Thersites spoke up against the wealthy and powerful who arrogate to themselves the spoils won by the lowly. He did not seek power or the overthrow of the mighty. Arthur Scargill, on the other hand, is a modern Paris. His early success during the Heath government led 'King' Arthur to believe he was favoured of the Gods. This ultimately gave rise to the 'Trojan War', the Great Strike of 1984-5, and the destruction of 'Troy', the UK Coal Mining Industry. Arthur, like Paris, survived the strife, ignominiously.

I write with personal feeling and anger. Having spent 25 years in British coal mining as a Bevin Boy, student and mining engineer, I regret the demise of a fine industry. I am proud of my miner's blue scar. I feel a thrill on the rare occasions when I see the wheels turning on a colliery headgear. I still use the knee-pads made for me 50 years ago by a belt man at Bolsover Colliery, albeit for gardening rather than crawling through a 3-foot coal face. At heart I am a pit man, and sad.

Tobin Close
London NW3
Victor Simons

REFUGEES FROM MUNICH

Sir - You were kind enough to publish a letter of mine under this heading in the July edition of *AJR Information*.

You may be interested to learn that I had a call from Dr Andreas Heusler of the Stadtarchiv München today, who expressed his pleasure at already having received five letters from readers of the journal in response.

Limedene Close
Pinner, Middx

H P Sinclair

SOUTH GERMAN COMMUNITIES

Sir - I am writing a doctoral dissertation on the former Jewish communities in the southern part of Baden, in the Upper Rhine region and in the region of Lake Constance. My thesis will start with the year 1862, when the Jews of Baden received full rights as citizens. It will end with the year 1940, when the Jewish population was deported to Gurs/France and the communities were destroyed.

Since I am writing a study which is focused on local incidents, I depend very much on the view of those people who were witnesses of what occurred. Would you perhaps be willing to help me locate former inhabitants of Baden, especially ones born in the described region? Might you happen to know people who came to England from the towns of Gallingen, Sulzburg, Kippenheim, Eichstetten Randegg? If so, perhaps you would be so kind as to mention my project to them, and to give them my address: Ulrich Baumann, Tauroggener Str. 16, Seitenflügel, D-10589 Berlin, Germany.

Ulrich Baumann

THANKYOU

Sir - May I ask for the hospitality of your columns to tell the many volunteers who contributed to my leaving present that I have just taken delivery of a sofa-bed, largely paid for by their generosity. Now I can think of them all when I, or my guests, bounce up and down on its emerald-green covers. (It must be the Irish in me).

Thank you all once again for your kindness and for the work you do.

Cambridge Road
North Harrow

Laura Howe

AUSTRIA'S WARS

Sir - Your review of Gordon Brook-Shepherd's *The Austrians* (Harper Collins) rather indiscriminately ascribes self-aggrandisement to Austria down the ages.

Most of the wars you mention were quite respectable - the Turkish, Silesian and Napoleonic wars were defensive rather than aggressive.

Franz Joseph's 19th-century wars were ill-managed struggles trying to defend a shrinking empire, rather than aggressive. What was scandalous was Austria's (in fact Field Marshal Conrad's and Foreign Minister Aehrenthal's) policy towards Italy (1908) and Serbia (1914).

Chapmans Lane
Deddington, Banbury
Oxfordshire

F Steiner

CALL TO ACTION

Sir - From time to time I read articles and letters in the journal deprecating the way the Austrian Nationalfonds is dealing with the distribution of the token payments agreed on by the Austrian Parliament. However, I find no reference to any protest or representation AR is making.

Are we going to sit back and again accept what the Austrian Government decides to hand out in the form of payments? Or are we an organisation with some teeth and guts to stand up and shout "Enough is enough!"

I look forward to AJR and other refugee organisations taking some action instead of continually merely wringing their hands.

Garratt's Road
Bushey Heath, Herts

Harry Bibring

Ed. note: See exchange of letters with President of Austrian Parliament in August issue of AJR Information.

Manning the north-west frontier

AJR members live in many parts of the country and several in other parts of the world. The majority, some 60%, continue to live in the Greater London area. An analysis of postal codes reveals that there are 300 members in NW3, 220 in NW11, 170 in NW6, 150 in NW2 and 100 in NW4. How the character of Northwest London would have been diminished without them! □



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The AJR at Work

South London AJR 'still winning'

Neither the tube strike, the heatwave or the holiday season prevented a full attendance and above average enthusiasm for our guest speaker and pianist Henry Roche, a great-grandson of the composer, conductor and teacher Ignaz Moscheles.

"My dear good Moscheles" was a personal friend of Beethoven and correspondent of Weber and Schumann. His prime contact, however, was Mendelssohn, whose work in Leipzig he continued from Mendelssohn's untimely death to his own in 1870. His music was 'strong, tuneful and delightful', deserving to be heard more frequently.

Moscheles lived and worked in London from 1825 to 1846 where he numbered Sullivan and Grieg among his pupils. His youngest daughter married the composer Frederick Delius.

The committee met Debbie Picker, newly appointed AJR volunteers' coordinator who can be contacted on 0171 431 6161. Should it be needed, help is also available through our own Sam Notkin on 0181 660 2929 and South London Jewish Care's office on 0181 948 1142. The next meeting, on Thursday 5th September, will hear the poetry of Paul Celan and discuss problems of translation into English. Phone Ken Ambrose on 0181 852 0262 for details.

□ Ken Ambrose

Thieves steal car parts

A member of AJR's social work team couldn't believe her eyes when about to drive off to work from home. During the night thieves had stolen the bonnet, bumpers, headlights, numberplate, wing mirror and wheel trims of her car - it appeared that the whole front was missing! She felt devastated.

The police explained that the parts were probably stolen to order to repair a damaged car. A car is, of course, an essential tool for our social workers who could not make nearly as many visits to AJR members at home using public transport alone □

Beth Shalom

Staff of the Otto Schiff Housing Association were joined by AJR staff members for a visit to the *Beth Shalom* Holocaust Memorial Centre at Laxton in Nottinghamshire.



The Centre's director Stephen Smith, together with his brother Dr James Smith, conceived and built the memorial exhibition, conference and educational facilities (largely at their own expense) following visits to *Yad Vashem* in Israel. He stressed the educational purpose of *Beth Shalom* - literally 'House of Peace' - by presenting the facts of this darkest hour in European history, predominantly to schoolchildren, and helping them to draw lessons in understanding, toleration and the value of every human life.

□ RDC

Optician
Dr Howard Solomons BSc FBCO
&
Chiropodist
Trevor Goldman SRC
by appointment at
The Paul Balint
AJR Day Centre
15 Cleve Road,
West Hampstead, NW6

Please make appointments with
Sylvia Matus Tel: 0171 328 0208

Cold outside?

As summer temperatures soar, British winters seem to become colder and last longer. With the aging process, our ability to maintain body temperature in extremely cold weather is inevitably diminished. But apart from wrapping up, keeping the heating at a reasonable level and eating wholesome food, direct heat loss from your home is a key factor, quite apart from any consideration of unnecessarily costly heating bills.

Fortunately, the London Boroughs of Barnet and Camden are fully aware of the problem and offer help to cover part or even all of the costs of home insulation. Anyone in these boroughs can apply by telephoning their respective freephone phone number:

0800 834 122 or 0800 585 527

The schemes cover loft insulation and draft-proofing of doors and windows. A typical three-bedroom house would cost £305 to insulate (though just the loft or doors and windows can be done). Anyone over 60 can apply and should be eligible for a 25% reduction. For those on benefits, the work can be carried out free of charge. Whatever the cost, it should soon repay itself in a more comfortable living environment during cold weather and the bonus of reduced heating bills. Now is the time to act - before the onset of winter.

□ RDC

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

15 Cleve Road, London NW6 3RL
between 10am and 12 noon on the
following dates:

Thursday	5 September
Monday	9 September
Tuesday	17 September
Wednesday	25 September
Thursday	3 October

and every Thursday from
10am to 12 noon at:

**AJR, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a
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No appointment is necessary, but please bring
along all relevant documents, such as Benefit
Books, letters, bills, etc.

Message from the Director

Have you ever considered that the AJR is unique? You may wonder why, since there are many other organisations whose objectives are broadly similar.

We are unique for two reasons. First, because of our objectives, which are to represent and assist 'all those Jewish refugees, victims of Nazi oppression, who have come to this country after 30 January 1933, primarily from central Europe, and the widows, widowers, descendants and dependants of such persons'.

We do not discriminate between countries or cities of origin, nor on how refugees arrived in this country.

Our objectives of representing and assisting are also broadly interpreted. Over the years, the needs and expectations of our members have changed and we have changed accordingly and are constantly evolving to be able to serve you better and more effectively.

That leads to the second way in which we are unique. Because our Management Committee and Director are all themselves refugees or children of refugees, as are some of our senior staff, and because many of our staff have worked in this environment a long time, we can empathise with our members' needs in the context of a common background. We really do believe we are part of an extended family and that each of our members is an individual, with individual likes, dislikes and needs. We are sufficiently small and sufficiently homogenous for our activities and services to be personal and tailored to the needs of the individual.

Our Day Centre is a home from home, with the added advantage of companionship with like minded people, and the support of, and stimulation from, our warm, friendly staff and volunteers.

Our social services team also provides uniquely individual support to members, whether this involves advice or financial aid, help with German or Austrian pensions, advocacy with local or national authorities, home and hospital visits, arranging volunteers' visits and, regretfully, also attending funerals.

With all that we do, we could do more. We are now planning to raise our profile to attract new members - those of our community who either have not yet heard of us, or have till now felt it unnecessary to join us, and particularly younger people to give continuity to our community.

Tell your friends.

□ Ernest David

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Afternoon entertainment - SEPTEMBER 1996

- Sunday 1 GREETINGS FROM A NEW TRIO - Antonia Kendal (Mezzo) & Anthony Hawgood (Baritone) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth
- Monday 2 a) Tea & Tour of House of Commons Outing
b) Day Centre: - A SPECTRUM OF MELODIES - Robert Brody (Tenor) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano)
- Tuesday 3 THE GEOFFREY STRUM & HELEN BLAKE DUO
- Wednesday 4 MUSIC TO SOOTHE THE SOUL - Guyathrie Peiris (Mezzo) accompanied by William Patrick (Piano)
- Thursday 5 'SEPTEMBER' - Katie Ferryman (Soprano) accompanied by Philip Mountford (Piano)
- Sunday 8 DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT
- Monday 9 FUN - LOVING - LIFE - Fiona Tanner (Soprano) accompanied by Frances Kelleher (Piano)
- Tuesday 10 ACT I - SCENE II - Stephen Brown (Baritone) - Johanna (Clarinet) accompanied by Margaret Eaves (Piano)
- Wednesday 11 A PARTY AFTERNOON - Dorothy Sayers (Piano & Accordion)
- Thursday 12 IF I LOVED YOU - FAVOURITE SONGS FROM THE SHOWS -

- Sean Sweeney (Tenor) & Lianne Skrinari (Soprano) with Piano Accompaniment
- Sunday 15 CLOSED - ROSH HASHANAH
- Monday 16 TWO IN HARMONY - Jules Ruben (Piano) & Jack Davidoff (Violin)
- Tuesday 17 TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF - A SONG RECITAL - Alexandra Valavelsky (Soprano) accompanied by Mark Gasser (Piano)
- Wednesday 18 MY SONG OF LOVE - Katinka Seiner accompanied by Malcolm Cottle (Piano) with Guest Artist Laszlo Easton (Violin)
- Thursday 19 TRINITY TRIO - Amanda Palmer (Soprano) & Devon Harrison (Bass) accompanied by Marek Dabrowski (Piano)
- Sunday 22 C L O S E D - KOL NIDRE
- Monday 23 C L O S E D - YOM KIPPUR
- Tuesday 24 POPULAR RUSSIAN JEWISH CLASSICAL MUSIC - Ilya Ushakov (Violin) accompanied by Yaron Shavit (Piano)
- Wednesday 25 THE SONGS OF IVOR NOVELLO - Julie Leyland (Soprano) accompanied by Alison Smith (Piano)
- Thursday 26 THE ABBEY DUO - Justin Brown (Tenor) accompanied by Amanda Palmer (Piano)
- Sunday 29 C L O S E D - SUKKOT
- Monday 30 YOUR FAVOURITE SONGS - Suzanna Marks (Soprano) accompanied by Janet Beale (Piano & Accordion)

OCTOBER

- Tuesday 1 WIZO LADIES CHOIR
- Wednesday 2 THE GEOFFREY STRUM & HELEN BLAKE DUO
- Thursday 3 SPRING SONATA - Robin & Amalia Brightman (Violin) & Piano)

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deaths

Weber. Mrs Else Weber, widow of Dr Max Weber of Ostrau, died peacefully in her sleep on 22nd July 1996 at Balint House, Bishops Avenue, in her 94th year. Mourned by her daughter and son-in-law Ditta and Jack Rosenthal of Tel Aviv and her grandson Miki and great-grand-daughters in Eilat. Rosenthal. Jack Rosenthal died peacefully on 24th June, finally succumbing to lymphoma. Deeply missed by us all.

Roney. Lotte Roney, née Edelstein, widow of Jack, passed away after a short illness on 27 July aged 80. She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Katz. Walter Katz died 26th July. Greatly missed by Malli, Tamara, Judy, David and Ruth. Loebel. Marie Loebel, née Rosenfelder, widow of Robert Loebel, died peacefully on 5 August in her 98th year in Newcastle upon Tyne. Much loved and deeply mourned by her three children, 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. The families of Dr. Herbert Loebel, Dr. Hanna Bud, née Loebel, Lily Todes, nee Loebel.

Personal

Professional man, mid-sixties, independent means, currently living in Cologne, plans to move to London. Seeking contact with similar lady, preferably speaking German, French, Yiddish, Rumanian or Russian. Box No. 1288.

Miscellaneous

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Alice Schwab

Art Notes

At the Hayward Gallery from September 19 to November 17 the Arts Council Collection, the largest loan collection of modern British art in the world, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. To mark the occasion, the Hayward Gallery showcases show some outstanding recent purchases made for the collection.

From September 14 to November 3 the Inner Eye exhibition selected by Marina Warner at the Manchester City Art Gallery features the ways artists make the inner world of secret visions, dreams and fantasy visible to us. Also at the Manchester City Galleries from November 16 1996 to February 2 1997 will be David Hockney 'Putting You in the Picture' sponsored by Manchester Airport.

Annely Juda Fine Art will be showing Max Bill and Georges Vantongerloo until October 12. David Nash Recent Sculpture and Drawings will now be shown from October 17. David Hockney's first private gallery show in London since 1989, has now been re-scheduled for April 1997.

The first comprehensive survey of the work of Sir Roger de Grey, President of the Royal Academy from 1984 to 1993, will be on show at the Royal Academy,



Portrait of Eleanor Renton on a chaise longue, 1951, by Roger de Grey, at the Royal Academy.

Sackler Galleries until September 22. It includes 70 paintings and a selection of drawings which chart his entire career. Roger de Grey was born in 1918, trained at the Chelsea School of art and taught at King's College, Newcastle Upon Tyne, and at the Royal College of Art in London. Among his pupils were R B Kitaj, David Hockney, Peter Blake, and Alan Jones.

The Woodlands Art Gallery shows Art for a Living, a mixed exhibition which in-

cludes Hanz Schwarz and Hilary Rosen until September 8.

The Tate Gallery, Liverpool, is showing Rachel Whitebread's *Shedding Life* from September 14 until January 5 1997. Rachel Whitebread came to public prominence in 1993 by winning the Turner Prize. The exhibition coincides with the inauguration in November of her Holocaust Memorial in the Judenplatz in Vienna.

From July 26 to October 20 1996 the National Portrait Gallery will be showing BP Portrait Award 1996. Alongside it will be *Land of the Giants*, an exhibition of the work of Christopher Stevens, the winner of the BP Travel Award 1995 □

SBs Column

There is no SB Column this month as SB is on holiday; his next contribution will appear in the October issue.

Mauerbach benefit auction

Austrian victims of the Holocaust are to receive the proceeds of the Mauerbach Benefit Auction to be held at Vienna's MAK Museum on 29th and 30th of October, conducted by Christie's of London on behalf of the Federation of Austrian Jewish Communities.

An extraordinary historical testament, most of the lots were confiscated from Jewish homes by the National Socialists between 1938 and 1945. They include many Old Masters, 19th century pictures and drawings as well as carpets, tapestries, furniture, arms and armour, coins and literature. For more than 40 years the works have been stored at the monastery in the Austrian town of Mauerbach □

Musical treats in store

The AJR is associating itself with the 1996 B'nai Brith Festival of Austrian Jewish Music to take place at various venues in London throughout November. The Festival programme ranges widely across different genres - from liturgical music to rock, from Viennese operetta to Klezmer, and from chamber music to cabaret. In addition there will be lectures, exhibitions and film shows. We hope that our readers will avail themselves of the opportunity to savour a truly unique range of cultural 'goodies'. (Programme details will appear in the October issue) □

German and Austrian Art 1996



Max Slevogt (1868 - 1932)

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Glory descending

In summer 1941, when I was stationed in Carmarthen, a somewhat mysterious member of our Company, a Private Hartman, approached me claiming to recruit men for a new special Service unit to be formed. I was twenty-two and filled with romantic, swashbuckling ideas about doing something special in the war. As a refugee from Nazi persecution the desire to hit back was burning inside me. But this? It seemed so unreal that I did not believe it. I was wrong.

One day in February 1943 I travelled to London for an interview. The interviewer was an extremely small man with a large Beaverbrook globe of a head, seated on a high chair at the end of a long room, dressed in civvies. "Are you prepared to do a highly dangerous job?" "Yes, sir." "You will be required to undergo a number of strenuous and demanding preparatory courses. As from now you will observe absolute security about everything you do. This includes family and friends. Before you leave this building you will sign a declaration under the Official Secrets Act."

There were twelve of us in that first batch. The courses took place at various stately homes. The training – weapons, explosives, unarmed combat, fieldcraft, wireless telegraphy, codes – was tough but exhilarating. I had never been so fit in my life. The physical exercise included football and basketball which I loved. And the sheer luxury of our living conditions: rooms with proper beds, good food served by waiters – all mod cons!

We were called into the Great Hall. "The next programme in your itinerary will be five parachute drops." A week later we were in billets near Ringway Airport being prepared for jumping: practising landing, a visit to watch the packing of chutes, a brief flight – I had not been in an aeroplane before – and the final briefing: "You will jump in pairs, two men in quick succession, from a Whitley bomber through a funnel-shaped hole. Upon the despatcher calling your number, seat yourself on the edge of the 'glory hole'. On his second command push off to drop in the attention position. The static line attached to the central top of your chute will be hitched on to a rail. As you drop it will pull the chute open and break off. When the chute has fully opened and not before you will assume a sitting position and grasp the webbing

straps above you which connects the chute to your harness. One of our instructors down below will watch you."

Our first jump took place in the afternoon of the third day. The parachutes were strapped on our backs, the static lines were attached by the despatcher to the rail as we filed into the bomber. We were sitting below the rails on two benches on each side of the plane. My side were the even numbers. There was little time to ponder because suddenly a light came on, the despatcher shouted, "Number one get ready!" and Walter, the man opposite me, rushed to the hole. "Number one, go!" Walter disappeared. "Number two, get ready!" "That's me" I realised and found myself seated, feet dangling into the hole. "Number two, go!" I pushed myself off, straightening my legs, arms by my side. My main concern was that the instructor below should not reprimand me.

I felt the fresh air rushing up around me and within seconds experienced a strong jerk. Believing the chute had opened I started to bend my legs for the sitting position. Looking up I realised the chute was still a straight line and hastily returned to the 'attention' position. "Bad marks for me", I remember thinking. The next moment came another jerk and, looking up, I saw the beautiful silken umbrella spread out above me. I assumed the correct position and now looked around. To my astonishment the air was full of floating parachutists. Down on the ground were about a dozen or so instructors with megaphones shouting, "Number two, keep your knees together! Arms higher, number one.." It was part of the psychology. There was no way in which anyone could know who was meant.

The sun was shining. I was swinging to and fro, slowly getting lower and lower. It was a most wonderful experience. I wished it would go on and on. I've never forgotten the sensation. It did not last. Suddenly the ground shot up at me and I landed, much harder than expected. I was dragged along by the chute for a few yards, then collapsed it. For a few minutes I just stood there. I was trembling all over. I'm not sure why. The physical strain? Post-action fear? Excitement? Perhaps it was all of these. I did four more jumps and enjoyed them but none was as thrilling as this first one.

In the spring of 1944 I was stationed in Italy ready to be dropped over Austria. I was physically and mentally fully prepared, and emotionally keyed up. I

wondered how I would perform. Would I have the courage when it came to it, the presence of mind, the ability to cope? I never found out. When the Germans capitulated on the 8th May I was still there in a villa outside Siena, waiting to go into action.

□ Eric Sanders



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50 YEARS AGO

CONSTRUCTIVE COMPROMISE

The time is ripe to come to a compromise on the Palestine issue.

While protracted negotiations are proceeding, the plight of the Jews on the Continent is going from bad to worse. The Kielce pogrom, the return from Russia of tens of thousands of Jews to Poland and Rumania where they meet with hostility, and the approach of winter have accelerated the rate of Jewish flight from the Continent.

The diversion of 'illegal' immigrants from Palestine to Cyprus has come as a hard blow to those miserable fugitives who had reached the shores of the Holy Land after exasperating efforts only to find themselves on a new journey to another Displaced Persons' Camp.

The camps in Germany, Austria and Italy are still filled with human cargo. The immediate opening of Palestine to large-scale Jewish immigration remains a postulate dictated by humanity □

AJR Information, September 1946

AJR

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Scarred – not scared

The old Latin tag *Nemo me impune lacessit* a century ago motivated a group of Jewish students in Breslau to band together and form an association or 'fraternity' to combat antisemitism on the campus. After decades of, albeit slow, Jewish integration, thanks to the likes of Treitschke and Richard Wagner, antisemitism was once again raising its ugly head, and nowhere more so than in academia, where Jews were once again excluded from common social intercourse. For some years the fraternity movement was quite successful and became the seedbed for many future leaders of the German-Jewish community. But of course in the end it failed tragically. Admittedly with hindsight some of its rites, postures and ideas appear somewhat ridiculous; even so the movement did play a prominent part in German-Jewish history up to 1933 and is worth remembering.

The powerful right-wing 'Kyffhäuser' Organisation of German student fraternities had ruled that Jews were unworthy of being challenged to duels. In response seven Jewish students formed the 'Viadrina' fraternity, followed in the next few years by similar associations in Berlin, Munich, Freiburg and Heidelberg. In 1896 they formed an umbrella organisation, the KC or *Kartell Convent der deutschen Studenten jüdischen Glaubens*. By the 1920s all major German universities had their KC branches, aiming to

combat campus antisemitism by stressing the equal importance of the German and Jewish components of their self-image. Notwithstanding the duelling ban imposed by most of the other fraternities, from the start KC members did fight duels whenever they felt slighted, and often gave their opponents a bloody nose. In fact, in Breslau, as in Heidelberg, the KC *Kartellbrüder* were so successful that within a few years of their formation the authorities suspended the fraternities for 'aggressive behaviour'. They obeyed and immediately formed new fraternities under a different name.

The Weimar Republic outlawed duelling, but it went on clandestinely all the time, with the police looking the other way. An AJR member no longer, alas, with us, still bore the scar sustained after challenging three students on the steps of the Frankfurt Paulskirche during an academic celebration of the 1848 revolutionary parliament. He fought the three offenders consecutively in one session.

By the early thirties KC members were becoming increasingly apprehensive of the developing ugly political situation; however, hoping, as did the bulk of German Jewry, that it would all blow over, they still enjoyed their beer-swilling and ribald sing-songs. I myself was one of the last intake of new 'brothers'. In March 1933 our fraternity was invited to join a state ceremony at the Berlin opera house to commemorate the dead of the last war.

We were baffled; it must have been an obvious administrative mistake to invite

us Jews. How should we react to it? Refuse to appear and be accused of cowardice or join with the others and face fisticuffs (which would not have been the first time)? In the end six of us were delegated to turn up, decked out in our medieval full-dress costumes. After joining the others on the stage for a harangue by Goering, all the students were marched outside to line the route Unter Den Linden to the War Memorial, along which the members of the government slowly walked. First came the old President in full Field-Marshal's uniform, followed by the new Chancellor, dressed in an ill-fitting morning coat, carrying his top hat and looking like a caricature of Charlie Chaplin. As they marched past, they briefly halted in front of us six Jews; a Mills bomb in the hand of any one of us would have saved the world an awful lot of trouble. A year later, in Bonn where I was still reading Law, the *Rektor* summoned the few remaining KCers to tell us we had to disband.

The exodus had begun, but wherever we ultimately landed, the bonds forged over innumerable pints of beer, held whilst we built a life in foreign countries. By the outbreak of war we formed quite a sizeable group in the UK, and wherever we chanced to meet subsequently – on the street, in internment or the army – old friendships were resumed. We might sentimentalise over the past, but who can blame us? In the end we could even boast two Knights Bachelor among our number.

□ Ronald Stent

A personal appreciation

The late Gusti Weiss came into my life in 1966 when I moved into the flat above hers in Goldhurst Terrace. My very first Jewish friend, she had a solid, reassuring appearance and a welcoming smile, and I was immediately struck by her unusually rich speaking voice and Rhineland vowels.

We rapidly became firm friends. There was always a warm welcome when I knocked on her door. Coffee and cakes were served on elegant, old-fashioned continental china. Classics of German literature stood untouched on the bookshelf. Beethoven and Brahms boomed from her massive valve radio on Sunday afternoons. Signs of her Jewish heritage were also present, and she was well known at Belsize Square Synagogue.

Many years passed before Gusti told me that she was born in 1909 in Grünstadt,



Auguste 'Gusti' Weiss aged 17

near Mannheim. Her father was a successful cloth merchant and Grünstadt's deputy mayor. They had servants and her life was filled with tennis, cycling, swimming and occasional dances at Heidelberg

University where her brother studied dentistry. I was privileged to see the faded brown photograph of her father in his shop doorway with Gusti leaning out of an upstairs window. Her parents were eventually deported to Gurs.

Gusti came to England as a domestic, but later sewed uniforms, belts and labels – *handarbeit* as she pointedly remarked – and always tried to make the best of things. Her bitterness and sense of loss lay deeply hidden beneath a determination to maintain interest in the present and the lives of those around her. Each weekday was spent at the AJR Day Centre and Saturday and Sunday afternoons as well.

Though we were neighbours for only a short while, Gusti's influence on me has lasted for thirty years. It was her friendship that led to my work as an AJR volunteer. Gusti died earlier this year and I shall always be grateful to her.

□ Angela Arratoon

Cooking with Gretel Beer



**For the New Year
Honeycake**

Sonia Allison is a wonderful food writer as well as a true friend, for who but a true friend would disclose a treasured recipe for 'the best honeycake

in the world' and give permission for it to be published? Try it and see whether you agree...

- 1lb clear honey (warmed)
- 3 large eggs
- 8 fl.oz sunflower oil
- ½ pint warm water
- 1lb 2oz self-raising flour sifted with
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 level teaspoons mixed spice
- 3 level teaspoons ginger
- 2 level teaspoons bicarbonate of soda
- 3oz chunky marmalade

Put honey, water, oil and eggs into a bowl and whisk thoroughly. Sift together the dry ingredients and add to the mixture, then beat with a rotary whisk for 5 minutes (or 2 minutes in a food processor). Beat in the chunky marmalade. Bake in a greased and floured tin measuring 13" x 10" for 1 - 1¼ hours at Gas Mark 3, 325°F, 160°C □

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS –
SEPTEMBER 1996**

- Tue 3 Lesley Wilner, piano, & Stephanie Core, flute: An afternoon concert. JACS Belsize Square, 2pm
- Wed 4 Gitta Sereny: lecture on The Background to Albert Speer. Friends House, Euston Road, NW1, 7pm, £4 at the door. Information from Wiener Library
- Thur 5 South London AJR: Michael Hamburger's talk on translating Paul Celan's poetry. South London Liberal Synagogue, Prentis Road, SW16, 2pm
- Mon 9 Dr Jennifer Taylor: Grete Fischer, founder member. Club '43, 8pm
- Tue 10 'Tea at Buckingham Palace': Vicky Lazare on her year as Mr Mayor. JACS, 2pm
- Mon 16 Jens Brüning: *Im Schnellzug nach Hause. Texte aus Palästina (1934-38) von Gabriele Tergit.* (In German) Club '43, 8pm
- Tue 17 Aspects of Jewish Humour: Lilly Benjamin. JACS, 2pm
- Mon 30 Poland Revisited – Seeking roots & Jewish life in today's Poland. George Vulkan. Club '43, 8pm

Ongoing: Yiddish Theatre in London until 10th November. Jewish Museum, Camden Town, Sun-Thurs, 10am-4pm, £3

October

- Tue 1 The National Trust: Pamela Wright, JACS, 2pm
- Mon 7 Arno Reinfrank, Schriftsteller: *Hermann Sinsheimer, Ein Autor als Prophet und Opfer.* (In German) Club '43, 8pm
- Sat 12 AGM, Association of Children of Jewish Refugees. Tel. Ian 0171 976 6691 for details.
- Sun 13 Cable Street & East End Politics in the 1930s: half day seminar by the Wiener Library 1.30-6.30pm, Harkness Hall, Birkbeck College, Malet Street, WC1, £12
- Sat/Sun 19/20 Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Museum, Notts. Visit & overnight stay, ACJR. Tel. Martin 0181 446 6167 details & booking

ORGANISATION CONTACTS

JACS at Belsize Square Synagogue, NW3 4HX. Tel: 0171 794 3949
 Club '43, meets at Belsize Square Synagogue. Hans Seelig 01442 254 360
 Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1. 0171 636 7247

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Obituaries

Hans Walter Freyhan

Hans Freyhan, who has died aged 86, was born into a middle-class family with literary tastes – his lawyer father wrote a book on Gerhart Hauptmann – but his own predilection was for music.

After university he taught at the *Adass Yisroel* school at Siegmundshof where his pupils included Immanuel Jakobovits (subsequent Chief Rabbi of the Commonwealth).

Together with his musician wife Käte – they married in 1937 – Hans came to this country just before the outbreak of war. Here he taught, first at Brighton and then, after internment, at Bedford. An early AJR member, he would often travel down from Bedford to NW London on Sundays for the purpose of recruiting others.

Music remained his great love, however. Although teaching appointments at the level available to him did not altogether satisfy Hans, he found fulfilment in his work as music critic for the *Bedfordshire Times* and as a committee member of the Bedford Music Society (for whose concerts he wrote programme notes). He did the same, incidentally, for the annual AJR concerts.

Our Association, which is thus indebted to Hans on several counts, extends sincere condolences to his widow and two musician sons. □ RG

Henriette Nussbaum

Cologne-born Henriette Nussbaum, who died aged 94, had, in her twenties, managed to obtain a PhD in Education despite defective vision which eventually led to her total blindness. After the Nazi takeover she and her husband emigrated first to Italy, and then to the UK.

Postwar she trained at the Helen Keller Institute on Long Island, training that proved invaluable for her later life and work in London.

Back in the UK she worked in the Welfare Department of the then Jewish Blind Society, organising groups of voluntary helpers – something quite new at that time.

For more than 20 years she could be seen trekking unaccompanied from Rosslyn Hill to Belsize Park Station where she would take a train to Camden Town, get on a bus to Stamford Hill and walk to the JBS Centre there.

She also started the JBS Magazine *Listen* which was published in braille, in normal print and on tape, containing organisational news and contributions from members.

Remaining active well into her retirement years, 'Nussie' was an inspiration to many others. She will be greatly missed by former colleagues as well as by her family, including six great-grandchildren □

SEARCH NOTICES

Margarete Fried was a teacher at the August and Rykestrasse Jewish Schools in Berlin between 1936-1938 before emigrating to Palestine. The photograph, right, from the *Landesbildstelle Berlin*, shows her amongst her pupils, probably during a school excursion. Her son Ludwig asks anyone who recognises themselves, knows any of the pupils shown, or when and where it was taken, to contact him. L. Fried, Im Ettingerhof 8, CH-4055 Basel. Tel: 061/301 83 75.

Marianne Ringel, where are you? Poldi Gerber has been looking for you for a very long time. Please ring him on 0181 886 8486 during morning hours, or contact the office of this journal.

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NEWSROUND

Polish apology

In a ceremony near Kielce, Poland's Prime Minister apologised for the 1946 pogrom in which 45 Jewish survivors of Nazi concentration camps who returned to their native town were butchered.

Hungarian restitution

The Hungarian Government has agreed with representatives of Hungary's Jewish community to compensate 20,000 Holocaust survivors with a monthly pension supplement. The World Jewish Congress regards this as a precedent for other East European countries.

Property claim setback

Ralph Lehmann, who left Berlin as an eight-year-old, lost his case in a British court over a contested valuation of land in East Berlin. The plot was taken by the Nazis and only returned to his family in 1992.

Looted gold

Newly available documents in the United States have revealed the possibility that millions of dollars worth of gold, most of which was looted from German Jews, remained in Switzerland with the connivance of British and other Allied governments after World War II. The World Jewish Congress is pursuing the matter with the recently-formed Swiss Bankers' Association.

Vichy death

Frenchman Paul Touvier, aide to Gestapo head Klaus Barbie in Lyon under the Vichy régime and a convicted war criminal, has died in prison aged 81.

Wiesenthal organisation in UK

A new group has been formed in London which intends establishing a Simon Wiesenthal Centre in the UK and furthering education on the history of European Jewry. Full co-operation is being sought with the Board of Deputies on all matters involving community defence.

Auschwitz plans

Proposals which maintain the area around the Auschwitz death camp free of unsuitable buildings are due to be published by the Polish Government this month. Plans to build a shopping mall and a cigarette factory have been halted.

□ RDC

One Man's War**Part 13****Unspoken agreement**

Our quarters were four small rooms, freshly whitewashed, over the piggery, accessible by outside wooden stairs. The two front rooms were a day room for us and the military guard with a desk and bed. The backrooms were our sleeping quarters. On the corridor between the rooms were two benches with enamel wash basins plus a night-time slopping-out bucket. The doors should have been locked after work but this ruling was ignored from the first day as the four dairymen had to get up in the middle of the night to milk. The rooms were lit by paraffin hurricane lamps.

When we arrived, the countryside was still covered in deep snow, so there was not too much for us to do. Meyer said the working party was his creation; we gladly relied on him and knew that he was going to play things by ear. We made a favourable first impression from day one, after four chaps with kibbutz training started their shift in the cowshed milking.

Several days later we saw a little Mercedes car arrive. Out stepped a tall, white-haired gentleman of aristocratic appearance. We instantly knew he was the boss, Herr Harhoff. He asked our guard to post some important letters at the village post office, beckoned us into the day room and closed the door. His next words were, "Why didn't you let me know that you are *Juden*?"

That sort of address left us speechless for a moment, unable to guess what was to follow, but he continued, "Solicitor Liftschitz was my best friend, one who even made me guest of honour at his son's barmitzvah. First the Nazis forced him to scrub the streets with a toothbrush, and then they kicked him to death, the bastards! You cannot live on the shit rations I have been allocated, but don't worry, there are lentils, barley, peas, pickled tomatoes, gherkins and onions arriving; meat will be a bit short, but a large basket of lard will be here soon".

He was the only German I knew who hated the Nazis in 1941, at a time when Hitler was victorious on all fronts.

I got to know Herr Harhoff intimately in the years to come and felt rather sorry for him. He struggled with the dilemma of not wishing for a German defeat while hating the idea of a Hitler victory.

One evening, about a month later, the church bells started ringing frantically: there was a fire in Lubowitz. Nobody asked us, but we came running. There were only women and children and a few decrepit old men about, all the others being in the Wehrmacht. We, the English, led the livestock out of the stables, manned the horse-drawn firewagon and started to pump water from the village pond, watched by hundreds of eyes.

There was an unspoken agreement between Herr Harhoff, the inspector and us. The boss was an Anglophile and the inspector a Pole and they both hated the Nazis. Nor was it such a bad idea to have a postwar alibi of how British PoWs were treated there. But we also played our part of the bargain taking an interest in the daily work. Sometimes we asked ourselves if we weren't actually supporting the German war effort. But we concluded that primarily we had the interest of our boss and benefactor at heart, and could not divorce one thing from the other.

After the first few weeks had passed we all realised that Meyer had made a mistake in the selection of the original first 12 men of our working party.

One corporal called T was an unpleasant, cantankerous character who had arguments with everyone. He also alienated our guard, did not get on with the farm foreman and was *chutzpedig* to the inspector. Meyer told him that he was a misfit and that he would have to go. He quite agreed to go back to the Stalag, he would not work for Germany any longer and was sick and tired of taking orders from 'yecke-shmok' Meyer.

We were not quite sure of how to go about it, but assumed that T would only be given a fortnight in the bunker on bread and water which he didn't mind. So we told him that he should inform the German guard in the morning that he was refusing to go to work and staying in bed. (to be continued)

□ H P Weiner

NEW YEAR

The Chairman, Management
Committee,
Director and Staff
wish all AJR members

A Happy, Healthy & Peaceful
New Year

לשנה טובה