

AJR Information

Volume LII No. 3

March 1997

£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss...

Imperial War Museum's Holocaust Project p2

It occurs to me... p9

Some unfamiliar family trees p13

P for Purim and pulchritude

Purim usually connotes fancy dress and play-acting. Let us not forget that it also celebrates the beauty of Jewish women in the person of Esther who captivated King Ahasveros.

Esther started a trend. Others in that poetically embellished tradition are Berenice (the betrothed of Titus), Rachel (heroine of Scott's *Ivanhoe*), Lope de Vega's and Grillparzer's *Jewess of Toledo*, and King Carol's real-life Madame Lupescu.

Nowadays, however, brainy Jewish women carry more clout than beautiful ones. The proof: Secretary of State Madeleine Albright □

How ex-occupied and neutral countries face their wartime past

The truth will not be gainsaid

One of the best known products of the so-called Theatre of the Absurd is the play *Asmodée*, in which an offstage corpse continues to grow till it invades the acting space.

Asmodée could serve as a metaphor for Europe's relationship to its own Holocaust-tainted past. Increasingly uncomfortable truths, buried for decades, refuse to stay buried and poke through the partitions designed to wall off the business-as-usual present from the murky past.

Mid-nineties Europe is alive with the sound of crumbling edifices of evasion. Chancellor Vranitzky has spoken candidly about Austria's long-denied co-responsibility for the Holocaust. Poland, which saw itself purely as a martyred hero nation, has begun to correct this flattering self-image. The Catholic publicist Jan Blonski has highlighted Polish indifference to Jewish wartime suffering, and Premier Cimoszewicz spoke words of atonement at Kielce, site of Europe's only postwar pogrom. Other post-Communist heads of state – in Hungary, Ukraine etc. – made similar confessions of national guilt. Germany has fixed the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz as Holocaust Day in the national calendar.

Currently France is exorcising the demons of its past by trying the wartime Jew-hunter-turned-post-war minister Maurice Papon, and by investigating why, half a century after Liberation, many expropriated Jewish art treasures and apartments remain public property.

While Jacques Chirac has given a powerful impetus to this process, Swiss (ex-)President Delamuraz responded to compensation demands for 'lost' Jewish property with cries of blackmail, and his palpably antisemitic response has brought Julius Streicher back from the dead (See cartoon, p.5).

[Other neutral states with economically beneficial links to Nazi Germany, like Sweden, Portugal and Spain, still await international pressure to yield up secrets of their profitable wartime collusion].

The Swiss imbroglio recently prompted a *Times* editorial headed 'The best repa-

ration is the unvarnished truth'. Alas, judging by the correspondence column of the *Neue Züricher Zeitung*, many Swiss feel aggrieved at the spotlight of world publicity turned on them.

No *tour d'horizon* of Holocaust-tainted Europe can omit Italy, for all that the country behaved better than most in the 1940s. Even so the deplorable outcome of the Priebke Trial indicates that some of her judges are still steeped in the ethos of the Berlin-Rome Axis.

But let us end with France and the Theatre of the Absurd. Papon's knee-jerk reaction to his arraignment was to accuse a coalition of Communists, the 'Left lobby' and foreigners of denigrating France by linking the Vichy regime to the Holocaust. "What I face" he went on "is a political trial whose outcome the authorities have decided in advance. I have fallen victim to a deliberate miscarriage of justice, just like Captain Dreyfus".

One's blood runs cold on seeing a Jew-hunter comparing himself to a victim of Judeophobia. Despite the nauseating comparison Papon's statement does, however, provide some welcome reassurance. It is evidence of the fact that in contemporary French usage the name Captain Dreyfus conjures up an image – not of treason, as his detractors intended – but of scapegoating and victimhood □



Plaque commemorating the accommodation of Jewish refugees at Richborough, Kent, in the years prior to World War II, for which members of the AJR subscribed in 1971.

Profile

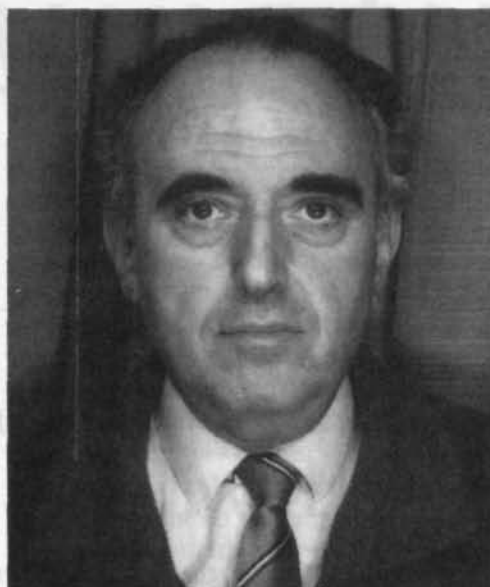
The filial imperative

Believers in astrology attach unique importance to their natal month. Of all the people I know Andrew Merkler is the person with the strongest reason for doing so – having been born in January 1933, birth month of the Nazi regime. This malign coincidence cast a shadow over his whole subsequent life.

Andrew's father, a habitué of Budapest's *Literatencafés*, wrote plays, film scripts and song lyrics. Being an accomplished wordsmith, he was even asked to continue his work – under a Gentile pseudonym – after the passage of Horthy's anti-Jewish laws.

Meanwhile the Merkler marriage had broken up and the mother had gone to England as a domestic just before the outbreak of war.

Hungarian Jewry was sucked into the inferno late in the war. In the first roundup of Jews aged 16 to 60 the father and Andrew's elder brother disappeared forever. Eleven-year-old Andrew was left



Andrew Merkler

behind cowering in the cellar of a Swiss-protected house which sustained Russian bomb damage, but somehow escaped Arrow Cross *razzias*.

A year after the war he joined his mother in England, where he also had a more distant relative: Alexander Korda. The film mogul paid for him to be educated privately. Later, German restitution payments enabled him to attend the uni-

versities of Hamburg, Vienna and Perugia. Eventually he qualified, and set up as a chartered accountant. His was a one-man enterprise, work which totally absorbed him into middle age.

His mother had meanwhile filled in the gaps in his knowledge of his father's quite spectacular career. This made Andrew conceive the ambition of becoming a writer himself – not least because he wanted to pay tribute to the father whose creative life had been so tragically curtailed.

The ambition was realised with the performance of *Unknown Author* at Hampstead's New End Theatre last autumn. As ill luck would have it, two other Holocaust-related plays – *Kindertransport* and *Flight into Egypt* – were on at about the same time. In consequence *Unknown Author* played to poor houses and attracted little critical attention.

Andrew Merkler remains determined, nonetheless, to persevere with playwriting. His resolve is strengthened by the fact that half a century after the father's death his films are still treasured by Hungarian *cinéastes*, and his song lyrics still remembered by the man in the Budapest street. □ RG

Imperial War Museum's Holocaust project

The Imperial War Museum's plans for a Holocaust Exhibition to open in the year 2000 were presented by the project's director, Suzanne Bardgett, and her research colleague, James Taylor, to AJR management committee members and trustees, senior staff and AJR members holding responsible positions in other Jewish organisations.

Last year a Holocaust Project Office was established and architect Stephen Greenberg and exhibition designer Bob Baxter appointed. An advisory committee comprises Prof. Sir Martin Gilbert, Prof. David Cesarani, Ben Helfgott, documentary film-maker Martin Smith, and Tony Lerman of Jewish Policy Research.

Suzanne Bardgett explained that since its foundation in 1917 the IWM's original commemorative function has changed; today it sees itself as Britain's 'museum of 20th century conflict'.

Two floors of a new extension will be devoted exclusively to the Holocaust Exhibition. Visitors will enter on an upper floor – covering the years 1933 to 1939

– progressing to the floor below for an account of the Holocaust. The project team aim to create a unique 'controlled experience' of some two hours duration, akin to a documentary film, beginning at one end and concluding at the other.

A huge store of documents, photo-

ACQUISITIONS SOUGHT

The Imperial War Museum asks refugees who came to Britain in the 1930s, their children and others, who may have documents, photographs and memorabilia of the period in their possession whether they would consider donating such material to the Holocaust Exhibition project.
Project Office: 0171 416 5286

graphs, artifacts and an extensive sound archive of testimonies already exists within the Museum. To acquire additional material, staff visited museums in Germany, Israel, the Czech Republic, the Ukraine and USA. Suzanne Bardgett favoured the Washington Holocaust Museum's "high standard in historical understatement", and praised the excellence of the Beth Shalom Holocaust

Memorial Centre in Nottinghamshire, the work of Stephen Smith and his family.

The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded the project £12.6 million, and the remaining £4.5 million has all but been pledged thanks to the Wolfson Foundation, Marks & Spencer, Harry Djanogly and other generous benefactors.

□ Ronald Channing

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Book learning is not enough

Teaching the Holocaust – the subject of our January editorial – is a topic to which we, unapologetically, return yet again. Readers may remember that the December issue contained, (page 4) Anthony Grenville's rather critical review of *Holocaust and Human Behavior, Facing History and Ourselves*, put out by the US National Foundation.

The group responsible for the compilation of this resource book has now sent us a rejoinder to Grenville's review which, in view of the subject's intrinsic importance, we herewith reproduce:

In reviewing the book as if it were simply another of dozens on this subject for a teacher to pick off the shelf of a bookstore to use in his classroom, Mr Grenville makes a number of assumptions that are fundamentally incorrect. It is neither a textbook nor an historical treatise.

What the title does not make immediately apparent is that it is designed as a resource book only for teachers who have participated in a week-long Facing History and Ourselves Teacher Training Institute. These teachers are then supported in the use of the *Facing History and Ourselves* curriculum with the loan of videotapes, interchanges with and classroom visits from Facing History staff, and information about new materials developed by Facing History Associates.

Mr Grenville emphasizes *Facing History and Ourselves* "not unproblematic...clarion call for historical study to be infused with moral principle..." that is "trumpeted forth in this book". *Facing History and Ourselves* unabashedly takes a moral stand. It believes that the Holocaust in its systematic murder of millions was an immoral act, just as the denial of civil rights to America's blacks and other minorities was immoral. It also believes that students should not be taught historical dogma, but should be empowered to wrestle with the ethical and moral issues involved in the study of history.

Facing History and Ourselves would not deny that an Islamic fundamentalist or a Marxist scholar would, on the basis of his system or morality, reach different conclusions about the Holocaust. This argument, however, is specious. The former Soviet Union never would have permitted a curriculum like *Facing History and Our-*

selves to be used in its schools because of its emphasis on the individual, the questions it raises about issues, and the critical thinking skills it fosters.

It is worth noting in this regard that it is teachers from the countries of the former Soviet Bloc who have become strong supporters for introducing the *Facing History and Ourselves* program into their schools. In Hungary, for example, it has been adopted as part of a nationwide educational reform program, a development sparked by the commitment of four Hungarian teachers who attended a Facing History and Ourselves Teacher Training Institute in Switzerland in 1994. So much for Mr Grenville's description of the Resource Book as "distinctively American".

The program has also been adapted and is being used in Germany, the home of the perpetrators. The Fritz Bauer Institute (Frankfurt-am-Main) organises annual Facing History and Ourselves Teacher Training Institutes.

The *Facing History and Ourselves* program (and its *Resource Book*) were initially developed by two American teachers to answer a perceived need, a need so widely shared by other teachers that the program is now taught annually to over 800,000 secondary school students across the United States and Canada!

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Reviews

Comprehending Judaism

FRANZ D LUCAS (ED) *Geschichte und Geist. Fünf Essays zum Verständnis des Judentums.* Duncker & Humboldt, Berlin, 1995

This elegant and informative volume contains lectures given at Tuebingen University in 1993/4 to commemorate the death in Theresienstadt of Rabbi Dr Leopold Lucas. His son, London resident Franz D Lucas, has established a foundation which gives yearly awards to scholars who contribute significantly to understanding between nations.

In the first lecture the historian Dieter Langewiesche explains the relationship of Jewish emancipation to the attempted democratic revolution in Germany in 1848. Despite immediate failure, the way was paved for the multi-faceted development of German Jewry.

O Bayer probes the philosophy of Max Horkheimer, head of the *Frankfurter Schule*. Horkheimer – in his late writings – searched for religious meaning. He approached the concept of post-Holocaust theology by analysing the fear that there might be no God.

Stefan Schreiner acquaints the reader with Leopold Lucas' interpretation of the Jewish-Christian schism in the decisive fourth century. Lucas's book first appeared in 1910, was reprinted in 1985 and translated into English. It started a whole school of research into Latin and Greek Church Fathers and codices of Roman Christian state law.

K E Nipkow analyses Martin Buber's educational thinking. Buber believed that our life achieves meaning by patiently listening to the Other, by answering – instead of repeating – set phrases. Nipkow stresses that thinking and hoping are the motors of Jewish existence.

A Doering-Manteuffel exposes the echoes of Nazi antisemitism in divided post-war Germany. Despite a general unwillingness to confront personal responsibility for the past, individuals and groups broke through the conspiracy of silence.

This is a valuable book whose authors provide ample documentation and carefully chosen reading lists.

□ Pnina Navé Levinson

From opera stage to printed page

George R Whyte, *THE ACCUSED (The Dreyfus Trilogy)*, Inter Nationes, 1996

This book provides a wealth of information on the injustice meted out to a patriotic Frenchman because of his Jewish extraction – an injustice that inspired Theodor Herzl in founding modern Zionism.

George Whyte must have put in a vast amount of research into his Dreyfus Trilogy. He is to be congratulated on this, as well as on his courage in challenging resurgent Neo-Nazism.

The author does not pull his punches. By focusing attention on the antisemitic motives behind the false accusations of treason against Dreyfus and the subsequent cover-up, he shows that the roots of modern West European antisemitism are partly French, and that the Dreyfus Affair served as a sinister dress rehearsal to the Holocaust.

George Whyte's gripping and rigorously documented account also shows

those contemporary Germans who were involved in the production of the *Dreyfus Affair Trilogy* to be imbued with the spirit of Lessing.

He records an incident during a rehearsal of the musical satire *Rage and Outrage*, when the famous chanteuse Ute Lemper and the chorus refused to sing the antisemitic version of the Marseillaise. This triggered an impromptu discussion between star and author which gives added poignancy to the book.

The Berlin Opera Chorus' reluctance during the world premiere of *The Dreyfus Affair*, to sing fortissimo in accordance with score markings for the historically authentic antisemitic outbursts, provides a similar, if less dramatic case in point.

Contrarywise the German Taxpayers' Association charged Inter Nationes – the Bonn-based agency set up to improve Germany's image abroad – with 'profligate waste of public money' by financing a book about a 'French Justizskandal involving a Jewish officer'. The irrefutable riposte to this Pfennig-pinching lobby is that Dreyfus' granddaughter was sent to Auschwitz. □ Fred Rosner

Vorsprung durch Technik

B Hopmann, M Spoerer, B Weitz, B Brueninghaus, *ZWANGSARBEIT bei DAIMLER-BENZ*, Stuttgart, 1994

The centenary of Daimler-Benz in 1983 received worldwide publicity.

It occasioned lavish praise and congratulations on the one hand, and complaints and demands for compensation from hundreds of wartime slave workers on the other.

After a great deal of prevarication the firm decided on compensation payments. Data from investigators and returned questionnaires made them realise the magnitude of the task.

As the German conquests had accelerated, so had the firm's operations, particularly in Poland, as part of the Nazi war machine. Daimler-Benz's production of automotive engines, especially for the Luftwaffe, expanded with the demands of the war. Its foreign work force comprised Western volunteers, conscripted Poles and

Russian prisoners-of-war.

The figures include a thousand *Arbeitsjuden*, among them 200 from the Riga Ghetto employed on repair jobs, though the majority were concentrated in the Rzeszow Works, near Cracow. It surprised the authors that these 'work Jews' had been highly valued and treated better than, at least, the Russian PoWs.

In fact, Daimler-Benz staff took many of them with them as the Nazi armies retreated westwards. One group was taken to Colmar in Alsace, where they were supposed to be shot. Instead they were removed to concentration camps, and some put to work underground where war production still went on.

Daimler-Benz have paid compensation to survivors, and, where there were no survivors, to charitable organisations. In the case of the Jews the money was paid to the Claims Conference to be channelled into old age homes, etc.

Overall the firm paid out something like DM20 million (about £8 million) of which the Jewish portion was just under half. □ John Rossall

The AJR received the following letter in response to a request for compensation in respect of Reichsfluchtsteuer.

Translation of letter dated 9.12.96 from Bundesministerium für Finanzen.

Restitution for Nazi injustice

We thank you for your above-mentioned letter with regard to questions of compensation for Nazi injustice.

Compensation for victims of national-socialist persecution is regulated by the Federal Compensation Law (BEG) in the final BEG version (BEG-SG) of 14 September 1965 (BGB.1 A 1315). This regulation also covers the facts put forward by you. The responsibility for decisions concerning applications based on this Law and for the conduct of legal proceedings concerning them lies with the restitution authorities of the respective Länder of the Federal Republic.

As you may be aware, the Federal Republic of Germany has, since the beginning of Restitution paid over 76 thousand million D-Mark solely on the basis of that Law. The total amount made available for purposes of compensation has meanwhile reached over 100 thousand million D-Mark.

However, since 31 December 1969 (see article VIII BEG-SG) there is no longer a possibility of registering claims under the Law. Exceptions, apart from special cases

not relevant in this context, are unfortunately not admissible.

Accordingly I am unable, at the present stage, to hold out any hope for compensation in the situations described by you□

**CLAIMS CONFERENCE
- ARTICLE 2**

"After prolonged negotiations with the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the German Government has agreed to expand the eligibility criteria for compensation to an additional group of Nazi victims", Dr. Israel Miller, President of the Claims Conference, announced. According to the new decision, victims of Nazi persecution who have received, to date, one-time compensation payments of more than 10,000 Deutschmark will become eligible, as of 1 July 1997, for monthly payments of 500 Deutschmark under the Article 2 Fund if they meet the Fund's other eligibility criteria.

The eligibility criteria include: proven incarceration in concentration camps for at least six months, or confinement in ghettos for at least 18 months, or life in hiding under inhumane conditions for at least 18 months. Payments will only be made to people who can show financial hardship. Payments will not be made to persons who were citizens of a Western country other than Germany.

Application forms may be obtained from:
Claims Conference Article 2 Fund,
Sophienstrasse 26,
60487 Frankfurt am Main, Germany



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Letters to the Editor



EU IS GOOD FOR UK

Sir – Might I take issue with R J Jaray and Ernest David (February issue) to argue that taking a pro-European Union stance is wholly compatible with desiring to promote what is in the best British tradition as well as in Britain's interest.

Mr David is, of course, right: there is a democratic deficit in the EU. But the deficit is the doing of the governments, particularly the UK government. It has two major aspects: the weakness of Parliament, which every member state wishes (in varying degrees) to correct – except Mr Major, who totally opposed any extension of its power at both Maastricht in 1991 and in Florence in 1996.

The second is the secrecy surrounding the Council of Ministers, which is the legislative body of the EU (not the "bureaucrats of the Commission" whose job is to initiate, and subsequently to enforce, legislation). This secrecy is being challenged in the European Court of Justice by a British journalist, Tony Bunyan.

If he voted for only an economic union, that is his choice. Prof Bogdanor, a noted constitutionalist, has checked contemporaneous material and confirms that political union was much to the fore in both 1971 when we joined, and again during the referendum campaign in 1975 (see: *Times* 31.1.97). Further, the Single European Act which Mrs Thatcher signed and then rushed through Parliament said (Title I, Article 1, First paragraph) "to making concrete progress towards European unity". There have been two general elections since then for Mr David to have raised the issue. Maastricht does not affect the political objectives.

The economic argument for membership is very strong: inward investment is totally dependent on it; 60% of British exports go into the EU. Almost 4m persons depend on it for employment, at a time when one family in very five does not contain a wage earner. GATT and the WTA are not comprehensive, and in particular, do not cover services. Furthermore, to import into the EU, the exported article would still have to comply with EU regulations.

There are two clear streams running

through British history: one tradition is that of tolerance, compassion, and liberty; the other is racist, imperialist and English ethnic superiority. The former has already contributed to the EU, and the EU might, just might, help to weaken the latter.

WestView

Francis Deutsch

London NW4

Sir – I hope that Mr David will rethink his opposition to British involvement in closer European Union.

All our history demonstrates that peace in Europe depends on preventing any one state from dominating the rest. With this aim, Britain was at war with France for 53 years in the 18th and 19th centuries, and we need no reminding of the cost of curbing German power in this century.

The postwar European "project" has been hugely successful in binding a reconstructed Germany into the family of Western democracies, and the friendship with France is an historic achievement. Today, Germany's intentions as a good neighbour in Europe are not seriously questioned.

Yet now, unification has given Germany a much large population and unequalled economic power, and even some in Germany talk of flexing political muscles. There is growing unease among Germany's partners – including Britain, which threatens to disrupt the postwar "settlement".

The special partnership between Germany and France, around which the EU has been constructed, is now a very unequal one, with vital decisions increasingly going Germany's way, and other EU members – including Britain – being forced to follow.

Britain is the only EU member large and powerful enough to provide the missing counterweight to Germany. We need to be boxing our full weight in the exercise of our pooled sovereignty; remember, any sovereignty is pooled equally by all EU members, including Germany.

Does Mr David want us, once again, to put our heads in the sand and hope Europe disappears, only to find that, once again, we cannot avoid deadly conflict to re-establish the balance: in reality there is

no choice for us, and AJR members, of all people, should be aware of these realities.

Sure, the EU project is a political one and, for the sake of our children, we should lead it.

Beckenham

Peter Sheldon

Kent

IT OCCURSTO ME ...

Sir – Mr David's article (February issue) is written by the Director of AJR, an organisation which is apolitical and supposed to look after the welfare of its members!

This political question should not be aired in *AJR Information* and sounds suspiciously like party propaganda, being published shortly before the general election!

Wembley Park

Rolf Weinberg

Middx

ROTTEN HEART OF EUROPE

Sir – Mr Miller's metaphor (January issue) is inappropriate. If the grandson of the thief approaches him and says: "My grandfather was truly an awful person. As far as possible, I shall try to return your property and hope that your rightful anger will abate". If Mr Miller accepts the attempts at *Wiedergutmachung*, as I believe he has, he should acknowledge the change of heart of the thief's family.

Oxted

AW Freud

Surrey

BENDING THE RULES

Sir – The Germans used to show their usual speed and efficiency when it came to taking lives and property. Unfortunately they are more tardy in the matter of making restitution. One of their ploys is to restrict pensions to those who are entitled to German citizenship. Having been born there isn't good enough. Non-Germans are excluded altogether.

Readers will be relieved to know that such stern rules are sometimes relaxed. According to *The Independent* of 15 December 1996 Bonn has been paying pensions to other nationals, such as Ukrainians, Lithuanians and Latvians, for some time, and at a rate of one million pounds per annum. The difference is that the latter rendered valuable services to Germany during the Hitler period in the Waffen-SS and in police battalions.

Ipswich

Frank Bright

Suffolk

SWISS GOLD

Sir - Intemperate statements, unsubstantiated claims and foolish generalisations are the building-stones with which the Swiss - even the well-meaning ones who have a guilty conscience about the wartime conduct of their authorities and banks - now build a 'Zürich Wall' to protect themselves against Senator D'Amato and the WJC.

Retiring President Delamuraz spoke from the heart of most Swiss when he referred to a peremptory demand to create a fund of SF 250 million as black-mail. The most liberal interpretation of the sums involved does not go over SF 15 million. Of course, it is not the amount that matters, but the attitudes that made it possible for this matter to be swept under the carpet for 50 years. All right-thinking Swiss demand the truth to be published.

Temple Fortune Hill
London NW11

F Shelton

ROME AND JERUSALEM

Sir - Israeli and Palestinian claims to Jerusalem as their undivided capital appear to be irreconcilable. But a solution is possible if we look at another holy city - Rome. Rome is the capital of two states. It has two administrations, two police forces, and each state has its own diplomatic corps, yet it is a completely united city with free movement for all its citizens. The sovereignty of each state is respected by the other.

Even during the last war when the Germans rounded up the Jewish population of Rome, those Jews who succeeded in fleeing to the Vatican survived because the Nazis respected the Vatican's sovereignty.

Jerusalem could become a second Rome provided the goodwill is there.

Roy Gardens
Ilford, Essex

Peter Prager

SHED TEARS, O ISRAEL!

Sir - A recent *Times* editorial quotes the allegory of Jacob and Esau and their ultimate reconciliation. It also praises the Chief Rabbi for his resolve to attend the secular memorial meeting for Hugo Gryn in the face of strong Orthodox objections.

As a Holocaust survivor I challenge all Orthodox rabbonim and their flock to weep with me for the six million souls who were found by the Nazis to have been 'Jewish enough' to be driven to

their deaths. Or could it be that our Orthodox brethren will only weep for those of like affiliation?

West Midlands

Werner Abraham

KITCHENER CAMP

Sir - I expect a good many readers have knowledge of, or possibly arrived in this country via the Kitchener Camp at Richborough.

Their brief stay was commemorated by a bronze plaque, unveiled 25 years ago by Mr Julian Layton, OBE.

I am delighted to report that during a recent visit to Sandwich my wife and I found that a present tenant of the Barbican, Mr Roy Hodgson, had taken on the voluntary duty to look after the plaque and keep it beautifully polished because he rather touchingly felt that it recorded an event of some historical importance. (See page 1)

Gray's Inn Square
London WC1

WH Marmorek

AGP Berlin

Sir - As a teenager in Berlin-Charlottenburg during the mid-thirties, I belonged to a youth group called AGP (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Preuss). It was run by a 'retired' teacher, Preuss, once a week in his apartment, where we met to play table tennis, chess, other board games, to exchange stamps, and to organise 'Bunte Abende'.

Do any readers, who may have belonged to this youth group, know what happened to Preuss?

6 Prior Place
Farrer 2607

Canberra, Australia

Bern Brent

FREUD ON LAUGHTER

Ernest David's article on Laughter (January issue) sent me back to Freud. According to Freud, what causes laughter is a force that was, until that moment, needed to sustain a mental inhibition, but has to find an *outlet* when this inhibition suddenly becomes redundant. ('...das plötzliche überflüssigwerden eines Hemmungsaufwands'.)

Unfortunately for the English reader, in Germany '*Aufwand*' means 'expenditure', whereas in Freud's Austrian vernacular it means 'force' or 'effort'. The translators of Freud's works, basing themselves on German-English dictionary

ies, used the term 'expenditure', which makes no sense. Hence Anglo/American students of Freud fail to get to know his explanation of laughter properly.

There are people, who when *they* tell a joke, are unable to make one laugh. The reason could be that they either don't let their listeners *develop* an inhibition, or that they let them *anticipate* that their inhibition will become redundant in a moment. This makes it fade away without outlet.

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The AJR at Work



AJR Luncheon Club chair Anne Marx, right, introduces guest speaker Carol Siegel, assistant curator of London's Jewish Museum.

WARM WELCOME AT LUNCHEON CLUB

The first gathering of the AJR Luncheon Club brought a full house, a warm welcome from Anne Marx who chaired the meeting, and congratulations and best wishes to the Luncheon Club committee from Max Kochmann.

Guest speaker Carol Siegel, Assistant Curator of London's Jewish Museum, explained that on the Museum's two sites, Judaica and Jewish regalia were displayed in Camden Town, while social history and Holocaust education were the main concerns at the Sternberg Centre in Finchley. The Museum aimed to preserve the heritage of London's Jewish community, especially its diverse origins and rich culture prior to World War II, by developing a unique and valuable archive of photographs, documents and artifacts.

A changing programme of public exhibitions had included *Kindertransport - The Last Goodbye*, particularly popular with schools, *The Centenary of the Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade*, the *Bicentenary of Norwood Child Care*, *Leon Greenman Auschwitz Survivor*, and the *Jewish West End*, which attracted a record number of visitors. The current exhibition *The Boys - Children Who Survived the Holocaust*, is based on Sir Martin Gilbert's recent book. Exhibitions subsequently travel on loan to synagogues

and schools. The Museum was presently working on 'Jewish Coopers', the craft of barrel-making, and Jews and Sport.

An outstandingly delicious luncheon menu, specially prepared by AJR's own catering team, was enjoyed by all the members who keenly anticipate stimulating their taste buds and intellects in equal measure in the months ahead.

□ Ronald Channing

The AJR Luncheon Club meets at 15 Cleve Road NW6, at 11.45am for 12.15pm, on the third Wednesday in every month. Due to the demand for places, advance booking is essential on 0171 328 0208.

On the hustings

Braving icy winter weather, South London AJR members turned out in force to ask local representatives of the Labour and Conservative parties to explain their policies and engage in debate as a curtain-raiser to the general election.

Labour councillor Jeremy Frazer dealt with VAT on heating fuels, pensions, the NHS, law-and-order, immigration and the European Community. Conservative candidate Ernest Noad concentrated on taxation, investment in health and education, training centres for juvenile

offenders, private pensions and partnership in Europe.

At the lively question-and-answer session which followed, strong opinions were voiced, but our seasoned chairman Ken Ambrose maintained good order and made certain that all points of view were heard.

□ Ruth Leggett

'What Do We Tell Our Children' about our experiences in the Holocaust will be discussed by Rabbi Dr Albert Friedlander at the next meeting of South London AJR on Thursday 13th March at 2pm at the South London Liberal Synagogue, Streatham. For details phone 0181 852 0262.

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It occurs to me...

My father-in-law used to tell me that Politics is the bastard child born of Lies and Deceit. Now that our quinquennial opportunity will shortly arise for us to exercise our democratic choice, we need to think and analyse the options. For the one brief moment of glory in the voting booth we are the masters. Thereafter, we will relapse into powerless subjects of the people we have elected to have authority over us.

But how democratic is a process where, under the 'first past the post system', a government can be elected with a large majority in Parliament, while having only a minority of voters on its side?

We elect representatives and not delegates, which means that once they are elected, governments no longer feel it is necessary to heed the wishes of the people, but govern in the light of expediency.

This is particularly worrying in a situation like that in the UK or Israel, where there is no basic law or written constitution, nor any separation of powers as laid down by the US constitution. As a result parliament has no power to constrain the executive, except where there is a hung parliament with no clear majority for the government. In the more usual case, the government gets its own way – what might be called an elected dictatorship.

It would seem to me that there is a strong case for a revision of the UK's constitutional process in a number of different ways. First, by introducing proportional representation, but not of the kind that causes chaos in Israeli politics. The list system as used in Israel eliminates direct contact between voter and representative and also brings about a fragmentation of small groupings. What I propose is the single transferable vote whereby a voter lists his preferred candidates in order of preference, and that votes are transferred until a candidate has over 50% of the vote.

Then I would devolve power to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and reduce the excessive representation of these regions at Westminster.

I would also devise an elected second chamber to act as a serious revising power to the lower chamber of parliament. This chamber could be elected, perhaps as in the USA, with equal representation from each county or region, or

continued on page 14

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MARCH 1997

- | | | |
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| Monday | 3 | SONGS FROM MANY LANDS – Rev Dov Speier (Guitar) |
| Tuesday | 4 | AN HOUR IN VIENNA – Fenella Humphreys (Violin) & Carole Marnoch (Soprano) accompanied by Simon Mulligan (Piano) |
| Wednesday | 5 | THE GEOFFREY STRUM & HELEN BLAKE DUO |
| Thursday | 6 | HERE IS MUSIC YOU WILL REMEMBER – Anthony Hawgood & Arlene Coyle (Soprano) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano) |
| Sunday | 9 | DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT |
| Monday | 10 | THE NIGHTINGALE DUO – Stefani Pleasance (Soprano) accompanied by Sophie Russell (Piano) |
| Tuesday | 11 | MELODY HOUR – David Jedwab & Sylvia Dorff accompanied by Mable Witztum (Piano) |
| Wednesday | 12 | TWO VOICES & A PIANO – Eddy Simmons & Helen Blake |
| Thursday | 13 | TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC ENTERTAIN |
| Sunday | 16 | DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT |

- | | | |
|-----------|----|---|
| Monday | 17 | THE ABBEY DUO – Justin Brown (Baritone) accompanied by Amanda Palmer (Piano) |
| Tuesday | 18 | SHOWTIME AT THE AJR – Amanda Palmer (Soprano) accompanied by Andrew Wells (Piano) |
| Wednesday | 19 | DAY CENTRE OPEN – LUNCHEON CLUB |
| Thursday | 20 | A PRE-PURIM CONCERT – Pamela Kolirin (Soprano) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano) |
| Sunday | 23 | DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT |
| Monday | 24 | FOUR STRINGS PLUS PIANO AT PURIM-TIME – Lucy White & Juliet Davey (Violin & Piano) |
| Tuesday | 25 | SHOW-STOPPER AROUND PURIM-TIME – Nikki van der Zyl accompanied by Daphne Lewis (Piano) |
| Wednesday | 26 | MINI SPRING CONCERT – Samika Honda (Violin) accompanied by Naho Honda (Piano) |
| Thursday | 27 | PUTTING THE HEART BACK INTO JUDAISM – CHASSIDIC MUSIC & STORIES – Allison Freedman (Guitar & Voice) |
| Sunday | 30 | CLOSED – Easter Day |
| Monday | 31 | CLOSED – Easter Monday |

APRIL

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| Tuesday | 1 | A MUSICAL MEDLEY FOR PIANO & VOICE – Melanie Mehta (Soprano) accompanied by Martin Sharpe (Piano) |
| Wednesday | 2 | OPERA HIGHLIGHTS |
| Thursday | 3 | MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT FOR SPRING – Judi – Bimbi & Rufus Merrie-Frowde accompanied by June Moore (Piano) |

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deaths

Baruch. Marie Baruch, married name Mangeon. Born 13 December 1906 in Soldau; domiciled and died in Paris, 1st February 1997, after a long sad illness. Greatly missed by all who knew her. Helen.

Fleischmann. Hedwig Fleischmann died on January 11th, her 96th birthday. We miss Hedi, our family link. Gerda, Michael, Hanna, Elizabeth (nieces & nephew, London & USA) and caring friends.

Plautus. Ursula Plautus, born Bresslau, Germany, 21st September 1921, died 6th October 1996. Henry Plautus, born Vienna, Austria, 14th February 1921, died 17th December 1996. Ursula Plautus died with dignity, after a 20-month illness, at the Marie Curie Hospice in Hampstead. Following a four year illness, her husband Henry died at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, eleven weeks later; he could not live without his wife. Deeply mourned by their only son Steven, relatives and friends in the UK, Israel and America.

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Bathers at La Grenouilliere, Claude-Oscar Monet.

Alice Schwab

Art Notes

From March 12 to May 5 you can see London's Monets at the *National Gallery*. Over twenty paintings will span the artist's entire career, from *La Pointe de la Heve, Sainte-Adresse* of 1864, to the large *Water-Lilies* painted after 1916. There will be a series of free lunchtime lectures relating to the exhibition in the *Sainsbury Wing Theatre* as well as special evening lectures. A video featuring Monet's house and garden at Giverny as well as the works in the exhibition will be on show.

The *Ben Uri Art Gallery*, still at the old address, from March 18 to April 13 is hosting an exhibition and sale of contemporary prints by 40 artists from Haifa and London.

The *Shibata Gift of Arita Porcelain and Other Recent Acquisitions of Japanese Art* is being shown at the *British Museum* until April 20 in *Rooms 92/94 and 33b*. Also at the *British Museum* in *Room 90* until April 20 is an exhibition of modern Scandinavian prints by such artists as Anders Zorn, Edvard Munch and Asger Jorn.

The *Wolfson Gallery* of the *National Portrait Gallery* are staging an exhibition entitled 'In photography there are no unexplained shadows' from February 28 to June 8. August Sander, one of the greatest German photographers, recorded rural and urban society in Germany both before and after the First World War □

SB's Column

Salzburg. The city of Salzburg is devoting an exhibition to Stefan Zweig, the prominent author who lived there prior to his emigration. Zweig's vision of postwar Europe, reaction to Nazism, and views on Judaism are detailed in special sections of the exhibition which continues into March.

The *Berlin Cabaret Songs of the Twenties*, composed by the likes of Rudolf Nelson, Mischa Spoliansky and Friedrich Holländer were highlights of the Weimar years, only to be proscribed as 'Entartete Kunst'. After Marlene Dietrich and Lotte Lenya new interpreters of those songs were hard to find, but Ute Lemper has recently recorded two CDs (Decca) which reintroduce the atmosphere of 1920's Berlin, evoked by Christopher Isherwood in 'his' musical *Cabaret*.

An Evening of light music: tenor Harald

Serafin, ex-Vienna Volksoper, will talk about operetta at the *Austrian Cultural Institute* 28 Rutland Gate, London SW3 on March 20.

Zuckmayer honoured. The German postal authorities have issued a memorial stamp on the centenary of author and dramatist Carl Zuckmayer. An exhibition at Marbach highlights Zuckmayer's anti-authoritarian convictions famously demonstrated in his play *Hauptmann von Koenig* □

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS – MARCH 1997

- Sun 2 'St Joan' by Julia Pascal: Playreading & discussion with playwright & cast. Spiro Institute, 7.30pm, £5. Tel: 0171 431 0345
- Sun 2 A Thousand Years of Polish Synagogue Architecture: Prof. Anthony Travis. Jewish Museum, Camden Town, 2.30pm, £5
- Mon 3 The Visual Arts in Internment: Dr Klaus Hinrichsen, art historian. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 4 Archaeological Evidence of the Nazi Holocaust in the Ukraine: Prof. Richard Wright, University of Sydney, Australia. Wiener Library, 6.30pm, £3 (cons)
- Tue 4 Songs & Music for Everyone: Shirley Gurevitz entertains. JACS, 2pm
- Thur 6 Lunchtime Recital: Brian Fairfax, violin, & Jennifer Hillman, piano. Sternberg Centre, 1.15pm, £2
- Mon 10 Jewish Magic Bowls: Dan Levene of UCL Hebrew & Jewish Studies Dpt. elucidates. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 11 Buying & Selling Your Home: Vivienne Harris of 'Heathgate', Hampstead. JACS, 2pm
- Tue 11 Wagner & Antisemitism: Margaret Brearley, Sussex University, 5pm
- Wed 12 'In Extremis' - a new play on the Holocaust: Young Vic Theatre, The Cut, SE1, 7.15pm. Special AJR evening. Tel: 0171 431 6161 for bookings
- Wed 12 Some Reflections on Science & Psychotherapy: Prof. Sir Aaron Klug, President of the Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, SW1, 6.30pm, £3 (Friends of Wiener Library free) Tel: 0171 636 7247
- Thur 13 What Do We Tell Our Children?: Rabbi Dr Albert Friedlander. South London AJR, 2pm. Tel: 0181 852 0262
- Sun 16 '119 Bullets + Three': Film by Yeud Levanon on Israel's current dilemmas and extremist outrages followed

by discussion. Sternberg Centre, £8 (£6.50 cons), 7pm

- Sun 16 'Esther' by Lope de Vega: Playreading by Andrew Herskovits, Spiro Institute, 6pm, £5 (£3 cons.)
- Mon 17 Songs from the Synagogue: Chazan Avram Levin sings & plays Chazanut. Jewish Museum, Camden Town, 2.30pm, £5
- Mon 17 Berthold Goldschmidt 1903-96: The Man by David Maier. The Composer by Hans Seelig. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 18 Prof. Eric Moonman: A long experience of the National Health Service. JACS, 2pm
- Mon 24 Joseph Conrad, Geneva, 'Under Western Eyes': Dr Paul Kirschner. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 25 AGM, JACS at Belsize Square Synagogue, 2pm
- Wed 26 Schidlof Quartet & debut of pianist Lilya Zilberstein: Beethoven, Dvorak & Shostakovich. Wigmore Hall, 7.30pm. Tickets £6-£14. Box office: 0171 935 2141
- Mon 27 Lunchtime Recital: The Corinth Duo, Clare Langan, flute, & Rachel Davies, harp. Sternberg Centre, 1.15pm, £2
- Ongoing: Historic Synagogues of the World: Photographs by Neil Folberg. Jewish Museum, Camden Town until 27 March, Sun-Thurs 10am-4pm, £3
- Stanislaw Brunstein, Retrospective Exhibition: Sternberg Centre, 12 March to 25 April

ORGANISATION CONTACTS

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

Club '43, at Belsize Square Synagogue. Hans Seelig 01442 254 360

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

Jewish Museum, 129/131 Albert Street, Camden Town, NW1 7NB. Tel: 0171 284 1997, and at Sternberg Centre.

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

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

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

A paean to Poseners

Poznan (Provinz Posen), is a great and underrated centre of German Jewish culture. It was the home of rabbinic giants ranging from Akiva Eger through Judah Loeb, the Maharal of Prague of Golem fame, to Rabbi Leo Baeck. It also produced a long string of men who made outstanding contributions to the arts, science and the professions (including the previous editor of *AJR Information*).

Compared to Poznan, Frankfurt was a Johnny-come-lately on the German-Jewish cultural scene. The answer to the Frankfurt challenge "*Wie kann ein Jude nicht aus Frankfurt sein*", is quite simply "Because he is from Posen".

Like the Treitel dynasty, Theodor Treitel practised law in Berlin from before the First World War. In the inter-war years he was legal adviser to the German Social Democratic Party, and thus acquainted with the likes of Ernst Reuter and Kurt Schumacher who rebuilt that party after the war. He came to this country with his family in 1939.

His older son Kurt had to go to work, but later took up law as a mature student, and spent his legal career as a solicitor in the Treasury. The other, Günter, was still young enough to go to Kilburn Grammar School and from there to Magdalen College, Oxford. He became reader in law at All Souls and later Vinerian Professor of Law at Oxford. He is the author of the standard work on the English Law of Contract. 'Treitel on Contract' is recognised as the ultimate authority in its field. Now professor emeritus, a Knighthood was conferred on him in the New Year's Honours list.

To top it all Sir Günter's nephew, and Kurt's son, Jonathan Treitel is a rising star in the Anglo-Jewish literary firmament.

Other recipients of honours with refugee connections are Helen Bamber, founder of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture (OBE), and the industrialist Rolf Schild (OBE).

□ Rabbi William Wolff

Corrections: In *A disputatious community* on the back page of the February issue, 'great-grandfather' should have been printed as 'great-grandfather', 'Glückl' as 'Glückel', and 'Wandsee' as 'Wandse'.

Some unfamiliar family trees

In repeating itself history occurs first as tragedy and then as farce'. I was reminded of Marx's dictum when, soon after the so-called revelations about 'Hitler's Jewish soldiers' (see issue) the racist comedian Bernard Manning laid claim to a Jewish great-grandfather.

When I expressed a mixture of shock and surprise at the latter to a friend, her – absolutely serious – rejoinder was 'I think everybody had a Jewish grandmother'. At first I took this to be a joke, but she said it with such conviction that I politely changed the subject.

Later I rehearsed the counter-arguments I could have advanced. In none of the major countries – USA, Russia, Britain, Germany, France – did Jews ever exceed two per cent of the population; in fact, most of the time they hovered around one per cent mark. (Admittedly, in a few smaller East European countries – Hungary, Romania, Poland – their proportion varied between a twentieth and a tenth of the total before the Holocaust). Given this huge discrepancy in numbers, plus the once widespread Jewish taboo on intermarriage, I fail to see how everyone

could have had a Jewish grandmother.

Now, if my friend had said that *everybody who was anybody* was so blessed, she may have had a point. Didn't Roger Peyrefitt in his 1970s book *Les Juives* establish that many of the greats in European history – including even Charles de Gaulle and General Franco – had Jewish blood in their veins.

But joking aside, the assertion that many famous people had one Jewish grandparent can be substantiated by genealogical research in quite a few cases. Pride of place among the proven 25% Jews must go to two political giants of the early Twentieth century: V I Lenin (whose other grandparents were Russian, Kirghiz and German) and Kemal Pasha, whose grandmother was a *Dömmei*. (The latter sect descend from followers of Shabbatai Zevi, i.e. from Jewish would-be converts rejected by Islam).

In Germany prominent *Vierteljuden* included the Stahlhelm leader Düsterberg, the writer Erich Kästner, and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Austria boasted two culture heroes – Hugo von Hofmannsthal and Ludwig Wittgenstein – of similar ethnic provenance. (Actually Wittgenstein had three Jewish grandparents, but only admitted to one – a white lie of which he subsequently declared himself ashamed).

The British contingent of quarter-Jews includes Edwina, Lady Mountbatten, the writer Muriel Spark, the senior Labour MPs Jack Straw and Peter Mandelson, as well as the society celebrity Jemima Goldsmith. The fact that Jemima married the Pakistani cricketer-turned politician Imran Khan enabled the latter's political rivals to vilify him as a pawn in a Jewish conspiracy to take over the country. (Shades of the Nazis dubbing Churchill *jüdisch versippt* because his daughter was Vic Oliver's wife).

But things have radically changed since those days – at least in the West. Jack Straw revealed his Jewish grandmother as an alibi during his attack on the Jewish immigrant-descended Michael Howard's hostility towards asylum seekers. In a recent speech lifting the 500 year-old ban on Jewish settlement, the Portuguese President described himself as of part-Jewish ancestry. Several Spaniards of my personal acquaintance have actually asserted the same about themselves.

On second thoughts I was wrong to avoid a frank exchange of views about my friend's statement. What I should have told her was this: 'If you want to make friends and influence people, don't set foot in Pakistan – but cross the Pyrenees instead.'

□ Richard Grunberger

Origins

Identity is a matter of particular concern to people of mixed descent, according to Emma Klein, author of *Lost Jews, The Struggle for Identity Today* (Macmillan £12.99). In an address to the Hampstead Branch of the Council of Christians and Jews, she suggested that many people who were no longer Jews, by any accepted definition, were nonetheless keen to investigate and rediscover their Jewish ancestry.

If there was a trend among children born and brought up in two faiths, such as Judaism and Christianity, they tended to adopt a radical, secular Jewish identity. The Jewish-born singer Helen Shapiro had, however, adopted so-called 'Messianic Judaism' with its belief in Jesus as the Messiah in tandem with fasting on Yom Kippur!

Among those whose ancestral origins Emma Klein had researched was Zaccaria Levy, an Orthodox Jew who married a member of the Montefiore family in 1896 and died in 1928. Although his brother's

descendants retained the name of Levy together with their Judaism, none of Zaccaria's eleven children remained Jewish. The family changed its surname to Laurence, and Commander Timothy Laurence, husband of Princess Anne, is a direct descendant.

In contrast, Colonel Albert Goldsmid rediscovered his Jewish origins and returned to the faith sixty years after his great-grandmother and her seven children had converted to Christianity. Goldsmid, a contemporary of Herzl, had Zionist sympathies and is believed to have served as the model for George Eliot's *Daniel Deronda*.

Stuart Steven (born Stephen Cohen), former editor of the *Mail on Sunday* and *London Evening Standard*, is widely regarded as being Jewish. In fact he had a Catholic mother and went to a Catholic school, yet his Jewishness forms an important part of his personality as does his support of Israel as a journalist.

Many Kindertransport children were absorbed into their adopted families as Christians and often preferred not to

'rock the boat' by pursuing their Jewish origins. As far as the Nazis were concerned, even Jewish converts to Christianity were Jews and were to be treated as such.

With increased 'overlapping' between faiths, it is not surprising that many people are rediscovering their Jewish heritage and that some return to the practice of their ancient Jewish faith.

□ Ronald Channing

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Cooking with Gretel Beer



Baked fish with wild mushrooms

Serves 4 - 6

Hungarian Fogas (pike/perch) is the best fish for this dish, but failing that, any firm-fleshed white fish can be used. If you cannot get wild mushrooms, use button mushrooms or about 1½oz dried mushrooms, but in the latter case soak them in warm water first and strain the liquid into the fish stock.

1 large pike or perch weighing approximately 3½lb (1½kg) (or other firm-fleshed white fish) or equivalent in smaller fish

salt and peppercorns
teaspoon paprika
3 oz (85g) butter
1 tablespoon flour
4 oz (110g) finely sliced onions
9 fl.oz (250ml) sour cream
9 oz (250g) wild mushrooms
butter for the dish
1 tablespoon finely chopped green pepper or parsley

Pre-heat oven to Gas mark 5, 375°F, 190°C. Clean, fillet and skin the fish. Put skin and bones into a saucepan, cover with water, add salt and a few peppercorns. Bring to the boil, then simmer gently for half an hour. Rinse the fillets, pat dry with kitchen paper and sprinkle with salt. Put the fillets into a buttered ovenproof dish.

Melt the butter in a pan, add onion and cook until soft without browning. Add sliced mushrooms. Simmer over low flame until the mushrooms are cooked, add paprika and strain in about a cupful of the fish stock. Slake flour with sour cream, add to the pan and heat thoroughly. Season with just a little salt and pour the mixture over the fish fillets. Bake for about 30 minutes. Garnish with finely chopped green pepper or parsley before serving □

SEARCH NOTICES

Fritz Landauer, Munich architect and designer, lived and worked in London from 1933 until his death in 1968. Would anyone who remembers Landauer or his work please communicate with Mrs Agnes M Schilling, Graf-von-Seysselt-Str. 16, D-86199 Augsburg, Germany, who is planning an exhibition of his work.

Frankfurt 1939. I would like to contact anyone who received a visa in 1939 from my grandfather, RT Smallbones, British Consul-General, Frankfurt. Sandra Wellington, Caixa Postal 81, Canarana - MT, 78640-000 Brazil. Fax: 00-5565-478-1855.

Renée & Herta Chomed are sought by an old friend of Swiss days, 1951, Geneva. Rosemarie is now Rosemarie Fox residing at 142 Chemin de l'Anse, Rigaud, Québec, Canada J0P 1P0. Tel: 514-451-0892.

Hertha Pilchick, probably living in London area, is being sought by her brother Frederick Torch (formerly S Thorsch). From Angern near Vienna, after

the Anschluss Hertha escaped to England and worked as a domestic. In the 1960s her husband was employed by the (German) Jewish Refugee Committee in Bloomsbury. Please contact at The Beacons, 3a Montpelier, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset BS23 2RQ. Tel: 01934 625 847.

Judith Lowe (married name unknown), daughter of the late Ruth and Micky Lowe and granddaughter of Frau Dreifuss who lived in Melrose Avenue, Willesden. Sala Freilich wishes to give Judith her parents' wedding and other family photographs. Please write to 105 Ashford Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 3TP. Tel: 01323 726 610 □

No tax on Article 2

The Inland revenue has confirmed that payments made to UK residents from the Claims Conference Hardship Fund set up under Article 2 of the *Staatsvertrag* are not chargeable to income tax in the UK □

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AJR MEALS ON WHEELS

If you live in North or North West London and wish to take advantage of this service, phone Susie Kaufman on 0171-328 0208 for details and an assessment interview.

continued from page 9

it might consist of privy councillors. In any case it should have a different life cycle from the other house.

Most important of all, I would introduce a written constitution, whose implementation would be guarded by an independent judiciary, and with provision for referenda on major constitutional issues.

We might then feel we are really living in a modern democracy. □ Ernest David

Obituary

Dr Fritz Engel

Vienna-born Dr Fritz Engel, the profilee in our December issue, passed away in his hundredth year. His autobiographical manuscript *A Chain of Events* describes his 'Matura' trip to Bournemouth in 1913 with three classmates from Vienna, his service on the Russian front in the first war, life as a dental surgeon in pre-war Vienna, and the surprising chain of events which allowed him to come to England in April 1938.

In Bournemouth he worked again as a dental surgeon for twenty-five years. *A Chain of Events* also refers to his friendship with international conductors from Central Europe who came to conduct the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, and his chance reunion with the author Shalom Asch. In retirement he manufactured and marketed the Interspace toothbrush, which is still widely used in UK and abroad.

He is survived by his wife, son and daughter □

Fragmented song

Sometimes when I am out walking
Words of half forgotten songs
Float to the surface of my mind;
The other day as I stood gazing
Upon the spread-out bulk of London
From the Kenwood viewing platform
I idly felt myself intoning
My dear old mom was Viennese
That's why I love Vienna so

The words came to me all unbidden
Because I am a hybrid creature -
A type unknown to obstetricians -
With umbilical cord still lying
Unsevered in a phantom city
Where I formed my first word ('mama!')
Threw noisy tantrums outside toyshops
Crept to school with knotted stomach
And traded jokes in ping-pong halls

Adult, I walked the eggshell route -
Past villas and quaint village taverns
Where revellers snug in loden jackets
Sat quaffing this year's sour vintage -
Up to another viewing platform
Situated on the Leopoldsberg,
A hill named for the Habsburg ruler
Who confined Viennese Jewry
To the stagnant Danube marshes
Without earshot of St. Stephen's bells

Adding value

People have sometimes said to me, "If I do not require your assistance in any way and am too young to go to your Day Centre, what has the AJR to offer me beyond a monthly journal?"

It is true that beyond the comfort of belonging to an association of people from a common background, and assistance and advice on social welfare, pensions, etc., the AJR has provided a limited number of other services. Recently, however, groups have been launched in South London, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds with the aim of organising events, both meetings and outings, for regional members.

AJR ADDED VALUE EVENTS

March	12	'In Extremis', Young Vic Theatre
May	14	Madeleine Brook Bridge Event, 15 Cleve Road, NW6
June	1	Visit to Beth Shalom, Notts.
June	20-22	Weekend in Bournemouth *Visit to House of Lords *Wine Tasting
Sept	21	Melvyn Tan, Queen Elizabeth Hall *to be arranged

At the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre we have inaugurated a monthly Luncheon Club, meeting on the third Wednesday in the month, and are launching the Madeleine Brook Bridge Events which will take place two or three times a year.

AJR appreciated the need to 'add value' to membership in London and, as a consequence, set up an Events Committee whose members, Bea Green, Peter Dannenberg and David Jedwab, have devised a series of activities for those who enjoy organised outings.

Although some outings are not due to take place until June, we need to start taking reservations now in order to proceed with coach and hotel bookings. Please let us have your booking forms and

Times changed. The marsh was drained
A townscape formed. The Leopoldstadt
Drew Jews as filings to a magnet
From the remotest rural hamlet
Under the fluttering Double Eagle
Among them Freud, and my own grandpa,
Which is the reason why, when mumbling
My dear old mom was Viennese
I gag upon the second line

□ Richard Grunberger

payments by 21 March at the latest.

We hope that in addition to our regular supporters, those members who have not yet participated in AJR activities will now take the opportunity to do so, but please note that these outings are suitable only for people who are fully mobile.

Booking forms for AJR's visit to Beth Shalom and Bournemouth Weekend are enclosed with this issue.

□ Ernest David, Director

Former President of the Magic Circle David Berglas will be the AJR's special guest speaker at Bournemouth on both Friday and Saturday afternoons - adding a little of his magic. Though formally retired, with his exceptional memory and exciting life, David will prove a fascinating raconteur.

BRIDGE PLAYERS!

Start with excellent food and continue the evening playing rubber bridge by supporting the first

Madeleine Brook Bridge Evening

Wednesday 14 May

15 Cleve Road, London NW6

Supper 6.30pm Bridge 7.30-10.30pm

Bring a partner, or better still, make up a table

Tickets (£14) must be purchased in advance

Call Sylvia, Renée & Susie: 0171 328 0208

50 YEARS AGO

HUNGARY'S JEWS

Two heroes of the Nazi occupation of Hungary, a Swiss and a Swede, worked with the Joint Distribution Committee to save the lives of Hungarian Jews trapped in the Nazi web.

The Swiss, Saly Mayer, was the JDC's chief agent in Europe. Mayer met for months with Nazi Gestapo men on a bridge spanning the river between Austria and Switzerland and bargained with them for lives. The Germans halted their deportation plans while Mayer negotiated and stalled for time.

Raoul Wallenberg was attached to the Swedish legation in Budapest. He negotiated with Szalasy, leader of the Nazi Arrow Cross in Hungary and succeeded in obtaining 1,000 protection passports issued by Sweden to Hungarian Jews who had family or business connections with neutral Sweden. He signed a total of 5,000 of these passports in King Gustav's name.

Wallenberg helped Jews escape, receive medicines, food, clothing, and negotiated in the face of threats.

Maurice Pearlman

AJR Information, March 1947

NEWSROUND

Looted art

Prime Minister Alain Juppé has announced the formation of a French government commission to identify and locate property and works of art stolen from Jews between 1940 and 1944 by the Nazis and the collaborationist Vichy régime. There are 1,963 paintings by such artists as Monet, Renoir, Gauguin, Sisley and Courbet already known to be held in state museums.

Envoy's resignation

Swiss Ambassador to Washington Carlo Jagmetti resigned following the publication of his confidential report advocating 'war' against Jewish groups in America seeking redress for stolen assets deposited in Switzerland by Nazi Germany.

Hero's return

Polish resistance fighter Jan Karski, at the age of 82, returned to Germany for the first time since World War II on the 55th anniversary of the notorious Wannsee conference in Berlin. In 1942 Karski travelled secretly to London and Washington as an eye-witness of the Warsaw Ghetto atrocities and Nazi genocide of the Jews, but his reports were given no credence.

Schoenberg archive

An archive of the works of composer Arnold Schoenberg is planned for Vienna. He fled the Nazis in 1933 and settled in the USA where he died in 1951.

Devalued gold

The Foreign Office has admitted inadvertently reporting an inflated value for stolen Nazi gold held in Swiss banks at the end of World War II. The figure should have been 500 million Swiss francs (worth £1 billion at today's prices) and not \$500 million (£4.6 billion). The Swiss handed half of this to the Allies after the war and half was retained.

Case closed

The trial in London of Szymon Serafinowicz, 86-year-old former police commander of Mir in Belarus, was stopped when the jury decided on medical advice that he was mentally unfit to plead. The court had been told that Serafinowicz joined the Nazi police within days of the German occupation in 1941 and personally took part in massacring the area's 3,000 Jews.

□ RDC

A disputatious community**Jews in Hamburg from the 1580s to 1850 (Part 2)**

Let me mention some chief rabbis of particular interest. There was Chacham Zwi Ashkenazi (1660-1718), born in Moravia, whose sharp mind put him among the great rabbis. He went to Berlin and on to Altona, where he married Sara, daughter of the Chief Rabbi there, Salman Fränkel (1624-1706), a brother of my great-grandfather Benjamin Fränkel; he had come from Vienna in 1671 at the time of the expulsion of the Jews by Emperor Leopold I. Rabbi Zwi Ashkenazi taught in Altona for many years and in 1707, on the death of his father-in-law, was made Chief Rabbi of the triple community AHW jointly with Rabbi Süsskind Rothenberg. In 1709 the two quarrelled over a chicken heart: Rabbi Chacham Zwi decided that a chicken that was found to have no heart was kosher; during the slaughter the heart must have been lost or overlooked. Rabbi Süsskind Rothenberg considered the chicken trefa. This became a cause célèbre in rabbinic literature and was still quoted recently in connection with heart transplants. However, it caused Chacham Zwi to leave Altona for Amsterdam, where he was rabbi for a time, but then quarrelled with the Sabbatarians there and went to London. From there he went to Lemberg where he ended his days. Rabbi Zwi's son Jacob Emden (1697-1776) showed much promise in his youth; he went to Emden as rabbi for three years (1729-32) before returning to Altona as a private scholar. At first he had good relations with his father's successor, Rabbi Jecheskel ben Abraham Katzenellenbogen (1668-1749), but then they fell out over a halachic question, whether a childless widow can remarry without chalitza if her husband's brother has converted. Katzenellenbogen in 1739 said 'yes', contradicted by Emden, who then went on to accuse him of ignorance, bribery, drunkenness and gluttony. It has been suggested that Emden was venting his disappointment at not being chosen as Chief Rabbi; but this was merely a preamble to his quarrel with Katzenellenbogen's successor, the so-called amulet dispute (Amulettenstreit).

This successor was to be Rabbi Jonathan Eybeschütz (1690-1764). His

father Rabbi Nathan had been rabbi in Eybeschütz; he himself had made deep study of the Kabbalah and became rabbi in Prague and later in Metz. At one point he was accused of being a Sabbatarian (follower of Sabbatai Zwi, the false messiah), but was cleared. In 1750 he was appointed Chief Rabbi in AHW. As a Kabbalah student he would give out amulets to sick people, especially expectant mothers. Then a woman died holding such an amulet in her hand, and since he was not fully trusted, the amulet was opened and the text was found to contain allusions to Sabbatai Zwi. Rabbi Emden, as a private citizen, saw it as his duty to raise accusations against him. The quarrel spread far and wide; Kabbalah experts in Eastern Europe were on the side of Eybeschütz and put a ban on his opponents; the rabbis in Germany stood behind Emden and again called Eybeschütz before a rabbinical court, but the latter refused to appear. Now the Danish King, Frederik V, and the Hamburg Senate entered the dispute (on Emden's side) and it continued to rage until Eybeschütz's death in 1764.

The quarrel left the community feeling insecure and turning to modernisation of its ritual. This produced different tensions, further exacerbated by the separation of the three communities in 1812, after Hamburg had been briefly under French rule. It led to the foundation of a separate *Tempelverein*, a liberal community. Each part had its own school, which was intended to give secular instruction as well as religious knowledge. The Talmud Torah School of the orthodox community took the unusual step of employing Christians to teach subjects like German language and grammar.

By 1850 the general emancipation made letters of protection a thing of the past. The civil authorities now permitted intermarriage and hereafter living conditions improved. □ Paul M Cohn

Making a Will?**Please remember the AJR**

Though we cannot take our worldly possessions with us, we can see that whatever is left behind goes where it will be appreciated, do some good and is needed.

Many former refugees have found their association with the AJR a rewarding one.

This is an opportunity to support the AJR Charitable Trust.