

AJR *Information*

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March 1998

£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss . . .

Naustalgia

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Anniversary**

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**The news
from Vilnius**

History records that nationalists of many countries tried to benefit from WWII. In Western Europe Irish extremists like William Joyce ('Lord Haw-Haw') threw in their lot with the Nazis. In SW Asia Burmese 'freedom fighters' collaborated with the Japanese. In Eastern Europe many Balts allied with the genocidal Beelzebub Hitler to drive out Satan Stalin.

A Lithuanian of that ilk, Valdas Adamkus, fled westwards during the Soviet advance of 1944. After a near half-century in the USA he returned to his country, which recently elected him President. The fact that he was only twenty when he enrolled as a Nazi cannot whitewash him entirely. Eastern Europe's fledgling democracies need better role models than this □

Reflections on Austrian events pre- and post-1938

A diamond-turned-to-ashes anniversary

By accident or design the publication of Reinhard Spitzzy's *How we squandered the Reich* (Michael Russell) coincides with the 60th anniversary of the Anschluss. Spitzzy will be remembered as one of the apple-cheeked octogenarians who avowed enduring attachment to Hitler in the BBC2 series *The Nazis, A Warning from History* last autumn.

Although his book is mendacious, the lies it peddles appeared as self-evident truths to many interwar Austrians.

Spitzzy presents the reduction of defeated Austria to its post-WWI frontiers as a 'mutilation' that made all patriotic inhabitants yearn for fusion with Germany. In fact, truncated Austria had a population larger than three out of the four Scandinavian countries, all the Baltic states, or Switzerland.

(Today, after the break-up of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, it actually 'dwarfs' fifteen (!) European countries). Moreover, despite its diminished territory, it has for decades been an enviably prosperous *Insel der Seeligen* (Island of the Blessed) lapped by turbulent tides from the East.

No, the roots of the Austrian malaise are not to be sought in the country's size, but its poisonous politics.

Bloodshed between Left and Right had claimed hundreds of lives in 1927 and February 1934, even before Spitzzy's co-conspirators murdered Chancellor Dollfuss in July 1934.

The fugitive Spitzzy's reward for participation in the bloodshed was personal acquaintance with Hitler. In describing the Fuehrer as a Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde figure, Spitzzy makes him appear positively Faustian – almost with the speech bubble '*zwei Seelen wohnen, ach, in meiner Brust*' (two souls dwell, alas, in my breast) issuing from the moustachioed mouth.

The quote from Goethe brings us to a consideration of Austrian culture *per se*. Is it too fanciful to read a deeper significance into the fact that (probably) no other country produced such a proportion of famous suicides: the novelists von Saar, Stifter, Stefan Zweig; the playwright Raimund; the physicist Boltzmann, the architect van der Null, the philoso-

pher Weininger? Equally great, or greater, talents – Mahler, Wittgenstein, Hofmannsthal, Schnitzler – experienced the suicide of close relatives.

In March 1938 nearly all Austrians committed cultural (in the widest sense) suicide – only they didn't see it in those terms. What, after all, was the country's loss – Freud, von Hayek, Popper, Gombrich – compared to its share of booty from Jews and occupied Europe?

But it wasn't 'simple' greed that fuelled the Austrians' post-Anschluss euphoria – blood lust also played a part. The mixed race Empire, whose loss Spitzzy bemoans, bred a predisposition towards ethnic warfare, and Austrian 'ethnic cleansers' – Kaltenbrunner, Eichmann, Globocnik, Stangl, Wisliceny, Brunner – were disproportionately represented among the perpetrators of the *Schoab*.

What else remains to be said on the sixtieth anniversary of the Anschluss? Only this: enlightened rulers from Josef II to Franz Josef created the preconditions for an Austro-Jewish efflorescence whose brilliance shed lustre on all concerned. In 1938 the light went out, dimming the lustre for ever □



Life and Times of N M Rothschild, 1777-1836, bicentenary exhibition at the Museum of London. (See page 5)

Profile

A link in the chain

I was tempted to caption this profile 'Janus-faced Jedwab' because, in ten years profiling, I had never met a subject who so reminded me of the Roman deity that simultaneously looks to the past and to the future.

David has enormous reverence for his forebears – particularly for his cantor grandfather, a Polish immigrant to Berlin. 'Opapa' he would ask after the latter's tearful rendition of *Unetane Kotef* on Yom Kippur 'why do you cry so much?' – to be informed that the sincerity of the prayer was judged by the pool of tears around the chazan's feet.

When David was twelve his father and grandfather were deported to Poland. Barely thirteen, he came to England on a Kindertransport. Here his early years were full of incident. Evacuated to the countryside at the outbreak of war, he returned to London in time for the Blitz, and was promptly bombed out. Next he went on *bachsharab*, i.e. undertook agricultural training with a view to emigrating to Palestine. When the call-up threatened to disrupt the cohesion of the *bachsharab* group, they collectively vol-

unteered to work in coalmining as Bevin Boys.

Postwar he helped rehabilitate young Holocaust survivors under the auspices of



David Jedwab

ORT, later switching to a trade paper connected with agricultural engineering.

Subsequently he changed tack and went into business. He advanced via a firm trading with S America, and a mer-

chant banking house to become director of his own export company (and a Fellow of the Institute of Directors).

He married a 'wonderful Sephardi girl' and fathered three children who, he proudly informed me, are rising to the top of their profession.

David's Janus quality surfaces when he points out that from the balcony of his son's lakeside apartment in Switzerland one can discern the outlines of Evian – venue of the tragically abortive conference on Refugees convened by President Roosevelt in 1938.

This is a typical example of how David brought up his children to be profoundly aware of their bitter-sweet Jewish inheritance. At the same time he himself harbours ambivalent feelings about the Jewish homeland. Regret at not having taken part in the building of Israel mingles with apprehension of religious and nationalist extremism he sees growing in that country.

But such worries do not diminish his zest for communal work. An AJR and ROK activist, he also acts as Concerts Manager for the Apollo Male Choir, who give up to fifteen concerts annually for charity.

□ RG

Refugees in France

Summary of a
Wiener Library lecture
given by Prof. Vicky Caron

Thanks to its traditionally liberal immigration policy, by the summer of 1933 France had absorbed some 25,000 refugees from Germany. From then on, against a background of industrial depression and unemployment reaching a million, between 1933 and 1935 the French Government increasingly used anti-immigrant rhetoric and initiated the expulsion and repatriation of foreigners en masse – not just Jews. As most refugees had no work permits they were easily subject to expulsion.

Jews were, however, singled out for especially discriminatory treatment and their rights progressively whittled away: attempts were made to get Jews to leave

France and to stop Germany expelling Jews into France. Paradoxically – with the exception of the Jews – France remained the premier destination for refugees until the end of 1937.

Middle-class professional groups demonstrated against Jewish competition, with lawyers and doctors leading the xenophobes. There were antisemitic outbreaks, while for the first time newly naturalised citizens had their rights proscribed. Political factions were linked to the appeasement policies of the French Government; Jews became associated with the communists and stigmatised as trying to drag France into war.

Léon Blum's Popular Front Government of 1936 provided temporary alleviation; its more humane policies included a partial amnesty for non-East European refugees and the possibility of settling refugees in the French colonies. East Europeans continued to be encouraged to settle in France's underdeveloped South

West region.

Following the assassination of vom Rath in the German Embassy in Paris on 7th November 1938, France tightened its border restrictions. Foreign Minister Georges Bonnet blamed Jews and communists for the threat of war – but not Germany! – and forged ahead with the signing of an accord with Germany in Paris. There were also charges of Jewish warmongering.

After the defeat of France in 1940 (for which Jews again received the blame), one of the first acts of the Vichy Government was to strip 'foreigners' – 40% of whom were Jews – of their French citizenship, followed by statutes ousting Jews from the professions.

Though refugee policies in the 1930s fluctuated between the more and the less restrictive, by 1940 anti-Jewish policy had become quite pervasive. This sealed the fate of French Jewry, one fifth of whom perished in the Holocaust

□ Ronald Channing

Naustalgia

Have you heard about the Austrian refugee who strode through Central Park, New York, in mountain boots, with opera glasses held the wrong way round, clamped to his eyes? Asked why he didn't hold them the right way up, he replied: 'Looked at in this fashion the hillocks and ponds of Central Park resemble the mountains and lakes of the Salzkammergut'.

Nostalgia takes many forms. A couple of my acquaintance called their newly built house in a Midlands town *Vindobona* (the name the Romans had given Vienna). Other acquaintances sport a wooden garden gate bearing the carved legend 'Mei Ruab' wüll i hobn' – a folkloristic misspelling more appropriate to the Tyrol than to Hampstead Garden Suburb.

As to the misspelling in my title, it conflates nausea and nostalgia into a word that sums up my reaction to any mention of Austria. Yet who can erase childhood and early adolescence from their consciousness?

I even retain ante-natal memories of the Habsburgs. When British journalists filed endless stories about Princess Diana – the loveless marriage, the eating disorders, the compulsive travelling – I berated them inwardly for not drawing the obvious parallel with Empress Elisabeth. This beautiful, unhappy royal prefigured Princess Di in all essentials. Marriage to Franz Joseph had led to appetite loss; though anorexic, she 'worked out' in her private gym at the Hofburg; restlessness prompted constant travel, till an anarchist stabbed her on a bridge in Geneva – a senseless death on a par with that of the Princess of Wales in a Paris underpass.

An Austrian parallel likewise suggested itself last year, when the writer Graham Swift was accused of having plagiarised the work of William Faulkner in his Booker Prize winning novel *Last Orders*.

The parallel was with Ralph Benatzky, a minor 'operetta King', who composed most of *The White Horse Inn*. Several years later it was discovered that some of Benatzky's compositions had not been entirely original. This gave rise to such variations on the composer's name as Ralph Ben-Akiba (after the rabbi who said 'There's nothing new under the sun') and Ralph Benutzsie.

There was even an Austrian parallel to

the news story that broke on New Year's Day: the decision of the loyalists in the Maze prison to call off the ceasefire. When reading about the hotel-like conditions in the Maze, I was instantly reminded of Wöllersdorf, the detention camp for Austrian Nazi terrorists in the 1930s. The lax regime inside the Maze, which enabled jailed inmates to issue murder instructions to their henchmen outside, replicates the feebleness of Schuschnigg's security measures. At Wöllersdorf, ran a contemporary joke, 'the inmates have stopped beating up the warders. Hooray!'

It was the last hooray. What followed – for me at least – were sixty years of naustalgia.

□ Richard Grunberger

Solomon's children

It was April 1948 and 148 Jewish children and youngsters, survivors of the horrors of the Holocaust, left Bratislava and Prague by train and then by ferry for England. They were led by the legendary Rabbi Dr Solomon Schonfeld, the very last group he brought to freedom in the West before the Iron Curtain descended over Eastern Europe.

On reaching London they were able to celebrate Pesach, the festival of freedom, before moving on either to Clonwyn Castle or Dublin.

In the intervening half century the group's members have scattered across the globe, lost touch with one another and have never yet met together again. A number of the children have now formed a 'Rabbi Dr Solomon Schonfeld's Children's Transport Jubilee Reunion Committee' and are aiming to come together once more, to share memories and to exchange news. They also wish to recall Rabbi Schonfeld and pay due respect to his memory.

The reunion is planned to take place between 23rd and 26th April this year in London, with Shabbat spent in Bournemouth, and every single one of the children is being sought and invited to attend. To learn more, contact Issy Reich, 4 The Approach, London NW4 2HV. Tel: 0181 202 9784 Fax: 0181 203 8694. Please let him know if you wish to participate or if you know of someone who was among those 148 bewildered and lonely children given renewed hope and a new life.

□ RDC

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Reviews

Poisoned minds

Charles T Powers, *IN THE MEMORY OF THE FOREST*, Anchor, 1997, £9.99

This is an undoubted masterpiece. Its author was a Polish-descended American journalist, working in Warsaw, who spent the last five years of his life on this novel.

He thus writes both as an outsider and an insider – in which respect the book bears comparison with Zola's *Germinal*. At its centre is the quasi-Dostoyevskyan device of a murder. The misdeed actually involves Russian contraband smugglers. Immeasurably worse crimes committed during World War Two and especially the Holocaust hover broodingly over the story.

The war is an unpleasant memory; the Holocaust, at best, a much disputed myth among the inhabitants of the big village of Jadowia between Warsaw and Cracow, surrounded by one of the last great forests. The time is the 'reign' of Lech Walesa, when everything is in a kind of oozing turmoil. Author Powers provides the overview, but uses a young farmer,

Leszek Maleszewski, to narrate the first-person worm's eye view.

The 'minor' crime is the brutal murder of Tomek Powierza in the forest, which set his father on an unrelenting quest for the killers. Though Leszek is fully occupied running a sizeable farm, he joins his neighbour in this search. Suspicion focuses on the apparatchiks of the dissolving Communist regime. In Jadowia they are represented by one clever operator who is trying to make his transition to the new order, and a *sblemiehl* looking for a small business to make a living. They are harried by a young priest who, with Catholic zeal, wants to sweep them out of the way.

The major crime is, of course, the Holocaust. But the villagers have their own peculiar attitude to the disappearance of the sizeable community of Jewish tailors, cobblers and shopkeepers in whose houses many of them now live. They do not admit even to themselves that these fellow-citizens were killed. On the contrary, fear that they may return and reclaim what was theirs is a neurotic worry for the whole community. Anti-semitism is unabated and evinces itself in casual abusive expressions and feverish searches for "Jewish gold" which, it is

stubbornly believed, is hidden in houses, a vandalised cemetery, the forest.

A further mystery is what goes on in a distillery which supplies the populace with ample amounts of eagerly-imbibed vodka. There are also mysterious rumours about a Jew, or perhaps Jews, who have survived somewhere in disguise.

The light emanating from two upright men pierces this general gloom. One is Leszek, who is made privy to the solution of the mysteries by his grandfather, a dour, silent figure who helps to maintain the farm after the untimely death of Leszek's father. Grandpa Maleszewski was once Polish Home Army Captain Maleszewski, and as such organised the escape of several Jewish families, while at the same time trying to hit the Germans. He half-failed in both, but saved a Jewish boy and placed him in hiding with a widow who taught the child to pray to the Virgin Mary and to curse the Jews.

The second positive character is the parish priest, Father Tadeusz, a born scholar who seeks the truth and strives to reconcile his flock at least with the dead Jews. Alas, he stirs up local hostility and retires to an ivory tower of learning.

□ John Rossall

Fidelio in wartime France

LUCIE AUBRAC, Director Claude Berri. On general release.

The subject of the French Resistance still arouses controversy. Was it a propaganda construct designed to give de Gaulle greater leverage – or did it really affect the course of the war in the West?

The truth probably lies somewhere in between. Wartime France was not only occupied, but part-paralysed by the clash between the collaborationist heirs of the anti-Dreyfusards and the *résistants*. Unfortunately the resistance, too, was hamstrung by internal dissension. A crucial 'unity' meeting at Lyon in 1943 was raided by the Gestapo – who had been tipped off – and this had disastrous consequences.

The so-called Jean Moulin *affaire* opened a can of worms it took decades to reseal. (Only ten years ago Klaus Barbie's defence attorney threatened to reveal secrets discrediting the Resistance – though

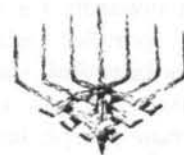
in the event he failed to deliver).

But within the crippling overall effect of the Gestapo raid the *résistants* scored a minor triumph by springing one of their captured leaders – who happened to be a Jew – from death row in the SS-guarded prison. This audacious plot owed everything to the courage and resourcefulness of the prisoner's non-Jewish wife.

If ever there was a case of life imitating art it occurred in Lyon in 1943 when Lucie Samuel, re-enacting the story of *Fidelio*, snatched her husband back to freedom.

Lucie Aubrac – the resistance nom-de-plume of Lucie Samuel – is a beautifully crafted film opening a window into wartime France and the difficulties that beset the Resistance. One of its incidental merits is the depiction of Jews as participants in the fight against the occupiers at every level. Nor does the film fall into the trap of presenting every single German in uniform as a murderous automaton, for all that Klaus Barbie emerges as a psychopathic monster of deepest dye.

□ RG

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Heine in England

Heine is usually seen in the contrasting context of Germany and France – with Germany as his simultaneously loved and hated birthplace and France as his spiritual (and, later, actual) home.

But a third country, England, should not be left out of account. Heine owed his original forename Harry to his cloth merchant father's, and banker uncle's, close business connections with England. He also owed an artistic debt of gratitude to Sir Walter Scott, whose historicising romanticism imbued much of his own work.

On the other hand England had, in Heine's eyes, sinned against the light by consigning Napoleon to a living death on St Helena. (The poet's Napoleon worship stemmed from his boyhood experience

of the French liberation of Rhineland Jews from the ghetto).

In addition Heine subscribed to the widespread continental view of England as bereft of music and art.

It was thus with mixed feelings that he set out across the Channel in 1827 – and what he saw here in the course of his stay did not materially affect his ambivalent attitude to this country. As the birthplace of the still ongoing Industrial Revolution England teemed with slums, whose squalor the outraged visitor contrasted with the blatant luxury of the rich.

But if the social situation appalled him, the political scene at Westminster – in fact, the very existence of the Westminster Parliament – represented a form of freedom unknown in contemporary Germany. That did not necessarily make British politicians paragons of virtue in Heine's eyes; in fact, he execrated For-

eign Secretary Castlereagh (target of Byron's quip 'I met murder on the way/ He had a face like Castlereagh'). Heine's great hero was George Canning, who sympathised with liberal and nationalist aspirations.

Alas, Canning died in the year of Heine's visit, and his successor, the Duke of Wellington, aroused the poet's twofold ire – both as an arch-Tory and conqueror of Napoleon.

Thus the picture of England Heine took away with him was one of intermingled light and shade. In contrast, the impression the English ultimately formed of his work was overwhelmingly positive. Acclaimed by Matthew Arnold and George Eliot, it was even listed by A E Housman as an inspiration behind his famous *Shropshire Lad* cycle of poems. □ RG

The above is our belated contribution to last December's bicentenary of the poet's birth.

Mendelssohn anniversary

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, one of the most celebrated composers and conductors of his time, displayed a natural lack of inhibition, coupled with rare modesty, throughout his life. Queen Victoria was deeply impressed with his charm and musicianship when he acted as supportive accompanist to her sight-reading of some of his and his sister's *Lieder*. Carl Friedrich Zelter introduced his star pupil to Goethe, whose grandfatherly affection towards Felix was to last unabated for the remaining eleven years of the poet's life. Mendelssohn never ceased to delight the Olympian with his musical genius, which culminated in his setting Goethe's *Der Erste Walpurgisnacht* to music, and as a performer of Beethoven and Bach.

Whilst London paid little attention to the 150th anniversary of Mendelssohn's death, it was in Hamburg, the city of his birth, that a Mendelssohn Festival was organised under the auspices of the International Mendelssohn Society. It started with a splendid performance of the *St Paul Oratorio*, and reached its most memorable moment in the unveiling of two monuments, one of Felix and the other of his elder sister Fanny (who has only recently been rediscovered as a distinguished composer in her own right). It was in fact a Hamburg entrepreneur, Frau Hannelore Greve, President of the

International Mendelssohn Society, who, together with her husband, Dr Helmut Greve, had established the foundation bearing their name for the purpose of erecting these two monuments.

□ Fred Rosner

NM Rothschild bicentenary

To mark the 200th anniversary of Rothschild trading and banking activities in Great Britain, an exhibition is being shown at the Museum of London which illustrates the remarkable *Life and Times of Nathan Mayer Rothschild*, founder of the dynasty in this country. Exhibits have been drawn from New York, Jerusalem and Frankfurt.

The son of a Jewish merchant from the Frankfurt ghetto, Nathan Mayer Rothschild left Germany in 1798 to set up as a textile trader in Manchester. He moved on to London and became a pivotal figure in banking, entering the world stage as a bullion dealer and confidant of monarchs and governments. Throughout the nineteenth century NM Rothschild & Sons, in concert with the banks established by his brothers in Paris, Vienna, Frankfurt and Naples, became the world's first international banking operation.

The exhibition, at the Museum of London until 26th July, is complemented with a series of talks and walks; for details phone 0171 600 0807. □ RDC

Poetic justice

AJR member Lotte Kramer has been invited to her home town Mainz to give poetry readings at the Johannes Gutenberg University as part of the 'Women's Literature in Exile' seminar at the town's Gutenberg Museum, in commemoration of *Kristallnacht*.

A bilingual edition of some of her poems will come later this year in Germany □

50 YEARS AGO

MARTIN BUBER – SEVENTY

The Jewish world is celebrating Martin Buber's seventieth birthday. Four different groups of well-wishers will appear: Zionist Jewry, the world of Jewish learning, the worldwide society of Philosophers, Philologists and Educationists who drew inspiration from Buber's work, and lastly the remnants of German Jewry. I venture to say that the congratulations of this fourth group, the good wishes of German Jews dispersed all over the world, will be very dear to the septuagenarian now living in Jerusalem.

Martin Buber is not German by birth. But his work would not have been possible without the historic scene set by German Jewry.

Until 1918 Martin Buber brought the message of what he called the 'Jewish Renaissance' to Western Jewry, which saw the possibility of a Jewish life within the Western nations only in closest adherence to the liberal ideas of the West □

AJR Information, March 1948



Letters to the Editor

GERMANY ÜBER EUROPE

Sir – It occurred to me that Mr Ernest David's view on the EU deserves support.

It is precisely because I know my erstwhile compatriots whose cultural heritage I used to share that I am apprehensive. *Ich kenne meine Pappenheimer.*

On the one hand I used to quote Schiller to myself in 1944 – on the other hand it was on the *Apellplatz* of a KZ. Germany may currently have some unemployed, but, as their benefits and pensions are many times what they are here, this causes less hardship than anywhere else. On the other hand, once East Germany's industry has been modernised, the combined country will wipe the floor with the rest. It is this fear of Germany's dominant position which has even Dutch schoolchildren rank Germany last in the European sympathy list (*Times* 2.12.97) considering it a country "addicted to war" and its inhabitants as domineering, arrogant, unfriendly and unsociable.

My particular misgivings have a Jewish slant. For the last 50 years German governments have refused to pay for the work of slave labourers. In the latest attempt by 21 poor and elderly ex-camp inmates (December issue, p.13) to see whether the oft quoted 'human rights' exist in the German psyche or legal framework, only one was successful. Britain abolished slavery in 1833. Yet in 1998 the biggest player in the EU sees nothing wrong with it and has stooped so low as to argue that payment for slave labour is not appropriate because there was no contract of employment. In a unified Europe the stain on Germany is a stain on the others who will be judged by the company they keep.

There is more to Europe than a single currency.

Ipswich
Suffolk

Frank Bright

IT OCCURS TO ME...

Sir – I was astonished at Mr R B Tate's letter (January issue).

He accuses Ernest David, who writes that excellent column, of abuse of privileged access to your pages.

I am a passionate opponent of the Eu-

ropean Union and especially of the Economic and Monetary Union, and I really believe that those who are in favour have not read all of the Maastricht Treaty.

Mr Tate asks whether we are the only nation in step and the others are misguided. That is an unfair question, because it does not look at the realities. Britain, whose trade is 44% – and not 56%, as usually stated – with Europe, but has a deficit balance of over £10 billion a year, will never be let go by the members of the European Union; it is too big a market to disregard. No doubt there will be an arrangement between Britain and the members of the Union so that trade can flow easily. It will not be hampered by a Euro the value of which it cannot decide, nor influence.

Has Mr Tate been to Germany recently and talked to people, not politicians? Hardly one person supports Germany's entry into EMU and the disappearance of its currency.

Perhaps one day, Mr Tate will have a discussion with me, which might clarify some of the issues.

Limpsfield Common
Surrey

Peter Frankel

Sir – Ernest David is in good company when he talks about hysteria in connection with the death of Princess Diana. It is the very term Alan Bennett uses in his diary entries for September 1997.

Cleve Road
London NW6

E Peach

CRI DU COEUR

Sir – Who is regarded as Jew according to halachah differs from who was so regarded by the Third Reich.

Should the elected Prime Minister of Israel give up principles agreed by Ben-Gurion shortly after the State of Israel was founded, and yield to the pressure of the American reform movement for the sake of their money?

The proposed Knesset conversion bill does nothing to delegitimise any Jew born of a Jewish mother or converted to Judaism in accordance with Jewish law. What it attempts to do is to delegitimise persons who regard themselves as Jewish

and are not. Many underwent quickie conversions by American Reform rabbis which are invalid.

A survey recently carried out in New York shows that 30 per cent of all Reform converts continue to celebrate Xmas and have an Xmas tree in their house.

As to Mr Abraham's suggested government of National Unity, I am reminded of a saying of my late father's: 'A zebra looks so odd because it was created by a committee, with some painting the black stripes and others the white ones'.

London N15

Henry Schragenheim

BIAS

Sir – (*Independent on Sunday*, 4 January 1998) Robert Fisk's article 'Israel's 50 years of shame' prompts me to ask the newspaper the following questions:

Why is there repeated reference to 750,000 Palestinians who chose to leave, but none at all to the six million given no choice as they were herded into the gas chambers?

Why is there no mention of the considerable number of Palestinians (almost equal to those that departed), who remained and became full Israeli citizens?

Why is there no mention of the large number of Arabic Jews who fled long term persecution in Arab countries to the safety of Israel?

I suspect that the answer to all three questions is the same as the answer to the question why Jews need a refuge in the first place.

Finchley

GM Kandler

London N3

AUSTRIAN FAIRY TALE

Sir – You mentioned the Oscar won by Louise Rainer for her performance in *The Great Ziegfeld*. She played the part of Anna Held, a Ziegfeld beauty who married the great impresario. What is not generally known is that Anna Held's stage ascent began in Whitechapel's Yiddish theatre, where she graduated from the chorus line to playing the lead-part in Goldfaden's *Sbulamis*.

This was not a part of her history which she stressed in later interviews.

The Queen's College
Oxford

SS Praver

ERROR

Sir – May I point out an error in *Pile-up of paradoxes* (January issue), which refers to the infamous Trebitsch as Austrian-

born. As I am myself of Hungarian origin, you will appreciate that it gives me no pleasure to claim Trebitsch as a 'fellow Hungarian'. I quote from Bernard Wasserstein's *The Secret Lives of Trebitsch Lincoln* (Penguin, 1989): "Ignacz Trebitsch was born on 4th April 1879 at Paks, a small town on the bank of the Danube south of Budapest".

Dunstable
Beds

J Sugar

THE ROMANCE OF JEWISH SURNAMES

Sir - My own surname by marriage is Rosenduft. I am glad to have kept the name, although the name is more 'noble' in German than English. I think one's name is part of one's identity and to change it means changing a part of oneself.

With best wishes.

Harrow
Middx

Ilse Rosenduft née Durst

RUPERT BROOKE PORTRAIT

Sir - Your profile of Renée Mendel (January issue) lists her and Hans Schwartz as refugee artists whose works are exhibited in the National Portrait Gallery. You could also have included Clara Ewald (1859-1948), whose striking 1911 portrait of the poet Rupert Brooke greets one on reaching the first floor of the Gallery. Her maiden name was Philippson, and her father was a cousin of Rabbi Ludwig Philippson (1811-1889), who founded the *Allgemeine Zeitung des Judentums* in 1837.

Clara Ewald left Germany with her son (the crystallographer PP Ewald, FRS) in 1938, and died in Belfast. She had lived for most of her life in Holzhausen am Ammersee, where a street is now named after her.

Southcote Lane
Reading

F Lustig

AIDE MEMOIRE

Sir - I would be very grateful if any of your readers could refresh my memory of a prewar poem, which began with the following words: "In jedem Dorf, in jeder Stadt, in jedem Land/ gibt's irgendwo ein koscheres Restaurant".

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AW Freud

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HATE BEGETS HATE

Sir - Love thy enemy is, I believe, a Christian concept. Our own biblical ancestors had a more robust and effective approach to the problem of enemies - they put them to the sword.

Greenford
Middx

Ernest G Kolman

BETH SHALOM

Sir - Most members of the AJR have visited Beth Shalom, the moving Holocaust Exhibition and Memorial Centre founded by Stephen Smith.

His outstanding work in this field deserves recognition. Would it not be fitting for him to be nominated by the AJR for the next Royal Honours list?

London NW2

Mr & Mrs A J Dutch

BRICKBAT

Sir - You don't like the late James Goldsmith and are offended by William Rees-Mogg's perception of the Jewish spirit.

I am not a spokesman for either James Goldsmith or W Rees-Mogg. But I do not accept that a perceived weakness of moral character must mean that certain political views which you disapprove of are, *ipso facto*, invalid. I can see nothing wrong with the suggestion that, as a country, we should step warily in the direction of a Federal Europe and a common currency.

In my view an article which quite unnecessarily mixes religion, ethics and politics fits ill into *AJR Information* - and it addresses the wrong readership.

Llanidloes
Powys

HK Meyer

BOUQUET

Sir - My compliments on the high standard you achieve each month.

East Molesey
Surrey

Michael Tuchner

SILENCE IS GOLDEN

Sir - Among the 240 delegates to the conference on Nazi Gold held in London in December there were two from the Vatican which is known to have spirited away to South America whole regiments of the SS and their loot to protect them from judgment on earth.

The conference was told that at the Croat death camp Jasnovic the fascist Ustashi killed, *inter alia*, 28,000 gypsies

and sent their gold, worth more than £1million today, to the Vatican.

The Vatican's delegates, who could have answered a lot of questions and have a lot to answer for, said nothing. They made it clear from the start that they did not wish to open up their archives.

Ipswich, Suffolk

Frank Bright

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The AJR at Work

Art for art's sake

Resi Liebmann has been teaching art in classes at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre for ten years and budding artists of all calibres – usually with no previous experience whatsoever – have had their eyes opened to a most satisfying mode of expression.

All those attending her classes thoroughly enjoy painting, but also take their work seriously and produce results which are surprisingly good, often to be displayed proudly on the Day Centre's walls, as well as in the artists' homes.

Among the Day Centre's busy programme, the art classes are regarded as being extremely valuable to the participants and there is no shortage of volunteers wishing to try their hands at something they probably missed out on at school all those years ago.

□ RDC



Art class teacher Resi Liebmann makes a point of technique to Grete Greenfield at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre.

AJR NORTHERN GROUP Special guest

Ben Helfgott, Chairman of the 45 Aid Society and the Yad Vashem Committee of the Board of Deputies, will be addressing the group on the thorny subject of 'Restitution or Distribution' on Sunday 8th March at 2pm at the Morris Feinman Home. He will provide an overview of the funds potentially available to surviving victims of Nazi persecution. □ WL

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Taking professional advice

These days just about every one of us has to face a plethora of financial demands – gas, electricity and water bills, the telephone, council tax and, as we advance in years, any number of forms for this or that, most of which would baffle someone far younger.

It is simply common sense that when presented with any sort of money problem it is best to take professional advice. Accountants, solicitors and bank managers deal with similar cases all the time and will be only too pleased to offer help to you, though they are, of course, entitled to charge a professional fee for their services. It is wise never to sign complicated documents, cheques or any other transfers of money unless you are quite certain that the transaction is one which both satisfies your own needs and is one that you wish to make.

AJR's Social Services Department already guides many members with the aim of protecting their interests, mindful especially of those who do not have the backing of younger family members to call upon.

Professional advice should always be taken when power of attorney, wills and

estates are being considered, or when authority is given for any sums of money or property to be transferred or passed into the control of a nominee.

□ Ronald Channing

Volunteers' theatre night

AJR volunteers and their friends as a group went to see Brecht's play *The Jewish Wife* and Sonja Linden's sequel *The Jewish Daughter* at the New Theatre, Hampstead.

Brecht's short play is one of a series of six exploring the impact of Nazi rule in Germany. It focuses on the trauma of a Jewish woman having to leave her home and non-Jewish husband behind in 1930s Frankfurt. Sonja Linden's play cleverly explores the repercussions of this woman's experiences on her daughter and grand-daughter, and reveals interesting similarities in all three women's strained relationships with their husbands.

At the end of the performances, the AJR volunteers were delighted to meet the director and members of the cast of both these thought-provoking plays.

□ DP

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

15 Cleve Road, London NW6 3RL
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Wednesday	4 March
Thursday	12 March
Monday	16 March
Tuesday	24 March
Wednesday	1 April

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

It occurs to me...

A little while ago, the French church collectively apologised to the Jews for not standing up to Nazi Germany. This action may not have pleased Le Pen, but it is a long overdue acknowledgement that the church is not without influence. Had it spoken out, many Jews might have been saved, particularly in France, where more and more information is now available, showing how zealous French officials and police were in deporting Jews.

The Pope in his Christmas 1997 message thanked the Jews for having given Jesus to the world, and *The Times* editorials have reminded people that Jesus was a Jew. It certainly appears that the Catholic Church is actively seeking to establish relationships with Jews.

It is encouraging that Jewish-Christian relations appear to be moving positively, and in England so much so, that Edward Kessler has received strong backing for the launch of a postgraduate degree course in this subject at Cambridge University.

But there are 2,000 years of suspicion, hatred and fear, which will take many years to overcome.

Recently I heard from Catholic friends how much they enjoyed their visit to the Holyland, under the leadership of a liberal priest. However, when they showed me their video of the trip and described it, I was struck by the tour's Christianisation of the Holyland, almost ignoring both modern Israel and ancient Israel in which the Jewish Christ lived among Jews. The relationship might not have existed. There is a lot of work still to be done to dismantle deeply ingrained prejudices and habits of thought.

□ Ernest David

Swiss Fund for Needy Victims of the Holocaust

The AJR has been informed that the procedure for handling applications from this Fund has changed. The UK, in common with other countries, will be allocated a sum which a local UK committee will distribute to needy individuals according to the parameters laid down by the Fund and the World Jewish Restitution Organisation. The committee will be formed when guidelines are received from the WJRO and will then aim to process applications as quickly as possible. The UK's share of the Fund is not yet known.

□ ED

... Viewpoint ...

Time out

The huge Dome under construction on the Greenwich peninsula at the heart of Britain's Millennium celebrations has attracted an ever-increasing cacophony of criticism and controversy. Optimistically conceived as reliant on private funding, even Michael Heseltine's arm-twisting in the City failed to produce hard cash. But rather than abandon it, the project became a badge of political virility and was shunted into the public domain to be financed by that new/old stand-by – the National Lottery.

After a bit of mollifying humming and hawing, Tony Blair's administration adopted the project as its own – and appointed Peter Mandelson to manage it.

The dome and its Greenwich site were chosen to illustrate the theme of 'time', the dome's twelve massive supports and sub-pavilions reflecting a clock face. Mysteriously, this seems to have been abandoned! Whole armies of designers, consultants and advertising agencies have consumed substantial

sums without evolving a comparable overriding substitute. Some waffly admonitions about 'the past, present and the future' hardly do justice to a £760 million expenditure.

The Church of England awoke from its slumbers to remind itself just why the year 2,000 was imbued with a special significance and that this heaven-sent opportunity entitled it to a place of pre-eminence. The inevitable knee-jerk response on behalf of multicultural Britain duly followed.

The dome is quite obviously son-of-the-Dome of Discovery which stood in its concrete prime with the slender, soaring Skylon at the centre of 1951's Festival of Britain on London's South Bank. Eight million people went to put the drab, war-weary world behind them and find new products, standards of design and a fun day out. Much of its inspiration came from Herbert Morrison, cabinet minister, former LCC leader and Peter Mandelson's grandfather.

□ Ronald Channing

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Afternoon entertainment programme –

MARCH/APRIL 1998

Sun	1	Julie Leyland, soprano & Andrew Wells, piano	Tue	17	Gail Hadani, soprano & Margaret Eaves, piano
Mon	2	'Keep Able' talk and demonstration	Wed	18	Day Centre Open – No entertainment
Tue	3	Shirley Gurevitz and Anne Berryman, piano	Thur	19	Julie Leyland, soprano & Andrew Wells, piano
Wed	4	Robin & Amalia Brightman, LSO	Sun	22	Jack Davidoff, violin
Thur	5	Amanda Palmer, opera	Mon	23	Judith Silver sings with guitar
Sun	8	Geoffrey Strum & Helen Blake	Tue	24	Theatrical costumes with Jack Cassin-Scott
Mon	9	Jacqueleine Hildebrand, soprano & Henry van Emden, piano	Wed	25	Opera pops with Margaret Gibbs, piano
Tue	10	Nikki van der Zyl & Sheila Games, piano	Thur	26	David Rose, baritone, Jean Aird, soprano & Margaret Gibbs, piano
Wed	11	Primrose Powell & Andre Wells, piano	Sun	29	Day Centre Open – No entertainment
Thur	12	Francoise Geller, Kara Wilson, Gordon Griffin & Margaret Eaves, Piano	Mon	30	Lesley Wilner, piano & Stefanie Core, flute
Sun	15	Children in Spring, Wendy Max & Cecily Mendelson	Tue	31	Jack & Rita Davis sing
Mon	16	Stephen Dunbar, baritone & Geoffrey Whitworth, piano	Wed	1	Paul Arone, tenor, Sharon Ellis, soprano & Margaret Eaves, piano
			Thur	2	'Keep Able' talk and demonstration

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deaths

Freyhan. Kate Freyhan on 16th January 1998, aged 88, died peacefully in her sleep. Widow of Hans. Dearly loved by her family and wonderful friends. The funeral took place on Tuesday 20th January at Pound Lane Liberal Jewish Cemetery, London NW10. A thanksgiving commemoration of Kate's life will be held in Bedford at a later date.

ANNIVERSARIES

Golden Weddings

Ettinger. Izio and Lotti Ettinger, née Hohenstein, are pleased to announce their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They were married on 7th March 1948 at Regent's Park & Belsize Park Synagogue presently South Hampstead Synagogue. Lotti arrived in this country in May 1939 on one of the last trips of 'Europa'. Izio followed in March 1943 from Siberia to join the Polish Air Force in Blackpool.

Richardson. Sam and Thea Richardson, née Wessely, are happy to announce that their 50th Wedding Anniversary is taking place on the 6th March 1998.

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Societies

Ex-Breslauer. Vera Bass thanks former Breslau residents who responded to her notice (*AJR Information*, January). A first meeting is arranged for Thursday 2nd April 1998 at 3pm. Venue: 11 Fitzjohns Avenue, NW3, under auspices of Leo Baeck Lodge.

Association of Jewish Ex-Berliners. Please contact Peter Sinclair 0181 882 1638 for information.

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Art Notes

The artistic riches of England's regional museums and galleries are highlighted in an outstanding exhibition **Art Treasures of England** at the Royal Academy until April 13. The 400 works on show reveal the quality and diversity of Western art from the early Renaissance to the present day, collected by English museums since the 17th century. The excellence of British art is well illustrated in two galleries, which include works by Epstein, Bomberg, Gertler and Freud. Continental art can be seen in a series of galleries devoted to the Renaissance, the Baroque, Neo-Classicism and the 19th century, while the 20th century galleries display important works by the great modern masters.

Caro at the National Gallery: Sculpture from Painting. Sir Anthony Caro, one of the most renowned sculptors of our time, has always been inspired by the art of the past, even when working in his innovative abstract manner. This stimulating exhibition brings together six sculptures in welded metal, wood and clay which interpret paintings by Giotto, Mantegna, Rembrandt, Goya, Manet and Matisse. There are also three new pieces based on *Van Gogh's Chair*, displayed alongside the original painting that inspired them. Until May 4.

Alex Katz: Twenty Five Years of Painting, at the Saatchi Gallery until April 12, is the first major exhibition in Britain of the work of one of America's most distinguished post-war artists, though little known here. His enormous realist paintings, embracing individual portraits, group portraits and landscapes, with their refined imagery and cool surfaces, make a striking impression.

Paintings, watercolours, drawings and prints by **Yehuda Bacon** are on view at the Sternberg Centre until April 3. Born in Czechoslovakia in 1929 into an Orthodox family of Chassidic background, Bacon survived Theresienstadt and Auschwitz, eventually arriving in Jerusalem, where he now lives. Much of his work is poetic in spirit, with elements of fantasy and mysticism. His most recent work includes lively watercolours of the Israeli landscape and flower pieces.

Foundations and Fragments at the Tate Gallery St Ives until April 19 is an in-



M. Agucchi, *Annibale Carracci*, 1603. *Art Treasures of England*.

stallation of collages, by Ralph Freeman, of materials that are a link to his family's experiences as refugees. The work is grounded in the story of European Jewry in the period of the Third Reich, but relates to how racism continues to transform innocent people into refugees □

SB's Column

One hundred years ago. Berthold Brecht was born in 1898. His plays met with some initial doubts, and only received full recognition after World War II. Nowadays, Brecht plays regularly feature in the programmes of German-speaking theatres and often appear elsewhere in translation. *Mother Courage* and *Dreigroschenoper* are the most frequently performed.

Fifty years ago. The expression 'end of an era' is often used, although sometimes not strictly applicable. However, musically, it applies to 1948 when Franz Lehár and Richard Tauber both died. Their unique collaboration as composer and singer peaked in the Twenties and Thirties; their deaths signalled the end of the 'silver era' of Viennese operetta.

Brno. The Czech Republic's second largest city is rightly proud of its musical tradition. It has named its opera house after the Moravian composer Leos Janáček, whose operas it regularly performs; the wide-ranging repertoire of the house extends to operetta-type works by the Prague-born Rudolf Friml, such as *Rosemarie* and *The Vagabond King*.

This year, the emphasis is on Maria Jeritzka, the celebrated soprano who began her career there. (She died, aged ninety-five, in 1982). Also commemorated

is Brno-born Leo Slezak, the leading tenor of the Vienna State Opera for over thirty years who later became a popular film comic.

Obituaries. The Italian actor and director Giorgio Strehler died, aged seventy-six. Founder of the internationally-known Piccolo Theatre, Milan, he was active in such diverse fields as opera in Salzburg and classic drama in Paris. Strehler's favourite author was Goldoni, one of whose plays he brought to London's National Theatre in 1982.

The internationally renowned conductor Klaus Tennstedt, for many years head of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, has died, aged seventy-one, after a long illness □

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The shoplifter

Not until he had alighted from the No. 2 tram which had taken him southwards from Breslau's city centre, had looked round and realised no one was following him, did Siegmund finally allow himself the luxury of feeling completely safe.

It had been utterly impossible to enjoy the ride in the so rarely available third car, a type put into service only in exceptionally fine weather. It had neither doors nor windows, so that the air rushing through afforded a feeling of heavenly bliss. What it did have was blinds, in case of a sudden squall, and Siegmund recalled how, some years back when he just started going to school, Uncle Max had claimed to be able to make the tram stop by pressing his finger on one of the brass knobs designed to hold the drawn-down blinds in place. Later, of course, Siegmund understood that Uncle had simply made sure of touching the knob as the tram approached a scheduled halt. Still, he was a good sort, Uncle Max was. Always brought him a little something when he dropped by. Could have been quite perfect had he not been a dentist. His dentist, and that spoilt the picture somewhat.

The off-white pavement on the corner of Goethestrasse reflected the sun and made Siegmund half-close his eyes as he set off along tree-lined Hindenburgstrasse on his five-minute walk home. Actually, the day had begun pretty well, he pondered. First of all his piano teacher, Fräulein Koslowsky, had phoned to say that tomorrow's lesson would have to be cancelled because she had to travel to Glogau to tend to her desperately sick mother, and that was a good start to the morning if ever there was one. And at school, that ugly old Realgymnasium am Zwinger, almost in the town centre, none of the teachers had ordered any of the surprise exams they regularly sprang on the pupils. Also, Dr Opitz, the Latin master and former cavalry officer – how the heck had he, short and fat as he was, ever been able to get on a horse – had told another of his hilarious yarns.

It was right after the mobilisation in 1914, he told his adoring class as he nonchalantly leant against a front-row desk, when the General's inspection tour was announced at short notice. Everything had of course been cleaned and polished to perfection when, horror of horrors, it was discovered that one of the greys had elected, at the last moment, to lie down

on his droppings and now showed yellow stains on his right flank. – The class giggled. – It was too late for any other measure, and so the offending places were hastily covered with chalk powder – nothing short of a brainwave by a livid Feldwebel. All went swimmingly until the General, highly pleased with the turn-out, good-naturedly patted the animal on his hind quarters, thereby sending clouds of chalk up in the air. The entire form had then broken into roars of laughter, to such an extent that Dr Opitz had to restrain them. Just suppose the Herr Direktor at the far end of the corridor heard...

But it was not only Dr Opitz's friendly ways and funny tales that made him everyone's favourite teacher. There were also the interesting stories about ancient Rome that made his lessons so different from all others. He told how, in the beginning, the Romans acquired women by inviting a neighbouring tribe to a party and then slaughtering all their menfolk. How they spent entire days at the baths. How they gorged themselves during banquets, only to tickle their throat with a feather in order to vomit and start feasting all over again. But also of their defeat at the hands of a valiant Germanic tribe led by Arminius, or Hermann der Cherusker, who had ambushed and decimated them in the Teutoburger Wald. Hermann, this was also the first name of a politician who had often been in the news lately. His party had pulled a large number of votes in a recent election, and if I were older I would have voted for him too, because his surname differed in only a single letter from that of the Quinta's top athlete, a boy called Döring. Those instruments of torture as far as Siegmund was concerned, the overhead bar, the vaulting horse, the parallel bars, all were ever so nimbly negotiated by Döring. Why can't I be like him, Siegmund pondered, it would certainly please my Dad who, a zealous member of a sports club himself, would dearly like me to be a better gymnast than I am.

Anyhow, the next gymnastics period wasn't due until the middle of next week, and as far as today went, not even Dr Speck, the French master, had this morning behaved in his habitual acid manner. He was the only teacher who wore one of those smart black SS uniforms, and when the class returned his "Heil Hitler!" at the start and finish of his lessons, the occasion seemed much more formal than with other teachers. Siegmund had good reason to be wary of Dr Speck. A few

weeks ago he had written an anonymous letter to the master, poking fun at him, and had signed it "V Lerwitz", which of course can be read as "fauler Witz". A week later on a school coach-excursion, however, Siegmund had shot off his mouth about it to a pal without noticing that a teacher was sitting on the next bench. Well, why on earth did Dr Speck possess such a funny name? And such a squeaky voice and quaint manners? And forever moaning about paper pellets being thrown during his lessons? "*Wer schmeisst denn hier mit Dreck?*" he would then scream in that high-pitched voice of his, a phrase that in every boy's head inevitably rhymed with "Doktor Speck". Had his lessons been half as interesting as those of Dr Opitz, no one would have dreamt of throwing paper pellets. When the affair came to light, Dr Opitz, who also happened to be the Klassenlehrer, had an amicable man-to-man talk with Siegmund, but with a stern warning attached. Not to worry, though, he would manage to smooth things over. And indeed he must have succeeded, for Dr Speck never once mentioned the matter, so maybe he wasn't such a bad fellow after all.

And when, at one-thirty, school finished, that was not to be the end of Siegmund's morning in town. Before having to catch a tram back home, there was still time for a visit to Wertheim's department store. The most modern in the city, Wertheim's compared favourably to the old-fashioned Barasch store in the ineptly named main city square, the Ring. One thing, however, to Siegmund's monthly delight, the two places had in common, namely the "*Schmetterling*", a comic-strip periodical more colourful than any real butterfly could ever be, and which the sales staff handed out to children accompanying customers. But as Siegmund had long discovered, if you asked for a copy in a polite manner, even the tell-tale school satchel on your back didn't deter the staff from giving you one – always provided they were in stock. But even then there were often free folders and brochures waiting to be picked up from the counters, and moreover the toy department was always worth a visit.

A light breeze had begun to move the leaves of the Tauentzienplatz lindens as Siegmund crossed the street and entered the multi-storied building, all glass and concrete. This month's comics hadn't yet come in, so onward to the toy department. Disdainfully leaving the Käthe-Kruse dolls

(continued)

to one side he turned his attention to the large display of soldiers, army lorries, tanks, cannon, aeroplanes and warships. Father often told him stories about the war, which he had spent on the Western front. How eager the troops had been in the beginning, convinced the war would be over in a matter of weeks! "Bei schlechtem Wetter findet der Krieg im Saale statt", someone had chalked on the outside of one of the train carriages transporting them to the front. Father would tell him about the advance through Belgium and into France, of the battle of the Somme, of the huge "Big Bertha" gun which could bombard Paris from 120kms away. Dad had been a sergeant in the medical corps, but Siegmund looked in vain for personnel wearing Red Cross armbands amongst the toy soldiers in front of him.

Reluctantly he tore himself away, remembering he had a tram to catch, and made his way downstairs. With his mind still firmly fixed on the toys he distractedly picked up a thin white folder from a counter in the leisure department, apparently on the subject of games such as chess, checkers and halma. Better than nothing... Siegmund had almost reached the exit doors when his eyes fell on a corner of the folder where it said "Zwanzig Pfennig". Lightning struck! So this was not one of those free brochures he had so often picked up the past! In a blind panic he escaped into the street, threw the horrible object into a refuse bin - since the previous month it was strictly forbidden to throw anything on the pavement - ran across the street at right angles, for jay-walking had recently been dubbed an offence also, and jumped on a fortunately just waiting No. 2 tram.

Does this mean... Siegmund reflected as he climbed the familiar wooden staircase and rang at the familiar apartment door... does this make me a thief? After all, I never meant to pinch a thing. But it took his mother's loving kiss to put his conscience wholly at ease. "Dinner will be ready in a moment", Mother said, as Siegmund opened the door to his own little room, furnished all in white. "Then you do your homework, and at five I'll have the tub ready for you. And mind you have a good wash! Surely you haven't forgotten that this is Erev Shabbat and that today is the first time you're old enough to accompany Dad to Synagogue!"

□ Vernon Pearce

The writer, Breslau-born Werner Peritz, came to the UK before the war, served in the army and now lives in Belgium.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - MARCH 1998

- Ongoing: Life & Times of NM Rothschild, 1777-1836:** Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (until 26 July) Tues-Sun, £4 (cons £2) **Yehuda Bacon, Israeli Artist:** Sternberg Centre until 3 April
- Sun 1 **Righteous Gentiles - Christians & the Rescue of Jews During the Holocaust:** Wiener Library Conference, full day, at Birkbeck College. £12 incl light lunch. Registration 0171 636 7247
- Mon 2 **Dr Hanna Delf von Wolzogen, Berlin:** a lecture on Margarete Sussman 1872-1966 (in German). Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 3 **Renée Myers says 'Laughter is the Best Medicine'.** JACS, 2pm
- Tue 3 **Ritual, Abjection, and Identity in Joseph Roth's 'Hiob':** Some Unorthodox Deliberations. Anne Fuchs (University College Dublin). Sussex University, 5pm
- Wed 4 **The Rothschild Archive, tour:** 2-3.30pm, £6.50 (cons £4). Booking with Museum of London, London Wall, EC2Y 3HN
- Thur 5 **Growing up in London's West End:** Sally Fiber. Pinner AJR, Pinner Synagogue, 1 Cecil Park, 2pm
- Sun 8 **Tour to Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre:** Depart 9.30am, return 7pm. Advance booking, £23.50 incl. vegetarian lunch, Spiro Institute 0171 431 0345
- Sun 8 **12th Annual Chess Simul with Jonathan Speelman:** Sternberg Centre, 2.30pm, £2 (spectator)
- Sun 8-15 **Jewish Book Week:** Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1, £4. Inf: 0171 446 8505
- Mon 9 **John Denham, art dealer:** German and Austrian artists exiled in Britain. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 10 **Threat of Terrorism Today:** Carmi Gillon, (ex-Shin Bet, Israel). 32 Great Cumberland Place W1, 8pm. Simon Wiesenthal Centre 0171 723 9333
- Tue 10 **Jenny Topper, Hampstead Theatre's Artistic Director:** JACS, 2pm
- Tue 10 **Arieh Kronenberg:** 'The

- Tree of Life', film and discussion, Sussex University, 5pm
- Sun 15 **Storytelling & Smiles:** David Bash, Sternberg Centre, 3pm, £4
- Mon 16 **Dr Colin Berry:** Are artists & scientists different? Club 43, 8pm
- Mon 16 **Hate on the Internet:** Rabbi Abraham Cooper. 32 Great Cumberland Place W1, 8pm. Simon Wiesenthal Centre 0171 723 9333
- Tue 17 **Elizabeth Fried sings Favourite Songs:** JACS, 2pm
- Thur 19 **Is There a Future for Anglo-Jewry?:** Rabbi Dr John Rayner. South London AJR, Lily Montagu Hall, Prentis Road, SW16, 2pm
- Sun 22 **Spitfire Girls:** book launch with Carol Gould, West London Synagogue, 33 Seymour Place, W1, 8pm, £3.50
- Mon 23 **Dr Rudolf Muhs, Royal Holloway College:** Dietrich Bonhoeffer at German Reformed Church in London 1933-35. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 24 **The Jewish Hot Line:** Stella Lucas, Board of Deputies, 2pm
- Thur 26 **Lunchtime Recital:** Pauline Curtis, mezzo-soprano, & David Dreebin, piano, play Scarlatti, Beethoven, Debussy & Mozart. Sternberg Centre, 1.15pm, 2pm
- Sun 29 **Art of the Holocaust:** Julia Weiner, JC art critic, 8pm
- Mon 30 **Prof Stephen F Frowen, UCL:** Conflicts for our welfare system. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 31 **JACS Belsize Square AGM,** 2pm
- Tue 31 **The Rothschilds, History & Reminiscences:** Alex Rosenzweig, Jewish Museum Finchley, 8pm, £2

ORGANISATION CONTACTS

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

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

University of Sussex Centre for German-Jewish Studies. Diana Franklin 0181 381 4721 or 01273 678 771

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

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

Sternberg Centre for Judaism/Jewish Museum, Finchley, 80 East End Road, N3 2SY. Tel: 0181 346 2288

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

Cooking with Gretel Beer



Beef Olives

There are at least a dozen variations on that particular theme, but this is one of my favourites.

- 4 frying steaks
- salt and pepper
- paprika
- 1 onion
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 large or 4 small cucumbers
pickled in brine
- ½ red or green pepper

French mustard
4 anchovy fillets
about ¼ pint (140ml) red wine

Flatten the steaks with a mallet and season one side with salt, pepper and paprika. Spread the other side of the steaks with mustard and put an anchovy down the centre of each steak. Chop the pickled cucumber finely and sprinkle over the steaks. Roll up the steaks and fasten with a wooden cocktail stick or tie securely. Chop the onion and soften in the oil, together with chopped green or red pepper. Add the steaks, turn up the heat and brown steaks, together with the chopped onion and pepper. Pour in a little of the wine, cover with a lid and cook over low heat or in the oven at Gas mark 3, 325°F, 160°C for about an hour, adding more wine only if necessary. Arrange the meat roulades in a heated dish, remove fastening and sieve the hot contents of the pan over them. Mashed potatoes are a good accompaniment, but sometimes I just add small new potatoes – scrubbed, but not peeled – to the dish and cook them with the meat □

SEARCH NOTICES

Alexander. Family member seeks information on Simon Alexander from Konstanz, Germany, who worked in 1930s at Schwarz & Co. (Corsetfabrik), Kreuzlingen, Switzerland. Believed to have died in Dachau. Also Bernard Alexander, believed settled in New York during WWII. Also Randal/Salofski family in Leeds area. Please reply to Box no. 1241.

Margarete Charlotte Moos, born Berlin 9.12.1909, married **Siegfried Moos** (b. 19.19.1904 in Munich) on 14.10 1932. Moved to Paris July 1933 and subsequently to London. In July 1939 both were deprived of German citizenship. Mrs Moos may have emigrated to USA at beginning of war. Any information please contact exiles researcher Dr Barry McLoughlin, Jadengasse 4/23, 1150 Vienna, Tel/Fax: 0043-1-983-2249.

Jewish Childhood in Germany Under the Third Reich, a joint research project of Tel Aviv and Goethe Universities, is seeking diaries and letters written by or addressed to children both from and received in Germany 1933-1941. Documents or copies, postage and photocopying costs refunded. Ms Orly Selinger, School of Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Tel Aviv University 69978, Israel. (Tel: 00972-3-6407405 Fax: 00972-3-6422141).

Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, founded by Steven Spielberg, is seeking to complete 50,000 testimonies on video to be lodged in museums and research archives (with a copy of their own testimony for each interviewee). Please call Katy Curtis on 0181 455 6666 for further information.

Grete M Markstein and Zygmunt Herschdörfer (also known as Sigismund Herschdoerfer). Arrived in England around 1935 from Paris and Berlin. Author is seeking information about them for a commissioned book. Please contact Michele Zackheim, 282 West 4th Street, New York, NY 10014. Fax: 212-633-8652.

Paul Benda. Viennese, evacuated to Berkshire aged 18 at beginning of war and worked on farm. May have married an English girl. Whereabouts/information sought by Mrs Betty Warren, Milestones, 6 Old Trade, Upper Limpley Stoke, Somerset BA3 6JY.

DPhil graduate student at Sussex University, researching the contribution to British society of German Jewish refugees from Cologne and Berlin, welcomes opportunities to interview male and female refugees from these cities. Please contact Monica Lowenberg, 32 Grosvenor Crescent, Kingsbury, London NW9 9DA, Tel: 0181 204 8934 □

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The tailor, the baker, the cabinet maker

Jewish immigrants from Russia and Eastern Europe, fleeing pogrom and famine between 1881 and 1920, settled in large numbers in the East End, London's poorest quarter adjacent to the docks. They brought with them many of the craft skills needed to survive in the shtetl and were prepared to work all the hours God sent just to earn a basic living with which to support their families.

The garment trade owes its very foundation to a certain Morris Cohen, a ladies' tailor from Eastern Europe, who set up his own workshop in 1880 and a factory in Spitalfields in 1895. Employing Jewish immigrant labour, he competed successfully against imports from Germany.

The Jewish Museum in Finchley has mounted an exhibition recalling the working life and Jewish immigrant trades of the period entitled *The Tailor, The Baker, The Cabinet Maker* which incorporates reconstructions of workshops together with the tools of the trade.

Tailoring was the most common occupation for Jewish immigrants in the East End, who made cheap ready-made clothing to meet the increasing demand. Much of the work was sub-contracted by shops and warehouses to the East End's multi-



Mantle makers' workshop in London's East End before the First World War.

tude of workshops, many staffed by the members of one family who required only three or four sewing machines and workbenches for the felling hands and pressers. Employment was insecure, wages rarely above the official poverty line and overcrowding, repetitive tasks, insanitary conditions and long hours contributed to poor health. Women, a significant part of the workforce as both in- and out-workers, received the lowest pay of all.

From the turn of the century until World War II, cabinet making and its related furniture trades, centred on Shoreditch, Hoxton and Bethnal Green, also employed a large number of Jewish immigrants. Most had to learn the trade and were known as greeners. Dining suites and bedroom furniture for newlyweds were staple products of the Jewish firms.

□ Ronald Channing

Cut-price theatreland

Anyone who enjoys theatre-going would probably like to know that there is a charity dedicated to providing elderly and disabled people with theatre tickets discounted at anything up to 50%. It is called 'SHAPE'.

A list of London shows is sent out every two months with available dates, disability access and prices, and bookings can then be made directly by telephone and followed with a booking form and the payment by cheque. For those unable to travel on public transport SHAPE offers Volunteer Driver Escorts who take the individual to and from the theatre and share the enjoyment of the performance.

To join SHAPE Ticket Scheme as a member at a cost of just £10 a year, phone them direct on 0171 700 8138 or write to them at 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA for full details.

□ RDC

American rabbi for West London

Rabbi Mark Winer is to succeed the late Rabbi Hugo Gryn as Senior Minister of the West London Synagogue where he will work in co-operation with Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick.

Currently President of the USA's National Council of Synagogues, Rabbi Winer has been involved in negotiations to free Ethiopia's Falashas, to reach agreement between Israel and the Vatican, and to resolve the dispute over the Carmelite Convent at Auschwitz.

□ RDC

MORE HONOURS

Dr Lotte Newman – CBE

Fred Worms – OBE

Yogi Mayer – MBE

War in our time?

It may be that Britain will be at war when this issue of *AJR Information* is published. At a briefing at the Foreign Office attended by your correspondent, a senior spokesman admitted that the situation *vis-à-vis* Iraq was an "extremely worrying challenge to international security." While the British Government was actively supporting attempts to secure a diplomatic solution – to Saddam Hussein's restrictions on the United Nations weapons inspectors' access to sites which might conceal weapons of mass destruction – Britain was ready to use force (in support of the USA's far larger military presence in the Gulf) if it was "essential" to do so.

The spokesman was unable to offer an assurance as to Israel's security against attack from Iraq were it to be singled out in retribution as in the Gulf War. Indeed, in the face of a potentially escalating conflict in the Middle East the FCO maintained its traditional phlegm. □ RDC

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NEWSROUND

Hitler, source of perfidy

Russian archives examined by German historian Christian Gerlach, reveal that Hitler ordered the initiation of the 'Final Solution' at a secret meeting with leading Nazi officials one month prior to the Wannsee Conference on 20th January 1942 in Berlin. This challenges the established view that Wannsee (not attended by Hitler) provided the first documented evidence for the policy of mass extermination of European Jewry.

Confiscated assets in UK

The British Government is to publish a list of 25,000 victims of Nazism whose assets were seized by the UK under wartime emergency powers. The assets, now estimated to be worth £70 million, were used either to compensate British companies for losses in Germany and the occupied countries, or were paid into the Treasury.

Swiss 'slave camps' vigorously denied

Prof Alan Schom's view alleging that the Swiss ran forced labour camps for Jewish refugees during the war, the conclusion of an investigation commissioned by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, was termed 'outrageous' by the Swiss authorities.

Library's war archive

Microfilm copies of International Red Cross documents relating the fate of Jewish and non-Jewish prisoners of war, have been lodged in the Wiener Library.

Goebbels' bunker

Near the site of Germany's planned Holocaust memorial in Berlin an underground bunker has been discovered which had been connected to the house of Nazi propaganda Minister Josef Goebbels, destroyed in the bombardment of Berlin.

Cubist squared

Georges Braque's cubist masterpiece *Man with a Guitar*, painted in 1914, which has hung in Paris' Pompidou Centre since 1981, was stolen by the Nazis in WWII from the abandoned home of Austrian-born Jewish art collector Alphonse Kann in 1940 with other works he owned – by Renoir, Van Gogh, Cézanne, Matisse and Picasso – which were sent to Germany. As with all property proved to be stolen from Jews during WWII, the painting has to be restored to Kann's heirs.

□ RDC

Reclaiming Polish property

Since Polish property prices are rising as a result of recent economic development, it may be an opportune time to reclaim property rights. Many unclaimed properties were registered in Jewish names before the war and it can be assumed that their owners would have lost their lives in the Holocaust.

When Poland's communist régime collapsed in 1989-90 the opportunity to reclaim property was re-established. Polish Jews, or more likely their heirs, are fully entitled to seek their property rights, but are advised to act as soon as possible as land and buildings (including those published on the Polish Land Registry) are increasingly being expropriated for alternative purposes. Before a local authority can expropriate a property, however, due notification must be given in the press. Once this procedure is completed and the property sold, it is almost impossible to rescind the transaction.

The problem of documentary proof may at first appear insuperable, but, in many cases, property is still registered under Jewish names and even deaths in the Holocaust can be certified by the Polish courts. Ideally title deeds, registration documents and birth certificates should prove ownership, but even without these, other documents, pictures and even letters may all help to support a legitimate claim. Research into the exact location and distinguishing characteristics of a house, for example, could make a significant difference.

Claimants may choose to represent themselves, or alternatively either to instruct a lawyer to handle the case directly (in the town concerned), or a company with representation in Poland, such as Margalit Rosenbuch of Poldoor, 17 Kaplan Street, Tel Aviv 64734, Tel: 009723 691 5597, which employs qualified Polish lawyers. Charges should be agreed and dates by which specific outcomes or information should be received are necessary to avoid waste of time and money. Even if successful, it could take years and a substantial outlay to achieve success.

□ RDC

Imperial War Museum Holocaust Exhibition**Project Director Suzanne Bardgett's progress report**

Mounting an exhibition is both a creative and a methodical operation. Fresh insights into the subject arrive continually, whether from a new book, video or article, or from a survivor whose memories had been committed to paper.

Presented with our narrative script, the Holocaust Exhibition's designers, Stephen Greenberg and Bob Baxter, devised a plan to fill the two floors of available space which they demonstrated with a scale model.

A large number of items have already been identified for display. Our working method involves photographing or photocopying potentially useful items and mounting them on survey sheets together with the item's provenance, measurements and, if applicable, likely terms of loan.

Well-researched evidence in the form of photographs, film and documents is available in abundance. Objects are another matter. Total genocide and the



The Imperial War Museum in Lambeth, South London, where the Holocaust Exhibition is planned to open by the year 2000.

destruction of a people's heritage and evidence of the crime committed against them, meant that very little has been preserved. However, we hope to borrow items from other museums' stores as well as to build our own collection.

The Museum is especially indebted to survivors, former hidden children and refugees living in this country who have given their own memorabilia so readily. People tend not to hold on to something for fifty years unless it has a very special value for them.

All members of our team are conscious of a great sense of privilege and are determined that the Imperial War Museum's contribution will do justice to this terrible and perplexing subject □