

Don't miss...

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## Satanic soubriquet

Fifty-five years after its demise the Third Reich still inspires nostalgia in sick minds. Alan Clark named his Rottweiler bitches after Leni Riefenstahl and the pilot Hanna Reisch, the Soho bomber, collected Nazi memorabilia, and now Dr Chenajeraí Hunzvi, who glories in the nickname 'Hitler', is setting the pace in Zimbabwe.

Hunzvi's satanic soubriquet is undoubtedly intended to strike fear into the hearts of local opponents. Elsewhere, though, it can only provoke hollow laughter as showing a Black would-be instigator of anti-white race war clothing himself in the lurid aura of the ultimate White supremacist. Could Hunzvi's image-makers really resemble Louis Farrakhan in their ignorance of Hitler's views on Blacks? □

## England's glory and shame

The glory of England does not reside in Euro 2000 goals but in gaols empty of political prisoners for the last three hundred years. The shame stems from the fact that many young Englishmen would dismiss *Magna Carta* and *Habeas Corpus* as 'foreign' and therefore automatically beneath contempt.

How did it happen that the cradle of democracy which 60 years ago saved the world from Nazi barbarism has since spawned a tribe of savages who crave regular orgies of alcohol-fuelled destruction with foreigners as the preferred target?

To some extent there is a causal connection between Liberty and the taking of liberties. (Thus the British authorities balked at their German counterparts' policy of confiscating the passports of suspected football hooligans). In this country liberty has also traditionally been equated with the absence of 'big government', i.e. of a large bureaucracy overseeing all aspects of national life. One of the consequences of this was that the authorities only began to set up a state-funded nationwide system of elementary education towards the end of the nineteenth century.

Until then most educational provision for the 'lower orders' had come from the diverse churches (diverse being the operative word because ever since Henry the Eighth the crown had failed to prevent the growth of churches rivalling the 'established' Church of England.

The Church of England was rurally based, and when the Industrial Revolution created a huge proletariat the urban masses needed a newly founded church - Methodism - to missionise and educate them. Even so the level of schooling among the labouring masses remained abysmally low, and the eventual involvement of the state in education produced too little too late.

Regrettably, even when most of the 'rude mechanicals' (in Shakespeare's phrase) stopped being illiterate, their taste remained stubbornly non-literate. It is hard to conceive of university-educated French (or German) TV personalities calling Molière (or Goethe) 'dull as ditchwater' - as Carol Vordermann recently did Shakespeare in the blithe

certainty that it wouldn't affect her ratings.

A similar gut feeling of plainspoken Englishness also predisposes millions in this country against watching foreign films because they require subtitles. In the case of grand opera, popular alienation has social as well as racial sources. Covent Garden is perceived as a playground of the rich, and arias are (nearly) always sung in foreign languages.

This sense of Englishness is a double-edged sword. On the one hand it generates healthy patriotism - in the Great War Britain managed without conscription for two whole years - but on the other it produces mindless xenophobia. The xenophobic mindset makes all continental Europeans targets for patriotically justified aggression.

But there can never be sufficient international fixtures to absorb the free floating aggressive energy that bubbles up every Saturday around football stadia and pubs up and down the country. It is a problem to which politicians, educationalists, clergymen and community leaders need to give urgent attention if parts of our big cities are not eventually going to turn into no-go areas on weekends □



Right to left, AJR Chairman Andrew Kaufman, Vice-Chairman & Hon. Treasurer David Rothenberg and Hon. Secretary Eleanor Angel reviewing the past year's progress at the Annual General Meeting (see report page 16).

Photo: Ronald Channing

## AJR Annual General Meeting OSHA assurances

**A**shley Mitchell, Chairman of the Otto Schiff Housing Association (OSHA), who addressed the AGM on the impending OSHA /Jewish Care merger, revealed that support for the merger on the Council of OSHA had been unanimous. He emphasised that whilst Jewish Care would take over the management of the homes, they would remain the property of OSHA.

He gave a further assurance that OSHA residents would not be moved to other Jewish Care homes. Subject to specified conditions, funds loaned to OSHA by the AJR for refurbishment and essential maintenance would become repayable from the proceeds of the sale of either Heinrich Stahl House or Eleanor Rathbone House.

Jewish Care Chairman, Malcolm Dagul, acknowledged the special continental character of the OSHA homes. He wished to ensure that AJR members volunteered to visit OSHA residents, particularly as many had no family of their own, unlike residents in other Jewish Care homes.

Special guest speaker Dr Elisabeth Maxwell, initiator and Chairman of the international conference 'Remembering for the Future 2000', later held in London and Oxford, discussed the importance to future generations of the transmission of the experiences of Holocaust survivors.

□ MK

See also page 16

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### Profile

## Frank Bright

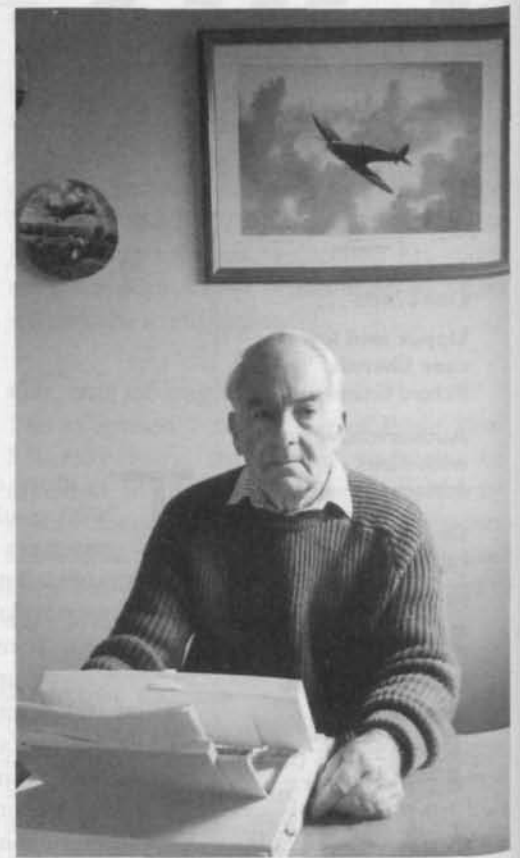
**B**orn Franz, or Frantisek, Brichta in 1928, Frank Bright was the only child of a Czech father and German mother living in Berlin. Thanks to father's Czech nationality, the family was able to travel more freely than Jews with German nationality, but emigrated to Prague in 1938 when Frank's father's employer – a Jewish bank – was 'aryanised'.

With two and a half years' German (Jewish) primary school education behind him, Frank attended the Jewish school in Prague where, along with children of refugees first from Germany, then Austria and finally the Sudeten, he stayed until it closed in mid 1942. The school had no facilities and only long, uncomfortable wooden desks; restrictions on life for Jews made it a far from normal experience. At 14, and with little education, Frank had to find work and secured a job at Prague's largest Jewish cemetery as an apprentice gardener.

In July 1943, Frank was sent with his parents to Theresienstadt where he worked as a locksmith (*Bauschlosser*) apprentice making keys, repairing and fitting locks and even making prams for German babies. From one of his extremely gifted room-mates, he learnt trigonometry and calculus, knowledge which stood him in good stead three years later in his evening studies in London.

In September/October 1944, during the last clearance of the ghetto, Frank and his parents were transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau where his parents perished on arrival. Within a week, he was one of a group picked to work in a factory producing aluminium propellers in the northern Sudeten town of Friedland (now in the Czech Republic) where he remained until liberation by Russian troops on 9 May 1945. His desperate material needs ignored by the liberators, Frank found a bicycle and rode to the border of the *Protektorat* where the local Czech railway staff laid on a train for him to travel to Prague.

Between August 1945 and May 1946, he worked as an apprentice toolmaker in the Sudeten but, without family and with no prospects, he came to London with the help of distant relatives there who obtained a visa for him and offered to accommodate him on arrival. Having secured a work permit after six months,



Frank Bright pursuing his interest in wartime aviation

Frank did what he knew best, working as a toolmaker; he also attended evening classes gaining various civil engineering diplomas. His first break came in 1950 with a job offer with the Ministry of Works in London. He was naturalised in 1952 and married in 1955.

After eight years of evening classes and emigration to Canada, Frank became a civil engineer, returning to Britain and following employment opportunities all over the country from Hemel Hempstead to Weston-Super-Mare. In 1988, he moved with his wife Cynthia and their two daughters to Suffolk where he has since lived, retiring in 1994.

Not one to relax, he is now fully occupied pursuing ongoing Holocaust-related claims, keeping alive the memory of those who did not survive the Holocaust, searching for fellow camp inmates, writing to editors and mentoring postgraduate students of the Holocaust. Coincidence has it that the family home is built on what was a wartime airfield. Paintings of Lancasters, Spitfires and other classic wartime fighter planes in his study attest to an abiding interest in aviation, stemming from his appreciation of the work of the RAF pilots and crew during World War II.

□ Marion Koebner

## Upper and lower-case liberals

Liberal-minded Jewish refugees like Elias Canetti, the *Times* wrote recently, played a large part in the cultural life of postwar London. Far be it from me to pour cold water on such encomia of our more illustrious confrères. However, having met Canetti in the flesh, I am convinced that he only found himself among the Liberals because there was nowhere else for him to go.

By this harsh judgement hangs a personal tale: at a 1960s party in Yakov Lind's house I had asked Canetti if he would be kind enough to forward my first manuscript to his publishers. He said he would – but within days returned my MS with the hurtful comment that he found it too devoid of merit to want his name associated with it.

Not to mince words, Canetti was an illiberal Liberal. This is, of course, a self-contradictory term on a par with fanatical moderate, dogmatic freethinker, belligerent pacifist or vegetarian butcher – not to mention the ultimate political oxymoron: Jörg Haider's Freedom Party.

However, to be fair to Canetti, he never made the slightest attempt to project himself as a *Menschenfreund* overflowing with the milk of human kindness. I read his autobiography some time ago and what stays in the memory is his taboo-breaking blackly humorous description of a funeral. The funeral in question, which took place in mid-thirties Vienna, was that of the teenage daughter of the architect Walter Gropius and Alma Mahler-Gropius. As Canetti describes it, the famous Alma turned this heartbreaking occasion into pure theatre. With *la toute Vienne* as an audience present at the cemetery she play-acted a grief-stricken mother weeping tears 'like clusters of plump grapes' (As regards Alma's husband at the time, Franz Werfel – who suffered from hyperthyroidism – the first thing Canetti tells the reader about him is that he had *Glotzaugen*, i.e. goggle-eyes).

Lest it be thought that my description of Canetti as illiberal is just sour grapes – a case of a scribbler throwing pebbles at the monument of a Nobel Prize winner – let me quote what Professor John Bayley wrote in the biography of his late, heart-warmingly philosemitic, wife Iris Murdoch. In the book (soon to be turned into a film) Bayley dubbed Canetti the 'Hampstead monster', and called intellec-

tual refugee-populated Hampstead 'the abode of evil gods at whose negligent disposition Iris seemed to be.' Even more telling is Bayley's phrase 'Canetti was a *Dichter* – not just a poet, but a master spirit of literature – who possessed Iris like a god while his wife was present in the flat'.

Interestingly enough, Canetti had met his wife Venezia at one of the cultural highlights of interwar Vienna when Karl Kraus read from the Classics and sang. What had first brought them together was their joint discipleship of Kraus. However, the great guru hardly offered a role model for aspiring Liberals since he himself kept swapping ideologies – some of them distinctly illiberal.

Prior to meeting Venezia, the most important woman in Canetti's life had been his mother. The bond between him and the mother, who had been widowed at a cruelly young age, was so strong that she tried to prevent him marrying and, when he finally did so, considered it an act of treason. This emotionally fraught relationship may account for Canetti's skewed take on marital – and even extramarital – loyalty.

On Venezia's death he jettisoned his longstanding mistress, the Max Beckman-trained refugee painter Maria von Motteschitzky in favour of a younger woman. The latter was Swiss, and the writer – who had gained the Nobel Prize for Britain – promptly moved to Switzerland. He justified his departure by complaining of neglect during his 40 years' residence in the UK. (This of course, begs the question whether having Veronica Wedgwood translate *Die Blendung*, and having Iris Murdoch dedicate *The Flight from the Enchanter* to oneself can really be construed as neglect.)

Alas, Canetti was not alone as an illiberal Liberal of refugee provenance. His more overtly political twin was the novelist Friedrich Torberg, a postwar returnee to Austria from the States. In artistically denuded post-Nazi Vienna Torberg steadily, and deservedly, rose to the position of cultural arbiter – but one with deplorable McCarthyite tendencies. He pursued a vendetta against his fellow returnee Hilde Spiel because, as a true Liberal, she had opposed the boycott of Brecht's plays in force in Viennese theatres. He similarly harassed the admirably anti-Fascist (non-Jewish) playwright FT Czokor, on the grounds that he had wartime associations with Yugoslav partisans.

□ Richard Grunberger

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## Reviews

## Authoritative study with flaws

Louise London, *WHITEHALL AND THE JEWS, 1933-1948: BRITISH IMMIGRATION POLICY AND THE HOLOCAUST*, Cambridge University Press, 2000, £30.

This book goes to the heart of the history of the German-speaking Jewish refugees from Hitler who settled in Britain and became the community represented by the AJR. It raises central questions concerning the relationship between the host government and the immigrants.

Dr London answers these questions with a series of resounding negatives. According to her, the Jews were largely 'excluded' from Britain before the war, accorded low priority during the war and subjected to bureaucratic chicanery thereafter; antisemitism and a general reluctance to admit 'aliens' predominated over humanitarian concerns. Though I would agree with much of her criticism of official policy, parts of her argument are unsustainable.

It is true that only a small number of Jews, some 5-10,000, found refuge from Nazism in Britain between 1933 and 1938. However, with the intensification of Nazi persecution of the Jews in 1938, this changed dramatically, as some 50-60,000 Jews from the Greater Reich were admitted in the short period before Hitler's invasion of Poland. If British policy was, as Dr London claims, to restrict Jewish immigration after the Anschluss rigorously, then it must count as one of the heroic failures of modern times: to 'exclude' Jews by admitting five times as many in eighteen months as in the entire previous five years is exclusion on a Canute-like scale.

Dr London's concentration on criticising government policy blinds her to historical reality, which was that, just as the Nazis stepped up their persecution, Britain found ways of admitting the victims, if often grudgingly. This can be clearly demonstrated by considering the Austrian Jews, who were desperately seeking to escape precisely in the period between March 1938 and September 1939, when just over 30,000 came to Britain as their country of first refuge (many re-emigrated). In other words, one in six of Austria's 180,000 Jews were saved by admission to Britain, or one in four of the

120,000 Austrian Jews who survived the Holocaust. Such figures are widely quoted in studies of Viennese Jewry, but notably absent from Dr London's work.

The Kindertransports form a particular target in Dr London's campaign to demolish the alleged myth of British generosity. For her, the survival of the children was secured at the cost of the 'exclusion' and subsequent deportation of their parents; she even talks of Jewish parents 'surrendering' their children to a British Government eager to take unaccompanied children so that they might be anglicised and turned into 'good white stock' (ignoring the fact that many were placed with Jewish families and in hostels). Perhaps Dr London should ask the members of the Reunion of Kindertransports whether they and their parents would rather that they had been left to the Gestapo. With adult Jews being admitted to Britain at the rate of some thousands per month, to talk of their 'exclusion' is simply absurd.

I am not arguing that British immigration policy was open-handedly generous – far from it – but merely for a balanced account. That is not likely to be achieved by an analysis that counts as 'excluded' those Jews who obtained British visas but were prevented from escaping by Hitler's invasion of Poland, and even those who applied for British visas but found safety elsewhere.

Dr London is at her best in her account of official British inaction and evasion over the issue of rescuing Jews from wartime Europe. Her exemplary study of the documents enables her to build up a vivid picture of the evolution of policy. Even here, though, she spoils a strong case by overstating it, for example in her eagerness to heap blame on Britain by claiming that Jews could relatively easily have emigrated from Nazi-controlled Europe before 1941 if they had been granted British visas.

Here we enter the realms of fantasy. Could the Jews of Poland, subject to severe restrictions on their movements, have simply gone to the Nazi-Soviet border and requested passage from Stalin? Or does Dr London imagine that Heydrich, busily occupied in confining Polish Jews to ghettos, would benevolently have allowed them to proceed to the Hungarian border, where welcoming committees of Arrow Cross men would have conveyed them to their chosen destinations?

In the postwar period, it is again the

negative aspects of government policy that are emphasised. Dr London concentrates on proposals to repatriate the refugees to their countries of origin, proposals that were never likely to be implemented. Instead, the refugees were granted citizenship, mainly in the years 1947-49, when over 42,000 certificates of naturalisation were granted, predominantly to the pre-war refugees from Hitler. Dr London fails to mention these statistics, though they are easily available, having been published in *Hansard* and, for that matter, in the *AJR Information*.

Instead, she makes great play with the imposition of a one-year time limit on the stay in Britain permitted to refugees returning from journeys abroad, a now forgotten and little implemented measure. Both my parents travelled abroad in the period concerned and neither – I have the passports to prove it – had any limit on their stay imposed. The fact is that many of the refugees from Hitler in Britain, though by no means all, settled down to become, by and large, a successful, prosperous and contented community, as the *AJR Information* demonstrates.

□ Anthony Grenville

## Homing in on horror

Eric Johnson, *THE NAZI TERROR: Gestapo, Jews and Ordinary Germans*, John Murray, 1999, £25.

This study concentrates on the Rhineland towns of Cologne and Krefeld, an area from which I happen to originate. The author chose Cologne because the trials of the perpetrators took place there, whereas in Krefeld over seventy per cent of Gestapo files were not destroyed.

How much new insight does this study provide in its 636 pages, including chapter notes and indices? So far as the Jews are concerned, it insufficiently reflects their powerlessness in the face of Nazi chicanery, even in the early stages. For instance, Johnson expresses surprise that not more Jews "decided to emigrate". As if it had been up to us! We know how unwanted we were, particularly the middle-aged and elderly.

Much more trenchant is his engagement with the Gestapo. In Krefeld, home to a small, thriving Jewish community (less than one per cent of the population) the Jews did not survive, but the Gestapo

Cont.

officers did. Some were tried after the war and received short prison sentences. Some had their pensions reduced, but had them restored on appeal. Though Cologne officers received heavier sentences, these were still not commensurate with their crimes.

The head of the Jewish section of the Krefeld Gestapo, Richard Schulenburg, even comes over as jovial. Housed in the town's modest "skyscraper", the Hansa Haus, he used a bicycle as his means of transport and even gave a lift to an elderly woman on his handlebars ... to the death train. Like many of these local former ordinary police officers, he saw himself as correct and even kindly.

Johnson wrestles bravely with the near-impossible task of assessing the guilt or innocence of the local population. His firmest conclusion is that most Germans who were not confirmed oppositionists (religious or political) had little to fear. People listened to the BBC; even that was merely considered a minor offence.

As to the fate of their Jewish former fellow citizens, those of good will believed, or hoped, that they were to be resettled in the East. Rumours from the killing fields of Poland and Russia did circulate, but were voluntarily suppressed, or perhaps disbelieved as soldiers' exaggerated tales. There is little evidence of any active help for the victims.

Even in the early stages, the reach of the Nazi terror was demonstrated by the speedy removal to concentration camps of Communists and too-eager Christians and trade unionists. I myself knew a Communist who, sternly warned to remain inactive, did so and survived. Even in this predominantly Catholic area, denunciations did take place, though not as frequently as elsewhere. Nor were they as much acted upon. Johnson's book is a model of its, however limited, kind. His approach is entirely academic and to that extent he fails to portray the ever-deepening, doom-laden atmosphere in which the helpless victims existed, and then perished. □ John Rossall

## Istvan the Variable

Istvan Szabo, *SUNSHINE*, at selected cinemas

**S**unshine is a three hour-long epic spanning three generations of the Hungarian Jewish family Sonnenschein. After seeing the film I discussed it with several Jewish friends and a non-

Jewish one. All gave it the thumbs-up. The former because it showed that whatever a Sonnenschein did – be he a Habsburg judge, a fencing champion, or a Communist activist – he always came up against insurmountable antisemitism. My non-Jewish left-leaning friend approved of the film's historic sweep and evocation of Stalinist paranoia.

Alas, I could not share their enthusiasm. In my eyes *Sunshine* showed a sad decline from Szabo's earlier masterpieces *Mephisto* and *Colonel Redl*. For one, it has a surfeit of sex scenes tenuously justified by the wayward libido the judge passes on to his fencer son, who in turn transmits it to his dissident Communist offspring (since all three roles are taken by Ralph Fiennes the film might also have been called *The Ego Has Landed*).

I was also irked because the founders of the Sonnenschein dynasty are portrayed by David de Keyser and Miriam Margolis in the tradition of the *oy-vay* school of acting; the former is a Talmud-bound patriarch dispensing pearls of wisdom – the latter a matriarch who always expects the worst and is never disappointed.

On the plus side I must mention a brilliant cameo performance by William Hurt as a Communist political prisoner. Above all, the film features an unforgettably horrific scene of the fencer being tortured to death by camp guards playing water hoses on him in midwinter. Szabo also makes most effective use of splendidly ornate Habsburg buildings and injects a documentary feel into the crowd scenes of the Budapest Uprising. Alas, by the time the three-hour epic had reached 1956 it was too late for me! □ RG

## 50 YEARS AGO

### TWO JEWRIES

The rift which divides the world between East and West is going right through the Jewish people. Only in two places have Jews succeeded to remain outside the two warring camps – in Israel and, strangely enough, in Berlin.

The Jewish Community in Berlin is the only body which embraces inhabitants in all sectors. A problem of greater consequence is presented by Israel, which balances uneasily between East and West on the thin line of 'non-identification'. How long the young state will be able to remain outside the two power blocs, in spite of economic and political pressure, is a matter for speculation.

□ AJR Information August 1950

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## NEVER AGAIN?

Sir – I went to the Permanent Holocaust Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum and was very favourably impressed. This exhibition covers a large canvas and it takes more than one visit to cope with and to digest. It stops on 8 May 1945. It has to stop somewhere and there is the rub. The number of survivors may be small compared to those murdered and robbed but they are the barometer which indicates the attitude since that day in May 55 years ago.

If that is not treated as dispassionately, then future visitors to such exhibitions will come away with the idea that a tribe called Nazis – who took over Germany in 1933, made war, killed Jews and Gypsies, Poles and Russians, the mentally retarded and anybody who got in their way – disappeared on the stroke of 8 May 1945 and the good German reappeared out of the woods and behaved very decently to the few survivors who lived happily ever after.

There should be, nay, there must be, a museum which continues where the IWM stops, dealing with the behaviour of the Swiss banks, the indecent refusal by German firms to pay those still around for the work from which they benefited, the evasion by insurance firms which are not as helpful as reports suggest. The list is long and undignified and makes nonsense of the easy cry "never again" because persecution and discrimination under another name has been going on for 55 years since the supposed end of the Nazi era.

Ipswich, Suffolk

Frank Bright

## PITFALLS OF POLITICS

Sir – Your assertion that proportional representation is an undesirable system leading to unstable governments is not a tenable one. The first-past-the-post system gave Britain eighteen years of Thatcherism based on a minority of the voters. With a proportional system which would have given the Liberals a representative presence, this would not have happened.

It is simplistic to quote Italy and Israel as evidence and not take other relevant

factors into account. Other European countries using PR have had successful governments since the war. Voter apathy, the greatest weakness of the British electoral system, can be partially explained by large numbers of voters knowing that in their constituency, it would be a waste of time to vote for a party that has no chance of being represented.

There is surely no argument that all votes should count in a democracy. If the result does not please us, then we must try to persuade the voters to change their views, not disenfranchise them. Austria and Germany have had stable and eminently successful coalition governments. At the last election in Austria, over 80% of the electorate went to the polls. With the right to vote should go the obligation to vote.

Your article throws out the baby with the bath water by condemning PR *per se*. The right kind of proportional system, underpinned by constitutional measures, will not give disproportionate power to small extremist parties.

London W12

Eric Sanders

Sir – First-past-the-post elections produce unrepresentative governments and these have become a deterrent to would-be pollsters. They now regard this system as a gamble – which it is! The greater the number of independent voters, the better for democracy.

Whitley Bay

Frieda Rosner

## THE RACE CARD

Sir – In his excellent article (July 2000), RG partly misquoted Schoenerer. As far as I know, the dictum cited runs: "Ob Jud' ob Christ ist einerlei, in der Rasse liegt die Schweinerei." This was to signal to Jews aiming to avoid antisemitic harassment by converting to the Catholic faith that they were bound to fail.

This, by the way, is the difference between Schoenerer and Karl Lueger (Mayor of Vienna till 1910). While Schoenerer was a confirmed racist, Lueger's turn of the century antisemitism was based on religious prejudice and prompted by Christian party politics.

Vienna, Austria

Heinz Rosenkranz

## BEYOND HIS KEN

Sir – Mrs A Saville (July 2000) should know better that to accuse Ken Livingstone of being responsible for the Robertson jam factory's loss of 300 jobs. The blame must surely go to Robertsons for refusing to take their golliwog trademark down from the front of their factory. As a Jewess (presumably), she should be the last person to accuse Ken. His "obsession with golliwogs" proved that he was ahead of his time in fighting racism; as she may remember, the paper golliwog that used to be found in every pot of Robertson's jam finally had to disappear.

Cheam, Surrey

Inge Trott

## FATHERS AND SONS

Sir – The FDJ was not started by Horst Brasch, as you state, but by Adolf ('Appel') Buchholz. This is shown clearly in Horst Brie's book *David's Odyssee: Eine deutsche Kindheit – eine jüdische Jugend* and in my book *Voices from the Past*.

Horst Brasch did take over the leadership several years later, after 'Appel' Buchholz's retirement from office.

London N6

Herbert Levy

## MEMBER'S AWARDS

Sir – On June 29 I was presented with a medal for 31 years service with the WRVS. The presentation by the mayor took place at the WRVS centre in Crawley.

I came to this country in 1939 as a qualified nurse, having trained at the *Krankenhaus der Jüdischen Gemeinde* in Berlin. After a few months as an au pair, I was allowed to continue with nursing and held posts in various hospitals up and down the country, often under difficult bombing conditions.

Crawley

Anneliese Steckelmacher (Mrs)

W. Sussex

Sir – On 31 March this year, the University of London awarded me the degree of Doctor of Science. Among those from whom I received congratulations were Prof. Adrian Smith, Principal of Queen Mary & Westfield College, University of London, Professor Eviatar Nevo, Foreign Member USA National Academy of Sciences and Director of the Institute of Evolution, University of Haifa and Professor Walter Hayman FRS.

Newcastle upon Tyne

GD Wassermann

## THE JOYS OF YIDDISH

Sir – Reading RG's Yiddish column reminded me of a story about the great Schalom Asch who attended a press conference held at the launch of one of his books. Asked why he wrote in Yiddish when he was fluent in several languages, Asch replied: 'Because it is the most beautiful and best language in the world'. Asked to elucidate and justify his assertion, Asch responded: 'That's easy – *Man versteht jedes Wort!*'

To me at least, Yiddish ranks pretty high in the league of communication; the speaker can make his intentions superbly clear and the listener has no excuse for failing to understand.

Richmond, Surrey

CP Carter

## PIONEER CORPS

Sir – The considerable part played by Jewish refugees in the Pioneer Corps, now part of the Royal Logistics Corps (RLC), is acknowledged by the RLC Commanding Officer who would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in furthering this historical association. I will co-ordinate any responses and suggestions from members, who are invited to write to me in the first instance. I will pass on the results to the commanding officer. All respondents will hear from me in due course.

21 Nicholas Way  
Northwood  
Middx HA6 2TR

John Silberman,  
OBE FCIT FRSA

## MANX ENIGMA

Sir – In the article 'Soup of the evening, beautiful soup', (May 2000) I note the word *humankind*. If a woman lives on the Isle of Man the writer would, I assume, refer to her as living on the Isle of Humans.

London N15

H Schragenheim

## OVERSIMPLIFICATION

Sir – Since virtually every Jew is a refugee, if one traces the family back far enough, could not our Association be open to every Jew?

London N3

Henry A Garfinkel

[Our readers' views on this topic are invited – Ed.]

## CHIEF'S COMPLIMENTS

Sir – The Chief Rabbi would like to thank you for taking the trouble to send your journal to our offices and he would like to congratulate everyone involved in the production of this excellent newsletter.

Office of The Chief Rabbi

## SEARCH NOTICES

**Rabbi Max Dienemann**, died Offenbach 1939. Known to have two daughters presumed living in England. Jüdische Verlagsanstalt, Berlin, wishes to re-publish some of his writings. Please contact Rabbi Harry Jacobi, Tel: 020 8440 1261.

Descendants of the late **Dr Jacob Jacobson**, formerly Director of the *Gesamtarchiv der deutschen Juden*, are asked to contact Dr Arnold Paucker, Director, Leo Baeck Institute, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1W 5BH.

**Alfred Arnott** (formerly Arnsdorf). Arrived in Australia September 1940 on the *Dunera* with twin brother Max and younger brother Steve. Returned as a British Army volunteer to Liverpool via Panama Canal on British troop transport. Would like to hear from anyone who knew him. 9 Lord Howe St., Dover Heights, NSW 2030, Australia.

**Kurt Litten** from Köslin (now Koszalin), in London in 1946 establishing an import/export business. Publisher wishes to contact

him or his family. Contact Jane Pejsa, Kenwood Publishing, #906, 1314 Marquette Ave., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403 – 4105. Tel: 001 612-332-5204.

PhD student researching **non-Jewish rescuers** of persecuted Jews in Nazi Europe would like to hear from anyone helped by such a rescuer. A. Grunwald-Speer, Heath Court, 76 Dore Rd., Sheffield S17 3NE. Tel: 0114 2360984.

**Justus Alenfeld (Ahlenfeld)**, born Berlin ca. 1930. Lived in Forststrasse, Berlin-Zehlendorf until 1945 and attended Zehlendorf Gymnasium. Mother, violinist, played chamber music with pianist Gerhard Kastner (now cembalist) who lived with his parents Paul and Elizabeth Kastner in Argentinische Allee 110, Berlin-Zehlendorf and who would like to hear from him and his sister Sabine. Please contact Peter Zander, 22 Romilly St., London W1D 5AG. 020 7437 4767 □

## Lost property

**W**hilst clearing her late mother's house in Jersey ready for sale, June Campbell discovered a brown paper parcel. When she unwrapped it, she found two portraits, unframed and painted on canvas. In one, painted in 1913 and signed E Pirkardt, a woman is seated on a chair under a tree in a garden. The other, undated and signed E Uhl-Steinken, is of a formally dressed man with a bushy grey handlebar moustache.

The story of how these paintings came to be with her mother's effects starts in the 1930s when June's parents ran the small Fletchers Hotel in Guilford Street, London WC1. Her father was sympathetic to the plight of European Jews fleeing from Nazi Germany (and later Nazi-occupied Europe) and welcomed them to his hotel where he tried to help them where he could. In some cases, he agreed to look after possessions for those who were limited in the amount of luggage they could take with them on the next stage of their journey. In most cases, they returned to reclaim their possessions. However the two paintings described were, exceptionally, never claimed and found their way to Jersey when June's parents sold the hotel in the 1960s and moved to the Channel Islands. The parcel remained untouched and forgotten in the loft of the Jersey home during June's parents' lifetimes.

In a note found with the paintings, there is a suggestion that the owner may have been a German psychologist.

June Campbell would love to reunite the paintings with their rightful owner. In the meantime, they are being kept at the AJR office and enquiries can be made by post or telephone to *AJR Information*.

□ MK

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# AJR Reports

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS



At the West Midlands garden party. Standing left to right, Henny Rednall (new chair of the group), Leon Jessel MBE JP, Myrna Glass (AJR head office). Seated, Edgar Glaser (treasurer & coordinator of garden party).

### West Midlands

Twenty eight group members, joined by Myrna Glass from head office, were guests of Leon Jessel MBE JP at a garden party at his home in Walsall. Excellent weather, good food and drinks (including bucks fizz) made for a convivial afternoon when members from further afield had the opportunity to get to know each other in a relaxed environment. It transpired that at least ten of those present came from Berlin, one of whom Mr Jessel had known since the age of four. The event marked the beginning of what will hopefully be a new season of activities with a reinvigorated committee.

□ Edgar Glaser

### Brighton and Hove

George and Mary Vulcan gave a fascinating account of their two trips, three years apart, to the Peoples' Republic of China. The slides of their first visit – to Beijing and the north of the country – showed the grandeur and splendour of the Forbidden City's palace and gardens and the vastness and wildness of the Mongolian border country surrounding the Great Wall.

The slides of their second trip, from which they had only recently returned, recorded a trip on the Yangtse River from Shanghai to Chungking with views showing staggering contrasts between old and new. Chungking is reputed to be the

largest city in the world with some thirty million inhabitants. George's slides were supplemented by Mary's albums of photographs which were eagerly studied by all.

□ Frank Goldberg

### Leeds

Speaking on 'The Wisdom of War Crime Trials', Rabbi Ian Morris took the view that the Shoah was a crime against humanity, not a war crime, as it did not contribute to the prosecution of the war. He maintained that perpetrators of the Shoah should be prosecuted irrespective of age and the lapse of time. He himself had been personally involved as an observer at a war crimes trial in Australia which resulted in an acquittal. A discussion followed.

□ Heinz Skyte

On 6 August there will be an Extraordinary General Meeting to discuss the scheme to record on tape or in writing the experiences of members before and after arrival in Britain. On 10 September, Leeds member Dr Erika Harris will speak on 'The Jews of Slovakia – from the war to the present day.'

### Pinner

Dr Stewart Drage's considered medical view of the Jewish laws regarding diet and health from the earliest times was that they were designed to keep the people fit in body, mind and soul, often better than their neighbours. Circumcision was necessary as hygiene was poor. A varied diet of fruit and vegetables supplemented by selected fish and animal meat successfully kept diseases such as rickets at bay. Shellfish were banned due to their tendency to concentrate poisons and pigs were prohibited due to worm infestation. The chicken became a firm favourite as it is cheap to rear and its meat is easily digested.

□ Walter Weg

At the next meeting on 7 September at 2 pm, Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith will talk about how the Leitz family, of Leica camera fame, helped many Jews during the Nazi period.

### South London

After the summer break, the next meeting will be on Thursday 14 September at 2pm when Dr Jo Reilly of Southampton University and the Wiener Library will talk on 'Non-Jewish responses to the 1930s refugee crisis' □



## Major banks waive charges

Most major banks will no longer levy bank charges on regular payments made by the German Government to Holocaust survivors living in the UK. The announcement follows lobbying by Labour MP Andrew Dismore who raised the issue last year with Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Stephen Byers.

The banks concerned are Bank of Scotland, Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds TSB and Royal Bank of Scotland/National Westminster. Anyone receiving Holocaust-related payments from the German Government through a bank account should make themselves known to the bank which will then put the arrangement in place □

## Kinder get-together

*Dear Sylvia, Susie and Renée,  
I would like you to know how much I enjoyed the first 'get together' of the Kinder. We had a very warm welcome and a tasty lunch which was served with charm and efficiency.*

*It was my first visit to Cleve Road and therefore most rewarding to see what a difference the opportunity to play cards, chat and eat together makes to people who live alone or, perhaps, don't find congenial and sympathetic company elsewhere.*

*I look forward to future occasions and thank you for the organisation you and your team undertook.*

□ *Elfrieda Colman*

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

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

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>August</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>August</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>August</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>August</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>August</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>September</b>

and every Thursday from  
10am to 12 noon at:

**AJR, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Froggnal,  
London NW3 6AL**

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

## ... Viewpoint ...

### Last post

In the past twenty years 3,000 post offices have closed their doors. The more common of the services that the remaining 19,000 provide range from the all-important payments of pensions and welfare benefits, TV and car tax licences, the sale of stamps and postal orders, a flutter on the lottery, a haven for limited savings and a place to rid oneself of large parcels.

Many post offices – most of which are franchises – survive economically as small general stores and newsagents, so it's not surprising that they became the epicentre of local communal life, both urban and rural.

When competing with the wage packets of booming Britain, post-mastering increasingly proved a less popular way for members of the indigenous population to make a living. Fortunately, Asian shopkeepers and traders from East Africa found a natural habitat in corner shops throughout the land, many of which also serve as the local branch post offices.

Twenty eight million of us use post offices every week, but common observation confirms the composition of the inevitable queue as predominantly of the old and the poor. In three years' time the government intend paying all ben-

efits straight into each customer's bank account (at a cost of 1p) rather than in cash over the counter (costing 49p). These welcome savings could be a disaster for the post offices which derive one third of their income thereby.

The closure of a post office often portends the demise of community life, whether in country or town. The daily communion between housewives out shopping has long since disappeared into a labour market dependent on working women. The eradication of the post office could prove the last straw with nowhere left to meet and greet neighbours without a commitment either to alcohol consumption or religious worship.

A new Universal Bank is to offer accounts at the post office to the 3.5 million people – mostly the poor – who do not have bank accounts. As well as issuing cheque books and cash cards, it will credit pensions and benefits, offer loans for the first time and be a first port of call for help and information.

In the onward march of e-mails and electronic banking, will post offices wither away along with bank branches, doctors' home calls, newspaper and milk deliveries and regular bus services?

□ *Ronald Channing*

## PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

15 Cleve Road, West Hampstead, NW6

Mon. & Weds. 9.30am-3.30pm. Tues. & Thurs. 9.30am-5.30pm. Suns. 2pm-6.30pm

### AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2000

Afternoon entertainment programme –

Tue	1	The Frowde family entertain, accompanied by June Moore, Piano
Wed	2	Angela Arratoon, accompanied by Eldad Neumark, piano
Thur	3	ONE-MAN BAND – Freddy Hill
Sun	6	DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon	7	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Tue	8	THE GEOFFREY WHITWORTH DUO
Wed	9	Christine Fisher accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth
Thur	10	DAY CENTRE CLOSED – TISHAH B'AV
Sun	13	DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon	14	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Tue	15	Carol-Ann Grainger, soprano accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth, piano
Wed	16	HELEN BLAKE ENTERTAINS WITH VOICE & PIANO

Thur	17	Avril Kaye & David Jedwab accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth, piano
Sun	20	DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon	21	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Tue	22	Paul & Sinikka Coleman
Wed	23	Melanie Mehta, soprano accompanied by Jean Brown, piano
Thur	24	THE EDDY SIMMONS DUO
Sun	27	DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon	28	DAY CENTRE CLOSED – BANK HOLIDAY
Tue	29	RONNIE GOLDBERG ON GUITAR
Wed	30	Robin Richards, violin, Peter Irvine, baritone accompanied by Gloria Moss, piano
Thur	31	THE VALERIE HEWITT SHOW
Sun	3	DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon	4	KARD & GAMES KLUB

**FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Deaths**

**Berger.** Regina Berger (née Wollner) born Vienna, 30 March 1909, died peacefully on 16 June 2000 after a short illness, aged 91. She will be greatly missed by her son, daughter-in-law, granddaughters and all her friends. Shalom.

**CLASSIFIED**

**LINK Psychotherapy Trust** have planned a further meeting for intergenerational dialogue for Sunday 24 September 2000, 10am to 3pm, at 73 Fortune Green Road, NW6, for Former Kindertransportees and their second and third generation offspring. Another meeting for intergenerational dialogue could be offered to include people with other experiences than the Kindertransport if enough people are interested. Further details from Ruth Barnett 020 7431 0837.

**Miscellaneous Services**

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**Day Centre**

**Shirley Lever at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre.** New clothes for sale, dresses, underwear, cardigans etc. Tuesday 22 August 9.45-11.45am.

**Societies**

**Association of Jewish Ex-Berliners and Ex-Breslauers.** Please contact Peter Sinclair 020 8882 1638 for information □

**PART TIME ORGANISER REQUIRED**

The South London Group of the **AJR** requires a person with clerical and administrative skills to assist with the organisation and activities of its members.

The work will initially involve the equivalent of 1½ days p.mth. The group meets in daytime in the Streatham area.

The person appointed will probably live in South or Central London, drive a car and possess keyboard skills. An understanding of the background of AJR members would be useful.

For further information please phone Ken Ambrose on **020 8852 0262**



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**AJR GROUP CONTACTS**

<b>Leeds HSFA:</b>	<b>Trude Silman</b> 0113 225 1628
<b>West Midlands (Birmingham):</b>	<b>Edgar Glaser</b> 0121 777 6537
<b>North (Manchester):</b>	<b>Werner Lachs</b> 0161 773 4091
<b>East Midlands (Nottingham):</b>	<b>Bob Norton</b> 01159 212 494
<b>Pinner (HA Postal District):</b>	<b>Vera Gellman</b> 020 8866 4833
<b>S. London:</b>	<b>Ken Ambrose</b> 020 8852 0262
<b>Surrey:</b>	<b>Ernest Simon</b> 01737 643 900
<b>Brighton &amp; Hove (Sussex Region):</b>	<b>Fausta Shelton</b> 01273 688 226
<b>Wessex (Bournemouth):</b>	<b>Ralph Dale</b> 01202 762 270

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for details and assessment interview.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS AUGUST 2000**

Until 5 Aug	<b>Leon Kossoff.</b> Recent paintings and works on paper. Annely Juda Fine Art, 23 Dering St., W1. 020 7629 7578.
1 - 5 Aug	<b>Chagall, Chagall.</b> Yakub Kolas Theatre, Vitebsk, perform at The Gate. 020 7229 0706
Until 3 Sept	<b>Judaica 2000.</b> Contemporary Anglo-Jewish ceremonial art. Jewish Museum, Camden Town. 020 7284 1997.
Until 27 Oct	<b>East of Eden.</b> Moishe Sokal watercolours. Sternberg Centre. 020 8346 2288.
5 Sept	<b>The Jew - assumptions of identity.</b> Talk at Jewish Museum, Finchley. 8 p.m. 020 8349 1143.

# Art Notes

How do twenty-first century artists respond to the great masters of the past? In a million different ways according to the **National Gallery's** latest, imaginative show. **Encounters, New Art from Old**, invited twenty-four established artists from Britain, Europe and North America to choose a work from the National Gallery collection. The result is complex, humorous and intelligent.

**Van-Gogh's** famous empty yellow wicker chair has always expressed that which is missing and unfulfilled. **RB Kitaj** fills it with a ribald *Billionaire*. He is toothy, rapacious, sardonic, as overwhelmingly present in his chair as Van Gogh's subject is absent. The main difference is one of context: is the billionaire a metaphor for Van Gogh's tragic life, mirrored in the rictus grin of the man in his chair? Poor old Vincent would indeed be laughing all the way to the bank, although not, I suspect, without irony.

One of the most intensely vivid of the collection is **Paula Rego's** version of Hogarth's *Marriage à la Mode*. While the original wryly glances at the state of arranged marriages and their devastating outcome, Rego's take on modern marriage leaves nothing to the imagination. Her pastel series *After Hogarth - Lessons* with its repertoire of sad, dissonant faces - even the dog looks cynical - is a mess of broken furniture and jumbled possessions. But in her final painting, *Wreck*, she returns most graphically to Hogarth's sad acceptance of things being as they are. This realisation that nothing will change is given a female perspective. Rego's sleeping husband lies cradled in the lap of his wife who contemplates the physical and emotional wreck of their lives.

Much of the work is narrative or literal. **David Hockney's** *Twelve Portraits from Ingres in a Uniform Style* owes little to Ingres, but much to Hockney's skills as a portrait painter. His pencil, crayon and gouache portraits translate the classical style into a modern idiom and make you think you know the subject.

**Balthus** transports **Poussin's** *Midsummer Night's Dream* from a place where predatory instincts reign to one of dream-



Paula Rego's *Wreck* (1999) at the National Gallery's *Encounters* exhibition

like solitude. Poussin's sleeping nude is vulnerable to the satyrs who ogle and uncover her. There, even the trees and clouds have a taste of foreboding. Balthus' nude is liberated, fearless, insouciant in her sleep. Only a fat sickle moon remains as a crude metaphor for love. Another artist who takes his task literally is **Lucien Freud**. His oil painting is a near copy of **Chardin's** *Young Schoolmistress*, but with a difference. The intense delicacy of Chardin's teacher is almost transparent.

Freud, who never hands you beauty on a plate, retains the movement and grace of the painting but sharpens the teacher's face, jarring her patience with that roughness, that sense of the grotesque he always sees beneath the surface. But the question that troubles me is - why bother? Chardin's vision is distorted by Freud whose own clarity works better at first hand.

The same is true of **Howard Hodgkin**, who exaggerates **Seurat's** pointillism in his famous *Bathers at Asnières*. In trying to be literal with the truth of the original, there is a danger of falling by comparison. Seurat's work is a masterpiece of solitude. Each figure is a lonely planet, accentuated by round heads, hats, backs and large space between. Hodgkin's pointillism is larger, his colours bolder, his technique more interpretative.

Some might see the skeleton of **Constable's** *Hay Wain* in **Frank Auerbach's** abstract oil, *Park Village East* and there is no doubting his vibrancy of stroke and colour. But does it matter that what passes for a tree in Auerbach's painting stands in exactly in the same place as Constable's?

Curators and art historians love this sort of thing, but it seems to me that the contiguity is all.

Perhaps the most exciting work is **Bill Viola's** *Quintet of the Astonished* based on **Hieronymus Bosch's** *Christ Mocked*. Viola's video installation shows Bosch's five characters changing expression with recumbent slowness. Bosch's mockers actually represent every facet of humanity, from sagacity to humour, aggression to bombast, brute force to intelligence. It is this which the contemporary artist visualises so effectively. However, I left the **National** wondering whether today's artists would not be better off sticking to their own original themes.

□ Gloria Tessler

## SB's Column

**Anne Frank.** The successful production of Grigor Frid's Mono-opera was repeated at the Hanover EXPO with Israeli soprano Anat Efraty outstanding as the eponymous tragic heroine whose diary brought her world fame.

**Carinthia.** Austria's southernmost province (which recently gained notoriety as Haider's fiefdom) offers a rich summer programme of cultural events mainly held in Klagenfurt; in addition to diverse dramatic productions. Grace Bumbry, Nicolai Gedda and Cheryl Studer will give song recitals during the month of August.

**Birthdays.** One of the great mezzo-sopranos of the post-war period, Giulietta Simionato, celebrated her ninetieth birthday. Though her long and distinguished career was centred on Milan she also appeared in Chicago, New York and Paris, London and Glyndebourne. Also ninety is one of German theatre's favourite grand old ladies Inge Meysel, equally loved by pre- and postwar audiences. (She was barred from the stage during the Nazi era.) Inge Meysel was honoured on German TV, and impressed by her enduring stage presence and vibrant vitality.

**Obituary.** Czech-born actor Francis Lederer has died, aged a hundred. He played under Reinhardt in Berlin, later switching to films, where *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* and *Pandora's Box* (directed by GW Pabst) enhanced his reputation. After appearing on the London stage in the thirties, he left for Hollywood and played a lead part in *Confessions of a Nazi spy*. He toured America and Britain in the fifties with the musical *Wedding in Paris*. Francis Lederer spent his retirement years in California □

## Science Notebook

### Refugee scientists' achievements

See Lawley's guest on Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs* at the end of June was Nobel Laureate Dr Max Perutz. Born in Vienna in 1914, Perutz was turned on at university by the subject of chemistry. Already at age 22 he expressed his desire to solve the secret of life, and so after graduation he went to England to work on protein structures at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge. In 1939, after the Anschluss, he managed to bring his parents out of Austria; some months later, however, they were all interned as enemy aliens and sent to Canada. He was released early in 1941 and returned to Cambridge from where he was recruited for a secret war project, to make ice strong enough so it could be used to build an unsinkable aircraft carrier – an idea which proved impractical.

Back at Cambridge after the war, Perutz was instrumental in setting up a Medical Research Council unit which later became known as the Laboratory of Molecular Biology. There he continued his researches on the structure of proteins by shining beams of X-rays on them and analysing the patterns of dots formed on a photographic plate (X-ray diffraction). This was a mammoth task for such large molecules containing several thousand atoms and the breakthrough came in 1953 when he tried incorporating heavy metal atoms like gold into the protein. This altered the diffraction pattern and made it easier to discover the positions of the atoms.

Perutz was thus able to determine the structure of haemoglobin, the oxygen-carrying protein in red blood cells. For this research he shared the 1962 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with his fellow worker, John Kendrew, who had in a similar way determined the structure of the muscle protein myoglobin.

Among the talented people attracted into Perutz's unit were Francis Crick and James Watson who also achieved a breakthrough in 1953 by constructing the double helix model of DNA. In 1962 they too (together with Maurice Wilkins) were awarded a Nobel Prize, in their case for Physiology, and they travelled to Sweden together to receive their awards.

Earlier in June, a live video link between Imperial College, London, and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest celebrated the life and work of the late Denis Gabor. Born in Budapest in 1900, Gabor was educated there and at the Technische Hochschule in Charlottenburg before taking a post with Siemens. With the rise of Hitler he fled to England in 1933 and was employed by British Thomson-Houston in Rugby. In 1948 he joined the staff of Imperial College and later became Professor of Applied Electron Physics; he died in 1979. Gabor's main achievement was the invention of holography (*holos* means whole in Greek) or three-dimensional photography for which he received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1971. Holography became practical after 1961 with the application of laser light and it is now widely used for data storage and for security purposes (see the little coloured bird on your Visa card, for instance). □ Prof Michael Spiro

### A Central Archive for German-Jewish history

Founded in 1987 as a subsidiary organisation of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, the main purpose of the *Zentralarchiv zur Erforschung der Geschichte der Juden in Deutschland* is to store and catalogue documents of historical value from Jewish communities, organisations and individuals.

The collection is limited to the political borders of the Federal Republic.

Newspapers and journals published by Jewish groups and organisations can also

be found in the collection. The Archive also collects, in photographic form, tombstone inscriptions from Jewish cemeteries in Germany; photographs of nearly 54,000 from Baden-Württemberg are already in the collection.

*The Archive can be contacted as follows:*

Zentralarchiv, Bienenstrasse 5,  
69117 Heidelberg, Germany.  
Tel: ++49 (0) 6221 164141

Email: Zentralarchiv@urz.uni-heidelberg.de

□ MK

### ARE YOU ON A LOW INCOME AND IN NEED OF HOMECARE HELP?

AJR might be able to offer financial assistance.

*Members who might not otherwise be able to afford homecare please contact:*

**Estelle Brookner, Secretary  
AJR, Social Services  
Department  
Phone No: 020 7431 6161**

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## Jewish culture invades the Dome

Competing with the themed zones and the foodcourts, choirs from Minsk to Newcastle and dancers and bands from far and near drew their audiences from visitors to the Dome, some of whom had come specifically to support the 'Jewish culture day'. Visitors arriving at 10 o'clock were greeted at the main entrance by a preview of the repertoire of Klezmer players 'Balalaika' who later performed their Slav-sounding Klezmer on a small stage outside the Red Boot 'family pub'.

Having travelled all the way from Minsk to London by bus, the Simcha music school choir, dressed in long white shimmering dresses and accompanied by strings and woodwind, filled the Arena stage with traditional singing and dancing. Their professionalism and discipline was unmatched by other performers. The Alyth choir, including a childrens' choir, conducted by Vivian Bellos, performed – to a somewhat depleted audience in the 'Our Town' auditorium – a modern cantata depicting the handing down of Jewish heritage through the generations. Later that day in the same auditorium, the



The Simcha Choir from Minsk performing at Jewish Culture Day at the Dome

Pinner Youth Players had to battle against the noise of the central millennium show in the main arena with their abbreviated production of *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*; but at least the auditorium was full.

Dome visitors seeking other tastes of the Jewish Music Institute's Jewish cultural offerings could dip in and out of colourful dancing and folk music (Israeli,

Klezmer, traditional) from predominantly amateur groups, emphasising the community's contribution to the programme. If the observation of one café proprietor – that the Dome was experiencing an unusually large influx of visitors for a Sunday – was anything to go by, London's Jews supported their community's cultural efforts.

□ MK

## International piano virtuoso to play Mozart concerto at AJR Annual Concert

Noriko Ogawa, a former Leeds International Piano Competition prizewinner, has gained an enviable reputation in Europe, America and in her native Japan where she is a national celebrity. On 29 October, Noriko Ogawa will play Mozart's piano concerto K449 at AJR's 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Concert at Imperial College, accompanied by the splendid players of the London Concertino conducted by Richard Dickins.

Both on the concert platform and for her recordings, Noriko Ogawa remains in great demand, performing with the world's major orchestras and making regular radio and television broadcasts. Spending half the year in Europe, based in London, Noriko records for the BBC and appears with the major UK orchestras, lately including the Philharmonia, BBC Philharmonic, and the Bournemouth Symphony. This season she has added engagements in California, Sweden, Germany and Russia with the St Petersburg



Noriko Ogawa, piano soloist at the AJR concert.

Symphony Orchestra. In May she adjudicated on keyboard contestants at the final of the BBC's 'Young Musician of the Year' competition televised from Manchester's

sparkling modern Bridgewater Hall.

Her recent recordings include Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* (selected as critics' choice by BBC Music Magazine) and works by Rachmaninov, Schumann and Debussy.

The AJR Concert will take place in the Great Hall at Imperial College, South Kensington, London SW7 at 3pm on 29 October. During a 45 minute interval a full tea will be served in the college refectory. Tickets at £12, £15, £18 and at £10 for children, will shortly be available from AJR Head Office.

□ RDC

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CONTEMPORARY PAINTING  
AND SCULPTURE

## Searchlight on Austria

Austria was put under the microscope by an historian, a psychoanalyst and by politicians at a seminar held at the Wiener Library and co-presented by the Wiener Library, the AJR and the Second Generation Trust.

Historian Robert Knight saw the recent international preoccupation with Austria as arising from such distinct phenomena as the "stream of memory" of Jewish awareness of Austria's role in the Holocaust and the rise to prominence of Jörg Haider. Austria's early postwar years were devoted to the development of a national identity; its identity as the first victim of Nazism – enshrined in the Moscow Declaration of 1943 – had exempted the country from outside scrutiny of its record of antisemitism and collaboration with the Nazis. The West had underpinned this approach because of the desire to cultivate a westernised Austria. Documents discovered in Knight's research revealed a reluctance on the part of the British Government to investigate anti-Jewish activity in Austria. The party electoral system – which led to the Grand Coalition between the Conservatives and the Social Democrats – left a definite opposition role for extremist parties. Nevertheless he was optimistic about Austria's future.

Felix de Mendelssohn, son of Austrian refugees, gave an admittedly subjective view explaining that he had not expected



Panelists from left: Silvio Lehmann, Bruno Aigner, Richard Luther, Terezija Stoisits and chairman Lord Dubs.

to find himself living in Vienna but had done so since the 1970s, a time of social, judicial and educational reform. He described Jörg Haider as a post-modern populist demagogue, not a Nazi, and emphasised that what was relevant was not Haider's image but the forces he represented. Austria's membership of the EU was an important safety net against Haider's possible rise to power.

Glyn Ford MEP did a Cook's tour of the existence and rise of rightwing and nationalist parties in other EU countries identifying France, Belgium, Italy and Denmark in particular. He reviewed the steps taken to combat racism, not least the Monitoring Centre in Vienna as well as anti-discrimination legislation, but felt this was insufficient. Denmark and Spain remained permissive of Holocaust denial

and legislation was necessary to counteract race-hate internet sites. Austria threatened to be the beginning, not the end, of the election to power of rightwing parties.

Elements of the political spectrum in Austria were represented in the panel discussion which followed. Terezija Stoisits (Green Party/Croatian), Bruno Aigner (Social Democrat) and Silvio Lehmann (Republican Club/Democratic Offensive) shared a platform with Richard Luther (Keele University) and summarised their perspectives on Austria's postwar political development and their views on EU sanctions. There appeared to be a consensus that Austria's democracy, delayed though it might be, would survive.

□ Marion Koebner

## BBC commissions Theresienstadt film

It was in the 1960s that Beatrice Tiger first read 'Terezin Requiem', the account of Theresienstadt and Auschwitz survivor Josef Bor. Moved by the book, she wrote to him in Prague and thus began a correspondence which resulted in his invitation to her to visit him in Prague. In 1978, the long-awaited trip to Prague took place but sadly, Bor had just died. Beatrice met his son Peter and they kept in touch.

In 1998 she met film director Jack Emery, with whom she discussed her desire to turn Bor's story into film. He was enthusiastic but she heard nothing further, assuming that without the requisite finance, the project would progress no further. In June this year she received a telephone call from Emery confirming that the project had attracted the attention

of BBC's Alan Yentob and Mark Thomson and was to be realised.

Eyewitnesses will play an essential role in the success of the film. Survivors of Theresienstadt are asked to contact Beatrice Tiger, 1a Westbere Drive, Stanmore, Middx. HA7 4RF; tel:020 8958 7272.

□ MK



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### Do you have in your possession

Ritual objects and objects of everyday life from the times of DP camps or Jewish communities of the immediate postwar era in Germany?

**The Jewish Museum Berlin** is looking for photos, documents, objects, mementos and stories which illustrate Jewish life in both Germanies, for example:

Textbooks, prayerbooks, correspondence with Allied or German authorities, Jewish organisations, family and friends, papers concerning restitution and compensation, identity cards, invitations to simchas, textiles, pictures of the first Passah, first Purim.

**Jüdisches Museum Berlin,  
Lindenstr. 9-14, D 10969 Berlin:  
Leonore Maier/Gisela Freydank,  
tel: 0049-30-25993-455,  
fax: 0049-30-25993-409  
or Jael Geis, tel: 0049-30-25993-327,  
fax: 0049-30-25993-333**

## Obituary

## Eric Doitch

Vienna-born Eric Doitch, who has died aged seventy-seven, was a painter who spent the last third of his life in rural Lincolnshire. This was not totally surprising, since as a boy he had frequently helped out on his uncle's farm

(May Fitzpayne), becoming an accomplished painter and etcher in the process. Taking the urban dereliction of postwar London as his subject matter, he interspersed painting with stints of part-time teaching at Camberwell and Chelsea.

Though the trauma of the Anschluss left him totally disenchanted with Austria – he would not even apply for a pension! – he remained attached to the German language. He had some German poems



'The Jewish Wedding'

Etching by Eric Doitch

in Lower Austria during the school holidays.

The early training stood him in good stead: on arriving in England at fifteen his first job was that of an agricultural labourer. Then, in a reversal of fortune, he gained a scholarship to St Martin's School of Art – only to be interned in 1940, after which he worked in a munitions factory. Postwar he attended Camberwell School of Art (alongside fellow refugees Ernst Eisenmayer and Henry Inlander) and the Royal College (where he met his wife

published in the 1940s, and numbered the émigré writers Elias Canetti, Erich Fried and HG Adler among his friends or acquaintances.

A similar ambivalence marked his attitude to Jewishness. He anglicised his name and steered clear of commitment to Jewish or refugee causes. Nonetheless he remained conscious of our community of fate – as borne out by the extraordinarily moving treatment of Jewish themes in his work.

□ Richard Grunberger

## Message in a bottle

*Ich sab heut' tausend Menschen verstörten  
Angesichts,  
Ich sab heut' tausend Juden, die wanderten  
ins Nichts,  
Ins Grau des kalten Morgens zog die verfemte  
Schar,  
Und hinter ihr verblasste, was einst ihr Leben  
war.  
Ich sab in ihre Augen mit brüderlichem Blick,  
Erwartend tiefsten Jammer von solchem  
Missgeschick.*

*Doch statt Verzweiflung sab ich ein inniges  
Bemühen  
Um Haltung und Beherrschung aus ihren  
Augen glübn.  
Da hab ich, tief ergriffen, den Geist des Volks  
erkannt,  
Das auserwählt zum Leiden, das Leid auch  
stets gebannt.*

A non-Jewish friend sent the above anonymously to a Jewish family in Germany in May 1942 □

## Honoured!

Among members of the Jewish community who were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List were Geraldine Auerbach, Ben Helfgott, Bernard Schreier and Fanny Waterman.

Geraldine Auerbach, Director of the Jewish Music Institute and founder Director of the London International Jewish Music Festival, received an MBE for services to music. She regards the award as an endorsement of the relevance of Jewish music in Britain today.

Ben Helfgott, a Holocaust survivor whose MBE is for services to community relations, represents many different aspects of the survivor community, including the '45 Aid Society and Board of Deputies Yad Vashem committee.

Bernard Schreier, Austrian-born, who emigrated to Palestine in 1938, came to Britain in 1955 on a family visit and stayed. His knighthood was for his contribution to the development of UK-Hungary trade.

Fanny Waterman, Britain's well-known piano teacher, founder and chairman of the Leeds international piano competition, received a CBE.

□ MK

## Valuing refugees

Professor Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, the President of the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA), a refugee to Britain after banishment by the South African Government in 1968, gave a keynote address at the Royal Society in which he expressed grave concern over the current wave of hostility against refugees and asylum seekers, and aspects of the current Asylum and Immigration legislation.

Referring to CARA's foundation in 1933, he named Karl Popper and Max Perutz as two examples of those making outstanding contributions of which the UK and the world would have been deprived had they been subjected to the present legislation. "Refugees bring enormous cultural, intellectual, social and indeed economic benefits to this country...It is time politicians accepted not only that the value of our society derives from refugees...but also that the way we treat them is in turn a measure of our humanity" □

## AJR Annual General Meeting

## CHAIRMAN EMPHASISES NEED FOR CHANGE

Every organisation is required to change, even when 60 years old and caring for a generation of survivors. Our members provide clear evidence that, with a positive attitude, there remains much to get out of life at whatever age.

We all take pride in our religion and culture and today British Jewry has a much higher profile. I was extremely pleased to have represented the AJR at



Dr Elisabeth Maxwell, guest speaker at the AGM, right, with AJR Management Committee member Gaby Glassman.



Ludwig Spiro expressing members' concern about the impending merger between The Otto Schiff Housing Association and Jewish Care.

the opening, by HM the Queen, of the Holocaust Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum, in the knowledge that many of our members contributed to its creation and were among the first to be invited to a preview.

The work of our Social Services Department continues to expand rapidly and Self Aid grants have increased by more than 20% to reach £200,000. Appreciation goes to Marcia Goodman and her dedicated team. The loving care to be found at the Day Centre never diminishes, though the task becomes more onerous as our membership ages and the demand for our meals-on-wheels service increases. We are grateful to Sylvia Matus, Susie Kaufman and all the Day Centre staff.

The AJR has integrated the Reunion of Kindertransport, yet enables former RoK members to retain their own identity, newsletter and meetings at the Day Centre. Thanks are due to David Jedwab for contributing to the organisation of this successful integration. The AJR's annual concert was a great success in its new venue, and we are returning to Imperial College on 29 October this year for a concert and tea.

Three experienced senior members of staff were appointed to manage the AJR, Ronald Channing, Gordon Greenfield and

Carol Rossen, and the organisation has continued to function smoothly with the support of staff at Head Office. I would like to thank everyone in the organisation, as well as our fantastic volunteers, numbering over 170, without whom we simply could not function.

Head Office has been fully computerised over the last few months and the Day Centre is following suit. AJR's monthly magazine will, in due course,

have a new look, but retain all its traditional values, and the AJR will be launching a web site.

David Jedwab and Anthony Spiro were co-opted on to the Management Committee and Freddie Durst retired on reaching the age limit. May I express my thanks to the Management Committee for their hard work and support throughout the year. The election of Katherine Klinger of the Second Generation Trust onto this year's Committee provides a valuable line of communication with the active second generation.

Despite extensive searches, we have yet to identify a suitable site for our sheltered accommodation and community centre project. As soon as there is anything to report it will be published in *AJR Information*.

The recently announced merger between OSHA and Jewish Care has the blessing of the AJR which will do everything to assist the two organisations and encourage closer co-operation for the benefit of AJR members in the homes. Jewish Care has undertaken to ensure that the homes' special continental atmosphere will be maintained.

In a changing world there is only one constant – our desire to help all AJR members as much as we can.

□ Andrew Kaufman, Chairman

## NEWSROUND

## Countering Holocaust denial

A panel of experts, in a report to the Home Secretary, recommended that Holocaust denial should not be made a criminal offence in Britain. The promotion of Holocaust awareness and the modification of race hate legislation would be more likely to lead to successful prosecutions.

## Latvia acts

Extradition proceedings against alleged Nazi war criminal Konrad Kalejs are to be brought by Latvia, reports the *Jewish Chronicle*. Kalejs returned to Australia at the beginning of this year to avoid deportation from Britain.

## No saints after all

An Irish priest and the then Archbishop of Milan may have collaborated with the SS and not, after all, helped save Italian Jews. Recently de-classified CIA documents shed new light on the role of Vatican representatives during WWII. The revelations add fuel to the debate on the projected beatification of Pius XII.

## Whose responsibility?

Whilst the Department of Culture's panel deals with a claim to ownership of Griffier's 'View of Hampton Court' hanging in the Tate Gallery, the government appears to expect that panel to advise on whether the law should be changed to enable looted art to be returned by galleries to the rightful owners. Some MPs think the government should take the lead.

## French collaboration pictured

Photographs documenting French collaboration with the Nazi occupation are exhibited in the new wing of the Paris Les Invalides army museum, opened by President Chirac. Fifty-five years on, a new generation of historians has helped the French to confront their past.

## Two-day weekend

The Israeli cabinet is considering extending the Israeli weekend to include Sunday. Not only would this bring the country into line with most of its trading partners, but it could also defuse points of conflict between the various religious communities in Israel.

## Military exemption

Israeli Yeshiva students will be exempted from three-year conscription if a bill currently before the Knesset becomes law. The issue emphasises the divide between supporters of the secular and religious parties.

□ MK