

AJR journal

Association of Jewish Refugees

Poets and purveyors of fiction

proprietor of the *Daily Telegraph* and *The Spectator*) of pro-Zionist bias "no matter how many unarmed children the Israeli army shoots."

Here, a biographical note might be called for. Herbert Read had been a man of strange contradictions.



TS Eliot

He was the respected guru of 1930s British anarchism, and managed at the same time to be intellectually close to the ultra-Conservative TS Eliot. (One wonders what their discussions about the Spanish War were like). Moreover, this eminent libertarian accepted a knighthood and had his son educated at Ampleforth, the country's leading Catholic public school. Piers Paul Read was joined in his assault on Conrad Black by another journalist-

cum-*littérateur* with an intensely religious upbringing: AN Wilson. Rugby-educated Wilson had spent a year in an Anglican seminary and has since dabbled in Christian theology, on which he adopts a maverick stance. He is also a prolific biographer. Significantly one of his subjects was Hilaire Belloc, the Edwardian Anglo-French writer of humorous verse who harboured a Catholic-medieval prejudice against money-grubbing Jews. Altogether, Wilson has strange enthusiasms. He adores Lady Mosley, whose hem the plebeian purveyors of political correctness he deems unfit to touch. More recently he has scaled the Mount Everest of mind-boggling illogicality by likening the Americans' postwar treatment of the convicted traitor Ezra Pound to Stalin's despatch of Osip Mandelstam to the Gulag.

Such is the provenance, as well as the foreground, of some of the most vociferous media critics of Israel. They, and Tom Paulin (*cf* our April issue), are men whose public school and Oxbridge education had spared them exposure to the grim realities of the Middle East. It might be salutary for them to compare notes with the playwright David Hare, who has actually breathed in the dust and cordite of Gaza.

In 1952 Emanuel Litvinoff wrote a poem entitled *To TS Eliot*. It was not a homage, but a settling of accounts by a younger practitioner of the craft of poetry with an aberrant master. The line 'I share the protozoic slime of Shylock/ A page in *Der Stürmer*' indicates its thrust. It threw back into the elder poet's face the monstrous antisemitic libels he had penned in the 1920s and not seen fit to expunge from the postwar edition of his work. Litvinoff was scheduled to read the poem at a Sunday meeting of the Institute of Contemporary Art. Just before the start of the event, ICA Chairman Herbert Read informed him that Tom Eliot had just arrived with an entourage. Nothing daunted, Litvinoff launched into his reading, which at first produced a shocked silence, and then pandemonium. Cries of 'libel' and 'slander' rent the air, and Herbert Read expressed himself scandalised by Litvinoff's 'bad form'. All that happened almost half a century ago - but *plus ça change...* Last month the now sprightly octogenarian Litvinoff read out his anti-Eliot philippic at a Jewish poetry launch. By strange, but fitting, coincidence, that very same week Herbert Read's son, Piers Paul, published an open letter accusing Conrad Black (the

Painting black on black

'Don't let the Jewish voice die' was *The Times* heading for a recent interview with Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. The doleful tone of the heading was replicated in the body of the article. "In our world" Dr Sacks' interlocutor wrote, "marriage is increasingly viewed as a time-share arrangement" and "time, and nature itself, are resources to be continuously exploited." One cannot blame the Chief Rabbi for the note of fashionable pessimism sounded by his interviewer, but he strikes a similarly melancholy chord when he says "The future of the Jewish people is once again at risk - this time without the backdrop of external persecution."

We or - more accurately - our children are the first generation of Jews for untold centuries to live without 'the backdrop of external persecution.' This is an historic transformation for which we ought to be profoundly grateful, and which ought not to be tarnished by bracketing it with spine-chilling warnings of renewed risks to the future of the Jewish people. Dr Sacks also deprecated "a strain of thought in the Jewish State, post-Zionism, which sees it as necessary to dismantle Israel's Jewishness in order to live in peace with other people." If this ideological dismantling involves abandoning biblically founded claims to the possession of the entire West Bank it is surely to be welcomed - rather than deprecated - as removing an obstacle to peace.

The Chief Rabbi might also usefully give some attention to the issue of *chillul Hashem* i.e. desecration of the (holy) name. As an appalled Jonathan Freedland pointed out in the JC, in March BBC2 featured 18-year old 'internet whiz' Benjamin Cohen, who, financially backed by his father, set himself up as a purveyor of porn in cyberspace. According to the prodigy "you can't have money and morals. This is about money!"

Such pestilent pronouncements ought surely to be condemned from the pulpit.

RG

News from Germany

From God to mammon

The site of the main Munich synagogue, demolished in June 1938 on the orders of the Nazis, is to be redeveloped with the construction of a large department store. For the last 60 years, the site has remained empty with just a memorial stone marking the spot. The land was sold by Munich's Jewish Community (IKG) to the City of Munich in the 1960s on condition that the IKG be consulted about any proposed development. With consultation, it has now been agreed that the proceeds of sale received from the developer will be paid to the IKG to enable them to build their new, and long awaited, community centre. A memorial stone will continue to remind passers-by of the original purpose of the site.

New Dresden synagogue

With completion of the building timed to coincide with this year's anniversary of Kristallnacht, East Germany will have its first new synagogue since reunification in Dresden. The cost will be met from a combination of state, municipal and private sources. Some of the stones from the old synagogue - destroyed on Kristallnacht - will be incorporated into the new structure located close to the site of its destroyed predecessor.

Palestinian sentence

The perpetrator of the attempted arson attack on Düsseldorf's synagogue has been sentenced to eighteen months probation for 'criminal damage.' The judge took the view that the attempt was so bungled that the synagogue was never in danger of burning down. Contrary to initial expectations, the man in the dock was not a neo-Nazi but a young Palestinian who told the judge that as a child he had witnessed the shooting of his father by Israelis. The family had lived in Germany for fifteen years as illegal immigrants. The prosecutor's office has appealed against the sentence on the grounds that it is too lenient.

Election of Committee of Management

The following members will be proposed for election or re-election to the Committee at the AGM on Sunday 17 June 2001

Mr AC Kaufman, Chairman
Mr WD Rothenberg, Vice-Chairman & Hon. Treasurer
Mrs ES Angel, Secretary
Mr P Dannenberg, *
Mr CW Dunston, Trustee *
Mrs J Field *
Mrs D Franklin, Trustee
Mrs GR Glassman
Ms K Klinger
Mr A Spiro, Trustee

*Committee members retiring by rotation and being proposed for re-election.

Retiring Committee Member:
Mr D Jedwab

Anyone wishing to propose any other member for election as Hon. Officer, Trustee, or Committee member must submit to AJR's Head of Administration such a proposal signed by ten members qualified to vote at the meeting and with the signed agreement of the person being proposed **no later than Friday 18 May 2001**

Die Maxwell Mär

Richard Grunberger

Er stand auf seines Daches Zinnen
Und spähte mit vergnügten Sinnen
Über des Wolkenkratzers Rand

Bob war ein Medien-Magnat
Mit einem Organ das - stets parat -
Konnt' überschwemmen Stadt und Land

Er verstand's viel Pensionisten
Unverfroren zu überlisten
War selbst im Kreml wohlbekannt

Doch eines Tages fiel über Bord
Der präpotente Presse-Lord
Und lag wie Wrack am Meeresstrand

Heut' ist sein Grab im Heil'gen Land

AJR Journal Personnel

Richard Grunberger Editor-in-Chief Ronald Channing Executive Editor
Marion Koebner Staff Reporter Andrea Goodmaker Dept Secretary & Advertising Co-ordinator
Gloria Tessler Arts Correspondent Dr Anthony Grenville Historical Researcher
Katia Gould Editorial Adviser Gerta Regensburger & Lionel Simmonds Proof Readers
AJR Journal, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Frognal, London NW3 6AL
Tel: 020 7431 6161 Fax: 020 7431 8454 e-mail: editorial@ajr.org.uk

Role model Magda Richard Grunberger

It is said that if the Weimar Republic hadn't enfranchised women, the Nazis would not have won the majority of the popular vote in 1933. The fact that German women supported a party that categorised them as inferior and excluded them from any role in the political process, tells us a great deal about the truly antediluvian character of German society. In the 18th and 19th centuries England had its great political hostesses like Lady Holland and the Duchess of Devonshire and outstanding writers like the Brontes and George Eliot; France boasted the Princess de Polignac and George Sand; even in Russia, the most feudal country of Europe, Tolstoy created female - and feminist - heroines like Anna Karenina. In Wilhelminian Germany her rather pallid fictional counterpart was Fontane's Effie Briest (though the real life Lou-Andreas Salomé, confidante of Nietzsche and Freud, deserves an honourable mention).

Third Reich's First Lady

Where, one asks, were the German equivalents to the Pankhursts, or to those heroic Russian revolutionaries like Vera Zasulich? In fact, one woman operating on the German political stage would have fitted the bill. She was Rosa Luxemburg, a Polish Jewess murdered by rightwing officers in 1919. Hereafter, the type of woman whom literally millions of her humble sisters would dream of emulating was Magda Quandt. Finishing-school educated and advantageously married, she burst upon the national consciousness when she became the First Lady of the Third Reich by taking Josef Goebbels as her second husband. Since Hitler was both psychologically and politically averse to marriage, Magda acted the part of his *châtelaine* at the Berghof - a glamorous

role that made her the Madame Pompadour of the Nazi Versailles. But things weren't as simple as all that. In Hitler's Neanderthal mind, relations between the sexes were determined by the old adage 'to the brave the fair'. (In other words, man was the hero whose reward consisted of the submission of a beautiful woman). Sexually abnormal himself, Hitler liked to bask in the ambience of glamour generated by the presence of film stars like Leni Riefenstahl, Zarah Leander and Lillian Harvey. Those 'divas' were exempt from the constraints of the three 'Ks': *Kinder, Kirche, Küche*.

Fulfilment in motherhood

But Magda's role had to be more than merely decorative. As the Reich's First Lady she had to demonstrate the fulfilment Nazi women were supposed to find in motherhood. She did so with a vengeance, giving birth to six Goebbels children in short succession and being almost permanently pregnant. Goebbels, meanwhile, pursued his career as the most scandal-prone sexual athlete in the Nazi hierarchy. Although their marriage was obviously not one of 'true minds' they did agree on one thing in the end: a world bereft of the Führer was not fit for their children to grow up in. Thus in late April 1945 they decided on suicide *en famille*. It could be said that Madga, who had a record of bad faith throughout her life - towards Jewish family friends, towards the brilliant Zionist luminary Chaim Arlosoroff, towards her first husband - finally proved herself most faithful in committing the most heinous deed a mother is capable of. Even in this she was representative of her sex, for it is a little contested fact that in the wave of suicides that gripped the country after Hitler's death women outnumbered men.

Annual General Meeting of the Association of Jewish Refugees
will be held on **Sunday 17 June 2001** 3 pm at 15 Cleve Road, London NW6

Guest speaker: Lord Dubs

'From Kindertransport to the House of Lords'

Agenda: - Annual Report 2000, Hon. Treasurer's Report,
Discussion, Election of committee of Management

All questions for the Chair should be submitted by 28 May to the head of Administration at: 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Froggnal, London NW3 6AL

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ANNUAL REPORT 2000

Membership

The enrolment of 550 new members in the year 2000 brought an encouraging increase in AJR's total membership to 3,801, despite 136 deaths and some 160 who allowed their membership to lapse. The increase was due mainly to welcoming members of KT (Kindertransport) for whom the AJR have formed a special interest group, and to others who appreciated the advice, guidance and support to which membership would entitle them.

Social Services

The Social Services Department continued to meet a wide variety of needs. Members have become increasingly frail, dependant and often isolated in their own homes, and mental health problems and dementia were often encountered. Following a referral, the team undertakes to visit, assess and offer appropriate assistance.

In accordance with an on-going programme offering more extensive and intensive support, the Department reached out to members living in all parts of the country, many of whom received an annual visit. Often in need of emotional or financial support, the contact established with a Jewish organisation was particularly appreciated. During the year the Department recorded 354 new referrals (including meals-on-wheels) and at the year's end were serving 386 long-term clients (including those on Self Aid).

The Department also offered a welfare benefits advisory service which included pensions and compensation issues. In co-operation with agents of the US courts, AJR advised members on the completion of claims for the Holocaust Victims Assets Litigation Fund. This proved a huge task but, with the assistance of trained volunteers, some 600 people

were helped to complete the forms in their homes, on the telephone or at the AJR office.

Homecare Services

Following the successful completion of a pilot project, the AJR expanded the offer of Homecare Services to enable members to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. AJR paid for cleaning, caring or gardening up to a maximum of six hours a week, all of which has been very much appreciated by the 32 members already benefiting from the scheme. At a total cost of £18,000 for the year 2000, the service represented excellent value for money and will be further developed during 2001.

Welfare Rights Advisory Service

Specialist advice and assistance continued to be given on UK welfare rights, foreign pensions, restitution, grants and a variety of domestic matters by AJR's Welfare Rights Officer. Weekly 'drop-in' surgeries were conducted at the AJR Day Centre.

There was a considerable increase in the number of applications made for Attendance Allowance and two members were represented at DSS Tribunal appeals which secured their allowances. The completion of a variety of claim forms continued throughout the year, including Swiss Assets Litigation and Insurance and Slave Labour claims.

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

AJR's Day Centre continued to offer a full programme of activities and entertainment, continental-style catering and a meeting place for Jewish refugees from a German-speaking cultural background,

though the overall numbers attending had declined.

Among its activities were a daily programme of musical entertainment, a Monday *Kard & Games Klub* with a buffet lunch, twice-weekly keep fit, an art class and a most enjoyable *Kaffee Klatsch*. A welfare rights adviser was available at the Centre once a week. Clothes and shoe sales and regular chiropody and optical services were well supported by members. A staff member made regular visits to members in hospital.

The monthly KT-AJR Luncheon Club retained its popularity with a succession of interesting guest speakers and KT-AJR monthly luncheon get-togethers commenced in November. Jewish religious festivals were observed and the Centre was again pleased to welcome Rabbi William Wolff to lead their Seder service. AJR outings began with lunch at the Day Centre.

Following an accident, the Centre regretted having to lose several volunteer drivers whose services had been very much appreciated.

Catering and Meals-on-Wheels

The Catering Department at the Day Centre continued to prepare and serve high-quality kosher meals and buffets for members. Special events catered for included an afternoon tea for AJR Volunteers, the KT-AJR's Chanukah Party, Marianne Herz's 80th birthday party, Ruth Finestone's anniversary lunch, and the *Kaffee Klatsch*.

Meals-on-wheels (frozen) were prepared and delivered twice weekly to members in a wide area of north-west London, and meals were also prepared and packed for members to take from the Day Centre. Camden Council's Environmental Health Officer, impressed by the high standards of the kitchens, was again pleased to commend the AJR's catering facilities.

AJR Information

(since restyled as 'AJR Journal')

AJR Information continued to be published monthly and remained greatly appreciated by all the membership as a unique source of information, comment and opinion on matters of concern to the refugee community and their families. The high standards of reportage, reviews and historical commentary were well maintained.

The magazine acted as a prime source of updated information on the availability and progress of compensation and reparation funds throughout the year.

Volunteers

At the year's end 170 volunteers were enabling the AJR to provide a wide range of additional services. 52 newcomers were recruited and 43 of them were each successfully matched to help an AJR member. AJR's Volunteer Services Co-ordinator organised a number of befrienders' support group meetings. Throughout the year volunteers were offered the opportunity to join training sessions in listening skills. Fresher events at universities proved successful volunteer recruiting points.

Rita Rosenbaum continued to organise the reading and recording of AJR Information on to tape cassettes for the benefit of the poorly sighted. The annual volunteers' 'thank you' party was held at the AJR Day Centre with a full tea and piano entertainment. The AJR is greatly indebted to all volunteers for their continuing efforts and devotion.

AJR Groups

Six years have elapsed since the first of AJR's groups - South London - was established and it has continued to flourish. There were nine groups in total from Manchester and Leeds in the north, to Brighton and Bournemouth in the south, each

having its own distinctive character. Programmes typically included speakers, discussions, outings and garden parties.

Groups are semi-autonomous and organised by the local members with the support of AJR's part-time Regional Co-ordinator. Further groups are to be established in Scotland and England. (For more information members should contact their nearest group via the telephone number given in AJR Journal or the Regional Co-ordinator at Head Office).

The traditions of the Kindertransport were maintained by the newly incorporated KT-AJR special interest group. It offered a newsletter in a new format, increasingly popular Kinderlunches and participation in the Luncheon Club, all of which helped to attract additional members to the Day Centre. KT Publications continued to supply copies of the 1999 Reunion book and video to communal organisations, and the film 'The Children Who Cheated the Nazis' was shown on television and entered into the educational curriculum.

Self Aid

The Self Aid Fund helped to improve the quality of life for members living on low incomes by granting regular monthly payments without prejudicing state benefits. One-off payments are also made in response to unanticipated needs. Self Aid grants were made to 185 members in 2000 at a total cost of £229,000, an increase of 16% on the previous year.

Events

The annual concert, the 52nd, was held for the second time at Imperial College, Kensington, again featuring the London Concertino conducted by Richard Dickins, with the international piano soloist Noriko Ogawa playing Mozart's Piano

Concerto No 14. As in the previous year, the full afternoon tea served during the interval proved extremely popular with the members. The generous support of members and friends enabled a brochure-programme to raise additional funds for Self Aid.

AJR chose the hottest day of the year to take a coach-full of members to Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre in Nottinghamshire. Joined by AJR members from Brighton, the Smith family's warm welcome added to an informative and pleasant visit.

Sheltered Accommodation

A site continued to be sought in north-west London for the establishment of a sheltered housing complex which would eventually replace the existing accommodation available to AJR members. At the year's end no such suitable site had been secured, not least due to competition and the high value being placed on land suitable for residential or commercial development.

Plans for AJR's 60th Anniversary

Next year (2001) the Association plans to celebrate its 60th Anniversary with a number of special events and activities. These already include researching and preparing an exhibition narrating the settlement of German-speaking Jewish refugees and their subsequent lives in Britain; a symposium on AJR Information as an historical resource, led by the German-Jewish Studies Centre of the University of Sussex; an AJR commemorative and celebratory Shabbat at Belsize Square Synagogue; the annual concert comprising cabaret and a special tea at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London in September; and appropriate gatherings at AJR groups throughout the country.

Andrew Kaufman
Chairman

Treasurer's Report

AJR's expenses in 2000 have remained within the budgets set at the beginning of the year. The principal areas of expenditure remain our Day Centre and its associated meals-on-wheels and take-away facilities, the monthly journal and an ever-growing welfare need, especially in the provision of Home Care assistance which gives practical help to older members in their own homes, as well as continuing Self Aid grants.

As members of a new Umbrella Group of UK refugee charities which approached the Claims Conference in New York for financial support, for the first time we have received funds specifically to help AJR's welfare services, especially for our most needy members. I would like to thank the Umbrella Group's other members and the Claims Conference for their co-operation and assistance. Through the Umbrella Group, AJR agreed to co-sponsor a Central Office for Holocaust Claims, based at Hampstead Gate and led by Michael Newman. The office already handles several hundred cases, working with sister offices throughout the world, meeting a long felt need for assistance with claims covering insurance policies, looted art, Swiss gold and bank accounts, pensions and slave labour issues.

The Day Centre is suffering from a reduction in attendance as age and frailty take their toll. On a brighter note, our new Kindertransport membership is beginning to take advantage of AJR's facilities, and our meals-on-wheels service helps more members than ever, a service the AJR is looking to improve further. Many months' behind the scenes work has gone into AJR's website, www.ajr.org.uk, to be launched shortly which will enable us to communicate more effectively with members and others. I should like to thank Gordon Greenfield, our Head of Finance, whose quiet work has made my job as Treasurer so much easier, together with all other staff members with whom I have worked over the last year.

AJR owes a debt of gratitude to those members who left us money in their wills; without these legacies we would not be able to run the widening services our membership enjoys.

Finance Report

AJR Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31st December 2000

	2000	1999
Income:		
Membership/Donations and Legacies	131,286	255,710
Grant from Self Aid	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
	<u>136,286</u>	<u>260,710</u>
Less:		
Overhead Expenses		
Salary Costs	101,936	103,964
AJR Information	44,700	35,879
Administration/Depreciation	<u>61,356</u>	<u>54,558</u>
	<u>207,992</u>	<u>194,401</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus:	<u>(71,706)</u>	<u>66,309</u>

Summary of Balance Sheet at 31st December 2000

	2000	1999
Fixed Assets (less depreciation)	31,291	38,221
Current Assets	197,722	271,887
Less: Current Liabilities	<u>(21,522)</u>	<u>(30,911)</u>
	<u>207,491</u>	<u>279,197</u>
Represented by:		
General Fund	279,197	212,888
Net surplus for year	<u>(71,706)</u>	<u>66,309</u>
	<u>207,491</u>	<u>279,197</u>

David Rothenberg, Hon. Treasurer
April 2001

AJR CHARITABLE TRUST PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

Summary figure for the year ended 31st December 2000

	2000	1999
Income:		
Takings Day Centre and meals-on-wheels	84,727	89,197
Donations received	<u>916</u>	<u>375</u>
	<u>85,643</u>	<u>89,572</u>
Less outgoings:		
Salaries	122,167	121,192
Catering costs	181,572	185,985
Sundry expenses	<u>73,472</u>	<u>62,531</u>
	<u>377,211</u>	<u>369,708</u>
Deficit funded from Charitable Trust	<u>291,568</u>	<u>280,136</u>

AJR CHARITABLE TRUST Summary Income and Expenditure Accounts (based on final draft figures) Year ended 31st December 2000

	2000	1999
Income:		
Covenants/donations**	96,137	74,838
Investment income (including portfolio gains)	380,070	407,258
Sheltered housing	<u>32,121</u>	<u>35,556</u>
	<u>508,328</u>	<u>517,652</u>
Legacies	<u>1,073,033</u>	<u>2,172,487</u>
	<u>1,581,361</u>	<u>2,690,139</u>
Less outgoings:		
Day Centre	291,568	280,136
Self Aid	245,917	186,557
Other organisations	38,118	18,900
Administration/Depreciation	<u>397,360</u>	<u>331,618</u>
	<u>£972,963</u>	<u>£817,211</u>

**Includes contribution from World Jewish relief towards welfare payments.

Merit awards

The Wiener Library has instituted an award to recognise contributions to the rediscovery of Jewish heritage and memory in Germany. The award is made for voluntary, substantially self-financed, research over a minimum of ten years and will usually be given to those whose research has been in smaller towns and villages, the Jewish past of larger towns and cities having been researched by academics and professional historians. The purpose of the award is fourfold: to acknowledge the importance of the work, to stimulate continuing interest particularly of the younger generations in continuing the work, to encourage support from towns, communities and local businesses and, finally, to contribute to the reconciliation of German Christians and Jews.

Three awards were conferred in 2000, all in Franconia. Each ceremony was attended by the press, at two of the ceremonies local Bundestag members were present. All three were featured in 11 newspapers.

Nominations are now invited for 2001 and should be addressed to: Katherine Klinger, Education and Events Co-Ordinator, The Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1W 5BH. Tel: 020 7636 7247; Fax: 020 7436 6428; Email: lib@wl.u-net.com

With Appreciation

We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for the legacies received in 2000 by the AJR and AJR Charitable Trust from the estates of the following:

P W Alexander, M Altman, Alice Apt.,
Edith Benedict, Gerda Berger,
Ursula Blum, Walter Dahl,
Jacob Durst, Dola Fischer,
Gerda Goodall, A Hammerschlag,
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K Mainzer, Mrs Pohorille, E M Rees,
Hildegard Reis, Olga Rossdale,
Miss I Schloss, Dr Schulman,
Eva Scott, E Sharman, I Singer,
Edith Stein, Jenny Valentine,
Serafina Wang, J D K Zahler

VIEWPOINT

Ronald Channing

Marks without sparks

Refugee Jewish immigrant Simon Marks set up his stall in Leeds' Kirkgate Market in 1884 to spark a revolution rivalling that of his Russian namesake. Most working men possessed just working clothes and one hand-made 'Sunday suit' for weddings and funerals, while their womenfolk stitched theirs and their childrens'. M&S led the way to well-made and affordable mass-produced clothing. Long a national institution, in its heyday it sold a quarter of the clothing in Britain, proud of its British suppliers of whom several were owned and managed by immigrant Jewish families. Marks also pioneered workers' welfare, supported Chaim Weizmann in his quest for a Jewish national homeland, and strove to help German-speaking refugees find safety in Britain.

In 1998, sales seriously declined in the face of lively competition from the new boys on the block - George at Asda and Next, even faster-moving old favourites such as House of Fraser and Debenhams - sourcing from Far Eastern factories. No longer cheap and nasty, their ranges were good quality, competitive and well-designed. No wonder the M&S share price collapsed.

M&S's *ancien regime* struggled on for a year or two, going up-market to find new or younger customers, while alienating the middle-aged, middle-of-the-road buyer who went away empty handed. The discredited marketing strategy, initially continued under the Belgian-imported Chairman and MD Luc Vanderveelde, has been abandoned in favour of a radical restructuring. Out go branches in Paris and Madrid, much to the chagrin of anglophiles and ex-pats, and out too go the US stores. Even the hallowed halls of Michael House HQ in Baker Street are sacrificed.

The focus on classically stylish clothes (read 'a bit old fashioned') in the right size and at a good price is just what those of a certain age always required. Now, I can have plain blue socks, dark beige trousers, quality shirts with extra-long sleeve lengths, traditional jackets and suits - made in Israel of course, - along with millions of others, I'll be back.

Arts and Events Diary May

Thurs 3 - Rabbi Mark Solomon: 'Christ through Jewish Eyes.' St John's Wood Synagogue. - CCJ. 020 7820 0090.

Mon 14 - Charles Dreyfus: '1939 - 1945: Six years, five medals.' Club 43. 7.45pm

Sun 20: Talk on Erno Goldfinger and the Bauhaus movement, followed by tour of Erno Goldfinger's house. 4.30pm. - LJCC.

Mon 21 - Roy W.Clements: James Joyce - A Dublin bloom who influenced world literature. Club 43. 7.45pm.

Thurs 24: Lunchtime concert - Robert Max (cello) and Zoe Solomon (piano): Ernest Bloch, Saint-Saëns, David Popper. - LJCC.

17 - 26 - Hampstead & Highgate Festival. - Music, arts and literary events. 020 8864 6816.

Until 3 June - From Prodigy to Outcast: paintings by pre-Raphaelite Simeon Solomon. Jewish Museum, Camden Town.

1 - 4 July - A Festival of Klezmer Music and Yiddish Culture. Jewish Music Institute, SOAS. 020 7898 4308.

Until 27 Aug - Legacies of Silence: The Visual Arts & the Holocaust. The contribution of artist-witnesses and survivors to post-war culture and the arts. Imperial War Museum.

Organisation Contacts

Club '43, Belsize Square Synagogue. Hans Seelig. 01442 254360

Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Rd., London SE1 6HZ. 020 7416 5320

London Jewish Cultural Centre (LJCC), The Old House, c/o Kings College, Kidderpore Ave., London NW3 7SZ. 020 7431 0345

The Jewish Museum, Camden Town, 129-131 Albert Street NW1 7BN. 020 7284 1997

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ARTS & REVIEWS

Art Notes

Gloria Tessler

Stanley Spencer has been accused of childishness, of seeing God and humanity through his own limited perception, of translating his home town of Cookham into a personal apocalypse of resurrection and revival. Yet it is this clumsy, humdrum celebration of the everyday which reveals some outstandingly moving tributes to intimacy - such as his magnificent line drawings of his first wife, Hilda.

A retrospective exhibition of more than 100 works, at **Tate Britain** until June 24, taken from international private and public collections, presents Spencer as an English eccentric with a religious mission. His turbulent love life is revealed in his nude paintings of his second wife Patricia Preece and himself, which show their lack of intimacy, awkwardness and distance from each other. His ruthless honesty is reflected in several self-portraits, and the grotesqueness of his rural characters suggests a shadow side. Because there is also something visionary in Spencer's work; his *Nativity* for instance shows a profiled Mary, not the conventionally spiritualised, bloodless Madonna but one full of dark foreboding gazing down at the baby in the crib, while Joseph turns away from her. Here again we see his exploration of both the embracing and the turning away between men and women. Spencer's six months in Swiss Cottage, where he lived in 1939, stimulated his portrayals of Christ as a vagabond or displaced person, and perhaps these come closest to a political statement. His personal odyssey demonstrates how the smallness of our lives mirrors all our hopes and longings. For instance in *Women Going for a Walk in Heaven* his caricatured women are portrayed as flat, tubular or oblong in shape, as though they are seeing themselves in a distorted mirror. Through Spencer's obsession with the

physical he comes to embrace the spirit. And he hands us a personal message. In his view, "the blessedness of love is better expressed through ugliness than beauty."



PHOTO: THE JEWISH MUSEUM, LONDON

Rabbi carrying the scroll of the Law.
Simeon Solomon 1871

Stanley Spencer's path to God may be convoluted but that of the Jewish 19th Century pre-Raphaelite **Simeon Solomon** is direct and romantic. From **Prodigy to Outcast** at the **Jewish Museum** until June 3, features, for the first time, his very early work from the Museum's private collection. Solomon's paintings combine luminescence and subtlety and the tenderness with which a young *chazan* embraces the Torah is profound without being sentimental.

Simeon Solomon was the youngest child of a noted London Jewish artistic family and was embraced by the Pre-Raphaelite circle from a young age. He was the only Jew of his century to be linked to a major art movement and was described as "the greatest artist of us all" by leading Pre-Raphaelite Edward Burne-Jones. His fascination with biblical subjects and Jewish ceremonies is revealed in a youthful sketchbook on loan from Israel's Ein Harod Museum. Solomon's lifestyle, like that of Oscar Wilde, incurred the same social penalties. Following his arrest for homosexual soliciting, he was ostracised by the Pre-Raphaelite circle which once venerated him. Solomon never recovered from his tragic fall from grace and ended his days in a workhouse in 1905.

RG's INTERFACE

GBS 'improved'. One of the quirkier traditions of the Yiddish theatre was the staging of Shakespeare plays in versions the adaptors described as '*ferkirzt und ferbessert*'. Interestingly enough, many critics have applied the second epithet to the current NT production of *My Fair Lady*, the musical version of Shaw's *Pygmalion*. At the risk of sounding ethnocentric, one could be excused for describing *My Fair Lady* as a Jewishly altered version of *Pygmalion* since the lyrics are by Alan Jay Lerner and the music is by Friedrich Loewy (alias Frederic Lowe). A closer look at the Shaw phenomenon reveals the amazing debt GBS owed to his Jewish champions and interpreters. Both *Pygmalion* and *St Joan* were premiered in Vienna and Berlin under the aegis of Max Reinhardt. In all, Shaw's plays achieved more performances in German than English thanks to his translator Siegfried Trebitsch. When it came to translating his *oeuvre* to the screen, Shaw entrusted the entire project to Gabriel Pascal, a Hungarian Jew. Between 1939 and 1954 Pascal produced a quartet of Shaw films. The best known was the first, *Pygmalion*, starring Leslie Howard (who shared Pascal's antecedents).

'Goyzmer' at the Hackesche Hof. The area known as Hackesche Hof in Berlin Mitte is emerging as a hub of cultural activity in the new-old German capital: although Jews are thin on the ground in contemporary Berlin, there is a pervasive Jewish dimension to the plays and music performed around the Hackescher Hof. An astonishing total of thirty klezmer bands are operating in the Berlin area. They have non-Jewish members, and sport classical Yiddish titles like *Di Grine Kuzine* (For the delectation of our readers we append the first verse of *Di Grine Kuzine*: *Si hot vangelach vi roite pomerantsen/ Und fisselach vos hejbn sach tsum tantsen*).



Record Review

Erik Levi

Although regarded as a legend in her lifetime, cellist Jacqueline du Pré enjoyed a tragically short career as a concert artist. While her recording legacy encompasses a significant number of standard works, any opportunity for hearing unknown examples of her work is bound to attract considerable interest. So a new release from Teldec (Teldec 8573-85340-2) featuring du Pré performing Saint-Saëns' First Concerto (with her husband Daniel Barenboim and the Philadelphia Orchestra) in 1971 and a 1967 Dvořák Concerto (with Sergiu Celibidache and the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra) is surely welcome. Admittedly these live performances expose some technical flaws and an element of roughness in du Pré's playing that might not bear repeated listening. But these caveats have to be weighed against the sheer magnetism of du Pré's larger-than-life interpretations, in particular her ability to mould some phrases with a degree of emotional intensity that has rarely been surpassed.

One present-day cellist who offers performances of a similarly overwhelming character is Mischa Maisky. With the mercurial and inspirational Martha Argerich providing exemplary pianistic support, Maisky's new recording of Schumann's *Adagio & Allegro*, *Fantasiestücke* and the *Fünf Stücke im Volkston* (Deutsche Grammophon 469 524-2) deserves the widest dissemination. Although there are a few moments where the cellist pulls the tempo around too much and succeeds in fragmenting the melodic line, Maisky's poetic sensitivity overcomes any lingering doubts, and the performance of the same composer's Cello Concerto with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra must rank amongst his finest achievements.

Amongst unjustly neglected nineteenth century works for cello and piano, the three Sonatas by Heinrich von Herzogenberg, a close friend of Brahms, constitute a major discovery. Performed with great affection by cellist Claudius Herrmann and pianist Saiso Sasaki (CPO 999 625-2), these works hardly break new ground in terms of stylistic individuality. Yet experiencing their mixture of passion and lyricism for the first time makes one wonder how they could have gathered dust on some library shelves for so long.

Reviews

Reputations reviewed

ONE PALESTINE, COMPLETE: JEWS AND ARABS UNDER THE BRITISH MANDATE, Tom Segev, *Little, Brown and Co.*, 2000.

When General Allenby entered Jerusalem in December 1917 to claim the Holy Land for the Empire, he inaugurated a thirty-year period of political confusion which culminated in the establishment of the State of Israel and the large-scale exodus of one of its national communities. Tom Segev tells the story of the British Mandate and emphasises both British benevolence and the fundamental irreconcilability of the two national movements, the Jewish and the Palestinian. Several diaries, memoirs and letters back to Blighty have been mustered to create a kind of literary theatre, rather than history, in which Segev skilfully moves his actors on and off stage.

Many political figures in this drama, such as Lloyd-George, based their support for Zionism on Victorian education and Christian dispensationalist understanding of the Jewish return - as well as a determination to keep the French out of Palestine. Yet some also believed that the Jews were a mystical all-powerful group which manipulated both Capitalism and Communism - and with whom an alliance could and should be struck. Shortly after Louis John Bol's arrival as an administrative official in 1919, he described the Zionist Commission as "a tyrannical and Bolshevik organisation." Several years later, General Sir Evelyn Barker, head of the British Forces in Palestine after Hitler's war, wrote to his mistress: "Just think of all this life and money being wasted for these bloody Jews. Yes I loathe the lot - whether they be Zionists or not."

Yet many were indifferent or professed to find a way to satisfy the legitimate claims of both Jews and Arabs. "I am not for either, but for both", the Governor of Jerusalem, Ronald Storrs, wrote. "Two hours of

Arab grievances drive me into the synagogue while after an intense course of Zionist propaganda I am prepared to embrace Islam." It was more perhaps a question of getting the job done and running the country well. Indeed, the British left Israel in much better shape than they had found Ottoman Palestine. Yet they had not instituted compulsory school attendance. Only three out of every ten Arabs went to school. The imperial legacy to the rest was a romanticised illiteracy. This manifested a lack of national cohesion for which the Palestinian cause paid so dearly in 1948.

Segev's use of diaries portrays the human qualities of all sides, the individual friendships of Arab and Jew, while professing their unremitting belief in the justice of their causes. It is about idealism, but also about ordinary, and sometimes extraordinary, people expressing ordinary concerns. Segev has utilised Israeli archival material to document further black spots in Zionist history. The reputation of Orde Wingate, the British commander of the Jewish 'special night squads', receives a battering after revelations of the killings at the village of Hittin. Unfortunately there are no sources from Arab archives and Segev relies on the Hebrew translation of Khalil al-Sakakini's memoirs and English language recollections to allow the Palestinian members of the cast to say their piece.

Segev views the Mandate essentially through post-Zionist spectacles for an Israeli audience examining its history. Such selectivity certainly adds to our knowledge of the period but the full history remains to be stripped of its secrets - at least on the Arab side. That history in all its complexity would not make exciting reading, but Segev's use of eccentric anecdotes, bizarre facts and fascinating vignettes certainly achieves that end.

Colin Shindler.

This review has been abridged from The Guardian.

Lethal Lolita

LULU, Frank Wedekind,
Almeida Theatre (Kings Cross).

To many readers, the name Frank Wedekind will ring a bell, probably of the alarm kind. The darling of the *fin de siècle* European intelligentsia, his *Lulu* still packs a punch capable of shocking us out of our complacencies. The story of *Lulu* is embodied in its heroine, a woman who accommodates every desire and prejudice. She is everyone's Lolita, love goddess and angel of death, corrupt seducer and innocent child-lover, sadist and masochist, murderer and victim. Sex for *Lulu* is a double-edged sword, to kill men with and to be killed by one of them. During her sexual odyssey from respectable socialite in Berlin and *demi-monde* courtesan in Paris, she causes the death of her rich husbands and lovers until the circle is completed with her murder, whilst a London prostitute, by Jack the Ripper. The way she reduces all relationships,

even with women, to sexploitation, suggests a deeply traumatised child; but is *Lulu* - literally - a *femme fatale* or the victim of heartless men who exploit her vulnerable innocence? The spectator must decide.

Lulu is being performed, by chance or by design, in one of London's red light districts, in a converted bus garage - a huge cavern of a place with a stage too wide and deep to encompass one's sight; acoustics and lighting add to the general sense of alienation. The silent, sinister figure of Jack the Ripper stalks the stage from beginning to end, until the play teeters on the edge of sadistic pornography. Twining her spindly legs around her victims, Anna Friel (*Lulu*) conveys as much sexuality as a boa constrictor; when she strips she generates as much excitement as a Henry Moore statue. Nevertheless, I recommend *Lulu* to those with a strong stomach who wish to complete their literary education.

Andrew Herskovits

Flawed indictment

WOMAN IN THE MOON,
Julia Pascal, *Arcola Theatre, E8*

This is a play about Wernher von Braun who served first Nazi Germany and then the USA, where he was involved in sending a rocket to the moon. The first part of Pascal's dramatic piece satirises the hypocrisy of American hero-worship of the ex-Nazi who helped develop Hitler's 'revenge weapons', the V1 and V2. Sadly, the second part, an attempt at a realistic re-creation of life in Auschwitz, Dora and Belsen, is punctuated by inaccuracies. Von Braun is shown as a second Dr Mengele, 'selecting' prisoners for death. The truth is that 'selections' were conducted by the camp's (SS) Medical Officer. The prisoners were owned by the SS who hired them to various German industries. Prisoners were not forcibly marched each morning at 4 am from the camp and made to work 18 hours daily. They marched out of the camp at 7.30 am and worked in the tunnel

from 8 am for eight, later ten, hours with an hour's break and Sundays off. In one scene, a prisoner is shown bursting to urinate at night but unable to leave his place for fear that someone might take it. In fact, everyone had his allotted sleeping place and no one would, or could, take another's. In the final Belsen scene, I am not sure which is more painful, the fiction or the facetiousness. A new arrival declares: "If this is Belsen, I want to go home."

I recognise the inaccuracies because I was there. I fear that the lurid distortions in this play are grist to the mill of the Irvings of this world, waiting to pounce on inaccuracies to support their claim that the Jews invented the Holocaust. By all means write about the Holocaust, Miss Pascal, but if you do not want to assist the deniers, be factual. The truth was bad enough! Having said which, I must add that the author's dramatic talents kept me enthralled throughout.

AH

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor reserves the right
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submitted for publication

UP THE POLL

Sir - Was the March editorial intended to persuade readers to go out and vote at elections? Its contents made me wonder (1) if taxes payable by journalists were double those payable by anybody else and you joined them in protesting vigorously, would you describe yourself as Poujadist too? (2) what grounds there are for stating that Rupert Murdoch is happier with right-of-centre governments when both *The Times* and *The Sun* supported New Labour at the last election and *The Sun* has done so again for the next? (3) Exactly how British democracy is supposed to have evolved in recent decades, particularly in response to the communication explosion of the same period, given that the public has now gained instant and pretty comprehensive access to information previously only partially available and then only to the so-called leading classes?

Would there be more voters at elections if differences between parties were more concerned with the allocation and use of resources and less with value judgments, as reflected in their different proposals for tax levies on income earners, organisations, products and services?

H Bud
London N2

COMPROMISE ON ISRAEL

Sir - Whatever the Oslo Accords, the Arabs have not kept to their side of the bargain of peaceful co-existence. They could have had 100% of the pre-'67 borders. All they had to do was not to come down like a wolf on the fold. The expectation of pushing Israel into the sea, to lose on several occasions and to insist on the original position, is odd unless compromise is a concept blind to the legitimate needs of the other side.

In 1920 the Greeks attacked Turkey. In 1922 the Turks drove the Greeks out of Asia Minor. If the Turks are not expected to return it to the Greeks, why should the Israelis be expected to return areas conquered in defeating recurring aggression?

Frank Bright
Ipswich, Suffolk

REPAYING KINDNESS

Sir - We should all welcome and respond to Bettina Cohn (*March letters*). My family and I maintained close relations with the lady who gave me a home in 1939. The plea to help other refugees applies, perhaps, with special force to those who, like me, became genuine asylum seekers retrospectively after Kristallnacht and particularly after the Wannsee Conference.

Kurt Sachs
Stourbridge

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY EVENT

Sir - I am prompted by your report of Holocaust Memorial Day (*March 2001*) to draw attention to an event in which I participated in Kirkby-in-Ashfield on 27 January. Taking place at the Council Offices, the programme included *Wasted Life*, a short film produced by Beth Shalom, with testimonies of three people affected by the Holocaust, Rwanda and Kosovo; I spoke about my Kindertransport experiences and there were readings from my book and from the writings of a concentration camp victim. Guests from local churches and schools (head teachers and sixth form students) signed a book containing a 'Statement of commitment.' Those attending were invited to complete feedback forms; those of us invited are being asked to a 'debriefing' so that the future format of the event can be discussed.

Inga Joseph
Sheffield

BANK CHARGES

Sir - I was prompted to contact my bank by the success of Eva Wittenberg (*January 2001*) in getting her pension transfer charges waived. My HSBC branch replied to my request after a month, agreed to refund the previous 6 months' charges and to waive future ones. It just shows that if you don't try, you don't get. Many thanks Eva.

Mrs F Fialla
Gatley, Cheshire

GENEROUS GESTURE

Sir - We received a letter recently from Adam Blackmore, an electrician, who had undertaken work at our Day Centre in Cleve Road. He declined to charge for his services stating that "having recently become a believing Christian, I understand a little of the history and plight of the Jewish people and am pleased to help in this small way."

Susie Kaufmann
AJR Day Centre

LUNCHEON CLUB

Sir - My thanks to everyone at the Day Centre who make the monthly Luncheon Club event such a rewarding experience. In March the very interesting guest speaker was the designer of the London Eye, David Marks.

Alina Goldschmidt
London NW2

UNSUNG HERO

Sir - My parents and I arrived here from Germany in 1939 primarily thanks to Mrs Beryl McIntyre with whom my family had tenuous links. She was someone whose humanitarian instincts led her to help many other continental Jews to immigrate when others were either indifferent or disinclined. This 'unsung hero' who lived in the Sussex village of Ditchling and whose husband Bill was a lawyer in the Postmaster General's Department and had been secretary to Sir Herbert Samuel is not even known about in the local museum.

I believe that the McIntyres were music lovers and that Beryl was responsible for bringing over a number of musicians. Are there any musicians - AJR members - who can provide information on this 'musical rescue'; it seems there may be quite a story to tell.

Michael Heppner
London N10

REFORMGEMEINDE

Sir - Resulting from the publication of my Profile (February 2001), I have received quite a few letters from people with potentially useful material - including photographs - on the Reformgemeinde which I am researching with a view to writing a history. If any of your readers have such material, I would be very pleased to hear from them.

Peter Galliner
Bregenzerstr. 3
D 10707 Berlin (Wilmersdorf) Germany

INSIDE the AJR

Wessex

George and Mary Vulcan provided an excellent photographic record of their trip to the rather unusual holiday destination on the other side of the world, China. The audience, gathered at the Normandie Hotel in Bournemouth, showed their appreciation of the slides, photographs and interesting commentary by the discussion which followed.

Danek G. Bardach

Next meeting: 8 May - Discussion on the current situation in Israel led by Mark Goldfinger.

South London

Alf Keiles illustrated his talk on the Jewish contribution to jazz and pop music with recordings of Benny Goodman, Woody Herman, the Comedian Harmonists, Sophie Tucker (singing *My Yiddishe Mama*) and many more. He reminded us that after the abolition of slavery, African ex-slaves left the land and came into the towns and were followed by Jewish jazz bands. Being reminded of songs and music sung and heard in our youth made for a most enjoyable afternoon.

Anne Poloway

Next meeting: 17 May - Aspects of the second and third generations.

Brighton

The professionally-trained photographer and rabbi, Frank Dabba Smith, spoke on two topics: Mendel Grossmann's official and personal photographic record of the Lodz ghetto and the story of the rescue of Jews by the Leitz family, manufacturers of Leica cameras. Grossmann's powerful photographs have survived him and are on display at Yad Vashem, having been smuggled out of the ghetto in milk churns.

Through his contact with the last-surviving member of the family, Rabbi Smith is researching the Third Reich period from the perspective of the Leitz family's attempt to save Jews. Youngsters who completed their

apprenticeship with Leitz were saved by being sent by the company to overseas branches. Elsie Leitz paid the price for the attempts by the family to smuggle Jews across the German/Swiss border by being sent to prison. She was released only on payment of a huge bribe.

F Goldberg

Next meeting: 21 May - Andrea Hammel: The history and future of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, Sussex University.

Pinner

A fascinating survey of the history of the Jews in Britain was given by the Jewish Museum's Education Officer, Susannah Alexander. When Jews first came to England with William the Conqueror, they were well treated but did not fit into the feudal system under which they were denied land ownership. They found a niche as moneylenders, unpopular though important for financing building projects and even the Crusades. Eventually banned for 300 years, the Jews returned under Cromwell. After the more recent immigration of Jews escaping Czarist Russia and Nazi Germany, the Jewish community in Britain has been declining since the 1950s as reckoned by synagogue membership.

Walter Weg

Next meeting: 3 May - members tell their own stories.

Surrey

Next meeting: 15 May - Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith: The Leitz family.

Benefit rules: capital/savings limits

From April 2001 the following new rules apply for those aged 60 and over:

- The capital/savings limit of £8,000 has increased to £12,000 before eligibility for Income Support is removed
- Capital/savings up to £6,000 are disregarded.
- Where there are capital/savings between £6000 and £12,000, a deduction in benefit of £1 for each £250 will be applied.
- For residential care purposes, capital/savings up to £10,000 are disregarded. The upper limit for receipt of benefits is £16,000.

Central Office For Holocaust Claims

Michael Newman

Victims of Nazi persecution in the Netherlands are eligible to receive monies from a Dutch Government scheme "in recognition of retrospectively identified shortcomings in the restoration of rights following World War II and the government's conduct in this matter".

The *Stichting Maror-Gelden Overheid* was created jointly in Spring 2000 by Dutch-Jewish organisations and the Dutch Government and makes awards to Jewish victims of persecution who lived in Holland during WWII and/or whose assets were looted during this period. Heirs of victims who died on or after 8 May 1945 are also eligible to claim.

From a total of NLG 764 million (approx. £220m) composed of contributions from the Dutch government, banks, insurance companies and the stock exchange, each eligible person will receive a first payment of NLG 14,000 (approx. £4,000) with the possibility of a further grant once all applications have been received.

Owing to the uncertainty of the potential number of applicants, a decision as to the total amount to be received by each claimant has not yet been disclosed. The deadline for submitting claims is **31 December 2001**. Completed applications should be sent to: Maror Desk Netherlands, PO Box 19008, 2500 CA The Hague, The Netherlands

Additional information is available by contacting the Help desk on 0031 70 33 824 56 or on the Internet at www.joodsetgoeden.nl

Further help

Written enquiries should be sent to Central Office for Holocaust Claims (UK), 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Frognal, London NW3 6AL. For assistance with the completion of application forms please telephone 020 7431 6161 for an appointment.

Austrian compensation payments

The Inland Revenue has advised that, subject to fulfilling status requirements prescribed in ESC D50, capital payments received under the Austrian "Joint Settlement Statement on Holocaust Property Restitution" will probably qualify for exemption from capital gains tax. The Inland Revenue will not give advance clearance but advises that each case must be considered individually.

KINDERTRANSPORT NEWS

David Jedwab

The film *Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport* won Hollywood's Oscar award for this year's best documentary feature. Produced and directed by Deborah Oppenheimer and Jonathan Harris, it features, amongst other Kinder, Bertha Leverton, founder of the Reunion of Kindertransport, and movingly tells the Kinder story.

When visiting the Wiener Library recently, I met a group of 16-year-old German students from Mühlheim near Essen, who were on a short study tour in England. In a quest for discovery about their city's pre-war Jewish population, they visited both the Sternberg Centre and the Wiener Library, which houses a unique collection of Third Reich literature. None of the children had previously met a Jew, and when told that a survivor of Kristallnacht, a child of the Kindertransport, was actually in the building, their curiosity knew no bounds.

Dry academic history suddenly became for them a living reality and they insisted on asking the questions their parents and grandparents could not, or would not, answer. I spoke to them in German and related my experience during Kristallnacht and how I became a Kind. At the end of my talk quite a few of the children were quietly sobbing and I overheard one of them say that this meeting had been a "Höhepunkt".

At a recent KT/AJR Luncheon Club meeting, more than 60 people, 16 of them Kinder, listened in wrapt attention to David Marks who, with his wife Julia Barfield, is the architect of the Millennium Wheel. Judging by its great success, the people of London have certainly taken the Wheel and its designers into their hearts, an accolade seldom awarded to architects throughout history. (Full report *AJR Journal* in June).

KT Luncheon Get-together: Monday 21 May at 12 for 12.30pm. Bertha Leverton speaks about her recent tour of Germany with the Oscar-winning film *Into the Arms of Strangers*. Please reserve your place early at the AJR Day Centre, 15 Cleve Road, West Hampstead, NW6, Tel: 020 7328 0208.

AJR VISIT TO THE GILBERT COLLECTION

at Somerset House
Monday 14 May
£10 per person to include
coach fare, entrance and lunch
at the Day Centre
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Joan Altman
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FOURTH GREAT SEASON! AJR-KT LUNCHEON CLUB

Wednesday 16 May 2001
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Guest speaker:
Pam Schweitzer MBE
'The Value of Reminiscence'

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DATE FOR THE DIARY

Sunday 9 September 2001
Afternoon Tea and Cabaret
at the
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to mark the
60th Anniversary
of the AJR

AJR 'Drop in' Advice Centre at the

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre
15 Cleve Road, London NW6 3RL
between 10am and 12 noon

Wednesday 2 May
Thursday 10 May
Tuesday 15 May
Wednesday 23 May
Thursday 31 May
Tuesday 5 June

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

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre 15 Cleve Road, West Hampstead, NW6

The opening hours have changed as follows:-
Mon - Thurs 9.30am-3.30pm, Sun 2pm-5.30pm

MAY		Afternoon entertainment:
Tue	1	The Kentertainers
Wed	2	Nicola Smedley accompanied by Jan Cunningham, piano
Thur	3	The Valerie Hewitt show
Sun	6	DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon	7	CLOSED - MAY DAY
Tue	8	Angela Arratoon accompanied by Eldad Neumark
Wed	9	Sergei & Suzanne Bezkorvany, cello & violin, accompanied by Hermione Goldsmith, piano
Thur	10	Ronnie Goldberg, guitar
Sun	13	DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon	14	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Tue	15	Jenny Kossew, accordion
Wed	16	LUNCHEON CLUB
Thur	17	Christine Fisher, accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth, piano
Sun	20	DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon	21	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Tue	22	MUSICAL MOODS - Rosemary Wiseman
Wed	23	Katinka Seiner & Laszlo Easton, with piano accompaniment
Thur	24	THE SINGING DUO - Jack & Rita Davis
Sun	27	CLOSED - EREV SHAVUOT
Mon	28	CLOSED - SHAVUOT
Tue	29	CLOSED - SHAVUOT
Wed	30	WIZO Ladies Choir at Shavuot
Thur	31	PIANO & VOICE - Amanda Palmer

Afternoon tea, including sandwiches and cakes, will be served on Sundays. Supper will no longer be served.

Announcements

Deaths

Hillman. David Hillman, born Poland 1910, died on 12 March 2001 aged 91. David emigrated to London from Vienna in 1939 following six months captivity in Dachau; after internment he served in the British army from 1940 to 1946. Despite being in great pain he had a keen sense of humour to the end. He is greatly missed by Hilda, his wife for over sixty years, children, grandchildren and great granddaughter, friends, and many relatives in Israel.

Sterne. Ernest Claude Sterne, born Berlin 9 September 1914, passed away peacefully Leeds, 2 February. Sadly missed by family and friends.

Classified

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Societies

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

Day Centre

Chiroprapist. Trevor Goldman at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre Wednesday 2 May between 10am-11.30am.

Pamela Bloch at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre. Clothes sale, separates etc. Tuesday 15 May 2001 9.30am-11.45am.

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Science Notebook Prof Michael Spiro

Earthquakes

Already in the first three months of 2001 there have been major earthquakes in Gujarat in India, in El Salvador and a minor one near Seattle. How do we measure and locate earthquakes in uninhabited, as well as in built-up, regions? Earthquakes produce displacements of the ground, and these can be accurately measured by instruments called seismographs (*seismos* is Greek for earthquake). In 1935 the American seismologist Charles Richter suggested using the maximum displacement observed during an earthquake to quantify its strength. The scale now known by his name was obtained by taking the logarithm of this maximum displacement. For example, an earthquake measuring 8 on the Richter scale will have produced a ground movement ten times bigger than one measuring 7 and one hundred times greater than one of 6. The large San Francisco earthquake of 1906 had a Richter magnitude of 8.25. The one in Gujarat this year measured 7.9 and the smaller one

near Seattle, 6.8. Significant damage occurs only with earthquakes exceeding 5.5 on the Richter scale. Instruments detect numerous small tremors which humans don't feel at all.

To pinpoint the earthquake epicentre, its central location on the surface, we depend on a discovery made in 1900 by the British geologist Richard Oldham. He identified two types of wave which earthquakes transmit through the earth: primary P waves (which are longitudinal) and secondary S waves (transverse shear waves). P waves travel faster than S waves, and the difference in their times of arrival at a seismic observatory station enables one to calculate its distance to the epicentre. The geographical position of the epicentre can then be found from the readings taken at several different seismic stations. During the Cold War, extra stations were set up to detect underground nuclear bomb tests by the other side.

To be continued

Search Notices

Marianne Schäffer, lived in Berlin, worked for Paul Hirsch at 9 Adams Road, Cambridge in 1938. Please contact Margaret Falconer, 21 Mansionhouse Rd., Edinburgh EH9 1TZ. Tel 0131 667 3285.

Canterbury Hall 1942 - 1944. Would any Austrian or German refugees who lived there and recall life at the hostel contact Henry Bass, 30 Porchester Place, London W2 2PD. Email: henrybass@cwcom.net

Adolf Falk, father of Hugo Falk, came to London from Hochberg in 1939. Would any members of the Falk family please contact Lena Baum, 1 Green Bank, London N2 8AS. Tel 020 8445 5070.

Heinz Robert Thenen, born Vienna 1926, lived in London in 1960s, and **Edith Thenen**, moved to London in 1956. Both thought to be descendants of **Josef Thenen** (born 21.8.1866 Galatz, Romania, died 15.1.1949 Braila, Romania, lived for many years at Ferstelgasse 1/8, Vienna 9). Please contact Heidemarie Blazej, Social attaché, Austrian Embassy, 18 Belgrave Mews West, London SW1; Tel: 020 7235 3731.

Werner Lax (Lachs?), born Berlin (?) circa 1934. Served in the BAOR. Corporal in 21st Army Group HQ in Herford. Knew Lilly Schröder. Please contact Gerald Warner (formerly Gerhard Wachsner, then Gerald Walker), 14c Weiti Rd, Orewa, New Zealand. Email: aredwangler@xtra.co.nz

Ilse Wolff - an appreciation



Ilse Wolff at the Wiener Library

Ben Barkow, Acting Director of the Wiener Library writes:

Ilse Wolff came to work at the Wiener Library - when it was still known as the Jewish Central Information Office - in January 1940, after a chance meeting with Alfred Wiener in Hyde Park. He mentioned that he needed a stand-in for his secretary, who was very ill; Ilse took the temporary job - and stayed with the Library for over 25 years.

Her decision to become a librarian was, for the Wiener Library, a momentous one; she recognised that if Dr Wiener's remarkable collection was to have a future it would have to change from being an information bureau, serving political and governmental circles, to become an academic library where scholars, authors and students could research and write history. As the first professionally qualified librarian employed by Dr Wiener, Ilse exerted an

incalculable influence on the development of the Library over not just years but decades.

Ilse made another great contribution to scholarship: she edited the first four volumes of the internationally acclaimed Wiener Library Catalogue series, the essential bibliographic tool for scholars who wrote the classic early accounts of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust.

Ilse retired from the Library in 1966, owing to a lengthy period of ill health. In recent years she attended a number of social events at the Library and established friendly relations with the present generation of librarians, who saw in her a pioneering and heroic figure.

If western philosophy is a series of footnotes to Plato, I think we can describe the history of the Wiener Library over the last 50 years as a series of footnotes to Ilse Wolff. She will be sadly missed at the institution to which she gave so much.

Researching our roots

Judith Joseph

The past twenty years have seen an exponential growth in genealogical research, undertaken initially as a leisure pursuit. Various national Jewish genealogical societies co-ordinate data extrapolated from governments about their peoples. There has also been much personal and group research into individual families and into the lives of Jewish communities in previously closed archives in most European countries. Members of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain (JGSGB) are no longer primarily very senior citizens. As the children of refugees - and even those with families long established in Britain, America or elsewhere - become parents or grandparents, there is a wish to discover their roots.

Understanding the Jewish past

It is of paramount importance for the future of Jewry that we understand how Jewish life was, is, and how it may develop. Our understanding of our people and its place in the wider communities of Europe will be enhanced by those with testimonies and documentation, and by research. No detail is too small for our own Jewish archive. London is the base of the JGSGB with its quarterly journal, *Shemot* (a more academic review of current research) and a quarterly newsletter with a calendar of national and international events, classified advertisements and updates on information relevant to researchers generally. There is a close association with the American journal *Avotaynu*, which has world-wide readership, and with the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.

Worldwide resources

A wealth of data is accessible through the internet on Jewishgen (a Jewish genealogy website), and through the

JGSGB's own library and information services. Special Interest Groups (German, Polish and many more) are working on expanding our knowledge of how life was, as well as on the current availability of resources. Archivists with particular responsibility for Jewish matters are active in Germany, Poland, Lithuania and elsewhere. Material previously thought to have been lost or destroyed is now available. Many European government-funded archivists do not charge for their work, but international reply-paid postage coupons help to secure speedy responses to requests for information. It is now possible to write direct to a town or city council, or to a State archive. Where they do not hold information, they give guidance as to where information may be found. It is possible to write to most countries' resource centres in English, but replies may be in the indigenous language. Bear in mind that writing in the country's own language may prove counter-productive, especially the further east one enquires.

The JGSGB is hosting the 21st Conference on Jewish genealogy from 8-13 July 2001 at London's Intercontinental Hotel. A full and varied programme includes archivists and researchers from many countries discussing their work (in English) and provides an opportunity to meet others from similar background and other countries. Application forms are available from JGSGB Conference 2001, PO Box No. 27061, London N2 0GT.

The International Jewish Genealogical Resources (UK) will assist with initial enquiries, guiding researchers to the most appropriate avenues. Further assistance is available subject to modest negotiable fees. IJGR(UK) 25 Westbourne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3TX. Fax 0121 454 9758.

Newsround

Slovakian lawsuit

The Slovakian Jewish Community's lawsuit in the German courts, alleging the appropriation of Jewish property during WWII to pay for the transport of Slovakian Jews to the extermination camps, has failed but may be appealed. Any compensation award is intended to help Slovakia's 1450 Holocaust survivors and maintain its Jewish heritage.

Haider loses support

In Austrian regional elections in which the Socialist party gained support in Vienna and the People's Party maintained its share of the vote, Jörg Haider's Freedom Party saw its vote reduced considerably. There is speculation that the party may now withdraw from the government coalition.

Sentenced in absentia

A Paris court has sentenced Alois Brunner, responsible for the deportation of hundreds of French Jewish children, to life imprisonment. Brunner, now aged 89, is reputed to be living in Syria.

Austrian lawsuit

Journalist Karl Pfeifer has won his libel case against the right-wing publication *Zur Zeit* which suggested he had driven a Catholic academic to suicide.

Last page

One of 'Schindler's Jews' has died in California. It is said that among the many customers at his shop to whom he told his story was Thomas Keneally, author of *Schindler's Ark* which inspired the similarly named Spielberg film.

Belated conviction

Over forty five years after killing seven Jews in Theresienstadt, a former SS officer has been sentenced to 12 years imprisonment by a court in Ravensburg. After WWII, 83 - year - old Julius Viel worked as a journalist, receiving a government medal for his writing.

Met investigation

Confidential Home Office files concerning the Ukrainian SS Division, admitted to Great Britain in 1947, have been passed to police for investigation. It is thought that war crimes may have been committed by some Division members in eastern Galicia.