

AJR journal

Association of Jewish Refugees

Fin-de-siècle template

When an animal is about to be attacked, it can either fight or flee. A third - rather hypothetical - response is to be prescient and adopt protective mimicry - i.e. camouflage - to escape the attention of the predators.

The laws of society being more intricate than those of nature, Jews have evolved a more complicated array of defence mechanisms - although these are simply variations of the three 'archetypes' of fight, flight or mimicry.

The full panoply of widely differentiated responses was on display in the Vienna of around 1900. These could be diagrammatically represented by a semi-circle inscribed with the legend 'flight' on the left, 'mimicry' in the middle and 'fight' on the right. 'Flight' in this context is not to be understood as physical escape, but as flight from Jewish identity.

The most extreme form of escape in this meaning of the term is Jewish self-hate, notoriously exemplified by Otto Weininger. He argued that all Jews suffered from moral leprosy and that only one Jew - Jesus Christ - had ever overcome this inborn stigma. Weininger put an end to his own life in the early twenties, but other less pathologically self-critical Jews continued to command attention. One such was Karl Kraus, who purported to see behind Herzl's dream of Jewish statehood a naked ambition to snatch the crown of Zion. Likewise, Kraus's Great War play *The Last Days of Mankind* largely depicts Austrian Jews as war profiteers and draft-dodgers.

Unsurprisingly, Kraus also followed the trend among Austro-Jewish intellectuals of converting to Christianity. Another prominent convert was the father of the philosopher Karl Popper. What motivated



Karl Kraus

Karl Popper

Popper Senior to cut the umbilical cord was the feeling that separateness in matters of religion constituted an affront to the mass of his fellow Austrians. (Karl Popper was to follow in his father's footsteps, defining himself as someone born to Protestant parents who deprecated all forms of racism, including Jewish racism.)

However, for all that conversion as well as intermarriage were becoming increasingly fashionable, they did not make significant inroads into the Austro-Jewish mainstream. The bulk remained moderately observant, married co-religionists, took a sceptical view of Zionism, and endeavoured to keep their daily speech free of Yiddish inflections.

But *mameloshn* was not to be denied. The Yiddish theatre movement emanating from Eastern Europe produced intermittent echoes in Vienna. The Austro-Jewish bourgeoisie, however, greatly preferred Goethe to Goldfaden and looked down on Yiddish as jargon. Poorer working-class Jews did not share this preference but were not overly receptive to Dybbuk-style theatrical fare either. Their taste was catered for by the actor-playwright Heinrich Eisenbach, who wrote jargon-tinted vaudeville sketches set in exotic locations. (His *King of the Sahara* featured a Prime Minister *Chochem*, a

Lord Chamberlain *Shamas* and a Greek white-slaver *Parachides*.) The self-mocking tone in which Eisenbach's dialogue was delivered - commonly called *Jideln* - aroused the ire of respectable middle-class Jews and the august *Centralverein* denounced his farces as grist for the mills of antisemites.

If Eisenbach drew Jewish working-class audiences, Viktor Adler appealed to the working class as a whole. An *Armenarzt* - a doctor who gave free treatment to the poor - Adler was to Austria's Social Democrats what Keir Hardie was to the British Labour Party. Influenced by him, a sizable number of Austrian Jews conceived a rosy-hued vision of a classless New Jerusalem.

An entirely different vision of Jerusalem - as the capital of a resurrected Jewish homeland - was put forward by the Austro-Hungarian Theodor Herzl. Herzl did not make many recruits in Austria early on; even so, the Zionists gradually gained support, and in the inter-war years wrested control of Vienna's *Kultusgemeinde* from the Assimilationists.

By then, the World Zionist Movement had split between a majority of moderates and a minority of hardline followers of Jabotinsky (among whom another Austro-Hungarian, Arthur Koestler, was prominent).

Karl Kraus memorably dubbed Austria 'the laboratory for the end of the world' - a *bon mot* which, given Hitler's Austrian provenance, was quite apt. It could also be argued that in its array of widely differing responses to the 'Jewish Question', Viennese *fin-de-siècle* Jewry prefigured the worldwide fragmentation of Jewish opinion that we witness today.

The Diasporists

Richard Grunberger

From the destruction of the Second Temple in 70AD to the creation of Israel in 1948, Jews were objects - i.e. victims - of history, rather than its subjects. Zionism arose in response to immemorial exile, Russian pogroms and the Dreyfus trial.

Almost intuitively prescient of the Holocaust, Zionists strove to build a safe haven in Palestine. It proved too little, too late. After the Jewish catastrophe, the world reluctantly condoned the creation of Israel. While this was accomplished with much bloodshed exacerbated by population transfers, the new state passed its first, historic, legislative measure: the Law of Return, giving every Jew in the world the right to claim asylum in Israel.

Now a clutch of Jewish celebrities have voluntarily - and publicly - renounced this right. They did so in a letter to *The Guardian*, a paper which previously deemed Israel's armed incursion into Jenin 'as repellent as September 11'.

One imagines that the anti-Zionist celebs are, however remotely, related to Jews in places like Ukraine or Argentina. I wonder how securely the latter would sleep at night but for the knowledge that if their own countries imploded or turned fascist, Israel would offer a haven of refuge.

I have huge admiration for the resilience of Britain's democratic institutions. Nonetheless, I would remind Jewish beaters of the anti-Zionist drum that in 1945 some Tory MPs mooted - admittedly, in vain - the compulsory repatriation of German Jewish immigrants. More recently, none other than Enoch Powell suggested that newcomers to the UK who had arrived after 1948 be stripped of British citizenship.

I mention these blemishes on the face of British democracy not to denigrate this country, but to highlight the sanctimonious complacency of Jews who would write off Israel - a state conceived and born in bloodshed, whose very survival has consistently been put in question ever since.

Saving the world from itself: a visit to a unique institution

Howard Spier

Tucked away in the middle of nowhere in particular, and heralded only by the odd AA road sign, nothing prepares you for the impact of Beth Shalom. On my first visit to the centre, I stepped around a beautiful flower bed - my first indication of the spirituality of this unique place - leading into a reception area, which doubles as a bookshop.

Visitors are recommended first to view a 12-minute film on the origin of this remarkable institution. The film is shown in a high-roofed lecture hall, which, with its splendid stained-glass windows, bears a striking, and no doubt deliberate, resemblance to a chapel or synagogue. High up, split across two walls, reads the inscription 'He who saves a single life ... saves the world entire.'

Visitors move next to a below-stairs, cave-like exhibition of the 'Final Solution'. The exhibition, making superb use of photographs, screen and actual exhibits pertaining to the period, depicts the rise of the Nazi Party and state-sponsored antisemitism and the processes of ghettoization, resistance, and finally extermination, of a large part of the Jews of Europe. Gypsies, homosexuals and other victims of Nazi ideology and policies are not forgotten. For me, one of the most stunning exhibits was a broken shop window with the word 'Jude' scrawled all over it in white paint. The sole shortcoming of the exhibition, I felt - pinpricking no doubt in the context of the fulsome detail displayed - was the lack of substantial material on the accomplices of the Nazis - Ukrainians, Lithuanians, Romanians and others - those armies of volunteers on whom the Nazis depended to carry out their policy of annihilation.

From the overwhelming sight and sound of the exhibition, I returned to the lecture hall to hear a talk by a Holocaust



survivor. Arek Hersh sought to describe to a packed audience, in a distinctly low-key manner, events which the audience well understood were beyond description.

One cannot leave Beth Shalom without a stroll through the magnificently landscaped gardens, with their imposing sculptures and images and bushes planted in memory of numerous Holocaust victims. The centrepiece sculpture, *Abandoned*, by Naomi Blake, poses the rhetorical question: how could God have allowed the Holocaust to happen? The exquisite gardens are an unparalleled site for silent contemplation.

At Beth Shalom, everything - design and realization - seems in harmony, in perfect taste. Even the well-stocked coffee shop seems to find its natural place. It is an inspired achievement by the Smith family - Stephen, James and their mother Marina - the begetters of this amazing institution. I was fortunate enough to meet Marina, an intense personality from whom ideas and reflections, including plans for the possible expansion of the site, pour out in a torrent.

Beth Shalom, with its memorial to the Holocaust and late-twentieth-century instances of genocide such as Rwanda, plays host daily to parties of schoolchildren. It is inconceivable that even the most unthinking child - or adult for that matter - could fail to be moved by this memorial centre. The past cannot be replayed, but the future is there to be shaped, however uphill a battle fighting man's inhumanity to man will always be.

AJR Journal

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Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown

Richard Grunberger

Max Did you ever see that poll about the greatest English monarch?

Leo I did

Max And what did you think of the result?

Leo Not much

Max Why is that? (Takes out notebook, starts to scribble)

Leo Because Elizabeth came top of the poll

Max Why - what have you got against Good Queen Bess?

Leo She was an antisemite

Max But she didn't know any Jews!

Leo She knew *The Merchant of Venice*

Max Personally?

Leo No - but by repute

Max You mean ill repute?

Leo 'Fraid so. Just the same, knowing what an unscrupulous spin doctor

Shakespeare was - look at the *hoicker* he pinned on Richard III! - she asked him to

do a whitewash job on her six-times married father Henry VIII. The result

was *The Merry Wives of Windsor*

Max Point taken! So who is your favourite monarch?

Leo George I

Max George I?

Leo Ja!

Max Remind me - what is he famous for?

Leo For never learning English

Max And that makes him your favourite?

Leo Sure, because *I* learned it - so I am at least his equal

Max Now you're getting political

Leo Am I?

Max Don't you know that today's politics is tomorrow's history? Or is it yesterday's? Anyway - who is your second most favourite monarch?

Leo George II

Max For what reason?

Leo He was an early supporter of the Lubavicher Rebbe

Max How do you make that out?

Leo Look at the King's enthusiasm for *The Meshiach!* When he first heard it he leapt to his feet. Ever since, people have stood up when the orchestra plays that passage

Max That's an interesting point ... OK - who's in third place?

Leo Queen Victoria

Max Why?

Leo Because she was such a bundle of fun

Max What? I always thought she was a misery

Leo That's the result of spin doctoring. She was a philosemitic funster. Didn't she

say to Mendelssohn when he came to Windsor: 'We two could make beautiful

music together?' Didn't she create Disraeli Lord Baconsfield? And at Lord Rothschild's investiture, didn't she order the band to play *Buddy, Can You Spare a Dime?*

Max No comment! Right - who's your number four?

Leo Edward VII

Max On what grounds?

Leo He observed the *Yom Kippur* fast

Max How do you know that?

Leo He always dined out with his Jewish pals - the Rothschilds at Waddesdon, the Sassoons at Trent Park, or Ernest Cassel.

But on that day he had to go without, poor man!

Max Correct me if I am wrong - but aren't you obsessed with Jews?

Leo Who should I be obsessed with - Muslims?

Max (Laughs) Muslims reminds me: who are your five least favourite monarchs?

Leo Elizabeth I've already mentioned. Then there's Richard I who killed Jews in Jerusalem, Edward I who expelled them from England, and Edward VIII who chummed up with Hitler. And last but not least, George V

Max Why - what did *he* do wrong?

Leo He always took his holidays in Bognor instead of Bournemouth. If it wasn't for him, Bournemouth might now be glorying in the appellation Bournemouth Regis

Max Oh, what a lateral thinker you are! (Glances at his notebook) I notice that you've only given me four favourite kings

Leo I'll give you a fifth: Oliver Cromwell

Max Cromwell was no king!

Leo But he allowed the Jews back into England!

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Recommendations and requests

From AJR's Northern Groups
Get-together

Ronald Channing



PHOTO: RONALD CHANNING

Birmingham Chairman Henny Rednall (second left) with other AJR members at AJR's first Northern Get-together at Beth Shalom in Nottinghamshire. A second Get-together is to take place in Manchester on 5 November, details for which will be forwarded. Members' views and wishes (given below) on the development of AJR services in the North of Britain, as expressed at the first meeting, will be given further consideration at the November meeting.

1. Organise annual or twice-yearly regional gatherings by popular request.
2. 'Discover' isolated 'Continental Britons' who have been in contact neither with a Jewish community nor a Jewish refugee communal organisation. Arrange transport to group meetings and special events and offer welfare support services.
3. Co-ordinate provision of group activities and extend AJR social services provision throughout the Northern Region.
4. Participate in Holocaust education programmes (to convey to future generations the experiences of refugees and camp survivors) and encourage returnees to continental schools and organisations to relate these experiences.
5. Organise visits to former home towns (preferably accompanied by children) and arrange reunions of former residents.
6. Resource the collection of life experience testimonies (written, audio and audio-visual) in co-operation with university departments and libraries. Establish groups specifically for the collection of such testimonies.
7. Increase the reportage of Northern Region group activities in *AJR Journal* and publish regional information.

Chief Justice Woolf assesses human rights legislation

'Thankyou Britain'
lecture given this month



Lord Woolf, the Lord Chief Justice of England (pictured here), has generously consented to deliver this year's prestigious, AJR-sponsored Thankyou Britain lecture at the British Academy on a subject on which he is recognised as a leading authority: 'Human Rights - Have the Public Benefited?' His address will be given on Tuesday 15 October at 5.30 pm at 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.

The Thankyou Britain Fund was established in 1965 by the Association of Jewish Refugees as a gesture of gratitude to this country from Jewish refugees for permitting them to settle

here as a safe haven from Nazi persecution. Some £92,000 was raised to be directed by the British Academy to two main purposes: an annual lecture (now bi-annual) on a subject related to the broad sphere of human studies, and the award of similarly oriented research fellowships.

All AJR members are cordially invited to attend this most significant event. As numbers have necessarily to be restricted, entrance is by ticket only. Tickets can be obtained from the British Academy, Meetings Department, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH. Tel 020 7969 5264 E-mail lectures@britac.ac.uk.

CTM

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Otto Schiff Housing Association, specialist providers of housing and care for refugees since the 1950s has vacancies for long-term residential care in its three recently refurbished and modernised homes in The Bishops Avenue, London N2.

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CONTINENTAL BRITONS

Kinder applaud rescue hero Nicholas Winton at Imperial War Museum gathering

Ronald Channing

Nicholas Winton, a sprightly and sharp-witted 93-year-old, was guest of honour at a gathering of 200 Kindertransport members of the AJR hosted by the Imperial War Museum. The reception was part of the Continental Britons exhibition events programme.

Robert Crawford, the Director General of the Imperial War Museum, extended a warm welcome to the audience and spoke of the Continental Britons exhibition, as a rich collection of documents, artefacts and video testimony and as "a real triumph".

Emotional reunion

The highlight of the evening was the screening of *The Power of Good*, a documentary made by Czech film-maker Matej Minac. It relates how London stockbroker Nicholas Winton rescued young children from Czechoslovakia and brought them to England, his self-imposed mission halted only by the outbreak of war. It is narrated on screen with deep feeling by Canadian journalist Joe Schlesinger, who was one of the Kinder whose life he saved. The film, and its leading character, received a standing ovation.

Winton, who became a World War II fighter pilot, told no one of his pre-war

exploits and only the chance discovery of an old scrapbook in the attic by his late wife, with photographs of the children and unused immigration documents and labels, revealed this remarkable story. In a 1988 edition of her television programme *That's Life*, Esther Rantzen brought together children - then adults - whom Winton had rescued with their saviour for the very first time, in a highly emotional reunion. That reunion was again mirrored at this meeting by the participation of Esther Rantzen, who is planning a follow-up film about the Kinder, and many Czech Kindertransportees. Among them was Vera Gissing, whose recent book, *Nicholas Winton and the Rescued Generation*, co-authored with Muriel Emanuel, has created a wider public awareness of the heroism and modesty of Winton and of his small band of co-workers.

List of children

Taking part in a question-and-answer panel with Nicholas Winton were Prague-born Vera Gissing, a children's author and translator, Muriel Emanuel, a writer, Carol Seigel of the Jewish Museum, and Bertha Leverton, Founder Life President of the Reunion of Kindertransport (now part of the AJR). Suzanne Bardgett, Director of the Holocaust Exhibition, who organised the event with Carol Seigel, chaired the discussion. Although Nicholas Winton could not fully explain why he had never discussed his exploits to save the Czech Kinder, he did recall having to bring five separate relief organisations together to create just one list of children for evacuation, 92 per cent of whom were



Left to right: Suzanne Bardgett, Esther Rantzen, Vera Gissing, Nicholas Winton and Bertha Leverton

Jewish, a fact which Bertha Leverton observed was missing from the film's commentary. According to Vera Gissing, only 2 per cent of those remaining survived, yet the film estimates that the fewer than 700 surviving children have already produced some 5,000 progeny!

Having visited the IWM's Holocaust Exhibition for the first time, Esther Rantzen praised its "skilled and dedicated presentation". In seeking to lay the groundwork for her proposed film on the later lives of the Czech Kinder, Esther met Flor Kent, sculptor of the Kindertransport statue to be unveiled at Liverpool Street Station early next year, and AJR Management Committee member Eric Reich, who has raised funds for the statue and Esther's special charity Childline. KT-AJR Chairman David Jedwab presented Esther with a video and book of the last Kindertransport Reunion in 1999 as a sound basis for her research.

Nicholas Winton and the Rescued Generation is published by Vallentine Mitchell (£9.95 paperback; £16.50 hardback)

CONTINENTAL BRITONS EXHIBITION

Second generation symposium exploring experiences of children of refugees & Holocaust survivors

The Heritage of the Past: Blessing or Burden?

An open discussion to be led by Rabbi Julia Neuberger Chief Executive of the Kings Fund

Anne Karpf

Author, journalist & broadcaster & Stephen Brook

Writer and Jewish community historian

Sunday 6 October at 2.30 pm

Bookings at £6 (£4 concess.)

incl. entry to exhibition, from Jewish Museum, 129 Albert St, London NW1 7NB Tel 0207 284 1997 ORT House, opp. Jewish Museum

Continental Britons Exhibition and Arts and Events Diary - October

Tues 1 Prof Sandor Gilman (University of Chicago), 'Multiculturalism, Global Culture & the Jews'. Max Kochmann lecture. Wiener Library, 6.30 pm

Tues 1 'Berlin and London: Perspectives on the German-Jewish Heritage'. Goethe Institute, 50 Princes Gate, Exhibition Road, London SW7 tel 020 7596 4000 or 020 7596 4041. 7 pm

Sun 6 Blessing or Burden? Second-Generation Symposium with Rabbi Julia Neuberger, Anne Karpf and Stephen Brook Venue: Ort House, Albert Street, Camden Town (opp. Jewish Museum), 2.30 pm

Mon 7 Mirjam Neidhard (Zurich). Film portrait of Heinz Liebrecht MBE. Club '43

Tues 8 British Churches and National Socialist Persecution of the Jews, 1933-1945. Dr Andrew Chandler and

Dr Margaret Bearley. Jewish Museum, 7 pm

Mon 14 Ernst Flesch, 'A Glimpse of Cuba' (with slides). Club '43

Mon 21 Terry Ward, 'Sir William Petre: The Tudor "Yes, Minister"'. Club '43

Mon 28 Gerald Holm, 'Why Bulgaria's Jews Survived the Holocaust'. Club '43

ORGANISATION CONTACTS

Ben Uri Gallery 108a Boundary Road, St Johns Wood, London NW8 tel 020 7604 3991

Club 43 Belsize Square Synagogue. Hans Seelig tel 01442 254360

The Jewish Museum, Camden Town, Raymond Burton House, 129-131 Albert Street, London NW1 tel 020 7284 1997

Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1 tel 020 7636 7247

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor reserves the right
to shorten correspondence
submitted for publication

HURRAH FOR CONTINENTAL BRITONS!

Sir - Hurrah for Continental Britons! This has been one of the finest exhibitions of Jewish interest that has ever hit the community. Sadly, in my opinion, there is one omission. As a young girl, I can remember with great fondness my many visits to the wonderful Blue Danube, the Austro-German cabaret revue club that ran in the Finchley Road for many years. Visitors to the exhibition, I am sure, would revel in the nostalgia of evenings spent in the Viennese Kafe Stube, followed by the revue. After a lively evening, the 'congregation' would religiously troop across the road to the deservedly well-documented Cosmo Restaurant.

*Elizabeth Spencer
London N12*

Sir - Thank you very much for sending me the book *Continental Britons* so promptly. I have read it with great interest and find it quite excellent. It should be made required reading for all Jewish youngsters. Please convey my greetings to Dr Anthony Grenville and his colleagues for this most instructive work.

*Gertrude Black
Glasgow*

FROM KRICKLEVITCH TO GOLDBERGS GREEN

Sir - I refer to the letter from Glenn A Brown in your July issue and note the nickname of Los Angeles: 'Little Weimar'. We, who were teenagers living in the hostels in Minster Road, Willesden Lane and Teignmouth Road, had our own nicknames for parts of London. Cricklewood was 'Kricklevitch', Finchley Road (around Swiss Cottage) was 'The Curfew Dam', and Goldbergs Green is self-evident.

*Frank Reichmann
Finstock, Oxon*

ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS

Sir - Prof Bryan Reuben (August issue) is correct in stating that the Palestinians have missed many opportunities in peace negotiations. He wants to know which opportunities Israel has missed. Here is one: at Taba in 2001 Arafat accepted the new Clinton proposals of December as a basis for further negotiations. The Israeli negotiating team was led by Yossi Beilin. Two weeks later, Sharon was elected and repudiated the Taba talks. The Palestinian Authority is still waiting for Israel to continue the negotiations.

*Peter Prager
Ilford, Essex*

Sir - Henry Schragenheim says (August issue): 'Israel has never intentionally targeted civilians.' Really? If not intentional, what was the justification for sending an F16 bomber in the middle of the night to drop a bomb on a block of flats densely inhabited by civilians, even if it was to assassinate a man known to have planned many suicide attacks on Israeli civilians? What did it achieve? A new commander has already been appointed and to date five more Israeli settlers have been killed. According to *Yediot Aharanot*, Israel's largest-circulation newspaper, a ceasefire deal with an end to suicide bombings had just been agreed by all major Palestinian factions. The strong suspicion exists that [Sharon] does not want the suicide bombers to stop so as to give him an excuse to occupy the West Bank and Gaza permanently.

*Inge Trott
Cheam, Surrey*

Sir - In view of your continuing debate about the Arab-Israel conflict, may I remind your readers of some

basic facts? The League of Nations-designated territory of Palestine, of which Israel occupies less than one-quarter, is the modern manifestation of the Jews' biblical homeland. In Arab tradition, this land, which the Romans falsely called Palestine after Philistia - the coastal land which once existed alongside the Hebrew Kingdom - has never been more than an adjunct of Syria. Despite attempts to Islamise its Jewish past, it has no Arab dimension as a country in its own right. The local Arab communities, historically diverse and largely descended from modern opportunistic migrants, did not self-identify as Palestinians until the 1960s, prior to which they did not feature as such in any history or document relating to this area. This supposed identity - a triumph of Arab propaganda - falsely implies that they are the rightful sovereign inhabitants of 'Palestine' and gives unfounded justification to their acts of 'resistance' against what they call the 'Zionist invaders'. Among Arab legends, none undermines Israel so much as the now widespread compliance with this insidious 'Palestinian' myth.

*S Goodman
Kingwinford, West Midlands*

WHAT MEAGRE REALLY IS

Sir - I have been asked to edit an International Anthology of Holocaust Plays for Playwrights Canada Press. I read with interest your profile of Charlotte Eilenberg (July issue). You write of the 'meagreness' of refugee input into British playwriting. Believe me, you don't know what meagre is until you attempt to put together a collection including Canadian playwrights!

*Irene N Watts
Vancouver*

CALLING IT A DAY

Sir - Your letter of 30 July advises that my subscription to *AJR Journal* is outstanding. I need to tell you with some regret that I think I will call it a day. I have been uncomfortable with

the *Weltanschauung* of your editor for a long time. I have found him to be myopic and parochial in the extreme. He reminds me of the nationalist textbook Nazis of my childhood. A schoolboy, as I was, never actually met such people. But they must have existed even in cosmopolitan Berlin. I know there were plenty of them in Vienna. That such a flawed wordsmith can continue to be your editor year-in year-out is an indication that your editorial board must be in agreement with him. *AJR Journal* could be a fabulous magazine ...

Bern Brent
Australia

HOW MANY DIVISIONS HAS THE POPE?

Sir - Surely the answer to Stalin's 'How many divisions has the Pope?' (August issue) is a great many - from all parts of Europe and Ukraine. All wore a belt with a buckle proclaiming 'Gott mit uns' and the SS insignia. The good Papa also looked after his troops and preserved them from trial for the sin of murder by dispatching them to the far corners of the earth, or at least as far as Argentina, Bolivia, Canada and Australia, where, with the exception of just one, they lived safely ever after.

Frank Bright
Ipswich

KINDERTRANSPORT AND QUAKERS

Sir - I have been asked to give a talk to the American Association of the Kindertransport on the work so many Quakers did for us in the 1930s-40s. I know that the KT (of which I am a member) was partly fostered by the Friends. My own sister was brought out of Germany by Quakers days before the war broke out and my brother was saved from the Camp de Gurs in south-west France with 48 other Jewish children by the American Friends Service Committee in 1941. Almost all the Quaker schools in England took in refugees and gave them free places.

In Leicester, where I come from, it was the Quakers who realised that the refugees needed a place to meet, so they made their meeting house

available one evening per week. They have done amazing work, but little documentation is available. Nor do Friends boast about good works. I gather that many of the archives at Friends House of that period have been destroyed. What I find so astonishing is the numbers involved. We know there were millions of Christians of different sects. There were 350,000 Jews in Britain at the time. There were 18,000 Quakers. I would be very grateful to have the names and addresses of refugees who were helped by Friends. I am sure they must feel as grateful as I do for the help given.

Ruth L David
460 Westwood Drive,
Ames IA 50014, USA

ANNIVERSARY OF FRANKFURT PHILANTHROPIN

Sir - I recently wrote to Petra Roth, the Oberbürgermeister of Frankfurt-am-Main, to remind her that 1 January 2004 will be the 200th anniversary of the foundation of the Philanthropin by Sigmund Geisenheimer, Mayer Amschel Rothschild's bookkeeper and attorney. In 1955 the school's 150th anniversary was remembered by a meeting of teachers and students at the Stern Hall in London and by similar meetings in Tel Aviv and New York. The reply to my letter from the Magistrat of the city of Frankfurt indicated that the building in the Hebelstrasse is about to be returned to the ownership of the Jewish community and that any recognition of the bicentenary would be their decision.

Julius Fletcher
Hounslow, Middx

Search Notices

A number of readers have shown concern that we may cease to publish *Search Notices*. This is not the case. They will continue to appear in both the *AJR Journal* and on the *AJR website* www.ajr.org.uk, thus reaching an even wider audience. Each month our website receives almost 2,000 visitors from over 40 countries (Ed.).

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

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ART NOTES

Gloria Tessler

German Expressionists banned by the Nazis appear in the Royal Academy's 'Masters of Colour: Derain to Kandinsky', an exhibition in which 80 masterpieces from the Merzbacher Collection are seen together for the first time in Europe.

Swiss refugees Werner and Gabrielle Merzbacher formed the collection over 30 years and their preference for colour, mood and transparent beauty defies a period of moral and political darkness. The controversial German artist **Emile Nolde**, a member of the Nazi Party whose work was subsequently banned as degenerate, produced landscapes and outstanding watercolours from his ironically named *Ungemalte Bilder* (Unpainted Pictures) between 1937 and 1945. *Evening Sky*, with bold blues and a red serpentine sunset, and *Sunflowers* were works he thought acceptable to the Nazis, who took the unusual step of banning him from working. Like any true artist, of course, he could not stop, as proven by the almost bombastic brilliance of his response.

Nolde's Impressionist forefathers did not face the same political issues and they internalised colour as mood or experience. **Renoir** or **Monet** brought a transcendent beauty to their time; they celebrated the gorgeousness of a summer's day, a pretty woman in a hat, the way light dappled colour on sky or water. **Picasso's** *Les Misérables* is a gem from his Blue Period in which a man's downcast face forms the focus of this geometric composition and the woman's hand is placed eloquently on his shoulder. **Monet's** winters are never bleak; pinks and greens shimmer optimistically behind bare trees. **Van Gogh's** *Sunny Lawn in a Public Park* is considered pivotal to the collection because of his influence on younger artists, though few match his creative turbulence.

The collection includes the work of the early-twentieth-century **Fauves**



Lady in a Yellow Straw Hat, c. 1910, by Alexej von Jawlensky (Merzbacher Collection)

such as **Matisse**, **Derain**, **Vlaminck** and, initially, **Braque**, whose 'savage' use of colour earned them this soubriquet. Some were immigrants: the Belgian **Vlaminck**, the Spaniards **Picasso** and **Gonzalez**, the Jewish Lithuanian sculptor **Lipchitz**, and the Italian Jew **Modigliani**, whose work blends ovals and long rectangles.

Others belong to a group loosely calling themselves **Der Blaue Reiter** (The Blue Rider), a name originating with *The Blue Rider Almanac* co-edited by Kandinsky. Although it lacked a coherent style, its artists shared an interest in the potential of non-naturalistic colour. The medium brought the Russian-born **Kandinsky** from late Impressionism to Abstraction, as can be seen in his brilliant *Murnau - the Garden*, in which huge floral shapes appear like meteorites from the sky itself.

Another German 'degenerate' was **Max Beckmann**, whose *Woman with Red Rooster* has an anguished tenderness and concentration. Beckmann, who fled the Nazis to Amsterdam and then America, is described as the greatest independent German artist of the twentieth century. He forced his wife to abandon her musical career and any hopes of children and in return sent her red roses every day! The exhibition comes full circle with **Oskar Kokoschka's** *Florence: View from the Manelli Tower*, in which water, sky and buildings merge in one gorgeous Impressionist celebration.

RG's INTERFACE

Hollywood. Jodie Foster, the ex-(child)-actress-turned-director, probably best known for her role in the horror movie *The Silence of the Lambs*, is planning a film about a real-life horror: Leni Riefenstahl. Riefenstahl, 100 this year, became the cinematic high priestess of the Hitler cult with her notorious Nuremberg Rally film *Triumph of the Will*. Nevertheless, she has not tired of repeating - for 57 years - that she wants to be seen as an artist, and not as a propagandist.

Jerusalem. This year's film festival attracted an audience of nearly 10,000. The documentary section comprised the diary of an Israeli participant in the Battle of Jenin and a feature on Uri Avnery, the country's leading advocate of peace with the Palestinians. The general section showcased films about illegal foreign workers in Israel, second-generation Moroccan *olim* still awaiting proper integration into Israeli society, and women suffering from the misogynistic bias of religiously inspired laws.

Amsterdam. Harry Mulisch, the pre-eminent Dutch author (whose novel *Attentat* was the Oscar-winning foreign film of 1986) has turned 75. His preoccupation with evil, as personified by Hitler, dates back to his youthful experiences as a *mischling*, the offspring of a mixed marriage between an Aryan Austrian and a Jewess living in Nazi-occupied Holland.

New York. Chaim Potok, the best-known author ever to emerge from an Orthodox milieu and a one-time rabbi, has died aged 73. His *oeuvre* included *My Name is Asher Lev* and *The Chosen* (which was turned into a film).

London. The Trinidad-born British writer VS Naipaul won this year's Nobel Prize for Literature. Interviewed in *The Times* about his book *Among the Believers*, he stated: "I had no idea that madness in the Islamic world had gone so far."

A two-way process

GENERATION EXODUS: THE FATE OF YOUNG JEWISH REFUGEES FROM NAZI GERMANY

Walter Laqueur

Brandeis University Press, 2001

CHANGING COUNTRIES: THE EXPERIENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT OF GERMAN-SPEAKING EXILES FROM HITLER IN BRITAIN, FROM 1933 TO TODAY

Marian Malet and

Anthony Grenville (eds)

London: Libris, 2002

The loss by Germany of a complete section of its population, its Jews, has been the subject of a number of monographs over the past 30 years. There is an enormous literature now on the ways in which refugees came out of Germany into Britain and, to a greater or lesser degree, succeeded in making new homes for themselves. There are personal memoirs and autobiographies produced by individuals who went through this process of resettlement and re-adjustment, studies of the ways in which British governments treated these arrivals, and academic studies of particular impacts which the arrival of these new inhabitants had upon their new homes. Some ten years ago there was even a substantial conference, organised by the Leo Baeck Institute, which attempted to put together a complete picture of the impact of the arrival of German Jews in Great Britain.

But none of that work has managed to portray in terms of those who actually left what that departure meant to them. And though there have been a number of studies of one of the best-known groups of arrivals - the children who were brought to Britain and were known collectively as the children of the Kindertransports - even those studies have tended to be anecdotal rather than analytical.

Now there have appeared two major studies of the children who were brought out of Central Europe between 1933 and 1939. They are very different studies, in part covering some of the same ground and thus

REVIEWS

complementing each other, but seeking very different aims. They thus deserve to be put into juxtaposition, but at the same time treated separately.

Professor Laqueur, himself one of that group of exiles, paints a broad picture, trying, as he himself says, 'to sketch the portrait of a generation'. His canvas is indeed very wide, extending as it does from Germany to Shanghai on the one hand, and from Germany to South America on the other. He gives us fleeting glimpses of a German Jew who, in going to Bolivia, pioneered the study of Bolivian literature and was eventually honoured for his services on a stamp of that country. Again, there were the two German Jewish refugees of whom one eventually became a Benedictine monk and the other a respected Hindu guru. Professor Laqueur's work covers a great deal of ground, and he mentions a large number of that generation who managed to create noteworthy careers in the countries that eventually gave them a home. He also produces in a Bibliographical Essay a most important survey of the printed materials available. There are the occasional slips - the British passport control officer in Berlin was Frank (not Victor) Foley, and I doubt whether the late Sir Isaiah Berlin would have appreciated his apparent identification as a member of this group. But the work is magisterial, as befits a senior scholar, and repays further study.

If Professor Laqueur's work can best be described as 'macro-history', the other work is very much 'micro-history' at its best. Its basis is a series of interviews with 34 men and women out of the around 70,000 who came to this country. The eight scholars who analysed these accounts and whose work is presented here have taken their own lines with the material and

have presented it in their individual ways. They have taken different strands and presented their conclusions clearly and lucidly. But the work has a unity about it, partly because each of the eight was working with the same basic group of interviewees and partly because of what has very clearly been expert editorial work by Marian Malet and Anthony Grenville. The result is a book that is at once a pleasure to read and a very important contribution to the study of these exiles in their new home. No attempt is made to gloss over the unpleasant episodes that occurred; there is, for example, a full account of the voyage on *SS Dunera*. The process by which many of the refugees were stupidly interned on the Isle of Man is given due weight. But the final thought that emerges from the book is that whatever else might have been said, there is a sense of gratitude for having been given what another work has termed 'a second chance'.

Both these books point to the ways in which both sides of the equation - the refugees and the members of the various host societies - benefited from the experience. Both deserve a place on the shelves of those interested in 'migration studies'. Professor Laqueur concentrates on his major subject, a generation that was so different from those who came before and after. Malet and Grenville raise at the end of their work a very different and even uncomfortable issue. Pointing to the value Britain gained by having accepted these refugees, they ask whether it has learned from its past good fortune - and whether in future it will be able to realise that similar waves of immigrants might well be offering the same opportunities to the host society.

Aubrey Newman

Faustian pact

THE HIDDEN LIFE OF OTTO FRANK

Carol Ann Lee

Penguin/Viking, £17.99

Did Otto Frank's obsession with business lead to the destruction of his

family? This is one of the questions which emerges from this relentlessly perceptive biography. Certainly Frank, born into a wealthy, assimilated German Jewish family, used his wife's substantial dowry to salvage the fortunes of the family-owned bank. And he moved his family to the Netherlands after Hitler came to power because business prospects seemed most propitious there, even though he had family in Switzerland and London and Edith, his wife, had brothers in New York. But the most damning evidence that Lee presents, with impressive understatement, is the key to the 'hidden life' of the book's title. This is the strange connection, a virtual Faustian pact, between Otto Frank and the man who was ultimately to betray him.

The father of the legendary Anne Frank, whose obsessive dedication and drive succeeded in making his younger daughter a household name

even half a century and more after her death, is presented as a complex man. Lee continually draws attention to his underlying optimism which stood him in good stead in the battle for survival in Auschwitz but which made him overrule his wife's misgivings when she pleaded with him to leave Amsterdam for a safer haven in another country.

Otto's complicated personal relations are effectively conveyed. A dutiful husband and devoted father, he never loved Edith as he had the mysterious 'love of his youth', or, indeed, his second wife, Fritzi. Lee subtly engages the reader's sympathy for the unfortunate Edith and the couple's elder daughter, Margot, both of whom take second place to Anne in Otto's affections.

The first part of Lee's study comprehensively portrays her subject and his times, including his service as a German officer in the First World War, his experiences of Auschwitz and the contrasting heady early days of liberation, as well as the aversion he later encounters, in common with many survivors, from all but his closest acquaintances. The second part is dominated by the discovery of Anne's diary and the literary and legal battles surrounding its publication and later adaptation for stage and screen.

Otto's role often appears somewhat ambivalent. Torn between the Jewish and universal dimensions of his daughter's legacy, he opts for the latter and sidelines Meyer Levin, whose glowing review in the *New York Times* launched the *Diary* in America and who wished to write the authorised stage version, in favour of bigger names who would disseminate his daughter's message to a wider audience. Lee presents all sides of the argument with commendable lucidity and objectivity.

While Lee has made impressive use of a welter of fascinating material, her very readable book would have benefited by being divided into shorter chapters.

Emma Klein

Memorial for a memorable lady

'BURNING FOR THE CAUSE':
CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF LOLA
HAHN-WARBURG, 1901-1989
Lucie Kaye (ed.), 2001

Last year saw the centenary of the birth of Lola Hahn-Warburg, who, as the only German-born member of the executive of the Movement for the Care of Refugee Children from Germany, made a vital contribution to the organization of the Kindertransports, and thus helped to save many thousands of young lives.

The daughter of Max Warburg and sister-in-law of Kurt Hahn, founder of Gordonstouns School, Lola Hahn-Warburg could have been a society lady but instead chose to devote herself to the best of good causes. Having helped to organise the emigration of Jewish children from Germany, she left for England in 1938 and was invited to join the committee behind the Refugee Children's Movement. She was a member of the delegation led by Lord Samuel which persuaded the Home Office to make special provision for the entry of juveniles into Britain, thereby making the Kindertransports possible. She continued her work for Jewish children in later life as a leading member of the executive of British Youth Aliyah.

This volume, edited by Lucie Kaye, teacher, journalist and author of a study of the refugee educationalist Anna Essinger, contains an array of personal tributes to and memories of Lola Hahn-Warburg by a list of dignitaries from Peregrine Worsthorne and David Astor to Lady Jakobovits and Ben Helfgott. One can also read a selection of her correspondence with such figures as Chaim Weizmann, Cardinal Hume and Teddy Kollek. The book can be obtained from West London Synagogue (c/o Tina Elliott), 35, Seymour Place, W1H 5AU, for £7.50, proceeds to the Hugo Gryn Memorial Trust and Youth Aliyah.

Anthony Grenville

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PROFILE

Howard Spier

A story told with pauses

A photograph of Rolf Weinberg shows him in his Free French officer's uniform, looking every inch the part of a noble warrior. The photo is reproduced in a finely illustrated paperback book detailing parts of Rolf's life which appeared earlier this year. 'Much of his story is left untold', Rabbi Rodney Mariner comments in a preface.

Quite so. A conversation with Rolf about his past entails numerous pauses, while Rolf considers what he may reveal - even after so much time has gone by - about his involvement in not one but two fascinating careers - as an officer in the Free French Forces and as a man keen to help lay the foundation of the Jewish State.

Rolf Weinberg was born in the Westphalian city of Herford in 1919. His father was the director of the family's chocolate manufacturing business. On the day following Hitler's accession to power, Rolf and his sister were attacked by pupils at their gymnasium, while most teachers looked on laughing. Their parents removed them from the school without hesitation. Rolf became an apprentice in a textile shop owned by a Jewish family. Here he gained experience in office administration and hated every minute of it.

In 1936 Rolf's mother took him to a knitting machine factory in Stuttgart where he became an apprentice. He began a course in textile engineering at a technical college in Reutlingen and, in September 1938, having received his engineering diploma, he moved to Hamburg following a tip-off that he was to be arrested by the Gestapo. That same month, the 19-year-old Rolf left for Uruguay, one of the few destinations then open to Jews fleeing Nazi Germany. Sailing out of German territorial waters, Rolf swore he would devote his life to helping to destroy the Nazi regime as well as to fighting antisemitism.

At the onset of the Second World War Rolf presented himself as a volunteer to both the British and French embassies, but was turned down.



Rolf Weinberg with French Ambassador Bernard Dorin receiving the Ordre de la Résistance Volontaire

In the Battle of the River Plate in December 1939, the German battle cruiser *Graf Spee* entered the port of Montevideo for repairs. At three in the morning Rolf was sent for by the British ambassador and asked to undertake a mission to help the war effort by spreading disinformation among the crew of the *Graf Spee*.

Days after the fall of France, Rolf presented himself once again at the French embassy. On this occasion, he was accepted for the London-based Free French Forces of General Charles de Gaulle. In April 1941 he met for the first time the French leader, who, not surprisingly, was curious as to why this young Jew born in Germany was so keen to fight for France.

Rolf spent 1941 at Camberley Free French camp where he underwent tough military training. He left the camp bearing the rank of Second Lieutenant. In December that year he was sent on a mission to Lebanon to investigate arrested German officers attempting to penetrate the Free French Forces. Rolf Weinberg ceased to exist: 'Henri Rovey' arose in his place.

In July 1942 'Henri Rovey' finally became a member of the 1st Free French Division, commanded by General Koenig, who after the war was promoted to the rank of Maréchal de France and became President of the Christian Jewish Association of France. The division was attached to the 8th Army fighting from El Alamein to Tunis under Field Marshal Montgomery.

Now to the second strand of Rolf's unique military career. In July 1943 he

was one of 17 NCOs who transported arms captured from the Afrika Corps to the Haganah. Arriving in Rehovot, the men were blindfolded and taken to meet Moshe Dayan. Rolf's links with Israel's military leaders have lasted right up to the present day.

Also in July 1943 Rolf was appointed Major in the Free French Forces. In 1943-44 he fought on the front line in a number of battles. In 1944 Rolf played his part in the liberation of southern France, his mission being to contact resistance forces. With a half-smile, Rolf says that General de Gaulle gave orders at the time that the details of another important mission were not to be revealed until 2045. Rolf was decorated many times for outstanding battle service and awarded the Médaille Militaire - France's equivalent of the Victoria Cross.

After the war Rolf rejoined his parents in Montevideo. In 1954 he returned to Germany for four years, working in the sphere of pre-fabricated housing. In 1968 he left with his wife Sarah for Spain, where she opened a pair of men's fashion boutiques. In Spain, Rolf says matter-of-factly, he was twice the target of Palestinian gunmen. On the second occasion, a man seated at a neighbouring table in a café was shot in his place.

Sarah died in 1988. In 1990 Rolf came to London to join Ruth, the partner of his youth. He became a member of the AJR, living for five years in a flat at the association's Cleve Road Day Centre, and of Belsize Square Synagogue. One day perhaps, Rolf Weinberg's full story - without pauses - will be told.

INSIDE the AJR

Report by Pinner garden party accountant

This year's garden party was held once again in Vera Gellman's beautiful garden. Some 40 members were present. Our party accountant reports that the average AJR member ate 2.9 scones with 2.3 dollops of cream and 4.1 spoonfuls of jam, 1.75 pieces of cake and 11.2 strawberries, and drank 3.1 cups of tea or coffee. Noise levels of conversation were not recorded. A good time was had by all and the hostess was thanked profusely for providing the site for such an enjoyable occasion.

Paul Samet

South London exhibition visit

A total of 17 members mainly from South London but with a small group from Pinner paid a most productive visit to the Continental Britons exhibition at the Jewish Museum in Camden Town. We were welcomed by Susannah Alexander, the Museum's education officer, and Dr Anthony Grenville provided a fascinating introductory talk. I was particularly captivated by the excellent video in the reconstructed Cosmo Restaurant.

Herbert Wolff

Wessex summer outing

Over 30 members joined our annual summer outing at Stapehill Abbey Crafts and Gardens, near Wimborne. An enormous exhibition of items from rural life in England dating from late-nineteenth to mid-twentieth century enthralled us, bringing back memories of happier times in pre-1939 Europe. Stunning walled gardens in full summer bloom combined with Dorset creamed scones and tea made for a most pleasant afternoon.

William Bergman

First Hull get-together

At an initial get-together, Northern Groups Co-ordinator Susanne Green effected introductions of eight people from the Hull area and explained AJR activities to us. Apologies were received from two people unable to attend. It was

agreed to meet again after two months in a member's house. In the interesting discussion which ensued, it was revealed that four of the group were booked on a visit to the Continental Britons exhibition and that two others were taking family friends to Beth Shalom in the near future. Anyone interested, please contact Bob Rosner on 01482 649156.

Bob Rosner

Liverpool & District enthralled by talk

In a moving talk entitled 'Return to Austerlitz', Dr Erich Strach enthralled us with a description of his first return visit to his birthplace Austerlitz, near Prague. He also described vividly his eventual success in renovating the synagogue and consecrating the memorial stone in the local cemetery. The meeting also reviewed our 60th AJR anniversary lunch and the Northern groups' visit to Beth Shalom, given the success of which it was decided to arrange a further northern get-together in Manchester later in the year.

Norman Fyne

Next meeting: Thursday 21 November at Harold House Jewish Community Centre, details to be announced

North London talk on Middle East

A record attendance of some 30 members had the privilege of listening to Michael Rosen of the Public Affairs Department at the Israeli Embassy give an update on the situation in Israel. His fascinating talk included a description of the difficulties of public relations work in explaining to a not always receptive UK media and public the activities of the Israeli government in countering terrorism. Michael Rosen answered a barrage of questions and comments with humour and patience.

Herbert Haberberg

Hull visit to exhibition provides opportunity to meet others

Everyone greatly enjoyed the trip, the welcome from all, the excellent meal at the Day Centre, and the fascinating visit to the Jewish Museum at Camden Town. Most of all, of course, we enjoyed our numerous opportunities for meeting others. Our thanks to the many who gave us such a good day and helped us make the most of the AJR's good services.

Bob Rosner

North London celebrates birthday

We celebrated our first birthday in some style. In addition to splendid refreshments, we had a session of *Desert Island Discs*. The morning was beautifully organised by Walter Woyda. The musical pieces chosen circumvented the globe - or at least Europe - embracing, among others, Spain, Wales and Hungary. A good time was had by all. A special thanks to Leo and Helena Horn for arranging the assortment of refreshments.

Herbert Haberberg

East Midlands garden party

Some 14 people helped towards an enjoyable revival of the local AJR group, at a coffee/tea garden party in the home of a member. With individuals scattered over a 50-mile radius and many not in large urban areas, it had been difficult to organise a meeting. It is hoped, however, that with the transport problem now solved by the AJR, the group will go from strength to strength. If any nearby local group members wish to join, please let me know.

Bob Norton

Next meeting: in Nottingham 13 November, details to be announced

Brighton & Hove Sarid free-for-all

Members were given a 5-minute opportunity to raise any topic they desired, (i.e. they could have a moan about their particular problem if they so wished). In the spirited discussion which followed, one particular issue which emerged was how important it was to retain accurate records in case it became necessary to request support from outside agencies.

F Goldberg

Next meeting: Monday 21 October

Essex on holiday

In a discussion about holidays, it emerged that a number of members had visited places of Jewish interest instead of lying on the beach. One member had visited a synagogue in Helsinki, where he had been enthusiastically greeted by the people there - who needed a tenth man to form a *minyan*! One couple had done a tour of Holland, visiting eight places in all. All our travellers discovered that communication was a simple matter because English is an almost international language - and then, of course, there is always Yiddish!

Julie Franks

Leeds HSFA - clues from the past

'Rosh Hashanah - Is It the Beginning?', the title of a talk by Leeds *shaliakh* Yehuda Bergman, puzzled participants. He talked about clues to our future predicted centuries ago by the sages. In one instance, the name 'Germany' appears in the *Midrash* - long before there was such a state - as that of a superpower possibly attempting to destroy the world. Yehuda also spoke about a visit he had made to Poland with 15 Leeds schoolchildren and showed extracts of a video he had taken in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Thea Skyte

Next meeting: Sunday 3 November at 2.30 pm. Alan Zinober, 'The Klezmer/Sephardi Experience'

Newcastle visits exhibition

We joined members from Liverpool, Leeds and Hull in a visit to the Continental Britons exhibition. Our visit began with a delicious lunch at the AJR Day Centre in Cleve Road, which was preceded by an informal get-together in the garden. We were also delighted to meet some of those who regularly attend the Centre as well as the staff who look after them with skill and dedication. The exhibition itself was impressive and we were all made aware of some new aspect not previously fully appreciated. I found the video interviews particularly moving. All in all, a memorable experience of re-living a time which led to the beginning of a new life in a free society to which we gratefully contributed in no small way.

Kurt Schapira

Leeds HSFA looking forward to more group activities

Early in the morning 18 Yorkshire 'Continental Britons' boarded the train for London. Soon we were at the AJR Day Centre, where we were warmly welcomed by Susie Kaufman, Susanne Green and the staff and given an excellent lunch. The exhibition would be of great use in the education of the general public, especially schoolchildren. For me, there were three highlights: the map of Hampstead, a naturalisation paper, and the list of names of Continental Britons who have distinguished themselves in so many spheres of UK life. We look forward to more combined group activities in the future.

Trude Silman

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Early reservations please!
Lunch now only £5

Please telephone Sylvia or Susie
on 020 7328 0208

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Tuesday 8 October
Wednesday 16 October
Tuesday 22 October
Wednesday 30 October
Tuesday 5 November

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
Tel: 020 7328 0208

Monday - Thursday 9.30 am - 3.30 pm, Sunday 2 pm - 5.30 pm

OCTOBER	Afternoon Entertainment:
Tue 1	Opdahl Trio
Wed 2	Amanda Palmer Entertains
Thur 3	Nikki Van Der Zyl
Sun 6	DAY CENTRE OPEN - No Entertainment
Mon 7	KT Lunch & Kards Games Klub
Tue 8	Katinka Seiner & Laszlo Easton
Wed 9	Daphne Lewis and Sheila Games
Thur 10	Eddy Simmons with Bill Bradley at Piano
Sun 13	DAY CENTRE OPEN - No Entertainment
Mon 14	Kards & Games Klub
Tue 15	Guyatherie Peiris & Bill Patrick
Wed 16	LUNCHEON CLUB
Thur 17	Rosemary Wiseman entertains
Sun 20	DAY CENTRE CLOSED - AJR Tea & Concert
Mon 21	Kards & Games Klub
Tue 22	Yakov Paul entertains
Wed 23	Ann Kenton-Barker entertains
Thur 24	Valerie Hewitt - Piano and Voice
Sun 27	DAY CENTRE OPEN - No Entertainment
Mon 28	Kards & Games Klub
Tue 29	Mike Marandi entertains
Wed 30	Nicola Smedly - La Diva
Thur 31	Ronnie Goldberg - Guitarist

Classified

Deaths

Keith. Henry Keith, formerly Helmut Katz (only son of the late Dr Willy Katz, Physician to the Dresden Jewish Community). My dearest husband Henry, also known to many as 'Jack', passed away 11 March 2002, loved and remembered by Kate, Barbara, Ron, Michael and Katie, family and friends.

Lester. Dora Lester (Unger) died 7 July 2002, aged 86. Greatly missed by her son Peter, daughter-in-law Linda, grandchildren Andrew and Nathalie and friends.

Miscellaneous Services

Need help with deciphering old handwritten German family papers? Trained archivist and specialist in reading old German handwriting such as Sütterlin or earlier offers help with transcriptions and translations. Please contact Samira Teuteberg, Centre for German-Jewish Studies at the University of Sussex, tel 01273 877184 or email S.Teuteberg@sussex.ac.uk.

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Day Centre

Chiropodist. Trevor Goldman at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre Wednesday 9 October between 10am-11.30am.

Pamela Bloch at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre. Clothes sale, separates etc. **Wednesday 23 October 9.30 - 11.45 am.**

Societies

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Obituary Wolf Salinger

Wolf Salinger was born in Berlin in 1915, the eldest son of a dentist. He had expected to enter his father's profession but the Nazis denied him admission to university and he became a heating pipe/fitting apprentice. He emigrated from Berlin to Manchester in 1939, never seeing his parents again. Following internment on the Isle of Man, he returned to Manchester, where he met and married Margaret.

In London, Wolf obtained the post of senior heating engineer with Crown House. Later, he became Contracts Director, responsible, among other projects, for installing air conditioning at the National Theatre.

In his retirement, Wolf continued a part-time engineering consultancy. A longstanding AJR member, he chaired the Otto Schiff Housing Committee for ten years. He had a special interest in this as his cousin Margot Williams was the AJR's Homes Admissions Officer between 1953 and 1985.

Intelligent, enthusiastic and sociable, Wolf was a hospital volunteer, an active member of PROBUS and the ex-Berliners, an avid tennis player and spectator, and a regular football supporter, his love of football originating in his youthful involvement in the Berlin Bar Kochba team. He travelled extensively, with a particular love for Israel, where he visited nephews and nieces.

Although not a practising Jew, Wolf loved family gatherings on Jewish high holy days and, mindful of his roots, he recently joined Belsize Square Synagogue. Last year he revisited Berlin with his family, bringing to life 'his story', previously videoed for the Steven Spielberg Shoah Foundation.

Wolf will be much missed by all those privileged to have known him. Married for 57 years, he is survived by Margaret, daughter Barbara and granddaughter Alexa.

DL

Central Office For Holocaust Claims

Michael Newman

Dutch bank and insurance claims

Now that negotiations involving Jewish representative groups with Dutch banks and, separately, the Dutch Association of Insurers, have been concluded, claims can be filed in respect of dormant Dutch bank accounts and unpaid insurance policies bought before the Second World War in The Netherlands.

Completed research has identified credit balances in more than 3,000 accounts held today in Dutch banks. The results of the investigation do not include the balances compulsorily transferred to the looting Lippmann, Rosenthal & Co (LiRo) bank during the Second World War.

Claims can be submitted until **31 December 2002**. Further details and information about how to obtain the relevant application materials are available from the Stichting Individuele Bankaanspraken Sjoa, P.O. Box 60000, 1320 AA Almere, The Netherlands or at www.sib-sjoa.nl.

The Sjoa Foundation for Individual Insurance Claims was established in November 1999 and endowed with NLG 50 million (approx. £14.5m) from the Dutch Association of Insurers to settle outstanding policies.

To date, approximately 7,000 claims have been received with more than € 700,000 (£440,000) distributed to rightful beneficiaries.

Under the terms of an agreement signed with the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC), the Sjoa Foundation will handle all Dutch claims received by ICHEIC.

Claims can be filed up to **1 January 2010**. Application forms and further details are available from the Stichting Individuele Verzekeringsaanspraken Sjoa, PO Box 91475, 2509 EB, The Hague, The Netherlands. Additional information is available at www.stichting-sjoa.nl.

Further help

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

Search Notices

Viennese émigrés I am writing about a cultivated family arriving in England in 1938 and want to hear personal experiences about adapting to a new life in this country. Contact Martin Holland at martin.holland@octoberfilms.co.uk.

Moriz Goldberger born 8.1.1872 in Rechniz, left for England 3 March 1939 and **Arthur Hoffman**, born 15 November 1900 in Vienna, left for London 27 January 1939. Any information, please contact Herbert S Hoffman, 32 Birch Road, W. Hartford, CT 06119, USA.

Hans Helmuth Carsch came to England as a refugee in 1936 (?). In September 1939 he volunteered for the British Army, being inducted into the 87th Division, Pioneer Corps (?). In 1940 he was in France and was shipped back via St Malo several days after Dunkirk, for which he was awarded a campaign ribbon. Around December 1942 he was temporarily released from the army to work in a small munitions factory in

Sudbury, Middx. Any information on his service in the British Army, please contact Ellen M Carsch, 12 Yorkridge Trail, Hockessin DE, email ellencarsch@aol.com.

Ruth Amrahamson, née Fränkel, born November 1906 in Wilhelmshaven. According to state archive in Hamburg, emigrated to USA early 1939. We are also seeking whereabouts of her relatives **Lore ('Sarah') Hartog**, married Hepburn, born 11 November 1924 in Jever, and **Inge Hartog**, born 4 December 1926 in Jever. We wish to record lives and fates of Jewish citizens in Nazi period in our town. Information, please contact Karl-Heinz Fürst, Brahmstrasse 77, 26386 Wilhelmshaven, Germany.

Dr Kurt Walter Ferdinand Boas, born c. 1892-97. Dermatologist. Resident in Berlin until late 1938. Son of Dr Ismar Boas died 1938 and Sophie née Asch murdered 1942. Sister Clara Schneider died in New York in 1971. Information, please tel London 020 8908 0582.

Fresh air fashionable

Michael Spiro

This summer's talks and Continental Britons exhibition have highlighted the area around the Finchley Road which became home to many refugees from Nazi Europe. Today, between Finchley Road tube station and the AJR offices, there has sprung up a large mall of American-owned retail and entertainment outlets (plus a large Sainsbury) called the O₂ Centre. The O₂ symbol has been adopted by mobile phone operator BTCellnet, which recently changed its name to mmO₂ (mm standing for mobile media) and then abbreviated it still further to just O₂. Why?

It seems that certain public relations firms, looking for a brand name to indicate freshness or fresh air, realised that O₂ is the symbol for oxygen gas which we all need to breathe to stay alive. (The chemical symbol for the element oxygen is actually O, but the molecules of oxygen gas contain two O atoms and are therefore written O₂.) It is essential to our existence because it 'burns up' much of the food we eat

and therefore liberates the energy we need to think, move about and keep warm. The food is our fuel. Similarly, coal or methane or oil are the fuels which are burnt in air (which contains 20% oxygen), to produce the energy to warm our homes and drive our cars.

Oxygen was independently discovered in the 1770s by the Swedish chemist Carl Wilhelm Scheele and the English chemist Joseph Priestley. The French Scientist Antoine Lavoisier shortly afterwards explained its significance in combustion. The human drama as to which of the three men was the real discoverer of oxygen formed the plot of a fascinating and witty play *Oxygen*, which had a long run in London last year. In 2002 too, a novel entitled *Oxygen* by Andrew Miller was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and serialised this year on Radio 4. Perhaps one day a pop star couple will name their baby Oxygen or even Ohtwo - that would be the ultimate popular accolade!

Newsround

Prague synagogues flooded

The medieval Alneu Synagogue and the nearby Pinkas Synagogue in Prague were seriously damaged by floodwaters from the River Vltava. The 80,000 names of Czech victims of the Holocaust inscribed on the walls of the Pinkas Synagogue may also be in need of restoration. The Jewish community has appealed for funds to allow them to continue their social care programme for the city's Holocaust survivors.

Riefenstahl's veracity challenged

Leni Riefenstahl, maker of *Triumph of the Will* and other mega-budget Nazi propaganda films, has reached her 100th birthday under a cloud. The truth of her repeated claim that the 100 gypsies who appeared in her 1942 film *Tiefland* all survived the war is being investigated by Frankfurt prosecutors on grounds of racial incitement.

Rescue of architectural icon

Emigré architect Eric Mendelsohn's modern masterpiece, the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill-on-Sea, which was opened in 1935, is to receive £6 million in Lottery funding to ensure a restoration which is to be completed by summer 2004. The Pavilion's white exterior, sweeping lines and glass and stainless steel staircases remain a revolutionary contribution to British architecture.

Wired up

Britain's first *eruv*, an area within which orthodox Jews can carry prayer books and *talesim* and push children and the disabled in wheelchairs on the Sabbath, is being demarcated in north London suburbs. Roads, railways and other existing structures, which form the greater part of the boundary, are being supplemented by a limited number of poles carrying an emblematic perimeter wire.

Estonian Holocaust Remembrance Day

In the face of criticism that it has failed to accept the complicity of some of its citizens in the Nazi genocide, Estonia has named 27 January - the date of the liberation of Auschwitz - as its official Holocaust Remembrance Day, reports the *Jewish Chronicle*. Estonia has ambitions of being accepted as a member of the European Union.

CONTINENTAL BRITONS

JEWISH REFUGEES FROM NAZI EUROPE

AJR Members are invited to visit a new exhibition researched, written & sponsored by the Association of Jewish Refugees in celebration of the AJR's 60th anniversary at

**The Jewish Museum, Raymond Burton House
129-131 Albert Street, London NW1**

5 minutes walk from Camden Town Underground Station

CLOSES 20 OCTOBER 2002

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Closed on Jewish Festivals & Public Holidays

Entry £3.50, AJR Members £2.50, Children and Students £1.50, Family Ticket £8, Museum Friends free

