

60th
Anniversary
Issue
1946-2006

AJR journal

Association of Jewish Refugees

The AJR Journal sixty years on A historical retrospective

Anthony Grenville

Sixty years ago this month, *AJR Information* (the *AJR Journal's* predecessor) first appeared. That first issue, with its poor-quality paper and blurred print, now seems like a window onto a different world. But the grey and battered Britain of the post-war austerity years was also the Britain in which the Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria settled - their adopted homeland. To read the early issues of the journal is to rediscover the history of the AJR's founding years.

In its early years, *AJR Information* was only eight pages long. Its editors were Werner Rosenstock, who was to continue in post until 1982, Herbert Freedon (Friedenthal), who left for Israel in 1950, and Ernst Lowenthal, who left for Germany in 1946 to work for the Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad. The paths taken by the original editors necessarily reflected the journal's principal areas of concern: Britain, the land of settlement; Germany and Austria, the principal countries of origin; and the new Jewish homeland in Palestine.

The home front

Dominating the AJR's domestic agenda was its campaign to secure the right of its members to British citizenship. In November 1945, shortly before the first appearance of *AJR Information*, the Home Secretary, James Chuter Ede, made a statement in parliament opening the way to the naturalisation of the Jewish refugees, with certain classes of applicants for British citizenship being given priority. The front page of the journal's first issue carried a prominent welcome for the Home Secretary's statement, endorsing the principle that priority should be given to applicants for



The Wiener Library and the AJR. Right to left: Werner Rosenstock, General Secretary of AJR, 1941-82, and editor of *AJR Information*, 1946-82, the historian Eva Reichmann, Alfred Wiener, founder of the Library, Ilse Wolff, Chief Librarian, Hans Reichmann, Chairman of AJR, 1953-63, Susanne Rosenstock

Courtesy of the Wiener Library

naturalisation who had served in the Forces, had contributed to the war effort in a civilian capacity, or were contributing to the national economy.

The journal followed the process of naturalisation with close attention, regularly informing its readers of the progress made. After a slow start in 1946, the official machine swung into action, and in 1947 over 10,000 applications for British citizenship from refugees from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia were granted. Given that a single application often covered several family members, this meant that by the end of 1948, when a further 7,000 applications had been granted, the bulk of the refugees had become British. In 1949 the number of applications granted to refugees from Central Europe fell to some 3,000, and thereafter to a mere trickle. The naturalisation of the former refugees had been substantially completed by 1950.

This was the cause of much satisfaction to the journal, which strongly advocated the integration of the refugees into British society. By March 1949, the journal's column 'From My Diary', written by the editors under the

pseudonym 'Narrator', could afford to treat the subject with humour, a sure sign of anxieties defused. Surveying the register of aliens naturalised in 1947, the authors came across celebrities like the pianist Franz Osborn and the actor Adolf Wohlbrück, 'known as Anton Walbrook' (famous for his roles in *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp*, *The Red Shoes* and *La Ronde*), as well as a battery of aristocratic 'vons', Bethmann-Hollweg, Neurath, Etzdorf, Westarp, and even, lurking 'von'-less among the commoners, a grandson of Kaiser Wilhelm II, Friedrich Georg Wilhelm Christoph Hohenzollern, 'known as George Mansfield'.

Commenting on the changes of name that often accompanied the acquisition of British citizenship, the article chided, tongue-in-cheek, those who took the process of anglicisation to extremes: 'Without wishing to hurt anybody's sentiments, one feels tempted to ask, whether people do not overdo the expression of their gratitude to their new country if they adopt names like Eden or Kipling, and whether names starting with "Mac" should not rather be left to Members of the Scottish Clans.'

In January 1950, the journal's regular feature on legal matters, 'Law and Life', could state with some finality that 'every refugee who applied for it and had not made himself personally objectionable to the authorities has become a British subject'. This was a notable success for the cause of the Jewish refugees in Britain.

Reporting on the Jews in Germany

The plight of the surviving Jews in Germany and, to a lesser extent, Austria, and the conditions obtaining there formed a principal focus of the journal's reports. 'I have just come from Berlin', wrote 'Narrator' in the first issue. 'The last time I saw her, she was a proud and arrogant city, her streets resounding with the steps of marching jackboots. I did not recognise her any more. Her glory has crumbled to dust, her monuments are obliterated, her streets have been razed to the ground and the faces of her people are grey and beaten.' A vivid picture, in those pre-television days, expressing both satisfaction at the downfall of Nazi Germany and concern for the Jews surviving amidst such destruction and need.

The journal carried regular reports on the Jews in German and Austrian towns and cities or in Displaced Persons camps like Deggendorf and Föhrenwald; in the British zone of occupation, a large number were still accommodated in the former concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen. A column in the journal entitled 'Those Who Survived' gave details about the German-Jewish communities in various towns, their deportation to the East, the fate that had awaited them there, and the pitifully small number who returned. Then, as now, AJR members demonstrated their concern for their less fortunate fellow Jews. In early 1945 the AJR had set up its Clothing Collection Department to bring relief, in the form of donated garments, to the desperately needy Jews on the Continent, principally in Germany. By February 1945, it had despatched more than 80,000 garments to Europe and was appealing to AJR members for at least 12,000 garments per month. Ex-members of the Home Guard and the Civil Defence organisations were reminded that good use could be made of discarded uniforms, overcoats and boots.

Some of the reports reaching the AJR

from German Jews who had survived the Holocaust were extremely moving. 'Dear Colleagues from Breslau', read a letter from Hanover, 'I send all my love to those of you who have worked together with me at the Jewish Hospital at Breslau. Up to now, I am the only nurse from Breslau who has returned from the Camps. With great difficulty I have gained my liberty, thanks to the British Army. Day by day, we fought for our lives, and unfortunately only very few have survived the unspeakable horrors. I am the only survivor of a family of 9 members.'

This is the first edition of the Journal on which Dr Anthony Grenville has worked in his capacity of Consultant Editor. Following in the footsteps of Richard Grunberger and utilising his specialised knowledge of the refugee community, Dr Grenville looks at the principal issues the AJR dealt with in its early years. In forthcoming editions, he will be focusing on historical, cultural and political topics of special interest to our members.

From its first issue, the journal contained a 'Missing Relatives' (later 'Missing Persons') column, through which subscribers could try to make contact with family members who had vanished in the Holocaust. Already from the very first of these enquiries, for Marthe Herzog from Budapest, who had been deported to Stutthof, a particularly murderous camp near Danzig, it was clear that most would remain forever unanswered. Yet the column also allowed at least one survivor to display an indomitable will to live: 'Dr Käthe Laserstein wants to inform her relatives and friends that she has survived. Her present address is Berlin-Steglitz, Immenweg 7.'

Two of the principal concerns of the Jews from Germany were restitution for material losses inflicted by the Nazis and just punishment for Nazi crimes. The first issue of *AJR Information* contained a weighty article by the lawyer and AJR Board member Walter Breslauer, in which he identified some of the obstacles that would bedevil attempts to secure a

just system of restitution for the Jews from Germany down the decades. The journal also carried a front-page report on the proceedings at Nuremberg, whose sixtieth anniversary we also remember.

Characteristically, the journal's report set the trial of the leading Nazi war criminals against the background of German Jewry's own history, in which it always took a special interest and pride. It recalled Nuremberg's notoriety as the fiefdom of Julius Streicher, editor of the pornographically antisemitic magazine *Der Stürmer*, and as the site of the infamous Party rallies that had culminated in the promulgation of the anti-Jewish Nuremberg Laws in 1935. The trials would, the journal hoped, remove the taint of Nazism that attached to the town's name: 'For all those who have been spared, the days of Nuremberg are indeed days of judgment, and the name of the town, soiled by the lowest perfidy, will be cleansed and raised to an emblem of justice.' The implication was that the trials might begin the process of the decontamination of Germany as a whole; it was, after all, the refugees' former homeland, and the ties that bound them to it often proved durable enough to survive even the crimes of the Holocaust.

Crisis in Palestine

As the voice of a substantial section of Jewry in Britain, *AJR Information* gave vent to the grave concern of its members about the situation in Palestine, where Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin

**JACKMAN ■
SILVERMAN**

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

26 Conduit Street, London W1R 9TA
Telephone: 020 7409 0771 Fax: 020 7493 8017

AJR Heads of Department
Gordon Greenfield Finance
Carol Rossen Administration and Personnel
Marcia Goodman Social Services
Michael Newman Media and
Public Relations
Susie Kaufman Organiser, Day Centre

AJR Journal
Dr Anthony Grenville Consultant Editor
Dr Howard Spier Executive Editor
Andrea Goodmaker
Secretarial/Advertisements

maintained rigorous restrictions on Jewish immigration, 'in spite of the overwhelming evidence of the tragic situation of the Jewish survivors in Europe'. The establishment of a monthly immigration quota of 1,500, wholly inadequate for the number of Jews desperate to leave Europe for Palestine, was, the journal declared, 'a bitter blow to thousands of men, women and children still in the camps on the Continent, who face, insufficiently clad, nourished and housed, the terrible hardships of a winter, and whose primary hope was a speedy immigration into Palestine.'

Consequently, the journal welcomed the recommendation of the 1946 Anglo-American Commission of Inquiry on Palestine that 100,000 Jewish victims of Nazi persecution be granted admission as rapidly as possible. Combined with the recommendation that the Land Transfer Regulations of 1940 be rescinded, this would have amounted to the cancellation of the hated White Paper of 1939. The British government's refusal to accept the Commission's recommendations unconditionally 'came as a shock' to those who like the AJR had hoped for their rapid implementation; despite the journal's plea for co-operation between the mandatory power, Britain, and the Jewish Agency, it became increasingly clear that conflict could not be avoided. The decision by the government to incarcerate 'illegal' Jewish immigrants to Palestine in camps in Cyprus and the forcible prevention of 4,500 Jews aboard the vessel *Exodus 1947* from landing - all powerfully reported in the journal in 1946-47 - signalled the breakdown of relations between Britain and the Jewish organisations in Palestine.

Always notable for its loyalty to Britain, the adopted homeland of its members, the AJR consistently raised its voice in favour of a peaceful compromise solution to the Palestine problem. The Association was invited to give evidence to the Commission of Inquiry; it submitted a memorandum recommending immigration to Palestine on a wide scale as the only practical means of dealing with the thousands of Jewish survivors rotting in Displaced Persons camps in Europe. The AJR was also invited to appear at the Commission's hearings. The *AJR Information* of March 1946 gave a vivid

account of the scene in the hall of the Royal Empire Society in London, where Rabbi Leo Baeck, speaking for the refugee community, 'made a forceful plea for our people', the Jewish DPs, whose sufferings would be ended only by admission to Palestine. He was accompanied by the Chairman of the AJR, Adolf Schoyer, and its Vice-Chairman, Salomon Adler-Rudel.

Leo Baeck clung to the hope of avoiding conflict, by creating a bi-national state in Palestine where Jews and Arabs could co-exist: 'There may not be friendship between Arab committees and Zionist committees but there is friendship between Arab villages and Jewish villages, and in the end villages are more important than committees.' At this stage, the AJR was not committed to the creation of a Jewish state. Leo Baeck warned the Commission 'not to get confused by terms such as a Jewish state'. A Jewish state should be an ethical rather than a national entity: 'The idea of a Jewish state did not mean narrow nationalistic sovereignty but a significant contribution to humanity, it was a moral and a human task, every state being part of the great community of the world and every nationality being a treasure house of humanity.'

Given this primacy of moral principle - unrealistic though it may now seem - over the power-political demands of the sharpening conflict in Palestine, it was logical that *AJR Information* should condemn terrorist acts such as the bombing of the King David Hotel by Jewish extremists: 'A policy based on violence is alien to Judaism, opposed to our ethical conception of a Jewish National Home and objectionable even from the point of view of practical expediency.' Recalling the German and Austrian Jews' own experience of Nazi terror, it declared: 'We know what terror means. We condemn terror in whatever form it may appear and whoever may exercise it. For us there is no compromise with violence.' In the end, of course, the hopes of a peaceful compromise under British supervision proved illusory. When in 1948 the state of Israel was proclaimed, *AJR Information* acclaimed it as a historical development. The journal has been a solid supporter of the Jewish state ever since.

NEWTONS

Leading Hampstead Solicitors
advise on
Property, Wills, Family Trusts
and Charitable Trusts

French and German spoken
Home visits arranged

22 Fitzjohn's Avenue,
London NW3 5NB

Tel: 020 7435 5351
Fax: 020 7435 8881

CONSULTANT

to long established English
Solicitors (bi-lingual German)
would be happy to assist clients
with English, German and
Austrian problems.

Contact Henry Ebner

Myers Ebner & Deane
103 Shepherds Bush Road
London W6 7LP
Telephone 020 7602 4631

ALL LEGAL WORK
UNDERTAKEN

AUSTRIAN and GERMAN PENSIONS

PROPERTY
RESTITUTION CLAIMS
EAST GERMANY - BERLIN

On instructions our office will
assist to deal with your
applications and pursue the matter
with the authorities.

For further information
and an appointment
please contact:

ICS CLAIMS
146-154 Kilburn High Road
London NW6 4JD

Tel: 020 7328 7251 (Ext. 107)
Fax: 020 7624 5002

Making a New Life: Holocaust survivors and photographs*

Brett Harrison

Some years ago I was wandering around a junk shop in Ontario when I was brought up with a start by a tray of old photographs. They were nineteenth-century portraits of ladies in full-length dresses with bustles and hats, with gentlemen in suits with a variety of then fashionable headgear and children dressed like dolls. A label encouraged customers to 'Create your own ancestors!' I was shocked. What were they doing? These were real people with real identities. How dare they mislead and distort the truth. As time has passed, another response has enveloped me. There were so many displaced people in this country, uprooted from their place of birth, from their own families, from their own heritage. The appeal was to something deeper within the human psyche. The need to be part of a family, to feel part of a continuum, to have a past and a future. Was there really something wrong in people creating a myth to sustain them in a foreign land?

Now, this thought has come full circle with the experience of Holocaust survivors. There are at least two levels on which photographs can be treated. One is identified by Marianne Hirsch (*Family Frames, Photography, Narrative and Postmemory*, 1997, pp. 252-56), by which the conventional nature of family photographs enables the viewer to relate to the individual images in displays. She uses the example of the Tower of Faces in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, in which numerous photographs of a Lithuanian *shtetl* collected by a child survivor are mounted. She hears people saying all around her 'Look, look, look, we have a picture just like that in our album.'

This identification transcends ethnic identity and family history. It is at this level that unclaimed images might be fastened on to it in an attempt to claim a mythical past. As Hirsch says, 'Like all family albums, the tower preserves and creates memory: it is a site of remembrance and commemoration. At a different level and with the knowledge that the town was destroyed by a mobile killing unit in September 1941 the viewer is forced to confront the images anew

with a sense of anger and disbelief.'

This other level on which they are treated is as evidence of life before and after the Holocaust. For two Belsen survivors, writing to their newly discovered surviving sister in England in 1945, Anita and Renate Lasker pleaded: '... we are longing for one thing. Please send us some photographs: of you and your husband - and if it's possible of our parents and of home' (Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, *Inherit the Truth 1939-1945*, 1996). Photographs gave them back an identity but also enabled them to locate themselves in a life beyond.

Photographs accurately identified provide evidence of real lives altered by the experience of the Holocaust. Embedded in life histories, they enrich the record. As post-memory, they identify families, individuals, homes, homelands as a lasting record of Nazi crimes.

The Making a New Life Project is directed towards encouraging survivors in Yorkshire to allow access to treasured photographs of their lives. For some, it has become more rather than less painful to look at them. For others, the loss of photographs is seen as one of the most painful aspects of their experiences. Arek Hersch feels this acutely yet is comforted by the fact that it is only when looking at his grandchild that he can recall what his mother looked like. Where photographs survive they serve to aid the memory to recall past events and family gatherings. For some survivors, they recall the activities of their fathers as active photographers in the 1930s. Julius Guggenheimer, father of Lorle Michaelis, was president of his local photographic society in Memmingen, Bavaria, and she treasures his studies of light and shade in the monastery of Ottobüren and his photographs of the family and her beloved nurse, Maria. The photograph opposite is of the votary in the room of her Roman Catholic nurse which was completely wrecked during Kristallnacht.

One of Iby Knill's family stories revolves around her father's efforts to take a photograph at the zoo, involving a camera, tripod, cloak and flashlight and a



startled elephant! The photograph above is of Iby, Trude her cousin and her brother Tony in the family car on a trip to Schönbrunn Palace, Vienna in 1932.

Our efforts have been towards preserving the images linked to the survivors, as far as possible accurately identified and dated. The time will come, as it does for us all, when albums inherited from parents or relations include images that we have never seen before of people and views with no labels, unidentified, lost in an irretrievable past. We may fantasise about them but we will never know who or where they were. How much more valuable for posterity will it be to have these images intimately connected with the survivors, their lives and their reality clearly identified and located? Who can then invent another past for them?

*This is the fourth article in the series.



'Making a Difference': Holocaust Memorial Day, January 2006

The final preparations for Holocaust Memorial Day 2006 are now being made. With its theme 'One person can make a difference', this national commemoration, due to enter its sixth year, aims to ensure that the crimes of the Holocaust are neither forgotten nor repeated.

Holocaust Memorial Day is normally held on 27 January to mark the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz in 1945. However, as the 2006 anniversary falls on a Friday, it has been moved back to 26 January. The First Minister for Wales, the Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM, has accepted a

request that Cardiff host the event, which will take place at the Millennium Conference Centre.

The event is scheduled to begin at 7.00 pm and will include performances from the National Orchestra of Wales and the National Dance Company of Wales. There will also be contributions from Simon Weston OBE, the British army veteran severely burned during the 1982 Falklands war, the actor Phillip Madoc, and the poets Gwyneth Lewis and Gillian Clarke.

The Chief Rabbi, Sir Jonathan Sacks, who has spoken of the special place held in the

Jewish community by Holocaust survivors, will also address the meeting.

The HMD Trust, established in May last year, is also arranging a pan-Wales pledge, whereby schoolchildren from across Wales will be making a commitment, at the same time on the same day, 'to make a difference'.

If you would like to attend Holocaust Memorial Day in Cardiff, please write to Mrs Estelle Brookner at AJR Head Office, Jubilee House, Merrion Avenue, Stanmore, Middx HA7 4RL or email socialsec@ajr.org.uk **Michael Newman**

Austrian General Settlement Fund: A step closer

In a ruling last November, the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed the last Holocaust-era class action brought against the Austrian government for the appropriation of Jewish-owned assets during the Holocaust. At the time of going to press, it appears that one of the final obstacles preventing the distribution of payments from the General Settlement Fund (GSF) has been cleared, setting the stage for the release of \$210 million under the terms of the Washington Agreement of 2001.

However, while representatives of the plaintiffs in the class action (*Whiteman v Republic of Austria*) have agreed to the voluntary dismissal of their case, one plaintiff, taking separate legal advice, is refusing to accept the case's dismissal. The final resolution of the litigation is therefore

not expected before next month at the earliest.

The case was discharged in accordance with the legal principle of 'political question doctrine', which overrules the interests and demands of individual plaintiffs. The ruling states that the US government-negotiated GSF is a superior method of resolving claims than litigation. The ruling also reflects US foreign policy interests, which may be damaged by continuing litigation.

In his summation, Judge Cabranes of the Court of Appeals noted that it would be 'impossible' to allow the litigation to proceed 'without expressing lack of the respect due the Executive Branch'. He continued: 'The agreement will provide benefits to more victims, and will do so faster and with less uncertainty, than

litigation' and added that 'because many victims are elderly and dying, it is important to bring some measure of justice to Holocaust survivors in their lifetimes.'

Significantly, Judge Cabranes concluded: 'Leaving litigation as the sole alternative will likely lead to disputes between survivors and Austria and its industries which will likely embroil the US and set back its relations with the Austrian government.'

While the Austria National Fund, which is processing around 200,000 individual claims to the GSF from approximately 19,000 applicants, is prepared to make advance payments from the Fund, no monies can be distributed until an end to litigation on this matter.

Michael Newman

Largest ever Holocaust-era restitution: The Wertheim properties

Hillary Kessler-Godin, Director of Communications at the Claims Conference, explains her organisation's role in the largest post-Holocaust property restitution in Germany. The Claims Conference will use its share of the proceeds of the Wertheim properties, estimated at more than \$100m, to pay for social and welfare programmes that benefit Holocaust survivors and refugees worldwide.

Last month, the German retailing giant KarstadtQuelle announced its intention to withdraw claims to retain three properties that belonged originally to the Wertheim family, whose department stores were stolen under the Nazis. The properties or proceeds from them will be recovered by the Claims Conference, which is working with Wertheim heirs. KarstadtQuelle's decision follows the landmark court ruling last October which guaranteed the Claims Conference's right to a fourth Wertheim property.

The Wertheim Department Store Group was the largest group of its kind in pre-Hitler

Germany and included the famous store on Berlin's Leipziger Platz. In 2001 the Leipziger Platz property - sited in what is today the heart of Berlin redevelopment - was one of numerous Wertheim assets awarded to the Claims Conference by the German government restitution authority. The Leipziger Platz property is believed to be the most valuable piece of Holocaust-era property ever restituted.

The other two properties to which Karstadt withdrew its claims are on Rosenthaler Platz, which the government had previously sold, and Schiffbauerdamm, adjacent to the Reichstag building and the location of the current Bundestag library. The Claims Conference will receive financial compensation for both these properties. All together, the Wertheim properties are estimated today to be worth about \$590 million.

Three Wertheim brothers owned the stores before Hitler came to power. As early as 1933 Jewish companies became the focus of Nazi

boycotts and the companies were eventually 'aryanised'. After the war the company was sold, became one of Germany's most successful retailers, and was acquired by Karstadt in 1993.

In accordance with the German Restitution Law, introduced following Germany's reunification in 1990, the Claims Conference filed claims for the Wertheim properties. In 2001 the Berlin Restitution Authority awarded them to the Claims Conference. However, the German government and Karstadt appealed, blocking recovery of the property.

Negotiations continued for over a year. In 2003, after considerable effort by the Claims Conference, the government withdrew all its claims to the properties. Karstadt refused to do so.

Decisions on other Wertheim properties are pending before the Federal Restitution Authority. The high court stated in its October decision that the ruling would be applicable to other Wertheim properties.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor reserves the right
to shorten correspondence
submitted for publication

POINT OF VIEW

Sir - I have been a regular reader of your journal on the internet for several years. I have found it of interest, particularly as I too am the son of parents who arrived in England as refugees from Germany and Belgium in 1939-40. I have just read the article by Inge Trott (November issue) and I find it totally unbalanced and quite insulting to a nation that has to fear every time a family member gets on a bus or goes to a supermarket. It presents a biased image of Israel that is so far from the reality of the country I live in that it is pointless to start refuting the inaccuracies and half-truths one by one. That such distortions should appear in your journal is deplorable. You have presumably made a conscious decision to change the tone of the journal where Israel is concerned from the supportive attitude it had under the gifted editorship of Richard Grunberger. I write this because this is the second such article I have read in your journal in the few months since his passing.

*Shmuel Herold
Raana, Israel*

The aim of the Point of View column, introduced in September 2005, is to stimulate discussion on topical matters and give readers an opportunity to express their views, while retaining a political balance (Ex. Ed.).

Sir - Inge Trott says she 'feared for their [Israelis'] safety when they were attacked by Arabs intent on driving them into the sea.' Since the Arabs never gave up that intention, when did she begin to object to Israel's countermeasures?

'I followed Palestine's fortunes with great interest', she says. This remark is followed by a statement of her apparent belief that the Israelis won every war 'mainly due to their superior weaponry supplied by the Americans.' Both cannot be true: either she believes that or she

'followed Palestine's fortunes with great interest' unless she relied on sources like Vanessa Redgrave. Even *The Guardian* did not make such claims in the first decade.

'After 1967 Israel occupied an extensive part of Palestinian territory. The Israeli government established settlements ... in the midst of hostile Palestinian lands', Inge Trott continues. No. There was no Palestinian territory as the Arabs, including the Palestinians, had rejected the UN partition resolution and the territory was occupied by the invading Jordanians and Egyptians. When these had been driven out, Israel offered the territory to the Palestinians in return for peace. This was rejected and the whole world, including the Palestinians, demanded the return of the land to the invaders. The *volte-face* did not come until after the Yom Kippur defeat. Did Miss Redgrave not mention that?

Does Inge Trott really not know that the Israelis in Haifa pleaded with the Arab population to stay and live in peace? If they really drove the Arab population out so cruelly, how is it that there are a million Arabs living in Israel?

About 30 years ago, the BBC showed a series of violent anti-Israel propaganda films authored and presented by one Keith Kyle. In one of them, we were shown a 'refugee', a young woman who boasted that whereas her father had wanted to stay, she and her mother had contemptuously rejected the Jewish offer and left. If Ms Trott's friend's mother is still alive, perhaps she could ask her about this.

*Rudi Braude
Kenton, Middx*

Sir - According to Inge Trott, 'The Israeli conductor and musician Daniel Barenboim's friendship with the late Palestinian Edward Said offers the hope that mutual misunderstanding will finally lead to peace between our two

nations.' Said was a professor at Columbia University, New York, where I received my MA and PhD degrees. Fighting his termination by Columbia University, he caused the Jewish faculty and students tremendous problems before he died. Two years or so before his death he travelled to Lebanon and, with a multitude of journalists and reporters witnessing, he shot bullets into Israel. He did not kill anyone: he just wanted to demonstrate what to do with Jews. His students at Columbia University celebrated this spectacle. Inge Trott's remarks saddened me.

*Gerald M. Friedman
Professor Emeritus, Northeastern
Science Foundation/Rensselaer Center
of Applied Geology, Troy, NY*

LETTER TO THE STARS

Sir - Thank you, Ernst Flesch, for sharing www.lettertothestars.at with us (November issue, review). Austrian refugees who read it will weep with sorrow and with gratitude to the organisers of this initiative. The site told me the date and place where my grandmother was murdered - Maly Trostinec - and the search engine Google then led me to the details of what took place there.

*George Landers
Crete*

ANNE FRANK + ME

Sir - While supporting both literally and figuratively Ronald Channing's sentence in 'Anne Frank + me' (August 2005 issue) - 'behind the shuttered window which she could not open to the world' - I once saw part of a film of Anne appearing at an open window of their flat taken casually by a passer-by, panning the frontage of the building, perhaps trying out his new camera on any subject which came his way. It is reputedly the only moving image of Anne.

*Rudi Leavor
Bradford*

WIDE-RANGING INTELLECT OF RICHARD GRUNBERGER

Sir - I am frankly alarmed by Simon Halberstam's suggestion (December issue) that one of R.G.'s columns should be reproduced in each edition of this paper. While Richard Grunberger was undoubtedly an able editor, he was also

a very controversial one, and not everyone agreed with his views. I believe we should let him rest in peace and welcome the opportunity to listen to a fresh editorial voice. Let me congratulate the *AJR Journal* on its excellent choice!

Edith Argy
London W9

HERMANN HIRSCHBERGER PROFILE

Sir - The profile of Hermann Hirschberger (December issue) was well deserved and excellently written. It was only a pity that the photo was so poor and unclear. I was in a group with Hermann that sailed from Hamburg to Southampton and in the hostel in Cliftonville for a year, after which we somewhat older ones were transferred to a hostel in Finchley Road to start earning our keep.

Henry Schragenheim
London N15

REFUGEES FROM EASTERN EUROPE

Sir - On paying my annual subscription, I was reminded of a longstanding grievance against your excellent magazine. It appears to me that you are guilty of discrimination against Polish and indeed all East European refugees, including those who suffered in the Holocaust. I was born in Germany of Polish parents and held a Polish passport until naturalisation during my wartime military service. Since no mention is ever made of my fellow nationals, I feel positively discriminated against. Were there ever only Austrian and German refugees?

During my period as a refugee, my family and I also had to take shelter in Italy. There too, persecution of the Jews was rampant under Mussolini in 1938-39. Apart from the persecution, this is also a fascinating period in history and worthy of more space in your publication. Primo Levi certainly thought it worth writing about.

Bob Kutner
Glasgow

The lack of articles concerning refugees from Eastern Europe and Italy reflects the fact that the overwhelming majority of our readers are of German and Austrian descent and the bulk of our materials necessarily relates to them. We would very much welcome

materials on refugees from elsewhere in Europe and, indeed, a profile of a Polish refugee is currently being prepared (Ex. Ed.).

THIRD GENERATION PROJECT

Sir - A thoughtful benefactor, concerned that the third generation appears to have only a basic understanding of the Holocaust, has kindly donated funding to the Wiener Library to facilitate the development of an educational project specifically targeting this generation.

The third generation project will initially run for two years, the first of which will be specifically aimed at schoolchildren in London and the South East. In the first year, the project will run a series of linked seminars beginning in the New Year. Through using some of the unique material available at the Wiener Library, up to 15 participants will gain a clearer understanding of their families' past, the ongoing generational effects of exile and genocide, an understanding of where and how to access historical and genealogical information, and develop a sense of community with other members of the group.

Third generation members interested in committing to six meetings in January-May 2006 should, in the first instance, contact me at the Wiener Library on 020 7636 7247 or at Lowenberg@Wienerlibrary.co.uk.

Monica Lowenberg
Wiener Library

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Sir - May I use your letters' page to thank Myrna Glass and the *AJR* for starting a Bristol/Bath group. At the first meeting I went to, I met someone who had been at the Hugo Rosenthal School while I was there. We have met and phoned each other since; we live in 'different sticks' of Somerset. The second time, there was a fellow Karlsruher.

It is good to have a chance to reminisce about a mutual past - but even more interesting to share ideas about what goes on today with people of a similar background! Maybe there are more of 'us' out there in rural areas who would like such contact?

Bettine Cohn
Bristol

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

AJR might be able to offer you financial assistance for cleaning, gardening and caring.

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

Estelle Brookner, Secretary
AJR Social Services Dept
Tel: 020 8385 3070

Companions of London

Incorporating
Hampstead Home Care

A long established company providing care in your home

*Assistance with personal care
General household duties
Respite care
Medical appointment service*

'OUR CARE IS YOUR CARE'
020 7483 0212/0213



SPRING GROVE

214 Finchley Road
London NW3

London's Most Luxurious RETIREMENT HOME

- Entertainment-Activities
- Stress Free Living
- 24 Hour Staffing • Excellent Cuisine
- Full En-Suite Facilities

Call for more information
or a personal tour

020 8446 2117

or 020 7794 4455

enquiries@springdene-care-homes.co.uk

Simon R Rhodes M.Ch.S.
STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST

Surgeries at:

67 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (opp M&S)

Telephone 020 7624 1576

2 Pangbourne Drive

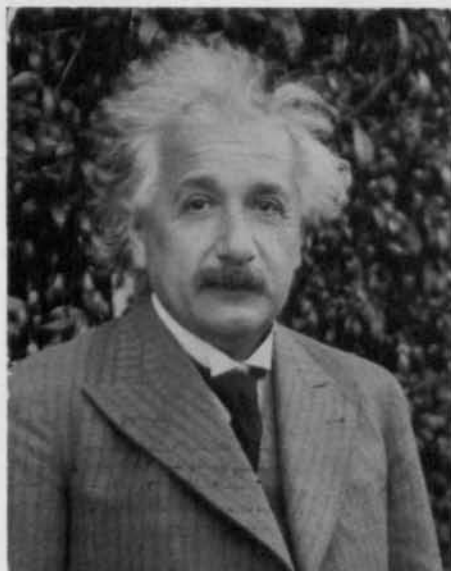
Stanmore Middx HA7 4QT

Telephone: 020 8958 8557

Visiting chiropody service available

ART NOTES

Gloria Tessler



Einstein 1933 Albert Einstein Archives, Jewish National and University Library, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Polymath, Renaissance Man, scientific genius, humanist, secular Zionist, family man, musician, biker and sailor. How many more adjectives can define the indefinable man of the twentieth century - Albert Einstein? He is hardly the stuff of contemporary portraiture, but then consider his extraordinary features, those mournful bulldog eyes, the Chaplinesque moustache beneath an enormous nose, and the hair like a flying buttress bearing comparison with his equally hirsute contemporary, David Ben-Gurion.

On the centenary of the publication of his three cosmological papers, the **Jewish Museum** in Camden Town chronicles his life and times in its exhibition, **Albert Einstein, Man of the Century**. A supporting programme of events found parallels between Einstein's theories and those of Maimonides, and discussed another contemporary 'degenerate scientist' - Sigmund Freud.

Art may not be the main purpose of this exhibition on the work of the man whose theory of relativity shook the foundation of Newtonian physics. But in the case of Einstein it is difficult to know

where science ends and creativity begins. Some of the charisma of his genius arises from his most memorable face, which is shown in a massive cartoon as you enter the gallery: his hair flies around his head like shards of scientific thought, or atomic particles. You feel driven by the sheer energy of his brain. And his humour. A life-size cut-out of him shows him riding his bike and grinning like a schoolboy; elsewhere he poses for his 72nd birthday by sticking out his tongue. Drawings include a 1929 etching by **John Philip**, who also painted Pope Pius XI. There's a cartoon of his meeting with George Bernard Shaw where the playwright asks: 'Do you really understand yourself?' To which the scientist tartly replies: 'No, Bernie, do you?' Portraits of Einstein are now considered collectable. I even have one myself by the expressionist artist, **Joe Rose**, which shows the physicist shedding tears of blood following the dropping of the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

But there is no evidence linking Einstein to the development of the A-bomb. His famous formula $E = mc^2$ was apparently not crucial to the building of bombs. He was shaken by the dropping of that bomb as he was by the Holocaust, which caused him to declare he would never return to his native Germany.

Einstein defined Judaism as a 'culture of shared historical past and common ethical values'. His belief that the divine reveals itself in the physical is no surprise, but his liberal stance on political and social issues and his support of ethical Zionism were based on the creation of a spiritual model society in which the Palestinian conflict could be resolved by mutual consent. Indeed, he warned of a narrow nationalism.

Einstein rejected any Jewish attempt at assimilation, however, after his experiences of antisemitism during the Second World War. Proposed as successor to Chaim Weizmann as Israel's president in 1952, he apparently heeded Ben-Gurion's warnings - if he accepts, we are in for trouble! He rejected the offer while expressing himself much moved by it.

REVIEWS

FILM

Nostalgia for the camps

FATELESS

directed by Lajos Koltai

Screen on the Hill, Belsize Park, North London

This haunting film, in Hungarian with English subtitles and shown at the recent Jewish Film Festival, gains its power through the eloquently expressive face of the 14-year-old protagonist, Gyuri Koves, beautifully played by Marcell Nagy. Based on the novel by Nobel laureate Imre Kertész, himself a Holocaust survivor, *Fateless* traces the experiences of the teenager from Budapest from the day his father was called up for forced labour.

A striking visual feature from the outset is the prominence of yellow stars, worn almost like ornaments on the garments of a relatively well-heeled selection of Budapest Jews gathered together to bid the father farewell. Gyuri is left with his stepmother, with the unctuous gentile family accountant hovering in the background.

A bus journey to his temporary job is the turning point in Gyuri's life. With other youths wearing a yellow star, he is hauled off the bus and held prior to being deported, despite their employer protesting 'they are only kids' and should be released. Told that they are to be 'offered work' in 'Germany', the detainees' response - that 'Germans are cultured' - is ironically familiar.

Various salient ingredients of the 'Holocaust movie' follow - the cattle train, the obscene 'Arbeit macht frei' signs, the selections. As Gyuri is moved from Auschwitz to Buchenwald and then to Zeitz, he comments on the tedium of these constant selections. He and his friends, from whom he is soon separated, are alerted to the need to pose as '16' and 'fit for work'. A poignant moment is the sighting of a bespectacled friend, who was unsuccessful, in the queue to the gas chambers.

Director Lajos Koltai has conveyed the

unfolding of the scenario through the perception of a teenager with brief, cut sequences, which fade out and are swiftly replaced. In this way the viewer catches glimpses of one horrifying incident after another, but none is developed at length. Equally effective is the photography, with sepia and murky black-and-white substituted for colour, reflecting differing perspectives of reality. In contrast, a scene in the camp hospital, where Gyuri is taken with a hideously infected knee, finds him clean in a surgical, off-white robe, covered by a luxurious, deep wine-coloured duvet. After liberation, colour returns, though never so intense.

The subtle emotional tone colouring Gyuri's experiences is significant. Relationships between the prisoners are characterised by camaraderie and solidarity, with Gyuri attracting various 'guardian angels', in particular a man from the same street who had spent four years in Ukraine. It is not surprising, on returning to Budapest and finding an unsympathetic bus conductor demanding a fare, his family home taken over by strangers, and his widowed stepmother swiftly remarried to the accountant, that he is disillusioned with the world 'outside' and irritated by constant questioning by concerned - or prurient - acquaintances as to the horrors he has witnessed. Rather than obliterate his past, as they suggest, he is determined to retain it as part of his 'fateless' identity. His nostalgia for the 'happiness' and 'simplicity' of the camps is reminiscent of Byron's newly released prisoner of Chillon, who 'learn'd to love despair'.

Emma Klein

Fellow exiles

TWO LIVES

by Vikram Seth

Little, Brown, 2005, 512 pp., £20

This is the story of Seth's great-uncle Shanti Behari Seth (Uncle Shanti) and Henny Gerda Caro (Aunt Henny), a married couple whose home in north-west London he frequently visited at the age of seventeen, as he was about to begin his British schooling in Tonbridge. Then, they were both 60 years old, and he knew them only

slightly. In time, they were to become two of the most important people in his life.

Both born in 1908, Shanti and Henny first met when Shanti was seeking lodgings in Henny's home as a dental student in Berlin in 1933. Henny's family were Jews, who considered themselves assimilated 'bessere Leute'.

When Henny arrived in England as a Jewish refugee weeks before the outbreak of the war, only Shanti was there to welcome her. Whereas the garrulous Shanti was short and energetic, a sharp dresser and a whisky lover, Henny was tall, elegant, handsome and less demonstrative.

Although they had known one another for many years, Shanti proposed marriage only in the 1950s. It was a marriage which knew little passion but considerable companionship. As Seth writes, 'with so much suffering, isolation and indifference, it is a cause for gratitude that something is sufficiently good.'

Henny never discussed the circumstances of the deaths of her mother and sister in the Holocaust: Seth was far more aware of Shanti's history than Henny's. This changed when Seth's father discovered a trunk full of correspondence between Henny (she often kept carbons of her letters) and friends in Berlin in the 1940s. The correspondence revealed the attempts by Henny's friends to deal with the guilt of surviving and the fact that Henny's mother and sister were sent to Theresienstadt and Auschwitz respectively.

Seth is deeply concerned with the morality of utilising the correspondence discovered after his aunt's death: 'Considering the private person she was, I have sometimes wondered whether I should have ranged freely over her correspondence. But these letters deal with a period of great historical consequence in Germany and many help to enrich our understanding of the lives of ordinary people caught up on the events of those times.'

The author of this thoughtful, evocative combination of memoir and biography concludes: 'Where did Shanti and Henny belong, if not in the world of a family or a circle of friends? Which country did they belong to? Not

Germany any more, not India ... Shaken about the globe, we live out our fractured lives ... Both Shanti and Henny were in the broader sense exiled; each found in their fellow exile a home.'

Martin Hasseck

Almost beyond belief

ZACHOR: CHILD SURVIVORS SPEAK

Published for the Child Survivors' Association of Great Britain by Elliott & Thompson (London), 2005, 192 pp., £12.50

These 26 memoirs of Holocaust survivors present a vivid picture of everyday life in pre-war and occupied Europe. The authors of these accounts, which are intended to be read by their children and grandchildren, explain clearly how their experiences affected them.

In the post-war period it was not unusual for survivors who had managed to return to their homes to be threatened. Yet there are numerous instances of 'pure luck': a sympathetic landlord who allowed his Jewish tenants to be months behind with their rent; peasant families who were prepared to hide Jewish children; a family willing to pass a Jewish teenager off as their daughter; a member of the SS warning of forthcoming raids.

Neutral Switzerland proved unwelcoming for Henry Abraham's group, released from Belsen in exchange for German prisoners. Met with fixed bayonets, they were divided into Aryans and non-Aryans. Of the original 100 arrivals, bedded down on straw and fed with tinned oily fish after months of starvation, seven died instantly.

In occupied Paris, Gisèle Winton's parents concealed the family's Jewish identity so that when she read about 'dirty Jews' in the newspapers she felt enormous sympathy for those people. She was horrified when at the age of seven, a cousin explained that she too was a Jew. When Gisèle's father was knocked down by a German lorry, the family received visits from the driver to check on his progress. He had no idea the family were Jews.

Tom Sinclair recalls that 'all the old people of Budapest were safe. They were too old to be deported and were put into a ghetto, and some into houses under the protection of the

various neutral countries.' His grandparents and older relations survived and returned to their flat. The younger people were not so fortunate. Yet in a group being marched to the gas chambers, Tom's life was saved when he called out 'Guten Morgen' to passing German soldiers. Comments Martin Stern: 'Apart from the courage, sacrifice and help of others, sheer random chance was important.'

Described by Joan Salter as a cliché because it happened so often, a Parisian laundry van was used to smuggle out potential victims under the nose of the Gestapo. Her aunt had strong pre-war connections with socialists and communists, many of whom became involved in the French resistance movement. Joan's father was able to use his sister's contacts to be smuggled back to the family in Belgium, before the family took separate journeys to the unoccupied French zone. Trust was often abused. While Joan's father was waiting in a café in Perpignan hoping to cross into Spain, he witnessed couriers returning who boasted of how they had 'stripped the Jews of their possessions before turning them in.' Often it was not what you knew, but whom you knew. Like an uncle's friend's son who was an official in the Polish embassy in Lisbon and helped Joan's father obtain replacement papers so he could leave for England.

For Alfred Garwood, 'it all seems almost beyond belief, but sadly it was all too real.'

Laraine Feldman

WANTED TO BUY German and English Books

Bookdealer, AJR member,
welcomes invitations to view and
purchase valuable books

Robert Hornung
10 Mount View, Ealing
London W5 1PR
Email: hornungbooks@aol.com
Tel: 020 8998 0546



Annely Juda Fine Art

23 Dering Street (off New Bond Street)
Tel: 020 7629 7578
Fax: 020 7491 2139

CONTEMPORARY PAINTING
AND SCULPTURE



Letter from Israel

A few weeks ago, together with my sisters and other relatives, I visited Hamburg, the city where my ancestors had lived for many generations until exiled by the Nazis. We were there to attend the presentation of the book *Aber seid alle beruhigt*, which contains letters written by my grandmother before she was deported from Hamburg in 1942.

Although my father escaped from Germany, my grandmother did not, and she eventually perished in Theresienstadt. Left on her own and caught 'like a mouse in a trap', as she put it, she wrote letters. They were her lifeline to the world. In the first few years of the war she managed to correspond with her children via a roundabout route. My father kept the letters, but 'forgot' all about them.

I stumbled on the letters about ten years ago and felt they ought to be published, but that was not easy. Eventually, we got in touch with Jürgen Sielemann of the Hamburg State Archives. He has worked there for 40 years and regards it as his mission in life to prevent the horrors of the Nazi rule from being forgotten. He is, of course, not Jewish.

Jürgen Sielemann felt that the letters should be annotated and supplemented by a detailed account of what happened in Germany, and especially in Hamburg, during the Nazi period. This labour of love took him almost ten years as he could do it only in his spare time. It was he who made contact with Hamburg's Landeszentrale für Politische Bildung, which undertook to publish the book.

And so, ten years after my grandmother's letters had been discovered, and 60 years after she was murdered, 'her' book was published. The title, roughly translated as 'But Please Don't Worry', is taken from one of the phrases she used and reflects the general tone of the letters.

She tried very hard to present a brave and cheerful front to her relatives and not to give them cause for concern. In addition to the letters, which are both touching and inspiring, the book contains Jürgen Sielemann's meticulous account of the developments which led to the eventual deportation of the Jews of Hamburg. The book is in German but is currently being translated into English and will, I hope, eventually be published.

Jürgen Sielemann also organised the installation of a *Stolperstein* ('tripping stone') in front of the house where my grandmother lived. Before the unveiling of the plaque, which bears my grandmother's name and dates of birth and death, he took our little group, together with about 40 Hamburg residents, on a walking tour of the Grindel, the neighbourhood where most Jews had once lived, pointing out my grandparents' house and other buildings of interest for the Jewish community. Contrary to my expectations, many of Hamburg's fine old buildings are still standing. The Allied bombing of the city apparently left the area where my grandparents and most of the Jewish population lived relatively untouched.

I had been asked to say a few words about my grandmother at the book presentation that evening. Initially, this request struck me as somewhat odd, considering that I had never known her. But when I started thinking about what I was going to say I realised that I *did* know her in a way, through her letters. And now many more people would be able to read about her too. The letters of this woman, who had to face her fate on her own, can serve as a mouthpiece for others like her, and the Hamburg authorities deserve credit for being prepared to accept the challenge.

Dorothea Shefer-Vanson

At the age of 96, Bernhard Herzberg, an active former soldier, retired industrialist and latter-day author, was awarded an MA in Refugee Studies from the University of East London, to whose campus he travelled on public transport for lectures and tutorials three times a week from his home in East Finchley. This unique achievement for someone of his years gained him the award by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education of 'England's Oldest Learner'.

Not one to sit on his laurels, Bernhard Herzberg has already enrolled on another course, at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies, studying for an MA in African Economics and Literature. Although blessed with the intellect, experience and qualifications required for a doctorate, he took the view that it might be a trifle ambitious to embark on a PhD course he would complete only at the age of 100!

Bernhard came to London in 1985 as a sprightly 75-year-old businessman, sent by his South African company to open a buying office for chemicals and pharmaceuticals, an office he ran for five years, retiring at the age of 80. Not being too sure 'what to do with myself', he enrolled as an external student at the University of London for a BA degree in German Language and Literature, for which he studied virtually on his own over the following five years. In 1995 he began an MA in Refugee Studies, having experienced life as a refugee himself.

Bernhard, a member of the AJR, and his twin sister were born in Hanover in 1909. His father, a German patriot who fought for the Kaiser in the First World War, was a successful leather merchant and tanner. At the gymnasium Bernhard studied French, Latin and Ancient Greek, but in 1926, aged 17, he took up a commercial apprenticeship in Hamburg. On his own initiative, he sailed for Montreal in 1928 'to learn English properly' and, when his US visa came up, made for New York. It was at the time of the Great Depression, but Bernhard

PROFILE

Ronald Channing

Bernhard Herzberg

England's oldest university student



PHOTO: RONALD CHANNING

found employment as a country club waiter and a production statistician.

In 1931 he returned to Germany, aged only 23, though his father, then an official at the synagogue, expressed disappointment that his son had failed to make his fortune. It was immediately apparent to Bernhard that the Jewish community was in mortal danger from the rise of Nazism and he tried to persuade his father to sell up and leave Germany while it was still possible. Having read *Mein Kampf*, he had no doubt that Hitler meant to murder all the Jews.

In January 1933, while his father, mother and young brother remained behind, Bernhard left for Holland in search of work, but was soon put over the Belgium border. Looking for a job at a leather fair in Brussels, he was strongly advised by a Jewish tanner to leave Europe for South Africa. His estranged father forwarded a ticket and the £100 guarantee and he sailed for that country. Bernhard's father, who after a

spell in Buchenwald concentration camp was imprisoned for three years, managed to emigrate with his wife to Cuba in 1941, but their business, large house and jewellery were all confiscated.

As Bernhard's ship docked in Cape Town, Dr Hendrik Verwoerd was leading a demonstration and waving flags with swastikas against the arriving Jews. Bernhard wryly remarked: 'They want to make us feel at home!' Drawing on his experience of tanning, he found work as a £2-a-week clerk in an industrial chemicals firm, learned Afrikaans, and made good use of his English and German. Selling flour, malt and beans in the African townships, he began to make a living, eventually becoming the firm's managing director.

Six months before war broke out he became a naturalised British subject. His wife objected to his attempt to join the army, but his final acceptance on 21 June 1940 (on the fall of Paris) and his service as a coastal gunner brought about a divorce. He remarried while on embarkation leave in 1944, the year in which, with the rank of bombardier, he went to serve in Egypt, and then in Italy, landing at Taranto and fighting up the Italian peninsula. His war ended in Gorgonzola, near Milan, on 5 May 1945.

Following a period of hospitalisation in Florence, Bernhard returned to South Africa at Christmas via Egypt and British-ruled Palestine, seeking out surviving cousins and friends. After a number of jobs with increasing responsibility in the chemical industry, he built up the largest chemical business in Cape Town. In 1967 he started his own firm, selling out to a conglomerate which eventually posted him to London, where his wife and children had gone ahead of him.

Bernhard is the author of a memoir, published in 1998 by a cousin on an Israeli kibbutz, entitled 'The Story of a Very Long Life'. There remain many more chapters yet to be written on the life of this remarkable man.

INSIDE the AJR

Second meeting for Hertfordshire group

Our second meeting took place in the cosy home of Monica Rosenbaum. Ten of us turned up, including two newcomers, Renate Selo and Ruth Smith. We 'introduced ourselves' once again - that in itself makes interesting listening.

Sam Ostro

Next meeting: Tues 31 Jan or Tues 28 Feb (depending on weather)

A jolly Old Time Musical Tea in West Midlands

Sixteen of us met at Birmingham Progressive Synagogue for a jolly Old Time Musical Tea with our talented member Terry Patrick playing the accordion and singing songs from Austrian cabaret and operettas as well as a 'Jewish' medley.

Sonja Shindler

Brighton & Hove Sarid given help with claims

The speaker at our well-attended meeting, Michael Newman, Director of the Central Office of Holocaust Claims, outlined various funds and their functions. He was very informative, helping members to establish their eligibility to claim. He also presented a breakdown of the work done by the AJR with special emphasis on help and support provided, and still available, to survivors.

Ceska Abrahams

Next meeting: Mon 16 Jan. Ivor Richards

South London visit by Bertha Leverton MBE

Our 11th anniversary was celebrated in style including, of course, with a birthday cake. Our guest speaker, Bertha Leverton, talked not only about her visit to Buckingham Palace and her investiture but also about the history of the Kindertransport, prompting the Kinder among us to share some of their memories. A fine party and a good time was had by all.

Inge Grebley

Ilford full house for PC Mooney

After a break of two months we had a full house to hear PC Mick Mooney give us

sage advice on how to deal with conmen knocking at one's door and how to be aware of hazards when out walking or driving. He answered our many questions with great patience.

Meta Roseneil

Next meeting: Wed 4 Jan

Harrogate CF meeting on Kristallnacht anniversary

We had a very gratifying 11 members at our meeting on 9 November - a date which evoked memories for us all. A new member, Eugene Black, warmly welcomed, told us of his experiences in various camps. On a lighter note, Rosl Schatzberger entertained us with an amusing story before we had refreshments. On behalf of 'the Harrogate lot', may I wish everyone health and happiness throughout 2006.

Inge Little

Oxford talk on Rhine cruise

The arranged speaker unable to attend, one of our members, Oliver Lawton, stepped in. Oliver told us of his recent cruise down the Rhine. His holiday began with a flight to Düsseldorf and the tour took them as far as Basle with many interesting stop-offs. Among the highlights of the trip were a visit to a Jewish museum at Speyer which contains a 900-year-old *mikveh*, and the magnificent Chagall windows in a Mainz church.

John Fieldsend

HGS tale of wills

When a lawyer offers a talk with the title 'Where there's a Will, There's a Way', one can expect a tale of wills, perhaps with a dash of humour, and Anthony Newton didn't disappoint us. He had a fund of stories about wills, in the process offering insight into the legal aspects. His answers to our questions further elucidated the mechanism of inheritance, concluding an informative and enjoyable meeting.

Paul Cohn

Next meeting: Mon 9 Jan

Churchillian humour discussed at Weald of Kent

A well-attended meeting heard with great interest James Taylor, Director of Research at the Churchill Museum, speak on 'Churchill: Aspects of his Life'. Mr Taylor focused on the great man's sense of humour - not always benevolent! - and was happy to answer all our questions afterwards. Jane and Max Dickson were once again in charge of refreshments,

enjoyed by all and sundry. We sincerely thank Myrna for all the work she does on our behalf.

Inge Ball

Sheffield: *In Love and War*

We heard an unusual tale of survival in wartime Italy. Renee Martin (née Ebert) told us how her uncle Walter and his wife, Lily, escaped from Danzig and hid in a cave in deepest rural Italy, supported by locals. They were in hiding with an English couple of singers and their Jewish friend Sigbert, a celebrated opera singer. The story is told in full in the book *In Love and War: A Letter to my Parents* (reviewed in *AJR Journal*, April 2005). Renee's uncle and aunt survived but the Englishman was arrested by the Germans and imprisoned! All eventually got away and lived on in England, but the story reminded us of the resilience needed to survive those turbulent times.

Dorothy Fleming

Pinner talk full of good advice

Michael Anvoner spoke to us on 'Wills and Inheritance Tax', to which he added 'Enduring Power of Attorney'. It was a talk full of good advice, delivered with clarity, charm and wit, on a subject most of us would like to avoid for as long as possible. I think that after this presentation many will approach the topic more positively.

Paul Samet

Next meeting: Thur 5 Jan. Hugh Lewis from Friends of Bushey Museum, 'Sir Hubert von Herkomer - painter, etcher, musical playwright and filmmaker'

Essex spellbound

We listened spellbound to Bertha Leverton's description of collecting her MBE from the Queen, who told her how happy she was to have been able to help the Jewish people in their plight. A similar meeting took place in Clarence House at an earlier date, when Kindertransportees were warmly welcomed by Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall.

Julie Franks

Next meeting: Tues 17 Jan

Talk by Erich Reich at North London

Speaking on the subject 'Long Past, Ever Present', Erich Reich made every effort to keep his remarks in a lighter vein but one couldn't escape the feeling that there was an underlying poignancy. It was most interesting and Erich's efforts to assist in helping the public at large to make better

use of their leisure time must be applauded. *Herbert Haberberg*

Next meeting: Thur 26 Jan. Rabbi Alan Plancey, 'Laughter is the Best Medicine'

Surrey dual-status Brits

Perhaps as an unconscious tribute to our dual status as Continental Britons, Vernon and Jutta Saunders, hospitable as ever, served both Stollen and mince pies among other delectables, attracting a well-attended gathering despite the cold weather. In a serious aside, Myrna pointed out how much our quarterly meetings meant to those of us living alone and remote from any contact with others, a plight any of us may yet have to face. *Robert Miller*

Bristol/Bath: delicious lunch and lively conversation

Once again we met at the home of Gabriel and Kitty Balint-Kurti. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and lively conversation about our feelings on revisiting the places of our origin, either as individuals or at the invitation of the various municipalities. Members explained why they had - or had not - returned to their

home towns. The group plans to meet again in the spring, but no actual date was arranged. *Myrna Glass*

Bournemouth:

Thank you for a relaxing holiday

Thank you Carol, Annie and Ruth for making our week so enjoyable. Even the weather was kind: apart from one day we had lots of sun and mild days.

For me, the highlight was the afternoon concert by the charming and excellent violinist Peter Witham and pianist Barbara of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, enlivened by the spontaneous artistic spirit of Ruth Gee, conducting from her seat in the audience.

Our outing with the knowledgeable guide and coach driver Richard, our quiz evening and bingo, the hotel entertainment and - last but not least - excellent meals, all contributed to a relaxing holiday for us pensioners, who mostly live on our own with nobody to talk to. Thanks again.

Hana Nermut

AJR GROUP CONTACTS

Brighton & Hove (Sussex Region)
Fausta Shelton 01273 734 648

Bristol/Bath
Kitty Balint-Kurti 0117 973 1150

Cambridge
Lisel Eisner 01223 356721

Dundee
Susanne Green 0151 291 5734

East Midlands (Nottingham)
Bob Norton 01159 212 494

Edinburgh
Françoise Robertson 0131 337 3406

Essex (Westcliff)
Larry Lisner 01702 300812

Glasgow
Claire Singerman 0141 649 4620

Harrogate
Inge Little 01423 886254

HGS
Gerda Torrence 020 8883 9425

Hull
Bob Rosner 0148 2649156

Ilford
Meta Roseneil 020 8505 0063

Leeds HSFA
Trude Silman 0113 2251628

Liverpool
Susanne Green 0151 291 5734

Manchester
Werner Lachs 0161 773 4091

Newcastle
Walter Knoblauch 0191 2855339

Norfolk (Norwich)
Myrna Glass 020 8385 3077

North London
Jenny Zundel 020 8882 4033

Oxford
Susie Bates 01235 526 702

Pinner (HA Postal District)
Vera Gellman 020 8866 4833

Sheffield
Steve Mendelsson 0114 2630666

South London
Lore Robinson 020 8670 7926

South West Midlands (Worcester area)
Ruth Jackson 01386 552264

Surrey
Edmée Barta 01372 727 412

Weald of Kent
Max and Jane Dickson
01892 541026

Hertfordshire
Myrna Glass 020 8385 3077

Wessex (Bournemouth)
Mark Goldfinger 01202 552 434

West Midlands (Birmingham)
Ernest Aris 0121 353 1437

**Myrna Glass, AJR South and Midlands
Groups Co-ordinator**
020 8385 3077

**Susanne Green, AJR Northern Groups
Co-ordinator**
0151 291 5734

KT-AJR (Kindertransport)
Andrea Goodmaker 020 8385 3070

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre
15 Cleve Road, London, NW6
Tel: 020 7328 0208

AJR LUNCHEON CLUB

Wednesday 18 JANUARY 2006
11.45 am for 12.15 pm

Ernest Sondheimer
will be talking about
Oscar Schlemmer,
a versatile artist from Stuttgart

Reservations required
Please telephone 020 7328 0208

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
9.30 am - 3.30 pm

**PLEASE NOTE THAT FROM
JANUARY 2006, THE DAY CENTRE WILL
NO LONGER BE OPEN ON SUNDAYS**

January Afternoon Entertainment

Mon 2	CLOSED
Tue 3	CLOSED
Wed 4	Margaret Opdahl
Thur 5	Simon Gilbert
Mon 9	Kards & Games Klub
Tue 10	CLOSED
Wed 11	Francis Spiegel
Thur 12	Michael Heaton & Lynn Radnedge
Mon 16	Kards & Games Klub
Tue 17	CLOSED
Wed 18	LUNCHEON CLUB
Thur 19	William Smith
Mon 23	Kards & Games Klub
Tue 24	CLOSED
Wed 25	Mark Rosen
Thur 26	Mike Marandi
Mon 30	Kards & Games Klub
Tue 31	CLOSED

DIARY DATES

26 January	Holocaust Memorial Day
30 January	20th anniversary of opening of Day Centre
25 April	Yom Hashoah
11-18 June	Eastbourne holiday
9-16 July	Lytham St Annes holiday

For further information about any of these events, please call us on 020 8385 3070.

'DROP IN' ADVICE SERVICE

Members requiring benefit advice please telephone Linda Kasmir on 020 8385 3070 to make an appointment at AJR, Jubilee House, Merrion Avenue, Stanmore, Middx HA7 4RL

Editorials and articles published, and opinions expressed, in the *AJR Journal* are not necessarily those of the Association of Jewish Refugees and should not be regarded as such.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marriages

The Trustees, Management and Staff of the AJR wish Andrea and Philip Goodmaker mazeltov on the marriage of their son Paul to Lynsey.

Death

Helga Beer, born Leipzig 21.10.31, died Amsterdam 29.10.05. Helga arrived in England with the Kindertransport, but later rejoined her parents, who survived Theresienstadt, in Holland. She became a group psychotherapist and sculptress - in 2006 her work will be exhibited in Cambridge, where she went to school. Helga was much loved and will be sorely missed by her husband Fons Koper and so many others.

**Leo Baeck Housing Association Ltd
Clara Nehab House
Residential Care Home**

All single rooms with en suite bath/shower
Short stays/Respite and 24 hour
Permanent Care. Large attractive gardens,
Ground Floor Lounge and Dining rooms,
Lift access to all floors. Easy access to
local shops and public transport

Enquiries and further information please contact:
The Manager, Clara Nehab House
13-19 Leaside Crescent, London NW11 0DA
Phone: 020 8455 2286

2s COMPANY

2s Company specialises in
companionship, whether for yourself,
your family or friends. We can be there
at any time and any place to accompany
you on any shopping trips, journeys,
holidays, walks or even a cuppa. Living
in or living out.

Why not call us for an informal chat on
020 7586 8988 mobile: 0778 880 8907
ALL STAFF SCREENED AND VETTED

ACACIA LODGE

Mrs Pringsheim, S.R.N. MATRON
For Elderly, Retired and Convalescent

(Licensed by Borough of Barnet)

- Single and Double Rooms.
- Ensuite facilities, CH in all rooms.
- Gardens, TV and reading rooms.
- Nurse on duty 24 hours.
- Long and short term and respite,
including trial period if required.

Between £400 and £500 per week
020 8445 1244/020 8446 2820 office hours
020 8455 1335 other times
37-39 Torrington Park, North Finchley,
London N12 9TB

BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

51 Belsize Square, NW3 4HX

We offer a traditional style of
religious service.

Details can be obtained from the
Synagogue Administrator
Telephone 020 8959 7086 or
email: office@synagogue.org.uk

Minister: Rabbi Rodney J Mariner

Regular Services

Friday evenings at 6.45pm
Saturday mornings at 10.00am
Religion School: Sundays 9.45am - 12.30pm
Nursery School: 9.15am - 12.15pm
Belsize Under 3's: 9.30 am - 11.30 am

Space donated by Pafra Limited

Meeting Rooms and our reburbished
communal hall are available for cultural
and social functions.

Tel: 020 7794 3949

**STUDIO FLAT
AVAILABLE FOR RENT**

at 15 CLEVE ROAD

SINGLE OCCUPANCY

£452 PER MONTH

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT

CAROL ROSSEN ON

020 8385 3070

Colvin Home Care

Care through quality and
professionalism

Celebrating our 25th Anniversary
25 years of experience in providing
the highest standards of care in the
comfort of your own home



1 hour to 24 hours care

Registered through the National Care Standard Commission

Call our 24 hour tel **020 7794 9323**

www.colvin-nursing.co.uk

SWITCH ON ELECTRICS

Rewires and all household
electrical work

PHONE PAUL: 020 8200 3518

Mobile: 0795 614 8566

**HOLIDAY FOR
NORTHERN MEMBERS**

Sunday 9 July -

Sunday 16 July 2006

AT THE FERNLEA HOTEL

11/17 South Promenade,

St Annes

Tel 01253 726 726

The cost,
including Dinner, Bed and
Breakfast, is £405 per person

The hotel charges a
supplement per room for sea view
or deluxe room

Programme includes

GOOD COMPANY

ENTERTAINMENT

OUTINGS

MEET OLD AND NEW FRIENDS

**PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO AVOID
DISAPPOINTMENT**

Travel to St Annes by
RAIL, NATIONAL COACH or CAR

Please contact Ruth Finestone on
020 8385 3070

PillarCare

Quality support and care at home

- Hourly Care from 1 hour-24 hours
- Live-In/Night Duty/Sleepover
Care
- Convalescent and Personal Health
Care
- Compassionate and Affordable
Service
- Professional, Qualified, Kind Care
Staff
- Registered with the CSCI and
UKHCA.

Call us on Freephone 0800 028 4645

Studio 1 Utopia Village
7 Chalcot Road, NW1 8LH

ALTERATIONS

OF ANY KIND TO
LADIES' FASHIONS

I also design and make
children's clothes

West Hampstead area **020 7328 6571**

Obituary

Last surviving mother of a Kind

Franzi Groszmann, mother of the author Lore Segal, has died in New York at the age of 100. She was the last surviving mother of a Kind. Franzi and her husband Igo put their ten-year-old daughter Lore on the first Kindertransport to leave Vienna. They came to England as domestics - she as a cook, he as a butler - and were among the approximately ten per cent of Kindertransport parents who escaped Hitler's Europe to be reunited with their child.

Franzi was featured in the Oscar-winning documentary *Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport* and its companion book. During the making of the film, newsreel footage of Lore stepping off the gangplank onto British soil was discovered.

Lore's novel *Other People's Houses* tells her experience of the Kindertransport and traces the family's 13-year odyssey from Vienna, the war years in England, and the time spent in the Dominican Republic waiting to enter the US in 1951. The book draws a loving portrait of Franzi.

In her early New York years, Franzi worked as a salad cook and a salesclerk. After helping Lore in the first few weeks with her first baby, she trained herself to become a baby nurse.

After both Lore and Franzi were widowed, they lived in separate apartments in an apartment building in New York's Manhattan district. Franzi visited Lore's apartment to look after the children and manage the household; Lore visited Franzi's apartment to write her novels.

Franzi never ceased to inspire and amuse me, the producer of *Into the Arms of Strangers* and the daughter of a Kindertransport survivor. She provided a singular perspective on the Kindertransport that elevated and enriched our film. She said appearing in *Into the Arms of Strangers* was one of the proudest events in her later life. Freeing herself of most of her possessions after moving into a nursing home, she kept next to her bed copies of Lore's books, family photographs, and the film's companion book with her interview, from which Lore would read to her aloud.

Deborah Oppenheimer

Arts & Events Diary January

To 16 February 'The Last Goodbye: The Rescue of Children from Nazi Europe' Jewish Museum, Finchley

To 8 January 'Albert Einstein: Man of the Century' Jewish Museum, Camden Town

Mon 9 Reggie Oliver, 'The Gothic Quest: The Ghost Story from 2000 BCE to the Present Day' Club 43

11-13 'Beyond Camps and Forced Labour: Current International Research on Survivors of Nazi Persecution - 60 Years On' Second international multidisciplinary conference at Imperial War Museum. Further information at www.iwm.org.uk/conferenceBCFL

16-28 Photographic Holocaust Memorial exhibition 'Absence and Loss' by Marion Davies. Illustrates progressive impact of Nazi accession to power on German Jews. Michaelhouse, Trinity Street, Cambridge, 9.30 am to 5 pm. Tel 020 8458 3438

Mon 16 Dr Ian King, 'Rosa Luxembourg: Revolutionary in Theory and Practice' Club 43

Mon 23 Ralph Blumenau MA, 'The United States as a Magnet for Europe' Club 43

Tues 24 Dr Robert Knight, 'Austria and the Holocaust: Coming to Terms with the Past?' Sixth Annual Holocaust Memorial Lecture, Western Infirmary Lecture Theatre, University Place, University of Glasgow, 6 pm

Thur 26 Holocaust Memorial Day

Thur 26 Dr Sybille Steinbacher, 'Auschwitz: Model of Germanisation and Annihilation'. At Wiener Library, 7.00 pm. Tel Leo Baeck Institute on 020 7580 3493.

Fri 27 to Sun 29 *Refugee Voices: Moments and Memories* (2005). Refugees who escaped from Hitler and settled in Britain tell their story. Prod. and dir. by Dr Bea Lewkowicz for the AJR Imperial War Museum, 11.00 am (40 mins.)

Fri 27 to Sun 29 *The Boys* (2004) A documentary about child survivors of the Nazi camps who came to Britain in 1945. Dir. by Herb Krosney IWM, 12 noon (60 mins.)

Sat 28 and Sun 29 *Sophie Scholl - The Final Days* (2005) Prize-winning film about German student who resisted the Nazi regime With thanks to the ICA. IWM, 2.00 pm (117 mins.)

Mon 30 Martin Page, 'John Mackinnon Robertson, 1856-1933: Free Thinker, Radical, Sociologist, Literary Critic - a Varied Life' Club 43

ORGANISATION CONTACTS

Club 43 Meetings at Belsize Square Synagogue, 7.45 pm. Tel Hans Seelig on 01442 254360

Jewish Museum, Camden Town, tel 020 7284 1997

Jewish Museum, Finchley, tel 020 8349 1143

Central Office for Holocaust Claims

Samara Wolinsky and Michael Newman

Programme for former slave and forced labourers

According to the German Foundation law, the last day on which payments in respect of slave and forced labour from the German Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future may be made to eligible persons is 20 September 2006. Individuals eligible for payment include:

- 1 Survivors who are eligible for, but have not yet received, full payment;
- 2 Applicants yet to receive any decision regarding their claim;
- 3 Recipients of the Heir Application Packet who have yet to submit the required forms;
- 4 Those with appeals pending before the Appeals Authority.

Heirs of deceased persons who are eligible for payment must notify the Claims Conference, the organisation which administers claims, within six months of the death of the survivor in order to receive payment.

Any individual who fits into one of the above categories should contact the Claims Conference and submit all necessary information as soon as possible. **Only claims filed before the deadline of 30 September 2006 will be processed.**

Please note that the Foundation will not accept any new applications. The original deadline to submit applications was December 2001. Heirs of survivors are entitled to claim only where the survivor passed away after 16 February 1999.

Written enquiries should be sent to Central Office for Holocaust Claims (UK), Jubilee House, Merrion Avenue, Stanmore, Middx HA7 4RL, by fax to 020 8385 3075, or by email to michael@ajr.org.uk Assistance can be provided strictly by appointment at the Holocaust Survivors Centre in Hendon, north London. For an appointment, please ring 020 8385 3074.

Threats to civilisation A top soldier's analysis

At a time of terrorist threats to civilian populations, including last year's attacks on London Transport, which killed 52 passengers at random and injured many more, I was recently privileged to attend a special conference on terrorism and human rights. The conference, at the International Institute of Strategic Studies, was co-sponsored by the Clemens Nathan Research Centre and hosted by Clemens Nathan himself. The viewpoints of a number of leading academics and other authorities on the subject were presented and debated, but the keynote address on 'How Dangerous is the Threat?', delivered by General Lord Guthrie, Chief of the Defence Staff in 1997-2001, was especially worthy of attention.

Lord Guthrie emphatically took the view that terrorism was a 'serious threat to our societies' and that increased international co-operation and understanding were essential to combat it. Though terrorism had a long history, today's manifestation was different. Al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden had been known to intelligence agencies in the 1980s, but no common approach had then been adopted to alleviate any threat they might have represented.

Modern societies were more vulnerable, Lord Guthrie pointed out, and sophisticated states such as our own were 'easy to damage'. The information revolution had brought about cheap communications, which could be used internationally by terrorists who no longer needed to gather together to plan their attacks. Weapons of mass destruction could now be 'small, light and cheap'.

In his view, acts of terrorism had become 'more brutal and indiscriminate'. Terrorist groups had proved far harder to penetrate and he quoted examples which included the Oklahoma City bombing, the sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway, and the many examples of Islamist terrorism.

Considering the means to combat terrorism, Lord Guthrie suggested that the objective should be to reduce the scope and frequency of terrorist acts - at least to an 'acceptable' level. Terrorism had to be

solved internationally, and he was certain that 'appeasement does not work'. There was an inevitable trade-off between security and freedom but, in his view, it was 'absolutely right to change the law to meet new threats'. Investigations were now very complicated and international in scope.

The suppression of the financing of terrorist acts was extremely important but, to date, this area had met with a large measure of failure by the West's security services. The military, which he termed 'hard power', certainly had a part to play but civil, or 'soft', power - the police, the judiciary *et al* - was even more important. Intelligence had to be more widely shared.

General Guthrie emphasised the importance of 'knowing our enemy'. He characterised Osama bin Laden as a leader who 'looked the part, was articulate and repeated a simple message'. This centred on an understanding of Arab history and the fall of the Ottoman Empire in the aftermath of the First World War. What Guthrie called 'failing states' needed to be helped to prevent a terrorist takeover.

'Religion and conflict are ancient partners', Lord Guthrie said, and the authorities were confronted by extremists who saw 'death as a passport to paradise'. He believed that it was the moderate Muslims who were best equipped to combat extreme members of their religion. He warned that a failure of the United States to stem terrorism was likely to lead to increased terrorism around the world, and concluded by asking 'Do we have the will to prevail?'

Among others presenting papers to the conference were Professor Anthony Glees, author of a recent study on the development of extremism on university campuses, Dr Aryeh Nusbacher of Sandhurst, Professor David Kretzmer of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Professor Françoise Hampson of Essex University, Michael Whine of the Community Security Trust, Professor Javaid Rehman of Brunel University, and Dr Patrick Sookhdeo, UK Defence Academy.

Newsround

Holocaust jewellery recovered

Four survivors of the Holocaust have found jewellery and other precious objects which they and other prisoners buried 62 years ago near Majdanek concentration camp. The four had travelled from Australia to take part in a documentary about Majdanek, which is now a museum.

Brundibar revived

The children's opera *Brundibar* has been revived at Berlin's Konzerthaus for its first major production in over six decades. *Brundibar* was performed over 50 times at Theresienstadt and was used by the Nazis to present the camp as a model to international inspectors. The opera was performed in Czech so that its thinly-veiled symbolism was lost on the Nazis.

New editor for German-Jewish paper

Christian Böhme has taken over the editorship of the weekly *Jüdische Allgemeine Zeitung (JAZ)*, Germany's largest Jewish circulated paper, from Judith Hart, who had edited it for 12 years. The *JAZ* is the organ of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and was founded in 1946. Böhme, the first non-Jew to become editor of the paper, previously edited Berlin's prestigious *Tagespiegel*.

Son of Yehudi Menuhin ousted for antisemitic claims

Gerard Menuhin, 57, son of Yehudi Menuhin, has been ousted as head of the German branch of his father's foundation on account of his far-right views. He claimed that Germany was being blackmailed by an international Jewish conspiracy preying on the country's war guilt.

Saudi teacher sentenced for praising Jews

A Saudi citizen has been sentenced to 40 months' imprisonment and 750 lashes for praising Jews. According to a *Jewish Telegraphic Agency* report, Mohammad Al-Harbi, a teacher, is to receive the punishment for 'dubious ideology, mocking religion, saying the Jews were right, discussing the Gospel and preventing students from leaving class to wash for prayer'.