

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

W. Rosenstock

VISIT TO NEW YORK

Meetings of Council of Jews from Germany
and Leo Baeck Institute

Forty years have passed since the dispersion of Continental Jewry started, and those Jews from Central and Eastern European countries who escaped the Holocaust are now spread all over the world. They have settled in many countries, and it is only natural that, with the rising of a new generation, the consciousness of the common origin gradually decreases. Yet it is a slow process, and integration into the new environment is still linked with awareness of the past.

In the case of those Jewish persecutees, who hail from Germany, this awareness is not only a matter of the individual but, perhaps more than among other former refugees, has also resulted in joint activities. This does not indicate a lesser degree of integration. It is in the first place due to the fact that, probably in view of their antecedents, the Jews from Germany have retained the gift of translating feelings of solidarity into constructive and forward-looking organisational work. On the national plane, this becomes evident in the strength of the organisations built up in Britain (AJR), Israel, U.S.A. and smaller countries of resettlement. On the international plane, it has resulted in the creation of the Council of Jews from Germany in 1945 which takes up the interests of the Jews from Germany, and of the Leo Baeck Institute, founded by the Council in 1955 to preserve by scholarly work the cultural heritage of what was once German Jewry. It was under the auspices of these two bodies that a number of important meetings were held in New York this April.

The foundation of the Council, whose first president was Leo Baeck, had been prompted primarily by the need to safeguard the interests of the Jews from Germany in the field of restitution and compensation. Many legislative measures from which Jews from Germany benefit and which are now taken for granted are due to the persistent efforts of the Council. Equally when, at a later stage, assets from the heirless and former communal property were recovered by the so-called successor organisations (JRSO and Jewish Trust Corporation in the former American and British Zones respectively), the Council was enabled to allocate its share in the proceeds to its affiliates, thus helping them in carrying out and expanding their welfare work, especially for the benefit of the aged. In both spheres the work has not yet come to an end. Though, as far as the German Federal Republic is concerned, the bulk of the legislation may have to be considered as completed and has resulted in payments which very considerably exceeded the original estimates, negotiations on various kinds of amendments are still going

on. Furthermore, the implementation of the existing laws calls for constant vigilance. In all these matters the Council acts under the auspices of or in co-operation with the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany ("Claims Conference"), the official representative body *vis-à-vis* the German authorities.

Claims Against East Germany

In the past months a further aspect of the restitution and compensation problem has come to the fore. It arises from the new position of East Germany, the German Democratic Republic, in the international scene, expressed by the opening of diplomatic relations between Western countries and the GDR and the envisaged admission of the GDR to the United Nations. These developments are bound to put the question of restitution and compensation to the Jewish victims of Nazi Germany's persecution on the map, and the consideration of this question was one of the reasons for which representatives of the Council from Britain, Israel and the United States met in New York. The issue at stake is in the first place a moral one. The perpetrators of the Nazi crimes lived in all parts of the territory of the former Reich, whether it is now East or West Germany, and there is no reason for the Government of the GDR to disclaim its

duty to make amends for the past. This duty had been recognised by West Germany after the end of the Second World War and was implemented at the earliest possible time by compensation laws of the Laender and of the German Federal Republic after its establishment. By contrast, the GDR has restricted its payments to those victims of Nazi persecution who are resident in their country. It has made no individual or global payments for the benefit of those who live abroad and who are the vast majority.

The participants at the Council meeting realised that it would be premature to substantiate in detail the claims to be submitted as long as the principle has not been established. The Council will co-operate in this matter with the other major Jewish organisations. Among the losses on which the claims have to be based the following items were mentioned by way of example: Communal property, private and/or heirless property, personal damage sustained by Nazi victims as far as not, or not adequately, covered by West German legislation. It was stressed that before 1933 the assets concerned, to a very large extent, belonged to Jewish individuals and communities in that part of Germany which is now the territory of the GDR and that it is, therefore, the duty of the Council to safeguard the special interests of the Jews from Germany and their organisations in this matter. At the time of writing, the whole issue is still in an exploratory stage. Any developments will be reported in this paper.

History of Immigration Research

The presence in New York of Council representatives from various countries also served as an opportunity for a working meeting of those involved in research work on the history of the immigration of the Jewish refugees from Central Europe and their integration into their countries of resettlement. The progress reports given at the meeting and the ensuing exchange of views reaffirmed that the position of the immigrants greatly differs from country to country. This in turn has also resulted in differences of approach and differences of priorities. In the United States the work is directed by Dr. Herbert Strauss, Professor of History and Executive Vice-President of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe, who is also the main initiator and co-ordinator of the whole scheme. He reported that a bibliography of the relevant literature published in the United States has been completed. Furthermore, a number of former or present leaders of organisations and congregations, established by Jews from Germany, have been interviewed. It appears that the impact of these organisations on the personal destiny of the individual immigrant has been greater than in some other countries, where the membership with organisations certainly also played a great part, but was not of such central importance. In Israel, the draft of a publication mainly based on per-

The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain

invites members and friends to the

GENERAL MEETING

on Tuesday, June 19, at 7.45 p.m.

at Hannah Karminski House,
9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3

I

Report on AJR Activities

Treasurer's Report

Election of Executive and Board

(The list of candidates submitted by the Executive is published on page 9.)

II

Mr Jack Barnett

(General Secretary, World Jewish Congress — British Section)

will speak on

CURRENT PROBLEMS IN JEWISH LIFE

Non-members are not entitled to vote, but are welcome as guests at the meeting

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VISIT TO NEW YORK

Continued from page 1

sonal interviews has been completed. It is also envisaged to commission an expert author with research work on the economic integration of the Jews from Germany. In this country Mrs Margot Pottlitzer has collected more than 100 life stories, based partly on personal interviews, partly on written material received in response to appeals published in this paper. The collection is still going on, and any readers who wish to contribute in one way or another should inform the AJR. The work has deliberately been started from this angle because the number of those who are able to speak from personal experience is bound to decrease. At the same time it is realised that case history can only be used as raw material, and that a balanced assessment calls for careful further study of the subject in order to avoid false conclusions and unjustified generalisations. The question of how this can be done is under active consideration. There remains the wide field of research in books, press publications as well as in available records of government departments and organisations.

The scholarly work to be carried out in the U.S.A., Israel, Britain and France as well as in other countries will keep the organisations and research workers concerned busy for a very long time. The participants at the meeting in New York therefore also considered ways and means of publishing, as a first step, a less thorough but equally important informative collection of essays about the subject, comprising all major countries of resettlement.

The meeting of the responsible officers of the three sections of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York, Jerusalem and London took place at the LBI building in New York. Anybody who visits New York should not miss the opportunity of calling on this unique living memento of German Jewry at 129 East 73rd Street. Built up from scratch under its first director, Dr. Max Kreutzberger, it houses the most comprehensive collection of material pertinent to our history since the eighteenth century. It comprises books and complete sets of periodicals, documents, government gazettes of German States, family records and personal memoirs, to quote only a few examples. All this is not dead material but constantly used by scholars working on special subjects of German-Jewish history. In view of the steady rise of interest in the subject matter among students and graduates, especially of American universities, the Institute's reading-room is frequented by many people. The visitors' book also includes names of well-known personalities who called on the Institute to obtain a general impression. Such visits are all the more rewarding as the building, a former private mansion, excels by its exquisite layout. The walls are adorned with pictures and photos of German Jewish personalities, includ-

ing some originals by Max Liebermann and a recently acquired Heine portrait.

The deliberations at the LBI were, to some extent, devoted to the relationship of the Institute with other enterprises. The discussion indicated the importance increasingly attributed to the LBI which had commenced its work under most difficult circumstances at a time when interest in German Jewish history was practically non-existent outside our own orbit. It is to a large extent due to the spadework done by the LBI that the position has now completely changed and that there is an eagerness in having a share in this research work among quarters which in former times kept aloof from it. The reports also reflected the tremendous output of publications which appeared under the auspices of the Institute during its 17 years of existence. They include not less than 27 books of the "Schriftenreihe wissenschaftlicher Abhandlungen" as well as memoirs and biographies of outstanding German Jews, articles in the Institute's bulletin and, last but not least, the Year Books, whose 17th volume just appeared and will be reviewed in this paper shortly. The quantity of the output is all the more remarkable as it is matched by a quality which stands the test of scholarly standards. A great number of further projects, some of them already in an advanced stage, were also discussed at the meeting.

Scholars' Conference

The climax of the New York functions was a Scholars' Conference held under the auspices of the New York LBI, from April 8 to 10. It was the second conference of this kind, the first one having taken place in Jerusalem in 1970. These conferences are, as experience affirmed, an indispensable collateral to the written scholarly work initiated and commissioned by the Institute. They provide a platform for an exchange of views and also establish personal contacts between those associated with the work in one way or another. This year's conference was arranged under the heading: "Exploring a Typology of German Jewry". Of course, it was neither possible nor intended to provide a complete typology during the short time available. Instead, a limited number of subjects was selected, for which each of the speakers appointed had delivered a paper in advance and which was only briefly summed up and supplemented at the Conference. The ensuing debates were opened by "discussants", also appointed in advance. The following list of subjects, together with the names of the speakers, discussants and chairmen, gives an idea of the proceedings: "The Jewish Merchant" (David Landes, Hanns G. Reissner, Fritz Bamberger); "The Rabbi" (Alexander Altmann, Alfred Jospe, Nahum N. Glatzer); "The Jewish Teacher" (Max Gruene-

wald, Jochanan Ginat, Ismar Schorsch); "Major Trends in Jewish Youth Movements in Germany" (Chanoch Rinott, Werner Rosenstock, Herbert A. Strauss); "Village and Small-Town Jews in Germany" (Werner J. Cahnman, Emil Schorsch, Erich Rosenthal). The contents of the proceedings will be published in due course, and it would be futile to try and sum them up. It may suffice to state that quite a lot of ground was covered and that, as far as the systematic perusal and assessment of the widely-spread material were concerned, the participants did most valuable work.

Under the aspect of historiography, the fact that most of the speakers had been actively involved in the events under discussion is a drawback and an advantage at the same time. On the one hand, we cannot have the detachment which the historian requires in order to arrive at an unbiased assessment. On the other hand, and this appears an important task for our generation, we can speak from first-hand experience and thus help to preserve the records for future historians and also give them an idea of the atmosphere and of the imponderabilia which shaped the period concerned.

It is particularly important to note that the participants also included members of the younger age groups, some of them of German Jewish origin, some of them American born, who now teach at American universities. There were also some German scholars who have included German Jewish history in their subjects of research. This is an interesting aspect. As they were children, or not even born, when the Nazis were in power, their interest is not based on the guilt feelings of their elders. Yet they are fascinated by the many-coloured aspects of group relations, as manifested in the German-Jewish symbiosis, a phenomenon which has its bearing on German and Jewish history alike. Even at the risk of being reproached for mentioning something which should be a matter of course, it must be stated that the ingenuous approach, marred by neither apologetics on the Jewish side nor by embarrassment on the German side, was particularly reassuring.

The Conference was held at Arden House, a beautiful country seat outside New York donated by the Averell Harriman family to Columbia University. One could not have wished for a better venue. Away from the city, the participants could not only fully concentrate on the proceedings, but also establish and renew personal contacts with each other. Recognition and thanks are due to the promoters, Rabbi Dr. Max Gruenewald and Professor Dr. Fritz Bamberger, President and Vice-President respectively of the New York LBI, as well as to the organiser, Dr. Fred Grubel, Secretary of the Institute, and his staff.

HITLER FILM PROTEST IN GERMANY

Protests have been made against the performance in Munich of the film, "Hitler: the Last Ten Days," produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and starring Sir Alec Guinness.

Dr. Hans Lamm, the president of the Munich Jewish community, said that the premiere of the film on Hitler's birthday at the birthplace of the Nazi regime was an act of provocation and shameless profiteering which insulted the feelings of millions of victims of Nazism and democratic citizens.

The West German Peace Society commented that the showing of the film was "tactless" and "derogatory to the local population".

An MGM spokesman said in Frankfurt that the premiere having been held on Hitler's birthday was a coincidence. The last thing that could be said was that the film glorified Hitler and his regime.

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HOME NEWS

ANGLO-JUDAICA

EAST GERMAN REPARATIONS

In the House of Lords the British Government was urged to bring pressure to bear on the German Democratic Republic for the payment of reparations. Lord Janner said that in the course of the negotiations with East Germany for the establishment of diplomatic relations, the Government should urge the payment of reparations. Baroness Tweedsmuir replied that both Governments had agreed to enter into negotiations for the settlement of financial and property problems still outstanding between the two States, and that each Government would be entitled to raise any questions. The responsibility of the British Government was for British nationals, but Britain hoped that the German Democratic Republic "will recognise its obligations to compensate victims of Nazi persecution irrespective of their nationality".

"NEW LOOK" ANTISEMITISM

Dr. David Cohen, who has made a life-long study of Christian-Jewish relationships, addressed a meeting in London of the Weekly Religious Press Group.

Stating that a "new antisemitism" exists among many Christians today, Dr. Cohen asserted that the world was not yet accustomed to the idea—nor did they like it—that Jews could fight and win a war. Some Christians felt that a Jew could not work with his hands and was someone only out to make money. These old myths had been dispelled by Israel. The world was now accustomed to the Jew standing on his own feet, yet many Christians felt that Israel was "a slap against Christian Messianic ideas."

Criticising those who opposed any form of "dialogue" between Christians and Jews, Mr. Cohen said it was not enough for Jews and Christians to "do good together"; they had to understand each other in their own terms. Although Jews, rightly, asked much of Christianity in the way of understanding, he did not think that we gave as much in return as we ought.

DEPUTIES AND WJC

An overwhelming majority of the outgoing Board of Deputies resolved to recommend the incoming board to join the World Jewish Congress. The board came to the conclusion that it was to its own benefit and best interests as well as that of the WJC, to accept the invitation of Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the Congress.

Dr. Goldmann had given the board assurances and safeguards to ensure the continued independence of Anglo-Jewry's representative body.

SOCIAL SERVICES CENTRALISATION

For the present the Jewish Welfare Board is unable to accept that the Central Council for Jewish Social Service becomes the centralised administrative machine for social services in Anglo-Jewry. The JWB will continue to work on the central council only if it remains a co-ordinating body. The board asserts that it is necessary to restrict its participation on the council to clearly defined areas, which could include co-ordination in day-centre work, field work and joint purchasing. However, the hope is expressed that there will be complete centralisation in the future.

At the meeting where this decision was taken, reference was also made to the serious state of the JWB's financial affairs, when it was pointed out that the deficit at the end of 1972 was over £100,000. Total expenditure was £829,865, some £130,000 more than the previous year, while voluntary donations had dropped. This deficit has had to be deducted from the board's general assets.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

RIGHT-WING GROWTH

The Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women at its annual conference in London underlined the increased strength of nationalist Right-wing organisations in Britain. Warning that it would be the height of folly to assume that the Right-wing "leopards" had changed their spots Mr. B. A. Remington, chairman of the defence committee, said that though the labels might be different, the contents remained the same.

The main factors contributing to the increased Right-wing strength during the year were industrial and social unrest and high unemployment; the continued shortage of housing and the ease with which this problem could be exploited against certain sections of the community, particularly where individual landlords might be Jewish or immigrant; and the influx of Ugandan Asians "providing an opportunity to enlist support for fascist ideologies".

Calling for constant vigilance in every locality, Mr. Remington said that where Ajax branches had advance notice of extremists' activities, they were frequently able to nullify or cool the situation.

COLOURED IMMIGRATION

A symposium was recently held jointly by BBC Radio London's "You don't have to be Jewish" programme and the Jewish Chronicle at Kenton Synagogue. The panel was split on the question of whether Anglo-Jewry should take a stand regarding coloured immigration to Britain but most speakers expressed the view that, as descendants of immigrants the Jews had a special duty to fight against the prejudice to which the newcomers are exposed.

The representative of the JC said that the community as such should not express a corporate opinion on the issue of immigration, which did not affect it directly. Mr. Sidney Shipton, general secretary of the Zionist Federation, expressed strong disagreement, claiming that the Jewish community had to be concerned with all vital issues affecting the British community as a whole. He felt that such involvement should, however, not be made at the expense of Jewry's fight to gain human rights for itself and its brethren in other countries, Jews should use their democratic rights as citizens to express opinions over such important issues as immigration, thought Rev. Dr. Isaac Levy, director of the Jewish National Fund.

VOTES FOR WOMEN

An extraordinary meeting of the Yeshurun Synagogue, Gatley, Manchester, unanimously voted that women be granted full membership and the right to vote. Women will still not be eligible for executive office, but there can be a maximum of four on the council including the chairman of the ladies' guild.

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Ashkenazy Charity Performance

In one of his rare appearances Vladimir Ashkenazy, the Russian-born pianist who is now an Icelandic citizen, performed for a Jewish charity. At a concert arranged by the Women's Division of the Central British Fund for Jewish Relief and Rehabilitation and British Ose, he played with the Philharmonia Orchestra at the Collegiate Theatre in London.

Mixed Marriages

The lack of unanimity among Jewry about the validity of "mixed" marriages where the non-Jewish partner has been converted, and also about the situation of an adopted child of non-Jewish parents who has been brought up as Jewish, was raised at the annual meeting of the Belfast Hebrew Congregation. It was mentioned that in some cases the conversion of the non-Jewish partner of the marriage had been approved in the United Kingdom and in other cases in Israel.

In the best interests of the couples and of adoptive parents, the London Beth Din was approached for a ruling to clarify the situation.

Israel's 25th Anniversary

On the occasion of her 25th year of independence Israel's Ambassador to this country, Mr. Michael Comay, in a message said that Anglo-Jewry can share Israel's pride in a quarter-century of phenomenal growth and achievement, of which they were part. However, the struggle was not over and the efforts must be continued and even intensified.

Bournemouth Symbolic Seder

A symbolic seder for Soviet Jewry was held at the Bournemouth Synagogue at a seder table set in the synagogue and presided over by Rabbi and Mrs. Jonah Indech. Rabbi Indech's commentaries were interspersed by pleas for the Jews in the Soviet Union in spiritual and physical bondage.

Present at the ceremony was Sir John Eden, MP for Bournemouth West and Minister for Posts and Telecommunications; the minister of the Bournemouth Reform Synagogue, Rabbi David Soetendorp; Christian clergy and lay leaders, together with magistrates and councillors.

Frustration for Aged

The Jewish Welfare Board, which has become increasingly aware of the frustration and hardships which many elderly people encounter in having to wait to enter homes for the aged, has introduced several reforms. A revised waiting-list has been initiated admitting only urgent applications and thus ensuring that delays in admission to a home are cut down to a minimum.

Since there must be a degree of overlapping in applications for accommodation in homes and flatlets run by the several Jewish organisations which provide such facilities, it was suggested that a central registry of old people awaiting accommodation might help to reduce the problem and perhaps help to reduce numbers on the lists. There is already some degree of co-operation in this regard.

New Southend Home

On May 13, Lord Goodman officially declared open Raymond House, the second home of its kind in Southend administered by the Jewish Welfare Board and built at a cost of £250,000. The home, situated at the top of the cliffs, commands an uninterrupted panoramic view of the Thames Estuary. Accommodating 36 elderly Jewish residents, it is purpose-built on four floors with two penthouse apartments, a synagogue, a five-bedded elaborately equipped sickbay, a surgery and a hairdressing salon.

It cost £34,000 to equip the home and the upkeep will amount to £36,000 annually. The cost of maintaining one resident is £20 a week, although residents will only pay according to their means and are selected irrespective of their financial circumstances.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Employment Destination

In a Manhattan federal court the American Government has brought an action against the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, the largest life insurance company in the United States, which employs some 50,000 people. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has accused the company of discriminating against Jews and other minorities in its staff engagement and employment policies. The Government also alleges that the Metropolitan fails to provide Jews with work assignments allowing them to observe the Sabbath.

Commemorative Stamps

In honour of the composer and song writer, George Gershwin, an eight-cent commemorative stamp is to be issued by the United States.

Dr. Leonard Leader, an historian living in Los Angeles, says that this is the fourth American postage stamp honouring a Jew: in 1948 Rabbi Alexander D. Goode was pictured with three other Second World War chaplains who went down with the s.s. Dorchester after handing their lifebelts to troops aboard the ship; in 1950 Samuel Gompers, the American Jewish leader was honoured in this way; Professor Albert Einstein was commemorated by a stamp in 1966.

Award for "Judenrat" Book

The 1973 National Book Award was presented to Dr. Isaiah Trunk in New York for his book, "Judenrat", dealing with the Jewish councils which operated in Eastern Europe under the Nazis.

Attack on Chasidim

According to the New York Times, Chasidim living in the Borough Park district of Brooklyn are so concerned about their safety that several hundred of them called on the police station to protest at what they called police laxity in the case of two of their fellows beaten with lengths of wood by two youths. Rabbi Hertz Frankel, who heads a Chasidic social service centre in Borough Park, and the Skwerer Rebbe, Rabbi David Twersky, have expressed their concern about constant assaults on Chasidim. The wife of the Bobover Rebbe told the paper that antisemitic abuse was common in Borough Park.

The New York Times states that there has been a "population explosion" of Chasidic Jews in Borough Park. It is estimated that of the area's population of 190,000 more than 120,000 are Jewish and almost 30,000 of these are Chasidim. About 65,000 of the residents are of Italian descent, 1,000 are blacks and there are 4,000 "Hispanics" (Spanish-speaking people).

German-Jewish Scientist Commemorated

A two-time winner of the Nobel Prize has established an endowment fund to honour the distinguished scientist Dr. Fritz London, professor of physics at Duke University, Durham (North Carolina, U.S.A.), who died in 1954. The endowment was created through gifts totalling \$32,000 from Dr. John Bardeen, Nobel laureate in 1956 and 1972 to "promote research and further understanding of physics at Duke and in the wider scientific community". Dr. Bardeen stated that more than anyone else, Professor London had "pointed out the path that eventually led to the theory of superconductivity for which Leon N. Cooper, J. Robert Schrieffer, and I were awarded the Nobel Prize for physics in 1972." Professor London, who had left Germany as a victim of Nazi persecution, taught at Duke from 1939 until his death.

ARGENTINE

Extradition Granted

Josef Schwammberger, a former SS officer who obtained Argentine citizenship in 1965, is expected to appeal against the Argentine Government's agreement to a West German extradition request.

During the Second World War, Schwammberger was SS chief of the Przemysl Ghetto and in charge of Mielec concentration camp in Poland. He is accused of many crimes against Jewish women, children and old people. Arrested in Innsbruck in 1945, he escaped from Landeck prison in Austria in 1948, arriving in Argentina in March, 1949, via West Germany and Italy, where he entered with a forged Italian passport.

Doctors Honoured

The first Jew to become president of the Argentine Medical Association is Dr. Arnaldo Binstock, the president of the Argentine Society for Heart Surgery, who has been active in Jewish affairs for many years.

The Argentine Medical Association has this year awarded two Jewish doctors—Dr. Gregorio Malajovic and Dr. Carlos Horacio Spector—prizes for scientific research.

Department of Jewish Studies

Argentina, a predominantly Catholic country, has for the first time in its history opened a department of Jewish studies at a university. Inaugurated at the School of Oriental Studies at Salvador's Catholic University, three Jewish professors have been appointed to teach Hebrew language, Jewish post-Biblical history and Biblical Jewish philosophy.

President's Assurances

Daia, the representative organisation of Argentine Jews, has received written assurances from Dr. Hector Campora, the successful Peronista candidate in the Argentine Presidential elections held in March. The President confirmed the promises he gave to a Daia delegation which called to offer the congratulations of the Jewish community.

In his letter Dr. Campora declared that the Peronista Party did not distinguish between people concerning their religion, race, or land of origin.

Some sections of the community have continued to express fears at the Peronista victory.

Attacks on Institutions

In the Argentine city of Rosario the religious Jewish "Rav Kook" school was extensively damaged by a night-time bomb attack.

A large number of tar-oil bombs were thrown against the Mar del Plata community centre and the synagogue, defacing the buildings. The community protested to the Governor of Buenos Aires.

Supporters of Dr. Alberto Trejo, the candidate of the Nazi-inspired Nationalist Party during the local election, daubed antisemitic slogans on walls in the town of Tucuman.

SOUTH AFRICA

"Linked with Whites"

A recent issue of Jewish Affairs, the monthly journal of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, carried an article by its chairman, Mr. D. K. Mann.

"The South African Jewish community's destiny is inextricably linked with that of the white group of South Africa, with which it is integrated geographically", the article stated. The small community, said Mr. Mann, must accept that its fate is largely in the hands of forces it is powerless to control or even to influence decisively.

Mr. Mann declared that the Jewish community faced no special dangers from other groups to its continued existence as an ethnic and religious entity.

TORONTO

First Sephardi Synagogue

The foundation stone of Toronto's first Sephardi synagogue was laid by Rabbi Dr. Solomon Gaon, the Haham. The Toronto Sephardi community of 4,500 members mainly consists of Jews who have arrived in the city during the past 15 years from Morocco, Egypt, Iraq and other Middle East countries.

ATHENS SYNAGOGUES

The Athens Jewish community's two synagogues, a little more than a mile from the Acropolis, may be expropriated. The land on which the synagogues stand has been designated as an "archaeological site" by the Greek Archaeological Council. Objections have been lodged by the Greek Jewish leadership.

Soon after the Purim celebrations the city's main Bet Shalom Synagogue was defaced by black swastikas. Police are investigating.

The Athens community consists of some 2,800 Jews.

ITALY

Fascist Violence

During demonstrations by Right-wing extremists in Milan, which were held in spite of a ban by the city authorities, one policeman died and another was injured when a bomb was thrown by the demonstrators. The rioters were reported to have been led by well-known neo-fascist personalities assembled in Milan from different parts of Italy. In the parliamentary debate after the riots Mr. Pietro Nenni, the veteran Socialist leader, underlined a severe warning of the setting loose of an authentic fascist movement. Pointing out that there were also many other danger signals of the fascist menace, he deplored the delay of the implementation of urgently needed effective measures.

Vandals in Rome set fire to a motor car belonging to Mr. Arrigo Levi, a prominent Italian Jewish journalist, who had recently returned from a visit to Israel as the special correspondent of the Turin newspaper, La Stampa.

Nazi and fascist slogans were daubed on walls in Perugia near the shops and homes of community members.

In Padua, three men have been charged with the arson of the Jewish community building in October, 1972, and with sending threatening letters to local Jewish leaders. Two of the arrested men are employed in the library of Franco Freda, a prominent neo-fascist held in Milan on charges of organising bomb explosions in Rome and Milan in December, 1969, when banks were wrecked and scores of people killed and injured.

KOSYGIN AT PRESS CONFERENCE

At the end of his recent visit to Sweden Mr. Alexei Kosygin, the Soviet Premier, gave a press conference in Stockholm. Replying to questions from Israeli correspondents, Mr. Kosygin said that the situation in the Middle East remained one of the threats to world peace.

As regards the emigration tax law, the Soviet Union had a right to determine whether an individual was well off enough to pay compensation for tuition when leaving the Soviet Union. But, the Premier concluded, as many cases had shown, this compensation could be waived in cases where individuals did not have the means.

INTERNIERUNGSLAGER

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MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

BRITISH JEWRY'S ROYAL SILVER WEDDING-FOREST Dinner at Guildhall

To mark the Silver Wedding of Her Majesty the Queen and H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, British Jewry has planted a Forest of one million trees on Mount Debora near Nazareth. The scheme was sponsored by prominent Jewish personalities of various shades of Jewish religious and political opinion and put into effect under the auspices of the Jewish National Fund in co-operation with all major Jewish organisations. The AJR also participated in the efforts and many former refugees helped to make the venture a success by donating trees either in answer to the appeal published in "AJR Information" or through other channels.

To present H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh with a commemorative volume carrying the names of all contributors, a Dinner was held at Guildhall on May 7. The guests included the vice-chairman and general secretary of the AJR, Mr. W. M. Behr, OBE, and Mr. W. Rosenstock respectively.

Mr. Rosser Chinn, President of the J.N.F., who was in the Chair, told the audience that, when the scheme was submitted to Buckingham Palace for approval, there had been a spontaneous response. H. E. the Israel Ambassador, Mr. M. Comay, recalled that Britain was the first country which had shown strong sympathies with the idea of a Jewish homeland. Her role as the Mandatory Power had left an indelible mark on the country. The Rt. Hon. Julian Amery, MP, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, stated that Britain wished "to strengthen and develop her ties with Israel." Recalling the role of his father, the late Leo Amery, who drafted the Balfour Declaration, he said that the Declaration had been motivated first and foremost by the recognition of the spiritual genius of the Jewish people.

Presenting the Commemorative Volume to Prince Philip, the Chief Rabbi first paid tribute to this country in which, like thousands of others, he and his family had found refuge when the Nazis came to power in Germany. The family life of the Royal couple, he went on, served as an example to the whole country. Speaking in a lighter vein, he also recalled that during the war his late father had been rabbi of the congregation in Windsor and that by the right of inheritance, he could therefore claim to be "the nearest approximation to the Queen's own Rabbi".

The reply of the Duke of Edinburgh was spiced with impromptu. "A nameless country in the Middle East", he said, had just celebrated the 25th anniversary of its modern existence, "and we have survived—I should say enjoyed—25 years of married life." "The Queen and I", he concluded, "appreciate deeply this token of affection and loyalty from the Jewish community of Great Britain".

"THANK-YOU BRITAIN" FUND

Lecture by Arthur Koestler on June 27

Readers will be pleased to learn that this year's "Thank-you Britain" Fund Lecture will be delivered by the author Arthur Koestler. The title chosen by the speaker will be "The Lion and the Ostrich; Two Aspects of Life in Britain". The lecture will be held on Wednesday, June 27, at 5 p.m., at the British Academy, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1. To secure admission, interested readers should ask for invitation cards from the British Academy.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

The military parade which marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel may be the last of its kind. There is a growing mood against display of military might as the best illustration of Israel's sovereignty. The Israeli Cabinet considerably debated the holding of this parade, with Mr. Moshe Dayan, the Defence Minister, among those against it. Those in favour of the parade saw it both as setting the final seal on Israel's total sovereignty in the city and publicly demonstrating the fact to residents, tourists and the world. The opponents argued that not only was it a financial extravagance, but also an unnecessary assertion of a militarist image which tends to over-shadow Israel's myriad achievements in many other spheres.

Independence Day was preceded by Memorial Day for Israel's fallen, marked by special ceremonies at the Western Wall and memorial services at military cemeteries throughout the land. The end of Memorial Day and the beginning of Independence Day was heralded by a ceremony on Mount Herzl, where the founder of modern Zionism lies buried.

Jewish communities and organisations all over the world celebrated the 25th anniversary of Israel's statehood with a variety of public functions and private celebrations. A gala concert at the Royal Albert Hall was the highlight of London celebrations. Yehudi Menuhin, Daniel Adni (the Israeli pianist) and Topol were the soloists, with the New Philharmonia Orchestra and the Goldsmiths Choral Union. The concert was presented jointly by the Zionist Federation and Anglo-Jewish organisations. Synagogues all over the country held services of rejoicing and thanksgiving, and extensive programmes of events were arranged to celebrate the occasion.

SILVER JUBILEE OF AMADEUS STRING QUARTET

"The world's best string quartet"—with these words the achievements of the Amadeus String Quartet were summed up in a recent TV broadcast, arranged "as an affectionate tribute" to celebrate the 25th anniversary of its foundation. In 1948, three Jewish refugees from Austria, Norbert Brainin, Siegmund Nissel and Peter Schidlof, and a British-born Jew, Martin Lovet, formed a partnership which, as the programme in Radio Times put it, "was to transform the musical public's attitude to chamber music". Many of us will remember the war time functions under the auspices of the AJR and other refugee organisations, when members of the Quartet rendered performances as soloists or as members of the orchestra then built up and conducted by the late Dr. F. Berend. The Silver Anniversary broadcast not only included recitals of the quartet but interviews with the artists about their background and working methods as well as delightful film shots describing their itineraries and their family lives.

"FORGIVE AND FORGET"

German Jewess on "Woman's Hour"

In memory of her children, who perished in Auschwitz, the violinist Mrs. Ilse Joseph has recorded recitals of Kol Nidrei and other works. The proceeds will accrue to a Fund administered by Children and Youth Aliyah and be used for music scholarships. Recently, Mrs. Joseph gave a recital on BBC Woman's Hour which, as usual in her performances in this country, Germany and overseas, she linked with a personal talk. The broadcast was delivered under the heading "Forgive and Forget".

WARSAW GHETTO ANNIVERSARY

In London, the traditional commemoration meeting took place on April 29 at St. Pancras Town Hall, sponsored by all major organisations including the AJR. The key speaker was Lord Greenwood of Rossendale. "These annual functions", he said, "are necessary, for the more the world knows about the happenings the better". Two lessons were to be drawn from the fiendish policy of the Nazi regime: the horrifying effects in which racial discrimination may result, and the recognition that assimilation had turned out to be no solution and the establishment of a Jewish state a necessity. Alderman M. Fidler, MP, President of the Board of Deputies, reminded the audience that the Ghetto uprising had been carried out by the Jews with hardly any help from the Poles. Lord Janner stressed that the acts perpetrated by the Palestinian terrorists endangered not only Israel and Diaspora Jewry but the whole world. He moved a resolution (passed unanimously) calling for an end to the plight of the persecuted Jews in Iraq. The Israel Ambassador, Mr. M. Comay, and Mr. Shalom Grayek, a leader of the uprising who now lives in Israel, also spoke. The function was presided over by Mr. L. Feit, Chairman of the Polish Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Association.

Presiding over a commemoration lecture delivered by Mr. Reuben Ainsztein and arranged in London by the Jewish Quarterly, Mr. David Astor, editor of The Observer, described the uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto as "the most extraordinary and admirable event of the Second World War". A detailed account of the ghetto revolt was given by Mr. Ainsztein. He pointed out that it had not been some isolated accident. It marked the culmination of Jewish armed resistance in occupied Poland that had manifested itself in other ghettos before and was to occur again. Mr. Ainsztein is currently completing a two-volume history for the Oxford University Press on "Jewish participation in the Polish and Soviet resistance movement".

A memorial evening for the victims of the Holocaust was held at the Jewish Agency's transit centre at Kastel Schoenau, outside Vienna, participated in by nearly 200 Soviet Jews, most of whom had just arrived from the Soviet Union. After the main speech by the Israeli Ambassador, Mr. Itzhak Patish, six Soviet Jews each lit one candle in memory of the six million victims of the Holocaust. The next morning the whole group visited the site of the Mauthausen concentration camp, leaving for Israel by air that evening.

Israel's homage to the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust was even more sombre this year with the disclosure that two more concentration camps, hitherto unknown to the public, had operated in Germany. Yad Vashem, the Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, revealed the existence of the camps at Gotha and Gardelegen in East Germany, where thousands of Jews were exterminated apparently without any survivors.

Israel's central commemoration of the Holocaust was observed in the Knesset, where Mr. Pinhas Sapir, the Finance Minister, equated the Black September Arab terrorists with the Nazis in their desire to murder Jews. Mrs. Golda Meir, the Prime Minister, who addressed thousands of Warsaw Ghetto survivors at Kibbutz Yad Mordecai, advised people who took no action to save Jews from the Holocaust not to preach about morality to Israel. All Jewish places of entertainment and restaurants were shut at the start of Israel's traditional 24-hour remembrance of the Holocaust victims. During the memorial period appropriate music and other programmes were broadcast and children received instruction on European Jewry and its fate during the Second World War. Traditional memorial prayers were recited at synagogue services.

Hans Jaeger

A TRUE HUMANIST

Biography of President Heinemann

Wherever President Heinemann went, to Holland, Sweden or, some months ago, to Great Britain, he first met with respect and very soon affection. He was considered as the representative of another Germany, and his impact was thus complementary to that of the German Chancellor, Willy Brandt. His widespread recognition has nothing to do with party considerations which should, anyway, not be applied to a president, and it goes far beyond the issue of the political past. It is a matter of his whole style, personality, emanation.

For all these reasons the Heinemann biography* was awaited with the greatest interest. Placing as it does the main emphasis on atmosphere, it is much more than a routine life story. In the foreword Siegfried Lenz writes that Heinemann "deglamorised" the position of a president and removed the function from the gilded cage of a rigid ceremonial system. He did away with pompousness and stuffiness which is ridiculous and grotesque in the age we live in. Yet this can only be done by one who has natural dignity. Heinemann is the people's president. Of course, there are people who are not ripe for that conception or who prefer to remain servile.

As the foreword states, Heinemann abhors all that is not genuine, has the courage to attack taboos, is against selfish pursuit of prosperity, against monopolisation of Christianity by a specific party, against a policy of illusory strength, against submissiveness instead of moral responsibility. He may be compared with another people's President, Masaryk.

Heinemann's background is rather interesting. His maternal great-grandfather, together with two brothers, fought in Baden during the revolution of 1848/49. One of the brothers was wounded in Waghäusel; the other fled to America from where he wrote that despite poverty he did not wish to return as he could enjoy freedom of speech in that country. Heinemann's grandfather gained his experience with Garibaldi in Italy and taught his grandson the Hecker song—the hymn to the leader of Baden's radicals. Here we find the roots of Heinemann's rejection of the authoritarian state and his demand for the citizen's active involvement in the democratic process. His father, a councillor in Essen, fought for social awareness and equal rights and responsibilities, thus not being a conformist either. As a student Gustav Heinemann was deputy chairman of the democratic students' group in Marburg. The chairman was the late Ernst Lemmer, one of the very few C.D.U. members who retained friendship with Heinemann after the latter's break with Adenauer.

After the completion of his studies, Heinemann became a lawyer in Essen in 1926. Two years later, at the age of 29, he was offered a contract as an industrial lawyer by Rhein Stahl in Essen. Eventually he became a board member of the concern, remaining there until after the war. The British invited him to become Mayor of Essen because he was well known as an opponent to National Socialism. Yet they soon found out that they had chosen an "awkward" man. He campaigned against the dismantling of industrial installations and also told them that even as the occupying power of a defeated country they could not have their way in everything. Heinemann was then a

founder-member of the C.D.U. in Essen and, for a short time, he was Minister of Justice in North Rhine-Westphalia. Later he joined the Federal Government and became Minister of Home Affairs.

What followed cannot be understood without taking into account Heinemann's attitude to Christianity. This is a complex chapter the details of which were not fully known before. It reaffirms the fact that Heinemann does not fit easily into any particular category. He had not always been a Christian, as a child having been estranged from the church, as often happened in liberal families at that time.

Follower of Karl Barth

In his early years he was connected with the "Society for Ethical Culture", and with Ernst Haekel's "League of Monists". Unlike his father he was, however, not a militant atheist. His turn to Christianity was due to the Swiss theologian Karl Barth and to his wife, Hilda Ordemann, daughter of a Bremen merchant. Through her elder sister, who rebelled against conventional Christianity and worked on the social rehabilitation of prisoners in the Berlin-Tegel prison, Hilda had been brought into contact with the Left-Wing Protestant anti-Wilhelminian ideas of religious socialism. She passed her examinations in Marburg under the famous reformer Rudolf Bultmann and it was there that she met Heinemann. Hilda introduced Heinemann to Karl Barth's commentary to the Epistle to the Romans, the book which caused a revolution in theology in the 'twenties. That was his "Damascus" and Heinemann now discovered the ideas of Christian realism, tolerance and social engagement which he had not found before. Becoming a legal adviser to the Confessional Church he contributed to the resistance movement though, in his modest and very conscientious way, he later admitted that he had not done enough in this field. When, in 1936, he was offered a post in the coal syndicate, he made it a condition that he could continue his work for the church. As this was not accepted he refused the job.

His friendship with Karl Barth lasted until the latter's death. Barth's Barmen Declaration, which used the Bible to attack the heresies of the Nazis and of the pro-Nazi "German Christians", left its mark on Heinemann. A great influence also was the Stuttgart Church Declaration of Guilt in October, 1945. Heinemann joined the C.D.U. only because Catholics

and Protestants undertook responsibility jointly. Yet anyhow he saw no alternative because, in his opinion, the S.P.D. had not rid itself of Marxist ideology; besides, he was against nationalisation. He did not like the F.D.P. either because of its anti-clerical attitude. He resigned from the Cabinet in 1950 and left the C.D.U., partly because he feared that reunification would be beyond reach in the case of German rearmament, partly because the majority of the C.D.U. claimed that its policy was based on Christian principles. In Heinemann's view, acceptance of Nato had nothing to do with Christianity and opposition to it was quite possible out of a sense of Christian responsibility. When he exhorted the church to maintain a greater distance between itself and the State, he was in 1955 voted out as president of the synod.

Like his father, Heinemann is a seeker. The man, who seems to emanate harmony and calmness, is not complacent, and this explains the various changes he underwent. He made his experiment with an All-German People's Party and, when it failed, he wound it up and went over to the S.P.D. His critics did not understand and he had to endure a great deal of slander. They called him a fellow-traveller, even a Communist in disguise, but Heinemann did not pay back in the same coin. He had no capacity for hatred or intrigue and he refused to regard politics as a struggle for power only. Instead he propounded the idea of democracy with a social conscience in home affairs, and of security through balance of interests and not by the threat of force in foreign policy.

In the S.P.D. the former industrialist first met with some suspicion which was, however, quickly dispersed. After a year he became one of the party leaders. In 1969, to his great surprise, the party unanimously appointed him as their candidate as Federal President. He received 512 votes, against 506 for Gerhard Schroeder.

Individual and State

For the first time a coalition of the S.P.D. and the F.D.P. had outvoted the C.D.U. When Heinemann took office, he asked for "critical accompaniment", unheard of before in an atmosphere of authoritarianism. He did not share the mistrust of the critical spirit or the anti-intellectual stance of some Federal Chancellors. It is very characteristic of him that he once stated that links between the individual and the State should not be based on emotions but on reason. This is what he meant when he said that he did not love the State, but that he loved his wife. He only wanted in this way to indicate that the word "love" should be used in its right context. Yet some super-critics misconstrued this as "lack of pride" in the State and as a bad example. No wonder it was contrary to Prussian State adoration (and to Hegelian tradition), which goes back to the example of Sparta and now has its successors in a different part of the world. During the crisis of July, 1972 [described by the reviewer in the front-page article of our February, 1973 issue.—The Ed.] Heinemann never lost his nerve. He only made it clear to the C.D.U. leader Barzel that the decision should be placed in the hands of the electorate. His quiet, sober, realistic, human way has convinced many, but there are still many others who find it hard to get on with him and who consider him a "provocative figure".

Joachim Braun has done his best to bring the man nearer to those who do not understand him, and has endeared him more to those who do. The comprehensive book also includes a selection of Heinemann's speeches which are a gold mine of wisdom, moderation and warm feeling and reflect the spirit of a true humanist.

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* Joachim Braun: Gustav Heinemann—The Committed President. Foreword by Siegfried Lenz. Translated from German by R. W. Last. Oswald Wolff Publishers Ltd. 277 pp. £4.

Herbert Freedman (Jerusalem)

WOMEN IN ISRAELI POLITICS

Recently a group of Israeli Wizo ladies, meeting with twelve past and present women Knesset members, suggested the nomination of Senta Josephthal for the post of Housing Minister in the next Cabinet. Though a sign of respect for Mrs. Josephthal, the proposal was primarily a demonstrative gesture—to demand a more active participation of women in Israeli politics. Participants pointed out that female representation in the present Knesset was at an all-time low with seven members plus the Prime Minister, as compared with twelve members (plus Mrs. Meir) in earlier Knessets.

Dr. Shevah Weiss, senior lecturer at Haifa University, in a research paper, "Women's Representation in National and Local Political Offices in Israel", notes that for years now there has been no woman Secretary of the Histadrut (Trade Unions) — since Mrs. Meir held the post—and only one female full member on the Histadrut's Central Committee. He comes to the conclusion that the women in Israel who comprise 52 per cent of the population, have failed to achieve anything like commensurate representation in the country's political offices, national and local. The fact that the present Premier is a woman, not only fails to redress the imbalance but rather helps to perpetuate it, as her lofty position is exploited by the men to "keep women quiet" by pointing to her as an example. Furthermore, her central position in the State's leadership that has included membership in most previous Cabinets, "did not represent the female sector. It may be assumed that she achieved her position not because she is a woman but despite being one."

While female members of the Knesset do sit in committees and sometimes chair them, there are no women in the Foreign Affairs and Security Committees or the Finance Committee, the most important committees in the House. Dr. Weiss writes that while women have had a proportionally high share of deputy speakerships, the importance of this office has in fact declined as the number of deputies has increased, and no woman has as yet been chosen as Speaker.

Of still greater significance he finds the fact that no woman has ever been appointed deputy minister, "a post that not a few women do get in most Western countries," as well as elsewhere. He notes that "if the criterion of interest, natural fitness and talent for the post were decisive, women would certainly have become deputy ministers. But such considerations do not guide those who distribute political offices."

On the local government level, woman's place is even humbler in Israel, and they have never topped more than 3 per cent of local councillors. Only four women, including one Arab woman, have served as Council Chairmen, but only one of them not in a small locality—Rishon le-Zion. Nor has there ever been a woman deputy mayor in the large cities. Dr. Weiss considers women's minor position in local government more serious than their absence on the national government level,

because "in local government they could take part in civic work without leaving their homes for any length of time or neglecting them." Local authority also coincides in large measure with what he regards to be women's principal fields of interest, such as education, cleanliness, community and social services and the arts, in which they could do a great deal for their localities.

Dr. Weiss traces the reasons for the situation to the nature of the beginning of public office in that country as voluntary service, for which women simply had not enough time. More convincing, he makes the traditional inferior role of women in the Sephardi and Oriental communities responsible for the present impasse, and of even wider consequences, religious prejudices against them. As Israeli elections are held under the proportional representation system, women should have been able to achieve a far greater share of political offices, because they need not make the trying and time-consuming personal campaigns that are a "must" in constituency elections.

Only recently, a "Women's Lib" was founded in Israel, with Dr. Masha Friedman as chairman. Mrs. Friedman, the wife of Anglicist Professor William Friedman of Haifa University and mother of a daughter of six, has grown up and graduated in New York where she became familiar with the latest women emancipation efforts. So far, the movement in Israel has not extended beyond house circles in Haifa and Tel Aviv but Dr. Friedman is confident that it will grow and that also the Israeli women will make a determined stand against discrimination and male domination. Among their immediate practical demands are a week's paid vacation for every housewife and national insurance coverage for them, as well as income tax reforms to eliminate injustices against widows.

HAMBURG COLLECTS WRITERS

As a rule, bibliographies—books about books and data about their authors—are about as exciting as last week's laundry list, reference works which are of interest and value only for the literary historian. But the series of bibliographies now being published in Hamburg commands our attention for other reasons. It is a venture undertaken by a body calling itself *Freie Akademie der Künste*, in collaboration with the library of Hamburg's university, and founded by the German writer Rolf Italiaander, whose own bibliography—if it were ever written—would have to include a number of works published during the war, which he might prefer to consign to oblivion: *Wegbereiter deutscher Luftgeltung, Luftkrieg über dem Mittelmeer*, a biography of Mussolini's Air Marshal Balbo and one of Hitler's most fervent admirers, the air ace Hanna Reitsch (who later tried to persuade the Führer to let her fly him out of besieged Berlin).

With his *Hamburger Bibliographien*,* however, Italiaander has come down to earth after his preoccupation with the Nazi-Fascist sky. The 15 volumes which have appeared so far include a great variety of writers: Nelly Sachs and Tibor Déry, Kurt Hiller and Alan Paton, Max Brod and Walther von Hollander, Willy Haas and Günther Weisenborn, Alfred Kantorowicz and Hans Leip (one of his sentimental little poems became the world-famous *Lili Marleen*). Volumes on two more exiled writers, the poetess Margarete Susman and the literary historian Professor Walter A. Berendson, are in preparation.

The bibliographies of Nelly Sachs, Max Brod, and Willy Haas, which have been submitted to us for reviewing, show how much painstaking labour has been devoted to making them comprehensive and reliable works of reference. Each volume contains, apart from the complete documentation on the subject's work, an introductory biography and literary assessment, a short autobiography, a chronology, a portrait drawing, and a facsimile of the author's handwriting. The bibliography of Nelly Sachs—by necessity a slim volume as she published only 16 original works—has been splendidly introduced by a 30-year-old Hamburg graduate, Paul Kersten. The volume on Max Brod, three times as thick, lists an enormous literary work ranging from journalism to fiction, from poetry to opera libretti, from literary criticism to political pamphlets; he even tried his hand as a composer. Willy Haas, who comes from the same Prague background and atmosphere as Brod (and, of course, Kafka), is best known as the editor of the *Literarische Welt* in pre-Hitler Berlin; he emigrated to India and returned, via England, to Hamburg. Rolf Italiaander introduces the volume on his *Geliebter Willy*, as he addressed him; unfortunately, an embarrassing (Freudian?) slip mars the pre-title page where the subject's name appears, in solitary splendour, as "Willy Hass".

EGON LARSEN

* Hans Christians Verlag, Hamburg.

WEST GERMAN COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP

At the end of 1972 the membership of the Jewish community in West Germany numbered 26,611, as against 26,779 at the end of 1971. West Berlin, with 5,241 members, has the largest community in West Germany.

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CONTINUITY AND COURAGE

40th Anniversary of "Mitteilungsblatt" (Tel Aviv)

Longevity and continuity have never been outstanding qualities in the history of Jewish journals. Yet it seems that, with "Yeckische" thoroughness, publications launched by organisations of Jews from Germany are exceptions to the rule. This paper, with all its limitations, has now served the members of the AJR for 28 years. The extent to which it is regarded as an indispensable feature became evident last month when, as announced in advance, there was a slight delay in the publication date. From the second day of the month onwards impatient readers kept on inquiring why they had not yet received their copies. This eagerness is certainly the best compliment a paper can wish for.

Yet these notes are not written to indulge in self-congratulations. They are meant as birthday greetings to our elder brother, the "Mitteilungsblatt" (MB) of the Irgun Oley Merkaz Europa, which recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of its foundation. It was created immediately after the organisation of immigrants from Germany, later extended to immigrants from other Central European countries, had been brought into being. Technically, the MB differs from AJR Information in two respects: it appears at weekly and not monthly intervals, and it is written in German and not in the language of the country.

Starting as a mere information bulletin, the MB soon became a magazine which also considered the wider issues of specific interest to Jews of Central European background. This approach has been retained throughout the years and is reflected in the choice of subjects dealt with in the articles. Yet beyond this—and here the terms of reference go further than those of AJR Information—the MB also takes sides in controversial issues concerning life in the country. For some time, before the foundation of the State, the "Irgun" adopted a collective attitude in the political scene of Palestine by founding a

party of its own, the Aliyah Chadasha, whose aims were based on the principles of political liberalism with all it entailed for the promotion of Arab-Jewish understanding and the rejection of extreme Jewish nationalism. The development up to the foundation of Aliyah Chadasha in 1942 and the general integration of the Jews from Central Europe into the political life of their country of resettlement are vividly described by Heinz Gerling in his article about "The 'Zionisation' of the Immigrants from Germany". The article is complemented by essays about the contributions of the Jews from Central Europe in various fields, e.g., economics, theatre, press, social work and law. The wider aspects of the events during the past four decades, seen in the context of Jewish history, are dealt with by the editor of the MB, Hans Tramer. The article of his colleague, Kurt Loewenstein, carries the heading "Journalism as Bearer of Truth" and sets out to define the duties of a responsible journalist. "The journalist", he writes, "has to make the reader immune to slogans. He has to strive for truth and to remain firm. He must not be influenced by victories or defeats which may be short-lived". That those responsible for the MB adhere to these principles is noticeable in its columns week after week. They do not shirk from attacking taboos, they courageously criticise where they consider it necessary. Yet it is a criticism prompted by the love of the country which they have helped to build and of which they have become an integral part.

Thus, our cordial birthday wishes are not solely motivated by the fact that the MB has managed to survive for 40 years. The accidental date serves as an opportunity to congratulate them on the spirit in which they have carried out their work. May this go on to the Golden Jubilee and far beyond it.

W.R.

BUBER-ROSENZWEIG MEDAL

At the inauguration meeting of this year's Brotherhood Week in the German Federal Republic, the Buber-Rosenzweig medal of the Societies for Christian-Jewish Co-operation was awarded to Professor D. Helmut Gollwitzer (Berlin). In the *laudatio* Professor Dr. Dietrich Goldschmidt recalled that the contacts with Jews and Christians of Jewish origin during the period of persecution had made Helmut Gollwitzer aware of "the inseparable links between the Old and the New Testament" and of the destruction of the most elementary human values by the antisemitic actions. After the war, he became one of the foremost champions in Germany for the young state of Israel and for Christian-Jewish understanding. At the same time he has distinguished himself as an uncompromising fighter against the social evils of our times.

RESTITUTION LAWYER ACQUITTED

Following a long trial on charges alleging that he had swindled the West German Government out of nearly £2 million, Professor Hans Deutsch, an Austro-Israeli restitution lawyer, has been acquitted.

In coming to its decision to acquit Professor Deutsch and two others accused, Friedrich Wilcke, a former SS captain, and Franz Visney, a Hungarian refugee, the court took note of the great difficulty in obtaining proof of events in late 1944 in Hungary, at the time when the Germans were pulling out and the Red Army moving in. The case had involved priceless paintings and tapestries belonging to Baron Hatvany which Professor Deutsch claimed had been seized by the Nazis in Budapest in 1944. After paying half of the restitution, the West German Government charged that the Russians, not the Germans, had stolen the paintings.

MEMORIAL AT GRUNEWALD STATION

"In memory of the tens of thousands of Berlin's Jewish citizens who, from February 1943 onwards, were deported by the Nazi hangmen from this spot to the death camps and murdered". A plaque with this inscription was recently unveiled at the signal house of the goods trains station in Berlin-Grünnewald.

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AJR GENERAL MEETING

As readers will have seen from the announcement in this issue, the AJR General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 19, at 7.45 p.m., in the Hall of Hannah Karminski House, 9 Adamson Road, N.W.3. In the first part of the meeting, reports will be given on activities of the AJR, especially on new developments during the year under review. In the second part, Mr. Jack Barnett, General Secretary of the British Section of the World Jewish Congress, will give a survey of current problems in Jewish life. Due to his important work in Jewish affairs, Mr. Barnett, a long-standing friend of the AJR, is particularly qualified to deal with the essential questions with which Jewry in this country and abroad is faced and to give a balanced assessment of current events. We are happy that Mr. Barnett agreed to address our members, thus complementing the reports on our own specific activities by making us aware of the wider issues at stake.

The proceedings of the General Meeting will include the elections to the Executive and the Board. The following proposals are submitted by the Executive:

Committee of Management (Executive): The members of the present Executive stand for re-election. They are: Mr. A. S. Dresel (Chairman), Mr. W. M. Behr, O.B.E. (Vice-Chairman), Dr. F. E. Falk (Treasurer), Dr. W. Rosenstock (General Secretary), Dr. E. A. Lomnitz (Deputy General Secretary), Mrs. R. Anderman, Mr. S. Bischheim (Trustee), Mr. C. F. Fleisch, Mr. O. E. Franklyn, Mr. H. S. Garfield, Mr. E. K. Heyman, Dr. A. R. Horwell (Trustee), Mr. C. T. Marx (Trustee), Mr. R. Schneider, Mr. L. Spiro, Mr. F. W. Ury.

Board: It is proposed to re-elect the members of the present Board. They are: Mrs. R. Abels, Mr. R. Apt, Mrs. A. Berent, Mrs. R. Berlin, Dr. J. Bondi, Dr. W.

Breslauer, Rabbi I. Broch, Mr. F. Dannen, Dr. W. Dux, Dr. R. Elton, Dr. L. Eschwege, Dr. H. Feld, Dr. A. Fleiss, Mrs. A. Fleiss, Mr. R. J. Friedmann, Mr. F. Godfrey, Mrs. Elisabeth Goldschmidt, Dr. Erna Goldschmidt, Mr. R. Graupner, Dr. F. Gumpert, Sir Ludwig Guttman, Mr. S. F. Hallgarten, Mrs. G. Hambourg, Mr. E. Haymann, Mr. Herbert M. Hirsch, Mrs. Susanne Horwell, Mrs. M. Jacoby, Dr. A. Kaufmann, Mr. E. C. Kent, Dr. L. G. T. King, Mrs. F. Kochmann, Mr. M. Kochmann, Rabbi Jakob J. Kokotek, Dr. H. H. Kuttner, Dr. H. Lawton, Dr. Rita Lehmann, Dr. G. Leon, Dr. F. Levy, Dr. Julius Loeb, Dr. E. G. Lowenthal, Dr. E. Magnus, Mrs. M. Mautner, Rabbi Dr. I. Maybaum, Mr. H. C. Mayer, Mrs. L. Meyer, Mr. Perez Mosbacher, Dr. H. Neufeld, Mr. E. Philipp, Mr. E. Plaut, Mrs. M. Pottlitzer, Dr. Eva Reichmann, Dr. E. Reifenberg (Gabriele Tergit), Mr. A. Reimann, Mr. J. Sachs, Rabbi Dr. G. Salzberger, Mr. F. Samson, Dr. H. G. Sandheim, Mrs. M. Schurmann, Mrs. D. Segall, Dr. W. Selig, Mr. P. E. Shields, O.B.E., Mr. E. Speyer, Dr. Laura Stein, Miss Renate Stern, Mr. Julius Strauss, Mr. G. Streat, Mr. G. L. Tietz, Dr. U. Tietz, Mrs. Eva Trent, Dr. Valerie Wills, Dr. Charlotte Wittelschofer, Mr. H. Wreschner.

It is proposed to elect as a new Board member Mrs. Olga Albrecht and Mr. E. A. Sonnenberg.

The Board also includes representatives of the Provincial groups.

F. FRIEDLAENDER (Melbourne).

CBF MAKES £38,500 GRANTS

Grants totalling £38,500 were made at the last meeting of the Council of the Central British Fund for the benefit of Jews in and from Eastern Europe and North Africa.

INSTITUTE OF JEWISH STUDIES LAUNCHES NEW PERIODICAL

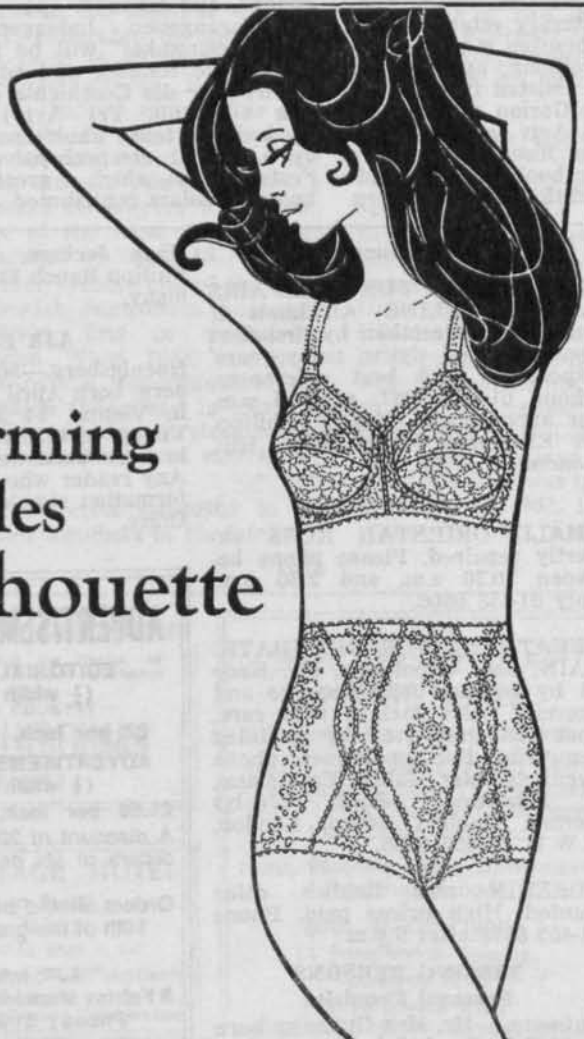
At the recent Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Jewish Studies, University College, London, the Chairman, Mr. Victor Mishcon, D.L., announced the publication of the first volume of the Institute's own half-yearly periodical. The Editorial Advisory Board includes Professor Alexander Altmann, who is also Honorary President of the Institute, Professors Bernard Lewis, A. D. Momigliano, Ch. Rabin, G. Scholem, E. Urbach, G. Vadja, R. J. Z. Werblowsky and Y. Yadin. The Joint Editors are Professor S. Stein and Dr. N. Wieder with Mr. R. Loewe as Assistant Editor. The Hon. Secretary, Dr. Manfred Altmann, and the Director of the Institute, Professor S. Stein, highlighted the importance of the new periodical, for which the co-operation of leading authors and research fellows has been obtained.

In his report on the Institute's activities, Professor Stein laid special emphasis on the successful continuation of the regular weekly seminars at University College which are also open to interested laymen. The Institute's public lectures are given by prominent scholars. Fellowships are awarded for important research work. The Scripta Judaica Series, of which seven volumes have appeared, will be continued and the next volume will be the collected essays of the late Professor J. Weiss.

ADDENDUM

In the centenary tribute to Leo Baeck, "German Jewry's Spokesman", published in our previous issue, a number of enterprises in this country with which the name of Leo Baeck is linked were mentioned. Due to a typographical error, the list was incomplete. It should also have included the B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck (London) Lodges.

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Birthday Tributes

DR. FRITZ WIENER 80

On June 12, Dr. phil. Fritz Wiener will celebrate his 80th birthday in Manchester. Born in Silesia, where he was a student of Breslau University, he worked as a modern language master at the school of the Berlin Jewish Community, which flourished under Heinemann Stern. When this well-known paedagogue emigrated to South America, Wiener took over the direction of the school. Shortly before the outbreak of war he left Germany for England.

His profession had given him a much better knowledge of the new homeland's language than most of us could muster. But he clearly foresaw the difficulties of resettlement for any arts graduate and, still in Berlin, decided on an unusual way to overcome them. He entered a course which gave him the training of a professional cook. In this capacity he started his work in England, first in camps for refugees, but finally as a chef in an English hotel. He liked to recall this period of his life, both as adviser in the kitchen of a friend's house and as subject matter of entertaining talks to students. It was obvious that he had found some enjoyment in the finesses of this practical task. But his academic interest in linguistic studies was never subdued.

When in 1942 the progress of mobilisation brought employment in higher education to middle-aged refugees, Wiener became German master at a grammar school in Cheshire. The neighbourhood of Manchester gave him the opportunity to acquire the degree of M.A. in Germanic studies by week-end attendance at the university. For a long time he had cultivated a scientific interest in Esperanto. He believed that the problems of this artificial language might throw some light on the structure of human communication. This concern brought him in contact with Professor Collinson, who was head of the German department at Liverpool University.

In 1947, Wiener became a member of his staff and he remained there as a lecturer until he reached the age limit in 1958. In close co-operation with the professor a friendship was established which continued when they both had retired. Among the members of the university staff the reserved bearing of a man of complete reliability and wide

knowledge earned him general respect. For the students he was always a ready helper, especially in the difficult subject matter of Old German grammar. At the same time he was stimulated to write contributions to learned periodicals on literary subjects and linguistic problems. As a sideline he took an interest in folklore and in the origin and meaning of Jewish surnames. On this special birthday we wish him many more further years of happy retirement.

H.L.

EMANUEL BIN GORION 70

The well-known scholar and writer, Emanuel bin Gorion, who will celebrate his 70th birthday in Holon (Israel) on June 18, was born in Breslau, the only son of Micha Josef bin Gorion, famous as a master of neo-Hebrew literature and as a collector of Jewish tales and legends, published in Germany under the headings "Der Born Judas" and "Die Sagen der Juden".

Emanuel bin Gorion grew up in Berlin, where he acquired his tremendous wealth of knowledge. He mastered ancient as well as modern languages. He entered the literary world as a writer of pungent critical essays, collected in "Ceterum Recenseo" (2 vols. 1929/1932). His excellent selection of "Die hundert schoensten Geschichten" (new revised edition 1967) testified to his familiarity with vast regions of world literature.

Being an expert on Hebrew and Jewish folklore and literature, he contributed to the "Encyclopaedia Judaica", worked as associate editor of the "Philo-Lexikon" and of the recently published "Lexikon des Judentums". His intimate knowledge of ancient Jewish history was proved by his documentations "Das Leben des Flavius Josephus" and "Das Haus des Herodes". For the purpose of Jewish adult education in the Nazi era he edited his fine reader "Das Siebenfache Licht" (1935).

He dedicated considerable time to the publication of his father's literary estate: "Sinai und Garizim", a comprehensive study of the origin of the Israelite religion, appeared in German in 1926. He was assisted in his work by his mother, Rahel bin Gorion (1879-1955). Both left Berlin for Tel Aviv in 1936. New Hebrew editions of Micha Josef bin Gorion's stories, essays and of his book on Jesus followed. A new German edition of "Der Born

Judas" (Insel-Verlag) was published in 1959. In Tel Aviv, Emanuel bin Gorion worked as a literary critic at the daily "Davar" and as a librarian. Besides this he wrote, in Hebrew, a commentary to the literature of legends and fairy tales. He edited, in German, "Der Mandelstab—Juedische Geschichten aus drei Jahrtausenden" (1963). Bin Gorion is married to Deborah Bertonoff, a choreographer of international repute. After his retirement from the literary service and removal to Holon he has been working on his memoirs which, considering the author's stature, should be a valuable contribution to the inside story of our times.

F. FRIEDLAENDER (Melbourne)

QUEEN'S AWARD

Among the recipients of the 1973 Queen's Award to Industry for export achievement are Graff Diamonds Ltd., a Hatton Garden firm founded ten years ago by Mr. Lawrence Graff, 34, and Lillygould Ltd., a garment firm established in 1948 by Mrs. Lilo Gould.

Graff Diamonds employs fewer than 30 people and is one of the smallest concerns to receive the award. Mrs. Gould, who came to this country as a refugee from Germany, began by hand-producing three dozen blouses, exported 2,500 in 1963 and last year sold 350,000 garments in over 20 countries.

Anglo-EMI Film Distributors Ltd., the production and distribution branch of the EMI Film and Theatre Corporation, was also a recipient of the award. The chairman and chief executive of the parent body is Mr. Bernard Delfont, and Mr. Nat Cohen is chairman and chief executive of its distribution section.

HONOUR FOR AN HISTORIAN

In recognition of his 50 years' achievement in the field of historiography, Dr. Hugo Gold (Tel Aviv) was elected a Fellow of the Jewish Academy of Arts and Sciences in New York. Dr. Gold recently completed his three volume work "Die Trilogie der oesterreichischen Juden". His magnum opus "Gedenkbuch der untergegangenen Judengemeinden in der Tschechoslowakei" will be ready shortly. He is also the founder and editor of the "Zeitschrift fuer die Geschichte der Juden", (Edition Olamenu, Tel Aviv) which recently marked the tenth anniversary of its creation by a special comprehensive and impressive Festschrift to which a great number of well-known scholars contributed.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge. Texts should be sent in by the 15th of the month.

Birthdays

Jacoby.—To the beloved Chairman of our Club, Mrs. Margaret Jacoby, who celebrated her 91st birthday on May 22, our warmest wishes for untold healthy, happy and active years to come. The members of the AJR Club.

Kriss.—Mrs. Regina Kriss, of Leo Baeck House, The Bishop's Avenue, London, N.2, will celebrate her 95th birthday on June 27.

Golden Wedding

Meyer.—Hans and Luise Meyer (née Kahn), formerly Stuttgart, celebrated their Golden Wedding on May 16.

Thanks for Condolences

Werner.—Mrs. Clare Werner, of 109 Geary Road, London, N.W.10, regrets that she was unable to answer personally the many expressions of condolence received after her husband's death, and would like to thank everyone for their kind letters.

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MISSING PERSONS

Personal Enquiries
Gutmann.—Mr. Max Gutmann born in 1912 in Saarbrücken, wanted by

Hans Jochum, 671 Frankenthal, Philipp Rauch Str. 9, Western Germany.

AJR Enquiries

Hoenigsberg.—Mr. Paul Hoenigsberg, born April 25, 1909, formerly in Vienna, 14 Johannastrasse. Left Vienna in 1936 for Lvov. Supposed to have been deported to Siberia. Any reader who is able to give information should contact the AJR Office.

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IN MEMORIAM

MR. GEORGE LICHTHEIM

The philosopher and historian, George Lichtheim, died in London on April 22 at the age of 60. He was born in Berlin as the son of the leading Zionist politician Richard Lichtheim. He studied at Heidelberg University and went to Palestine in 1933, where he was foreign editor of the Jerusalem Post. The paper sent him to Europe to cover the Nuernberg trials, after which he became its correspondent in London. As an author, George Lichtheim became widely known by his works "Marxism", "Origins of Socialism" and "Europe in the Twentieth Century". "A child of the Weimar Republic", writes the New Statesman, "his loyalties and emotions remained suspended between the Jews, the philosophy and culture of pre-Hitler Germany and Marx, whom this great practitioner of intellectual contempt respected—perhaps increasingly so in his later years—not only for his mind, but for his dreams".

DR. W. K. WRONKER

Dr. W. K. Wronker, for many years an interested and esteemed member of the AJR, died in his home town of Berlin in his 80th year. He was the son of Justizrat Wronker, the most successful and also most respected criminal lawyer in the Wilhelmian era. W. K. Wronker himself was a brilliant scholar and capable lawyer. Yet times had changed, and he decided not to work for individual clients but for one single, great entity and joined the legal department of the Frankfurt branch of the Deutsche Bank.

When his successful career came to an end under the Nazi regime, he, together with his wife and daughter, emigrated to London. It was not easy for them to adjust their lives to the changed circumstances. He himself, *inter alia*, used his "second string", his considerable musical gifts, by playing the piano in cinemas. He acquired an English law degree and, during the war years, also was a member of the panel of lawyers who voluntarily took charge of the legal advice hours for refugees, organised by the AJR.

Later, Dr. Wronker became one of the legal officials of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation (JRSO), first in Nuernberg, afterwards in Berlin. When JRSO had done its work, he took over a department of the Berlin Indemnification Office, and in this way continued to render valuable services to the persecutees. His retirement was marred by severe illness.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to his widow and the other members of his family.

W.B.

RABBI H. B. AUERBACH

The last Rabbi of Halberstadt, scion of a famous family of Halberstadt Rabbis, died recently in Tel Aviv, aged 72. His great-grandfather, known as *Nachal Eshkol*, was Rabbi of Halberstadt from 1863 until his death in 1872. He was followed by Selig Auerbach (died 1901) and Isaak Auerbach (died 1932).

The Halberstadt community was almost unique among the larger Jewish congregations in Germany in the 100 years before the rise of Nazism, in that its Rabbis reigned supreme, its Synagogue and Klaus (and the Chasidic Beth Hamedrash) followed strictly Orthodox tradition and the many non-Orthodox members co-operated loyally in administering the undivided Kehilla.

At one time, well over 1,000 Jews lived at Halberstadt, always a hotbed of antisemitism, and now part of East Germany. Now not a single Jew lives there. But the ancient Jewish cemeteries (the oldest dating back to before 1600) are reported to be in good order. The last Rabbi of Halberstadt was installed in office under the shadow of Nazism. His short-lived ministry was burdened with anxieties but he was spared the supreme horror which overtook the last 186 members of the community who were taken away in 1942.

In Israel Rabbi H. B. Auerbach published the "History of the Jewish Community of Halberstadt," from 1844 until its end (this first appeared as a series of articles in the Bulletin of the Leo Baeck Institute in 1967). His great-grandfather had published, in 1866, the Community's History from its beginnings some 600 years earlier. Also in Israel, he published the History of the Halberstadt Klaus as well as of the *chevrot* (charitable societies) which flourished within the Halberstadt Community. His last book on Orthodox Jewish communities in Germany was reviewed in the May issue of AJR Information.

Hirsch Auerbach was a man of learning and great personal charm. A large circle of friends will cherish his memory.

E.S.S.

MR. HEINZ ULLSTEIN

Mr. Heinz Ullstein, the senior of the third generation of the Ullstein family, died in Berlin shortly after his 80th birthday. He was a son of Louis Ullstein and started his career as an actor, author and film producer. Until 1933, he was a board member of the Ullstein firm. Heinz Ullstein survived the war in Germany under most difficult circumstances with the help of his non-Jewish wife. Together with other members of the family, he re-established the Ullstein publishing firm in 1952 and remained a member of its board, when the firm was taken over by the Springer combine. In 1961, he published his memoirs under the title "Spielplatz meines Lebens".

EGL

PROF. HANS KELSEN

Professor Hans Kelsen, the philosopher of law and draughtsman of the constitution of the First Austrian Republic, died in California in his 92nd year. Born in Prague, he was Professor of Law first in Vienna and later in Cologne. When he was deprived of his position in 1933, he emigrated to Geneva and from there to the United States. For many years, Professor Kelsen taught at the University of California, Berkeley, and, at the same time, continued his activities as a scholar and author. As an act of moral compensation, the Free University in Berlin bestowed on him an honorary doctorate in 1961.

MR. HELMUT RUHEMANN

The picture-restorer, Mr. Helmut Ruhemann, recently died in London in his 82nd year. In Germany, where he lived until 1933, he was Chief Restorer of the Berlin Picture Gallery. After he had come to settle in this country, he resumed his work and, until he retired in 1972, cleaned many important pictures in the National Gallery collection and in other ownership. Mr. Ruhemann was also a teacher to several picture-restorers now in prominent posts. "His settling in this country has caused a profound and highly beneficial change in the character of picture restoration here", writes *The Times*.

LOTTE MEITNER-GRAF

The well-known portrait photographer, Lotte Meitner-Graf, recently died in London. She was born in Vienna and, together with her husband, the chemist Dr. Walter Meitner, who died in 1959, came to this country as a refugee. Her works include photographs of John Gielgud, Danny Kaye, Artur Rubinstein and several Nobel prize winners.

"UNsung HEROES"

The German farmer, Otto Nickel, who now lives in Lueneburg, planted a tree in the "Alley of the Righteous" at Yad Vashem (near Jerusalem). In 1969, Nickel had been awarded by the Israeli Government the "Medal of the Righteous" because during the Second World War he had hidden two Jewish boys who were wanted by the SS. These two Jews, together with their families, now live in Israel, where they celebrated a reunion with the man who had saved their lives.

Another German, who courageously helped a Jewish persecutee, Klara Kaus (Mannheim) was awarded the German Federal Cross of Merit. In 1943 Frau Kaus and her husband had learned that a Jewish family in Karlsruhe was threatened with deportation. They took a child of the family, Ellen Loebel, into their house, where she secretly stayed until the end of the war. Ellen Loebel and her father, who also owes his life to the Kaus couple, now live in New York.

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THE ISRAELI SCENE

NEW PRESIDENT

The Knesset elected Professor Ephraim Katchalsky, the 57-year-old Weizmann Institute scientist, as Israel's fourth President. He changed his surname to Katzir as a tribute to his younger brother, Professor Aharon Katzir, who was killed in the Lod airport massacre last May. The new President took the oath of allegiance at a special session of the Knesset on May 23, the day he assumed office in succession to President Shazar.

Professor Katzir sees the President's task as one of working for unity among the Jews in Israel and the diaspora, the closing of the social gap in Israel and preventing the polarisation of the country into two nations.

INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

Jerusalem's biennial International Book Fair, now the second largest of its kind in the world, displayed 600 stands with 30,000 books. Among the 1,000 publishers from different parts of the world exhibiting their publications, more than 70 were British, the first time that Britain has presented a national exhibition at the Jerusalem Fair although individual publishing firms have previously been represented.

The Jerusalem Prize, Israel's only international literary award, was presented to Eugene Ionesco, the Rumanian-born French playwright. The events included evenings of Israeli and French literature; celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the poet Bialik; a puppet show; a Habimah presentation of Ionesco's play, "The Chairs"; and round-the-clock showing of documentary art films with emphasis on literary themes. There was also a symposium on "Internationalism in Publishing" participated in by leading publishers from many parts of the world.

TOURISTS OVER PASSOVER

Almost 100,000 tourists came to Israel over Passover and Easter, a 40 per cent increase over last year. About 80,000 visitors arrived by air on 63 special flights. Apart from the Queen Elizabeth 2, 11 other special cruise ships came to Israeli ports, bringing a total of 8,000 visitors, many of them Christians.

The Israel Defence Forces for the first time invited individual tourists to join them for the seder. Kibbutzim and hotels arranged sedarim, and in Jerusalem the municipality sponsored a seder at a resort in the Jerusalem Forest.

IMMIGRATION

Speaking in Haifa Mr. Arye Dultzin, the Jewish Agency treasurer, said there had been a big increase in applications by Soviet Jews to leave for Israel since the Soviet announcement of the suspension of the education tax. He stated that about 110,000 Soviet Jews had applied to emigrate to Israel.

Mr. Uri Narkiss, the head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department, has meanwhile declared that the disappointing pace of Western immigration will not improve unless absorption arrangements in Israel are better planned. He had, however, noted that Israelis were now more friendly towards new immigrants. Announcing that some 16,500 immigrants had arrived in the first four months of 1973, about the same as during the same period last year, he said that the total of 55,000 expected by December, 1973, would also be similar to last year's figures. The Soviet Union was providing the largest number of immigrants (32,000 came last year). Not more than 1 per cent of the Soviet Jewish immigrants had left Israel, compared with the 20 per cent from the United States who returned home. Some 500 Jews had left the Soviet Union for countries other than Israel, with 300 Jewish emigrants from Rome on their way to different destinations.

The formation of a second Philharmonic Orchestra in Israel would be justified with the very large number of Soviet musicians who had arrived, while five new hospitals could be built and staffed by immigrant doctors. The social problems of the Soviet Georgian immigrants had been largely solved by keeping them together and they presented no problem, Mr. Narkiss said.

Thirty Soviet Jews who went to Israel could not settle and left for Vienna, where they have been waiting for more than a year, have received permission to return to the Soviet Union. Two weeks earlier 18 Soviet Jews, some of whom had been in Vienna for almost two years, also returned to the Soviet Union.

According to Dr. Ephraim Ahiram, the Absorption Minister's adviser, nearly one-third of Western immigrants to Israel leave within three years of arriving in the country, a proportion much larger than with other immigrant groups. He said two major issues facing Western immigrants were housing and employment.

ASSOCIATION OF FORMER BERLINERS

Former Berliners in Israel recently founded an Association. Its 12-member board is headed by the economic adviser, Consul Dr. Max Flesch (Tel Aviv).

IRAQI PERSECUTION

The Knesset, in a resolution, declared that "the total exodus of the Jews still in Iraq has become a most urgent necessity and human requirement", after the Foreign Minister, Mr. Abba Eban, had confirmed that five members of the Kashkosh family were recently murdered in Baghdad. It must be assumed that all or most of the other 16 Jews kidnapped during the past months had also been killed, said Mr Eban.

Israel has voiced fresh concern over the fate of 450 members of the Iraqi community, following reports that eight more Jews have disappeared. The Union of Iraqi Jews in Israel has pointed out that with this group of missing Jews, the total who have vanished during the recent weeks has reached 24.

From a letter sent by Lord Balniel, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to Mr. Michael Fidler, M.P., president of the Board of Deputies, it is evident that the British Government is unable to assist in the plight of the Jews in Iraq. Although expressing sympathy, Lord Balniel states that there is no reliable evidence that the Jews in Iraq are being persecuted or that the Iraqi authorities are again on the eve of show trials and public hangings. Even if direct representations were thought necessary this could not be done in the absence of diplomatic relations, and it was also doubtful whether any approach by the Government would be of any real help to the Jewish community.

Following the Knesset resolution, representations were made by Israeli envoys in London and in many other capitals to enlist the support of Governments in an attempt to rescue the tiny Jewish communities in Iraq and Syria. The Board of Deputies unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon the Iraqi authorities "to cease forthwith the murderous acts and vicious campaign of persecution".

ELBOGEN IN HEBREW

Ismar Elbogen's "Juedischer Gottesdienst in seiner geschichtlichen Entwicklung" was recently published in a Hebrew translation (Dvir Publishers). The translator is Dr. Joshua Amir, lecturer at Tel Aviv University. He is the son of the late Rabbi M. Neumark (Duisburg), who perished in Theresienstadt. Amir has already translated into Hebrew works by Buber, Rosenzweig and Salo W. Baron.

GERMAN AWARDS TO TWO ARTISTS

In recognition of their work for the promotion of cultural relations between Israel and Germany, the painter, Ludwig Schwerin, and the composer, Abraham Daus, have been awarded the German Federal Cross of Merit.

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