

# INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

**ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN**

## LOOKING AHEAD

### AJR Board Meeting

This year's Board Meeting, held on January 28 at Hannah Karminski House, not only dealt with the widespread present activities of the AJR, but also raised the questions of long-term policy and of the second generation. The meeting was opened by Mr. A. S. Dresel (Chairman of the AJR) who first paid tribute to the Board Members who had passed away during the past year: Mr. Z. M. Reid, Dr. Fanny Spitzer, Dr. Eric Gould and Mr. Ludwig Loewenthal. He also welcomed the new Board Members who had been elected at the latest Annual General Meeting: Dr. F. Gumpert, Dr. Rita Lehmann, Mrs. M. Mautner and Miss Renate Stern, and conveyed the congratulations of the AJR to Dr. F. H. Kroch on the award of the C.B.E.

In his general report Dr. W. Rosenstock (General Secretary) stated that the flatlet home, Eleanor Rathbone House, had now been in existence for three years; special thanks were due to the members of the House Committee, Mrs. R. Anderman, Mrs. M. Mautner and Mrs. E. Trent, who regularly visited the Home and looked after the welfare of the residents. Another flatlet home, Norman Court in Finchley, was indirectly connected with the AJR due to the preparatory work of Mr. E. A. Lomnitz (Deputy General Secretary of the AJR) and the members of a specially created housing society (Eventide Housing Society Ltd.) under the Chairmanship of the AJR Executive Member, Mr. O. E. Franklyn; of the total of 53 flats, 21 were occupied by former refugees.

Turning to the residential homes, the speaker first paid tribute to the splendid work of the AJR committee members in Manchester who founded Morris Feinmann Home before the German funds from heirless property became available; on the occasion of the 25th anniversary celebration of the Home last autumn, the AJR was represented by its Vice-Chairman, Mr. W. M. Behr, and its General Secretary.

As far as the four ordinary residential homes in London (Otto Schiff House, Leo Baeck House, Henrich Stahl House and Otto Hirsch House) were concerned, a decisive change in the structure had developed in the course of the years because new residents were already rather old at the time of their admission. The average age was now 85.

Those who required more care and attention than could be given in the ordinary homes were transferred to Osmond House, the home for the infirm. The cost for Osmond House now amounted to £36 per resident per week, mainly because nursing staff was required around the clock. As this was considerably beyond the means of most residents, there was an annual deficit of £35,000. The speaker stressed that Osmond House was meant for physically infirm residents, but not for mentally senile persons. Those residents in the

ordinary homes who had become senile in the course of time presented a special problem for which, so far, no adequate solution has been found.

The two welfare workers of the AJR in charge of the homes (Mrs. M. Williams and Mrs. R. Seidman) were constantly faced with complicated problems, especially if there was a need for urgent admission of an applicant who was to be discharged from hospital and could not return to his home, but for whom no immediate vacancy was available. In the course of their work both welfare workers had established contacts with the hospitals, the authorities and other organisations.

Turning to *AJR Information* the speaker first paid tribute to the memory of PEM, a good friend of many in our midst and a fine craftsman in his profession; his death was an irreplaceable loss because nobody else would be able to continue his "Old Acquaintances" column. As the AJR comprised members of all shades of Jewish opinion the contents of the paper were usually concentrated on articles and news, whereas views on controversial matters could be expressed in the name of the AJR only in exceptional cases.

In the field of *Restitution and Compensation* a new problem had arisen in connection with the recognition of the German Democratic Republic by Western countries and its forthcoming admission to the United Nations. The situation was at present being explored by the AJR and the Council of Jews from Germany in conjunction with the other major organisations concerned.

As an integral part of Anglo-Jewry the AJR had also appealed to its members to contribute to the *Royal Silver Wedding Forest* in Israel. The fact that the Royal Family had expressed its bonds with Israel by accepting the offer of the Forest was an additional reason for helping to make the scheme a success.

#### Change of Name?

The speaker also reported that the Executive would like to know the views of the Board about the advisability of a change of name of the AJR. The following arguments would have to be weighed against each other: Some felt the term "Refugee" had become a misnomer 26 years after our naturalisation; others said that nevertheless the term had retained its meaning because it indicated our origin. Some said that comparatively younger people might be reluctant to join an organisation of "Refugees"; against this others stated that those who considered the work as vital would join the organisation whatever its name was, and that those who did not want to join would always find reasons. There was also the difficulty of finding another appropriate name, especially as the initials "AJR" had become a household word.

Yet, more important than the name was the

question of the future of the AJR as such. Would the organisation be required for only a limited period, or would it be necessary to embark on a long-term policy? Whilst the process of integration should not be slowed down, experience had shown that it would take more time than a limited number of years. Some may think that even the children of refugees who were born in this country (age group 25-35) are still in a special position because their home background differs from that of their environment. Others may take the view that, as the book by Karen Gershon reaffirmed, those who came here as children (age group now about 45) are still within the fold, especially if their emigration also uprooted them from their families. In any case, however, it could not be denied that people who were 20 years old when they came over in 1938 (age group now about 55) have remained aware of the impact of their origin. These age classifications showed that, wherever one draws the line, the AJR will have to embark on a long-term policy.

As far as the tasks were concerned, the care for the aged would certainly keep the AJR active for a very long time to come. Beyond this, however, people who consider themselves as members of a community which went through the same fate would retain the desire to stand together. In the course of the 31 years of existence the AJR had always been faced with new tasks, and this would certainly have to be expected in the future.

#### Organisational Strength

As far as the organisational strength was concerned, the AJR was in a very fortunate position. It had a membership of about 4,000 and the paper was published in 4,500 copies. The decrease in membership, mainly by death, could be made up by new enrolments. The fact that at this stage many people decided to associate themselves with the AJR testified the standing the organisation had achieved among the former refugees.

Due to their devotion and the experienced gathered through many years of service, a small number of staff members had been able to cope with a great volume of work. At the same time the AJR could enlist from its ranks the co-operation of a great number of active voluntary workers.

In view of the importance of the activities, the organisational strength and the manpower available there was reason to look to the future with confidence.

In her report about the *AJR Employment Agency*, Mrs. M. Casson pointed out that it had been possible to place applicants and to fill vacancies where other agencies would not be able to help. The offers and demands included part-time jobs, also temporary ones. Enquiries came from both households and from business firms. Most of the applicants were women.

Turning to the work of the *Social Services Department*, Mrs. Casson reported that it covered all kinds of enquiries; some of them recently arose from the new rent rebate scheme. The enquirers were either given

## LOOKING AHEAD

Continued from page 1

advice or directed to the quarters concerned. There was also a number of calls connected with financial difficulties; these cases were dealt with in co-operation with Self Aid. Quite a few regular visitors came for psychological reasons, to discuss their personal problems. In one respect it had hardly been possible to render adequate help, namely in providing furnished rooms.

Mrs. R. Anderman (Member of the AJR Executive) reported on the *Meals-on-Wheels Service*. At present 450 meals per month were provided. The scheme operated from Hannah Karminski House, and those in charge tried their very best to secure variety of the menus and also to take into account the special requirements and wishes of the recipients. The charges amounted to 30p per meal. A panel of voluntary helpers had been established to deliver the meals. This was not a merely technical function, but had also resulted in personal contacts with the recipients, most of whom were lonely and very much appreciated these visits to their homes.

Mrs. M. Jacoby (Chairman of the AJR Club) reported that the Club had now 436 members. It was run by a panel of voluntary helpers. Apart from the informal meetings in the Club Room from Sundays to Thursdays, there were also regular functions. Visits to members in hospital had been organised. The appreciation of the work of the Club recently found its expression by a legacy left by a deceased member. The forthcoming Bring-and-Buy Sale would use its proceeds for the Gertrud Schachne Fund, the Margaret Jacoby-Orgler Fund and the Ahavah Children's Home in Israel.

## History of Immigration Research

Mrs. M. Pottlitzer reported that the research on the *History of Immigration* had been launched under the auspices of the Council of Jews from Germany. It was at present operating in Israel, U.S.A., France and the United Kingdom; further countries of resettlement might follow. As far as the work in the United Kingdom was concerned, she had advisedly started with oral history. This aspect was particularly urgent, because the memory of people faded and the number of those who could record their own experiences was bound to decrease. So far she had collected 100 life stories, partly by personal interviews, partly by written memoirs received. In perusing this material the risk of a lopsided evaluation had to be realised and the scrutinisation of the material was, therefore, a very important task. Mrs. Pottlitzer appealed for the co-operation of those who had not yet contributed to the scheme. The next phase would be the collection of source material from various written records available. It would be premature at this stage to decide in which way the material collected and still to be obtained would be published.

The ensuing discussion followed up many subjects touched upon in the reports, especially the policy of AJR Information and the History of Immigration Scheme. Whilst the general feeling was against a change of name, it was also agreed that the AJR would be required for a very long time to come. The spirit of confidence, solidarity and identification emanating from this year's meeting of more than 70 Board Members will serve as an encouragement to those in charge of the day-to-day work.

NEUES AUS DER OESTERREICHISCHEN  
SOZIALVERSICHERUNG

Ende Januar ist die 29. Novelle zum Oesterreichischen Allgemeinen Sozialversicherungs-Gesetz erschienen. Wir werden über diese Novelle in nächster Zeit ausführlich berichten, wollen aber schon jetzt unsere Leser auf zwei bedeutsame Neuerungen hinweisen.

## I.

Bekanntlich galten nach bisherigem Recht als Ersatzzeiten in der Sozialversicherung die Zeiten, in denen nach Vollendung des 15. Lebensjahres eine österreichische Berufsschule (fach)schule, Mittelschule bzw. Hochschule besucht wurde, sowie Zeiten der weiteren Berufsausbildung, sofern spätestens innerhalb dreier Jahre nach dem Verlassen der Schule, bzw. Beendigung des Studiums oder der Berufsausbildung, eine sonstige Versicherungszeit, z.B. die Emigrationszeit, vorgelegen ist.

Die 29. Novelle hat nunmehr verfügt, dass das Kriterium einer nachfolgenden Versicherungszeit innerhalb dreier Jahre *wegfällt*. In der Zeit nach 1933 war es bekanntlich nicht leicht, nach Beendigung des Studiums eine Stellung zu finden. Es werden daher auf Grund der neuen Bestimmungen (cf. neugefasster Paragraph 227,Z.1., bzw. 228(1)Z.3) auch diejenigen, die beispielsweise im Jahre 1935 ihr Studium beendet haben und im Jahre 1939, also nach vier Jahren, ausgewandert sind—bei Erfüllung der sonstigen, insbes. Deckungszeit-Voraussetzungen—für eine Pension qualifizieren.

Allerdings verfügt das Gesetz, (entgegen der ursprünglichen Regierungsvorlage) dass diese Erleichterung nur auf Fälle anzuwenden ist, in denen der Stichtag nach dem 31.12.1972 liegt (cf. Uebergangsbestimmungen Art. VI (24)). Die Auswirkung dieser Einschränkung ist im Zeitpunkte, in dem diese Notiz geschrieben wird, noch nicht klar, und wir werden darüber unseren Lesern baldmöglichst berichten.

Wir empfehlen aber dringend, dass diejenigen, denen diese Erleichterung zu Gute kommen kann und die erst nach dem 31.12.72 das Alter von 65 (bei Frauer 60) erreicht haben, unverzüglich bei der Pensionsanstalt für Angestellte, Blechturmstraße 11, Wien, unter Darstellung des Sachverhaltes um Anrechnung der Studien (Ausbildungs-)zeit, sowie der Emigrationszeit bis 31.3.1959 einkommen und die Pensionsanstalt um Mitteilung bitten, welche Nachzahlungen erforderlich sind, um den Bezug der Pension zu sichern.

## II.

Vor 1938/39 waren Söhne und Töchter, die im Familienbetrieb mitarbeiteten, nicht sozialversichert. Dieser Personenkreis, der auch Enkel, Wahl- und Stiefkinder umfasst, ist dzt. vollversichert. Auf Grund der Bestimmungen der 29. Novelle werden nunmehr (cf.

neugefasster Paragraph 229, Abs. 1, Z.4) die im Betrieb ihrer Eltern, Grosseltern, Wahl- und Stiefeltern tätig gewesenen Personen so behandelt werden, als ob für sie schon seinerzeit (also vor Einführung der jetzt geltenden Sozialversicherungsgesetze) eine Pflichtversicherung bestanden hätte. Auch hier hat jedoch das Gesetz—wieder im Unterschied zur Regierungsvorlage—verfügt, dass die Neuregelung nur auf Fälle anzuwenden ist, in denen der Stichtag nach dem 31.12.1972 liegt. Wieder müssen wir bemerken, dass die Auswirkungen dieser Beschränkung dzt. noch nicht klar sind. Wir werden darüber nach Klarstellung der Rechtslage unseren Lesern berichten.

Jedenfalls empfehlen wir aber denjenigen, die bei ihren Eltern, Grosseltern etc. angestellt waren und die erst nach dem 31.12.1972 das Alter von 65, bzw. 60 bei Frauen, erreicht haben, unverzüglich bei der Pensionsanstalt unter genauer Darstellung des Sachverhaltes um Anrechnung der Zeiten, während derer sie im Familienbetriebe tätig waren, sowie der Emigrationszeit zu ersuchen und um Mitteilung zu bitten, welche Nachzahlungen erforderlich sind, um eine Pension zu erlangen.

Die Erbringung von Nachweisen über die Mitarbeit im Familienbetrieb (Dokumente, eidesstattliche Zeugenaussagen und ähnliches) wird erforderlich sein. C.I.K.

Anfragen über Fragen der österreichischen Wiedergutmachung sind zu richten an: United Restitution Office (Austrian Desk), 183/9 Finchley Road, London, N.W.3 (Tel.: 328 0021). Es ist zur Zeit aber noch nicht möglich, über die rechtliche Auswirkung der in dem Artikel angeführten Uebergangsbestimmungen Auskunft zu geben.

## AWARDS TO AUSTRIANS

The Golden Medal of the Federation of Jewish Congregations in Austria was awarded to former Landeshauptmann Dr. Heinrich Gleissner, former Deputy Rosa Jochmann and ex-Vice-Chancellor Dr. Bruno Pittermann. The medal is annually bestowed on non-Jewish personalities who, in the course of their public activities, have taken a leading part in the fight against antisemitic and neo-Nazi tendencies and for the cause of right and justice.

At the ceremony, held in the Vienna Hofburg, the *laudatio* was rendered by the president of the Federation, Dr. Anton Pick. He paid tribute to Dr. Gleissner's resistance against the Nazi régime under which he was thrown into a concentration camp, and also thanked him for his help to the re-established Linz community after the war. Frau Rosa Jochmann, the president stated, was an inmate of the Ravensbrueck concentration camp on account of her anti-Nazi activities and her assistance to Jewish persecutees. Dr. Pittermann, also a persecutee, had always been an upright fighter for freedom and justice.

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## HOME NEWS

### JEWISH COMMUNITIES' CONFERENCE

Organised by the World Jewish Congress, in association with the Board of Deputies, a four-day European conference of Jewish communities was recently held in London, coinciding with Britain's entry into the Common Market. The conference was attended by some 200 delegates representing over 50 Jewish communities in 20 countries—eleven of them outside the EEC and including Yugoslavia.

Eva, Marchioness of Reading, who welcomed the participants, said that with the formation of an enlarged EEC it was important to have a Jewish platform to "formulate our common concerns and problems and to devise the means of dealing with them". Describing Britain's entry into the EEC as "a day of destiny", Alderman Michael Fidler, M.P., president of the Board of Deputies, said it compelled the representative communal bodies of European Jewry to develop a united and concerted approach that would match "the united policies of the Nine".

Mr. Julian Amery, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, addressed the conference on behalf of the British Government. In a united Europe, he said, the Jewish communities "will have their own distinct and vital contribution to make, both through their individual genius and as a cement helping to build and to bind together the European peoples for the good of all".

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the W.J.C., in his keynote address, dealt principally with the role of Jewish leadership in a new world situation dominated by the Communist bloc and the U.S.A., with the advent of China into the United Nations and the challenge of the "have-not" nations. Jewish leadership, he said, had failed to adapt itself to rapid changes and had no long-term policy. All major Jewish problems, he argued, were interrelated and must be approached on a global scale.

During the session on antisemitism and human rights, Dr. Goldmann referred to a new "Jewish isolationism" and said that Jews were losing many liberal-minded non-Jewish friends all over the world because they were no longer at the forefront of the fight for other minorities in the way they once were.

The conference demanded that East Germany should indemnify Jewish victims of Nazi persecution in line with the example shown by West Germany. The recognition of East Germany as the second German State, said Dr. S. J. Roth, European executive director of the W.J.C., raised the question of her share of responsibility in making material amends for the damage caused by the German people to the Jewish victims of Nazism.

During a session on the possible effects of an East-West détente on the fate of Soviet Jewry, opened by an address by Professor Dr. Richard Loewenthal, of Free University, Berlin, delegates clashed over the attitude which world Jewry should adopt towards Jews who wished to remain in Russia. One view was that those who did not want to emigrate to Israel must be left to solve their own problems, while another view was that world Jewry must not forget Russia's Jews.

### ACADEMICS' DUTIES TO JEWRY

The role of Anglo-Jewish institutions was discussed at the 78th Hebrew seminar organised by the Zionist Federation educational trust and the Jewish Agency education department.

Dr. Meir Gertner, of Oxford University, declared: "Jewish university teachers and Jewish students—even yeshiva students—seem to exist outside the Jewish community and make no contribution to its educational, intellectual or social activities".

The journalist, Mr. S. J. Goldsmith, asserted that British Jews have not yet learned the art of living on two levels intellectually—as Jews and as citizens. The reading habit was by and large not known among Anglo-Jews, said Mr. Chaim Bermant, the writer.

### JEWISH BOOK WEEK, 1973

#### Opening Lecture on March 5

This year's Jewish Book Week will be held at Jack Morrison Hall, Hillel House, 1/2 Endsleigh Street, W.C.1, from Monday, March 5, to Thursday, March 8. The AJR is one of the sponsoring organisations of the first function, a lecture by Chaim Raphael, Fellow of Sussex University, on "Esther — the First Diaspora Novel", to be held on March 5 at 8 p.m.

The programme also includes lectures on Eliezer ben Yehuda (on Tuesday), "Herzl's Judenstaat and the State of Israel" (on Wednesday), and a symposium on "Jews and the Left" (on Thursday). In addition to these evening lectures, which commence at 8 p.m., there will be some afternoon functions, details about which may be obtained from the Jewish Book Council, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1 (Tel.: 387 3081). The Exhibition of Books will be open on Monday from 7 p.m. and on Tuesday and Thursday from 12 noon to 10 p.m.

### DEPUTIES' POLITICS

Alderman Michael Fidler, the president of the Board of Deputies and a Conservative M.P., at a meeting of the board defended the British Government's vote in support of a strongly anti-Israeli resolution at the United Nations last December. The present international situation, said Mr. Fidler, demanded a "low profile" policy by the board. Attacks on the British Government would not be useful until the next initiative towards a solution of the Middle East problem was in sight.

Lord Janner, a Labour peer, described Mr. Fidler's stand as a "painful" departure from the board's traditional attitude of remaining "apolitical". Mr. Victor Mishcon, a vice-president of the board and a former Labour chairman of the London County Council, declared that it was important that no party political views should be expressed at the board, which had to assess the Middle East situation purely and simply in the interests of Israel. This was not the first time, said Mr. Mishcon, that he had expressed the opinion that statements made by Mr. Fidler should not be interpreted as the views of the board.

Lord Janner, reminding deputies that in the 1940s there had been M.P.s who dared to stand up against their own Government's decisions, warned that the board was facing a similar situation.

### NEW YEAR HONOURS

Further honours in the New Year list include a C.B.E. for the physicist Professor Nicholas Kurti, who came to this country as a refugee. Dr. Wallace Fox, London director of the tuberculosis and chest diseases unit, Medical Research Council, was appointed a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. The late Samuel Fox, his father, was for many years president of the Bristol Chevra Kadisha.

### BARNET TWINNING

The Israeli Government has, for budgetary reasons, turned down a tentative request by Barnet Council for the twinning of the London borough with a municipality in Israel. Within their limited budgets Israeli municipalities must give priority to the provision of social welfare and housing requirement and, at present, the expenses involved in twinning cannot be afforded.

### BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

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are held regularly on the Eve of Sabbath and Festivals at 6.30 p.m. and on the day at 11 a.m.

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## ANGLO-JUDAICA

### Women's Rights

A petition on the status of women in Jewish law, submitted by the International Council of Jewish Women, will not be discussed by the Anglo-Jewish Association.

The A.J.A.'s president, Mr. Victor Lucas, stated that after consulting "a wide variety of interested parties", including British representatives of I.C.J.W., he had concluded that neither the A.J.A. nor any similar secular organisation was the appropriate vehicle to provide a collective opinion on so complex a religious subject.

Mrs. Vera Braynis, British vice-president of I.C.J.W., stated that their major concern was the continuance of the work outlined in the petition. This plea to the rabbinical authorities had been heard, and there had been some response. It was hoped that rabbis would find ways of dealing with those few laws in our heritage which, even if only infrequently in their application, cause suffering and hardship.

### Russian Immigrant Aid Fund

The British section of the Russian Immigrant Aid Fund, set up under the patronage of the Emeritus Chief Rabbi, Sir Israel Brodie, has so far raised £85,000 to help Israel finance the absorption of newly arrived immigrants.

### Sephardic Home for Aged

The Spanish and Portuguese Congregation plans to build a home for the aged on a site in Forty Avenue, Wembley. The decision to build a home instead of a synagogue was favoured mainly because of an offer from a charitable foundation in Switzerland of £100,000 spread over four years towards the cost of a home.

The new project is planned to replace the existing Home for the Aged in Mile End Road, Stepney.

### J.W.B. Flatlets

The Jewish Welfare Board's £195,000 block of flatlets in Abbey Road, St. John's Wood, has been consecrated by Chief Rabbi Jakobovits and Rabbi Dr. Louis Jacobs.

Ellis Franklin Court, named after the late Mr. Ellis Franklin, one-time chairman of the J.W.B., is designed to accommodate 33 elderly residents, and comprises 21 single and six double flatlets.

In his address the Chief Rabbi discussed the importance of services to the aged and stressed the three pinnacles of Judaism—learning, worship and service.

### Loans to Needy

Following a meeting in London a new society, Ahavath Hesed, has been established for the purpose of making interest-free loans to needy people. Present at the meeting were 15 founder-members, who each contributed £200.

### "Intermarriage Anonymous"

In an effort to combat the growing rate of marrying-out, the Chief Rabbi's Office has set up a bureau called "Intermarriage Anonymous", to be operated in the initial stages by seven or eight London rabbis. The scheme is aimed at parents or young people who are reluctant to discuss intermarriage problems with their own minister and who may be more ready to contact a rabbi whom they do not know personally. An appointment can be made by telephoning 01-387 1069.

The rate of intermarriage, according to recent reports, has reached one in four, and possibly one in three among Jewish students.

### Manchester Home and Yeshiva

The new Home for the Jewish Aged at Heathlands and the new £120,000 building of the Manchester Yeshiva have been consecrated and officially opened by the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits.

# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## JEWRY IN THE EAST

### UNITED STATES

#### Ex-President Johnson

Lyndon Baines Johnson was a good friend of Israel and of the Jewish people. Jews played an important part in his Administration and he had great respect for Jewish intellectual ability. His relations with the community were, however, marred by America's part in the Vietnam war, since there was some reluctance to invite him to Jewish public events because of the controversy.

It was of utmost importance to Israel that, in 1964 during the Johnson Administration, the U.S.A. arms embargo against the Jewish State was first broken.

President Johnson was given many honours by Jewish organisations. B'nei Zion planted 20,000 trees in his honour in the American Freedom Forest in Israel, and the B'nai B'rith gave him the 1963 Human Rights award of its Anti-Defamation League. At the funeral of the ex-President, Israel was represented by President Shazar.

#### Movie Mogul's Centenary

Adolph Zukor, the Jewish immigrant from Hungary who was a founding-father of the American film industry, was honoured by Hollywood on attaining the centenary of his birth. The cinema patriarch, who entered the new film industry in 1913 at the age of 40, was one of the first to establish the film as a narrative art form.

More than 4,000 of the great stars, producers and directors of the past gathered to pay tribute to Mr. Zukor on one of the most memorable parties in Hollywood history. On the occasion, a certificate for distinguished achievement was presented to Mr. Zukor on behalf of President Nixon.

#### Synagogue for Homosexuals

The Metropolitan Community in Los Angeles, which generally follows the Liberal ritual, was founded about a year ago for homosexual men and women. Believed to be the first of its kind, it has about 60 full-time members, conducts regular study sessions and Shabbat services and welcomed more than 175 homosexual men and women to its High Holy-Day services last autumn.

The establishment of the synagogue was encouraged by Rabbi Erwin Herman, the regional director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. He states that the congregation came about "because of a yearning by these people to form an organised Jewish worship group".

#### DIALOGUE IN ARGENTINA

Dr. Sion Cohen Imach, the president of Daia, the central representative organisation of Argentine Jews, explained to a plenary meeting of the organisation his contacts with General Juan Peron. Details of a secret meeting between General Peron (the former President, who returned to his country from Madrid in November after 17 years' exile) and Dr. Cohen Imach in Madrid a few days before General Peron arrived in Argentina had been disclosed in the Argentine Jewish fortnightly newspaper, La Luz.

Dr. Cohen Imach reported to Daia that an attempt was being made to establish a dialogue with all political trends in Argentina in order to rectify some of their wrong opinions about Jews and Zionism. He declared that he was aware that the country's "most dangerous" manifestations of antisemitism were percolating through the Peronista ranks, the elements responsible forming "a ring" round General Peron.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

### SOUTH AFRICAN CONVERSION

A decision to continue with plans to convert as many Jews as possible to Christianity has been taken by the Gereformeerde Kerk, the smallest and most Calvinist of the three Dutch Reformed Churches in South Africa. The Church, it was pointed out, makes contact with Jews in South Africa all the time.

The Johannesburg Afrikaans daily, Die Vaderland, in an editorial commented on the reaction of the South African Board of Deputies to Die Vaderland's "disclosure" that most white South Africans who crossed the border to Swaziland for sex with Black women were Jews and Germans. Accusing the board of being hypersensitive, the paper said it was surprising that if the Jews had nothing to hide they should react so violently.

### MEXICAN INDIAN JEWS

Dr. Nahum Magar, of the Hebrew University's Latin American studies department, has reported the discovery of a tribe of Mexican Indians who claim to be Jews and keep all the Commandments. The 90 members of the tribe, near the town of Pachuca, claim that some of their ancestors were Marranos who were burnt at the stake in Mexico during the 16th century.

Dr. Magar, who spent some time with the tribe, said that they maintain a synagogue and a Hebrew teacher and use Torah scrolls, tefilin and prayer books given to them by the Mexican Jewish community.

### DENMARK'S CHIEF RABBI

Rabbi Bent Melchior's contract as Chief Rabbi of Denmark expires in June. A section of the Danish-Jewish leadership in the board of delegates have rejected an agreement whereby Rabbi Melchior would continue in office under the same conditions when his present contract expires. He maintains that he must have freedom to express his opinions freely, so long as he was not speaking on behalf of the community, but eleven of the 20-strong board insist that he must submit his statements to the board.

Rabbi Melchior told the "Jewish Chronicle" that attempts were being made at mediation. Members of the community are still making strenuous efforts to enable Rabbi Melchior to remain, since it is felt that it would be a catastrophe for the community if he left.

### DEATH OF DR. MAX BRAUER

Dr. Max Brauer died at the age of 85. Before the Nazis came to power he was Mayor of Altona. A leading Social Democrat, he had to leave Germany in 1933. In 1948 he returned to Germany from the United States. He was twice elected Mayor of Hamburg and held this office until 1960.

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### EMIGRATION

A one-day conference in Geneva, attended by 50 leading Jews from 13 countries, was told that more than 100,000 Soviet Jews are still waiting to hear from the authorities whether they can emigrate to Israel. Mr. Arye L. Pincus, the Jewish Agency chairman, told correspondents later that this figure contradicted statements by the Soviet Deputy Minister of the Interior, Mr. Boris Shumilin has alleged that 95 per cent of the Jews who wanted to leave the Soviet Union last year had been allowed to do so.

### MOSCOW PROTEST

Ten Moscow Jews protested against the fact that the recent Soviet amnesty was not extended to Jews imprisoned on different charges, but because they had applied to emigrate to Israel. In one of Moscow's main squares the demonstrators stood for an hour before dispersing when the security police arrived. The demonstrators sent a protest telegram to Pravda, the Soviet Communist Party daily, before going to Trubnaya Square.

A letter by 38 Soviet Jews, including Professor Benjamin Levich, was sent to the conference of Jewish leaders in Geneva dispelling "the illusion that there has been an improvement in the situation of Soviet Jews wishing to leave for Israel".

### DISSATISFIED EMIGRES

During a press conference in Vienna recently Israel's Minister of Immigrant Absorption, Mr. Natan Peled, was interrupted by dissatisfied Soviet émigrés. About 20 Soviet Jews who had returned to Austria from Israel after deciding not to settle there, alleged that they had been badly treated in Israel. Handwritten leaflets blaming Zionist propaganda for having lured them to Israel were distributed.

In reply to Soviet journalists Mr. Peled emphasised that every immigrant was free to leave Israel. In television and radio interviews he talked of the settlement in Israel of the many thousands of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

It is alleged that press reports from Vienna of about 93 Soviet Jews who emigrated to Israel then left and now want to return to the Soviet Union, are part of an anti-Israel propaganda campaign.

### SOVIET SCIENTIST AT REHOVOT

Professor Lev A. Tumerman, a top Soviet-Jewish scientist, has joined the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovot. For the past twelve years he was head of the bio-energy laboratory at the molecular biology institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and he will continue his research at Rehovot.

During the Stalin régime Professor Tumerman spent seven years in prison for seeking to emigrate to Israel.

### RAIZA PALATNIK

After her release from a Soviet labour camp where she was imprisoned for seeking to emigrate to Israel, Miss Raiza Palatnik, the Odessa librarian, visited Britain to thank Jewish organisations and individuals for their help.

### RUMANIAN CHIEF RABBI

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Rumanian Socialist Republic, the State silver medal was awarded to Dr. Moses Rosen, Chief Rabbi of Rumania and president of the Federation of Rumanian Jewish Communities. Mr. Emil Schechter, the Federation's general secretary, and Mr. Daniel Segal, the president of the Bucharest community, were also similarly honoured.

### YUGOSLAV AUTHOR

Dr. Zak Konfino, the Yugoslav-Jewish humorous author, has celebrated his 80th birthday. He is still writing and practising as a doctor of medicine.

Fritz Friedlaender (Melbourne)

STETTIN REVISITED  
FACING THE CONFLICT

Jakob Wassermann Centenary

When, on June 24, 1922, Jakob Wassermann heard of Walther Rathenau's assassination he felt, as he said, "an icy shock". In his autobiography, "Mein Weg als Deutscher und Jude", published in the previous year, he wrote referring to the Germans: "Es ist vergeblich, für sie zu leben und für sie zu sterben. Sie sagen: er ist ein Jude". Did not the murder of Walther Rathenau confirm the truth of these bitter words? "Mein Weg" is not only one of the great autobiographies but also a *Confessio Judaica* of the first order. Here Wassermann stated his basic problem: "Ich rang um meine eigene Seele und um die Seele der deutschen Welt".

Born a son of Adolf and Henriette Wassermann on March 10, 1873, in Fürth (Bavaria), he experienced the hardship of life when he was still young. He grew up in a family of limited means and, only nine years old, lost his beloved mother. He was ill-treated by his step-mother, and this embittered his soul. Although his parental home was void of any Jewish atmosphere he nevertheless felt distinctly different from the surrounding Germans. When he was grown up one of his uncles offered him a job in his factory in Vienna, but he loathed this type of work. During his military service he encountered the evil of antisemitism, which left an indelible mark on his mind. Yet, he would say, absolute despair is alien to the mind of those who are young. Thus he set about to realise his dream of conquering the world by writing. He did not want to work as a journalist, but decided to concentrate on writing novels. His father had no faith in him. "You will never become a Gutzkow", he said.

However, "Die Juden von Zirndorf" (1897), his son's first novel, was an instantaneous success, although it was not free of the typical mistakes of the beginner: an over-emphasis of details and an exaggeration of expression. Despite this, the reader was fascinated by the personal involvement of the young author who, in the first part of the novel, told the story of Sabbatai Zevi, the false Messiah. In the second part he introduces the character of Agathon Geyer, a young Jew who broke away from the Jewish religious tradition, but who is a Jew all the same, by his nobility of mind.

Agathon re-appears in Wassermann's next novel, "Die Geschichte der jungen Renate Fuchs" (1900), where he unfolds the character of a modern Jewish girl who gave up traditional Judaism for the alluring ideal of women's emancipation. With this book Wassermann, the champion for social reform, made a strong appeal to all those who were in favour of progress.

With "Casper Hauser oder die Trägheit der Herzens" (1908) Wassermann claimed to have presented a novel where there was "deutsch die Stadt, deutsch der Weg, deutsch die Nacht, deutsch der Baum, deutsch die Luft und das Wort". But, after its publication, voices were heard indicating that the author's passionate attempt to identify himself with the German world had failed.

How deeply Wassermann was wounded by this rejection shows in a passage of his magnificent novel, "Das Gänsemännchen," which was published in 1915, amidst the turmoil of the First World War. Here we meet a Jewish scholar named Benda, who refuses a non-Jewish colleague's invitation to take part in a research project and meditates afterwards:

"Trotz des freundlichen Drängens hatte er in dem Wesen des Mannes jene rätselhafte, unterirdische Feindseligkeit verspürt, der er immer begegnete, wenn er mit Personen des andern Glaubens und der andern Rasse nicht nur in geschäftlicher, sondern auch in einfach menschlicher Art zu verkehren hatte. Das Geringste, was er zu fürchten hatte, war eine vorurteilvolle Fremdheit, als ob der Betreffende ihm zuriefe: ich hüben, du drüben, auf die Brück geh nicht".

This passage, I think, strikingly reveals the tension that may occur in a relationship between Germans and Jews. But, inside the realm of Wassermann's fiction, Benda is certainly too pessimistic, for he at least establishes a link with the German world by his friendship with Daniel Nothafft, the hero of the novel. Wassermann's conception of this German genius of music is equal to E. T. A. Hoffmann's Kapellmeister Kreisler and to Leverkühn, the hero of Thomas Mann's "Doktor Faustus". We may understand Nothafft best if we compare him with the main figures of two other novels by Wassermann. While Alexander the Great, the hero of the colourful novel "Alexander in Babylon", is haunted by his insatiable hunger for world domination, and while Erwin Reiner, the questionable hero of "Die Masken Erwin Reiners", is haunted by his greed for material pleasure, Nothafft is haunted by his excessive ambition to express himself as an artist. He sacrifices his life's happiness for this purpose in order to realise in the end that human perfection is more important than even creative work.

Wassermann, the author of "Das Gänsemännchen", was not only acknowledged as one of the great masters of German prose but also as a writer of international stature. This reputation was confirmed by his novel "Der Fall Maurizius" (1928) and its sequel "Etsel Andergast" (1931), which he considered the summit of his life's work. This monumental saga, resounding the moral pathos of the Hebrew prophets, raised the question of the relativity of human justice and jurisdiction. Leonhart Maurizius was convicted after being framed for murder by his close friend, Gregor Waremme. While Maurizius is a German of average type, Waremme, born Georg Warschauer, is a Jew, highly intelligent, but morally corrupt, uprooted by a morbid Jewish self-hatred. However, Etsel Andergast, the son of the public prosecutor who indicted

Maurizius, suspects his father of a miscarriage of justice and he traces the case till he forces Waremme to admit his perjury.

Here, Wassermann proves his objectivity: after having portrayed ideal Jewish types like Agathon Geyer and Benda he presented their anti-climax in Waremme. The central character, however, is Etsel Andergast, who, like the author, stands for the principle that life is not worth living unless justice prevails.

When he achieved success, Jakob Wassermann settled down in Altaussee (Steiermark), where he lived in material comfort. Yet he never forgot the hardship of his youth and his early struggle for recognition. His productivity was immense, but kept in check by his craving for perfection. For instance, he wrote and re-wrote the beginning of "Der Fall Maurizius" twenty-two times. Besides, he interested himself keenly in the problems of his time, read widely and enjoyed his friendship with Thomas Mann, Hugo von Hofmannsthal and Rudolf Borchardt. His private life was not exempt from a crisis: his marriage with Julie Speyer broke up and he married Marta Karlweis, the Austrian writer. When he unexpectedly died, on January 1st, 1934, many literary plans died with him.

Of course, the Nazis did everything to suppress his work but Wassermann volumes went clandestinely from hand to hand. After Hitler's downfall, his star rose again. A seven-volume edition of his work was published in Zurich from 1944 to 1948. The "Institut für Fränkische Literatur" (Nürnberg) founded a Jakob Wassermann Collection and received the donation of two Wassermann manuscripts from one of his sons. Above all, the Albert Langen-Georg Müller Verlag (Munich) publishes a complete edition of his work on the occasion of his centenary of birth this month. This will be a lasting monument to his memory.

JEWS IN SOUTH AMERICA  
A Recent Publication

Rolf Italiaaander's "Juden in Lateinamerika" (Olamenu, Tel Aviv, 1971. 79 pp. DM 15) is an informative study of the past and present of Jewish communities in South and Central American countries.

The total number of Jews is estimated at 790,000 (about 4 per cent of all inhabitants). Most of them live in the Argentine (480,000), Brazil (145,000), Uruguay (45,000), Chile (35,000) and Mexico (30,000). The original settlers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were Marranos who had fled from the Spanish Inquisition. They were land owners and successful entrepreneurs, e.g., in the sugar industry. The author reports about traces of early Jewish and Marrano settlers in Lima (Peru); until a few decades ago, one street in that city was named "Matajudios" ("Kill the Jews"). In 1870, a congregation of Jews from German-speaking countries was founded in Lima; it was revitalised by the immigration of Nazi victims, some of whom came direct from Germany, whereas others were re-emigrants from Bolivia.

The publication does not claim to represent a systematic history or sociology of the Jews on the South American sub-continent. It is rather an enumeration of incidents and observations, mainly based on information which the author obtained from rabbis and other communal workers on the spot. Within the limitations unavoidably arising from this set-up, the book helps the reader to understand the background and present position of Jews on a Continent which, if only for geographical and linguistic reasons, is still a kind of backwater in the Jewish diaspora.

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## STETTIN RE-VISITED

When I found that I had a professional engagement in West Berlin last December, I thought I should take the opportunity to cross into Poland and have a look at Stettin, which I last left in 1937. I contacted some professional colleagues in Warsaw and they arranged for me to be met and looked after in Stettin, and to deliver a talk or lead a discussion in my subject of Management Training. So, after two days in West Berlin, which included the usual tourist visit to East Berlin, I set out on what I remembered as the 2-hour train journey from Berlin to Stettin. It isn't quite so simple any more. The trains now leave from different stations in East Berlin—some from Lichtenberg, and some from Schoeneweide; the Stettiner Bahnhof no longer exists. Moreover you now travel to Pasewalk and change there for the Polish frontier and Stettin. The timetable says that this takes just over 4 hours; in fact I found myself on a train from Pasewalk which stopped three miles short of the frontier (although the timetable said it went through to Stettin), and instead of arriving at 10.30 p.m., I eventually made my hotel (Arcona) at 4 a.m., after an interesting combination of walking, waiting, negotiating, and going by taxi. However, that is another story.

People had said to me, "You'll be disappointed", and I knew all about the textbook reactions of people who visit the haunts of their youth. I had studied in advance a Polish map of Szczecin, and "Szczecin 1945 and Today", published by Interpress Publishers, Warsaw, in 1968. I had also visited another East European country on a number of occasions, and was, I hoped, adequately prepared for what I was going to find. I had made up my mind that most of Stettin, and virtually all its inhabitants had disappeared from the map between 1945 and 1946, and that I had come to visit a Polish town. And so it turned out to be.

The lady receptionist at 4 a.m. was surprisingly sympathetic, and my room had been kept for me. The night porter who took my bag up immediately proceeded to explain in Pidgin English what a poor rate of exchange I would get at the banks for my sterling, and how he could give me a much better rate. There was no doubt about it, then: I was in Eastern Europe all right. Naturally, I did not intend to risk turning my short voluntary stay at Stettin into an enforced longer one by breaking the law, and I firmly saw the porter out of my room.

I caught up with my sleep as best I could, and at 10 a.m. my Polish contact presented himself. He was the Secretary of an organisation which provided some rudimentary management training in and around Stettin, and one of his "client" managers had put his firm's car at our disposal for the morning so that we could go sightseeing in the town. Since my contact had visited London numerous times as a merchant seaman in earlier years, we were quite comfortably able to communicate in English.

Driving round the town, there was no mistaking where we were. I was surprised

how unchanged the plan of the town was, and how many familiar buildings and other landmarks remained. Of course there were gaps, and of course there were many new concrete apartment blocks and a few other new buildings, such as hotels, shops, and offices; but the overall impression was of the old Stettin, looking very much more dilapidated, with much of the war damage merely patched up, and even the new buildings, two to five years old, already looking slightly slummy. It seemed as if the road surfaces hadn't had any attention since the Germans left. There were still the old cobblestones, only now they were very uneven and full of potholes. I learnt later that there was a good reason for this apparent slowness in "making good": it seems that straight after the war all resources had to go into rebuilding Warsaw, and work in Stettin did not really start in earnest until a few years ago.

By that time the Poles had, it seems, taken full advantage of the facilities that were left, and managed to make do and mend. As a result, a surprising number of buildings have retained their earlier function. The two Post Offices, for instance, are still, or again, post offices, the station is almost unchanged, "Gebroeder Horst" is still a department store, the "Regierungsgebäude" still houses local government, the police station still serves its somewhat sinister function, even the former Stoewer car factory is unchanged (and unbombed, it seems), although it now produces car accessories, and not cars.

Later in the day, I was introduced to another gentleman, who, I was told, had specialised local knowledge, since he had been in the government department dealing with the reconstruction of the town during the critical years after the war. He had no English but quite good German; he showed me round the centre of town on foot, and in the process proved to be a mine of information.

One notices a lot more on foot. Most of the trees—and there are still plenty—seemed much younger than I remembered them. Little wonder, for many of the old ones were destroyed with the buildings during the war. You see remarkably few old people; again, little wonder, for Stettin was almost completely evacuated by its original inhabitants, and the present population are new settlers who arrived from the rest of Poland, about half of them from the Eastern Polish territories now occupied by the Russians. This, incidentally explains also the strikingly large number of schools, most of them in pre-war school buildings. The Poles have added four

institutes of further education: a polytechnic, a medical school, a maritime college, and a teacher training college.

The Poles' genius for adapting to circumstances was nicely illustrated by their treatment of pre-war monuments: the "Kaiser Wilhelm Denkmal" in the centre of the town had of course disappeared, and been replaced by an East European type monument in honour of fallen soldiers or some similar cause. On the other hand an old fountain in the "Rossmarkt", with an eagle at the top had been left intact, because, so my guide explained, the Prussian eagle looked sufficiently like the Polish eagle to make its removal unnecessary. A third kind of solution was adopted for a large fountain in front of the old town hall at the bottom of "Grüne Schanze": here the whole superstructure had been removed and was replaced by a giant anchor, looking somewhat ill at ease on top of its baroque base. "Why an anchor?" I asked. "Because the old Town Hall now contains, among others, the Maritime Dept." my guide said. Very reasonable, and typical of people who opened up the "Harbour Gate" (formerly "Koenigstor") and put a Yacht Club inside.

Among other changes dictated by events were the removal of the main shopping centre from the "Breite Strasse", which was badly bombed and rebuilt as a dual carriageway, to the town end of what used to be the "Falkenwalder Strasse". All surviving churches—and they seemed numerous—were of course Roman Catholic now; we have tended to forget that Poland is a Roman Catholic country in spite of its politics. The ancient Johanniskirche and the unbombed part of the Jakobikirche have been most impressively and tastefully renovated.

The Jewish religion has sadly not fared so well: There is no trace left of the synagogue, which was burnt down by the Nazis, and the site is occupied by a new, pleasant housing estate. The Jewish cemetery is a level open space with trees for the most part. It contains a fenced enclosure of about 50 yards by 50 yards, in which have been assembled a few hundred old gravestones, standing five or six deep around part of the perimeter. The centre of this enclosure is taken up by graves belonging to the 50's and 60's, when there was a small Polish Jewish community at Stettin. I was told that its members had since gone to Israel, and that there were probably no Jews in the town now. However, the enclosure looked reasonably tidy, even though a few of the stones had tumbled over. Again, there was no trace of the cemetery chapel, which the Nazis had also burnt down, but the house which had been the cemetery keeper's was still there and now served as a carpentry workshop.

Many of the apartment houses in which Jewish families lived alongside their German neighbours before the war are still intact and inhabited, but look just like slums by now, with only an occasional one standing out under a new coat of paint. I asked who inhabited these very dilapidated buildings. My guide did not at first seem to understand my question. "Workers?" I elaborated, "or poor people, or clerks? What sort of people?" "Absolutely anybody", he answered. "We are not snobbish like you are in England; if there is accommodation free, we use it."

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## STETTIN RE-VISITED

Continued from page 6

As we walked round the castle which has been largely reconstructed, and a very well laid-out new museum, I learnt more about the chequered past of Stettin through the centuries than I had ever learnt from my German schoolmasters. Stettin was a Slav town for probably more centuries in total than it was ever a German town, and of course it was Swedish too for good measure. By the time Hitler rewrote our school books, Stettin had only been continuously Prussian for about two centuries. Naturally the Poles are making the best of this—and why not?

I had a little time left for shopping on my second morning, and my host proudly took me to see a very up-to-date bookshop. "And here", he said, pointing to a shelf in one corner, "they have books in English, mostly for the many schools". I tried to look impressed, when suddenly I thought I was seeing things; surely it couldn't be... Yes, it was "The Story of Peter Cronheim", in which I had described more than ten years ago the kind of life a German Jewish schoolboy might have led under the Nazis in a medium-sized north German town. Although I wrote it as a novel and I used fictitious names and characters my model for it was Stettin and some of the people I had met. One doesn't see it in English and American bookshops any more, so why here? Did the manager know that Stettin was the model for my story? "No", said my host, "he gets his books allocated to him from Warsaw, so it must be a coincidence." When I bought a local newspaper after that, I half expected it to be the "Pommersche Zeitung", but I could not understand a word of it. I asked my host what they were writing about. "Mostly politics, I am afraid", he said apologetically.

When I left after 36 hours, I wondered whether I was in fact disappointed, as some of my friends had predicted. The plain fact was that I wasn't. I had spent some time in a thriving East European town, whose inhabitants were clearly proud of their achievements so far, and who with a rapidly increasing young population did not intend to rest on their laurels, as there was still plenty to do. I had also revived some long-forgotten — and generally completely useless — memories: the funny old green pumps which still stood at street corners, and the round columns covered with advertisements, the exact spot where my mother always used to buy her bananas from a barrow, and the indoor swimming bath (still standing) where we went from school, with the little baker's shop opposite (now disappeared) where we bought some rubbishy cheap cake after our swim. These are the kind of trivia one remembers in dreams, and to this extent there was a dream-like quality about some aspects of this visit. While I was at the Jewish Cemetery, I was struck by a rather more basic thought: how much more fortunate were those who died relatively peacefully to be buried there, as against those who were herded together in February of 1940 and died later under such frightful circumstances.

The visit satisfied my curiosity. My host saw me off at the station and said I must come back some time to have a holiday in Stettin and at the seaside—as indeed many Swedes and a few others seem to do. It would be very cheap for me, and most enjoyable, he said. I thanked him very much, but I fear I shall disappoint him. I now know what Szczecin is like, and I really don't need to go again. There are fewer queues and less red tape in the Cotswolds and in Switzerland.

Margot Pottlitzer

## HOME COMING TO BERLIN

In his introduction to Ruth Eisner's book, "Nicht wir allein" (Arani-Verlag G.m.b.H., Berlin-Grünwald 1971, DM29), Klaus Schütz, Senior Mayor of West Berlin, expresses the hope that it will show young people of today what it meant to be a young Jewish girl in Berlin in 1939. I am not so sure whether the book succeeds in this purpose, but it certainly shows to those who outwardly shared the author's experiences how differently people react to the same set of circumstances. In January, 1939, aged 16, she left her comfortable middle-class Jewish home in Berlin and after a short and fairly unhappy stay in a Dutch transit camp came to England, where she remained until the end of the Second World War. Her parents managed to escape to America at the last moment. She experienced a great deal of kindness, and, of course, the occasional unkindness, too, from friends and strangers, Jews and non-Jews, worked in a number of congenial jobs and describes it all vividly in the pages of her diary.

## A Personal Story

Her story is certainly a remarkable one, and a great deal of what she has to tell sounds familiar to those who shared the hopes and fears of those years. Her reactions to these experiences, however, are far from typical. In different circumstances she might have produced one of those books that became best-sellers in the 'twenties and 'thirties and of which perhaps "Das Mädchen George", "Die Katrin wird Soldat", "Schicksale hinter Schreibmaschinen" are best remembered. They were written and read by women and dealt with young women in a modern world in which romantic notions clashed with the hard facts of a bewildering and often hostile environment. Ruth Eisner, too, came up against these facts,

but they are only used as background to an intensely personal story. On March 18, 1940, she reports: "The Russians wage war in Finland, the Germans are threatening France. They have been stopped at the Maginot Line, but their real assault is still to come. What has all this to do with me?" She is far more concerned about personal relations with young men, and the absence of parental blessing worries her for a long time.

When the war ends, she seizes an early opportunity to return to Germany, first as a member of a U.S. censorship team, then as a student and later a social worker sharing the miseries and privations of post-war Germany. On her first visit to Berlin she realises that she has never ceased to belong there. How she prefers *echte Schrippen* to that boring toasted bread! At the house of an aunt who was spared because she was married to a non-Jew she meets a doctor and is shocked by his pro-Nazi attitude. She readily forgives him, however, when she learns that he nurses a grievance against a faithless Jewish wife whom he had saved from the Nazis, and married as soon as opportunity offered. After an interlude with a young German who once belonged to the Hitler Youth but who has since seen the error of his ways, she joins her parents in America, but just as in England she remains highly critical of an environment that seems foreign to her. She feels that now that the Nazis are gone, she should be in Germany—she has never put down roots anywhere else. Eventually she falls in love and marries a fellow-refugee who shares her opinions and agrees to return with her to Berlin. In 1957 the couple and their two children settle in Berlin, and the diary comes to an end.

## Adaptation to Changed Circumstances

It is interesting to see that the author remains immune to problems which are so often encountered by emigrants, not only by refugees, when they return to their native countries for shorter or longer visits or even for good. She does not miss old friends, because when she was young she had none outside the Jewish circle—and the Jews have all gone. She was too young and pre-occupied to know enough about language and customs that have changed. She had only known the comparatively sheltered life of what, at the time of her departure, had become a ghetto community and therefore, on her return, never ran into old friends who had once ceased to be friends. She had, however, met new friends among German contemporaries after the war, and quite a few of these new friendships seem to have endured.

When the book closes Ruth Eisner has at long last found happiness, both in her private life, in her profession as a social worker and in her political activities as a member of the Social Democratic party. It is a pity that there does not seem to be a sequel. Fifteen years later, what is it like for a Jewish woman, now of mature years, to live in Berlin? Is she ever beset by conflicting loyalties, or does she still feel she entirely belongs to a world the foundations for which were laid in her absence? *Die kleine Ruth* as she frequently refers to herself has come a long way—does she still think that it was the right one? And do her children, now adolescents, agree with her?

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## GERSHOM SCHOLEM AT 75

To celebrate Gershom Scholem's 75th birthday, his German publisher announced the publication of the third volume of Scholem's already famous collections of essays. It has now duly reached the reading public only a few weeks after the personal event.\* Scholem, born in Berlin, and from 1923 onward resident in Jerusalem, had one of the most spectacular careers among the Jewish angry young men whose formative years fell within the first two decades of the 20th century in Germany. Originating from a very assimilated middle-class milieu and retaining for ever some of the more charming traits of this Berlin flavour, he became in early life one of the very few who uncompromisingly and completely integrated into the world of Jewish learning and modern Jewish action. He found his place within the developing new Hebrew culture, not as a recipient, not as a mere object of this astonishing process, but as a creative contributor to the scientific and spiritual shape of the society and of the country of Israel. Tied up with the Hebrew University from its very beginning, he actually was the architect of a new department of Jewish knowledge, reversing the Enlightenment's obsolete deprecating attitude to Jewish mysticism, to the Kabbalah and its widely ramified literature of which many products had to be newly discovered. Today Scholem has become the undisputed authority in this field. He is also president of the Israel Academy of Science.

It would be futile to try, even in short outline, to give the reader an idea of the many-sidedness of Scholem's studies and pronouncements. This is not the purpose of a birthday tribute. It may suffice to point to the *Judaica* collections, of which the most recent contains only subjects directly con-

\* Gershom Scholem: *Judaica III. Studien zur jüdischen Mystik*. Band 333 der Bibliothek Suhrkamp. Frankfurt 1973. 272 S.—The preceding two volumes, *Judaica* (1963) and *Judaica II* (1970), B.S.106 and 263, had no all-embracing title but contained essays also on political and literary subjects such as Jewish-German relations, Martin Buber, Agnon, etc.

nected with Jewish mysticism. It is one of the rare advantages of Scholem's art of lucid presentation that even such themes are treated in a manner accessible also to the non-initiated who otherwise would feel lost in the jungle of esoteric and highly sophisticated and even obscure concepts. Scholem does not confine himself to the expounding of theological riddles and superstitions, but shows the historical phenomena as stages in the staggering struggle of the steadily searching and puzzled mind digging into the secrets of a mysterious Tradition; and also against the background of general social and intellectual tensions and ferment in a disrupted and disorientated European world. So don't be afraid, the little volume formidably entitled *Studien zur jüdischen Mystik* turns out to be almost a thriller. The reader comes to understand the often underground effect of speculations, abstrusities, aberrations and heresies on Jewish mentality and on the ensuing evolution of Jewish thought and life. One feels that in evaluating Jewish religious development one cannot rely solely on official historiography. Not only students, but also adults may learn from Scholem's inexhaustible wisdom.

The Jewish world honours a man who has achieved an outstanding position as a scholar, teacher and writer, and it is our desire to add our gratitude and our good wishes for continued creative life in full freshness.

ROBERT WELTSCH.

### HEINE EVENING IN LONDON

Under the auspices of the Goethe Institute, in conjunction with Westfield College and International P.E.N., a function in memory of Heinrich Heine on the occasion of the 175th anniversary of his birth, was held on February 2 at Westfield College. The artists participating were Lilly Kann, Walter Hertner and Ilse Wolf. The programme, which comprised Lieder recitals and readings of extracts from Heine's prose and poetry, was particularly well chosen and brought home anew the topicality of Heine's message.

### TWO COLLECTIONS OF POEMS

"This Naked I" is the title of a collection of poems by Carl Frankenstein (Oriental Press, Newcastle upon Tyne, 1972, 24pp.). The author, who has lived in Israel since 1935 and is a Professor of Social Science at the Hebrew University, will be remembered by many readers in this country for his work in Jewish youth and adult education in Berlin. These activities included courses at the "Schule der juedischen Jugend". The poems, the author writes in the introduction, were conceived in the tension days preceding the Six-Day War and are "an attempt to express what man could be without masks". From a linguistic point of view, it is an achievement that a man whose mother tongue is German and who now teaches in Hebrew is able to use a third language, English, as a vehicle for expressing his thoughts and feelings in an artistically accomplished way. The extent of this integration is symbolised by the fact that he chose a pun as the title of the collection.

### Compassion and guilt

Another volume of poems (Helga Rotenberg: "Gedichte". Olamenu, Tel Aviv £1) expresses in beautiful and imaginative language the complexity of our situation as survivors of the Holocaust. The authoress was born in Vienna, where she was a student of medicine when she had to leave the country in 1939. She now lives in England. The book is fittingly dedicated to the memory of her parents who perished. Based on the feelings of compassion and guilt, by which we are all haunted to a higher or lesser degree, she gets across the impact of deportation and death. Other poems reflect her impressions on the occasion of a return visit to the places of the past, the alienation from her country of birth combined with the indelible attachment to her mother tongue. Free from any clichés and false sentimentalities, the volume makes rewarding reading.

W.R.

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# THE "LION OF SAFED"

A mystic novel on Yitzhak Luria, the "Lion of Safed", by Shalom Ben-Chorin, has been published under the title "Hear, O Israel" (Marshal Publications Jerusalem), just in time to add the story of the man to the many scholarly papers and learned treatises written on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of Luria's death.

Yitzhak Luria (known as Ha'ari Hakadosh—the Holy Lion) is so central, so revered, and occupied so extraordinary a position of sanctity in Jewish thought and ethics, that no literary treatment of his life can possibly reflect this spiritual giant's personality and influence", writes Moshe Albert in his introduction.

When, 36 years old, Luria moved in 1570 to Safed, the then world centre of Jewish learning, he was unknown. When he died two years later he had made his imprint on Jewish philosophy for centuries to come. Yet apart from three poems, he left no texts. He is known through the pen of his closest disciple, Haim Vital, who wrote the voluminous tomes of his "Etz Haim"—"The Tree of Life", as his master's spiritual testament. Other disciples followed, though in a more fragmentary way. These writings have inspired generations after generation of Kabbalists who themselves edited, with commentaries and interpolations, a great variety of reprints of the original disciples' texts.

In a bold attempt to combine biography with fiction, Shalom Ben-Chorin gives an insight into the short and dramatic life of Luria and conveys this great man's struggle to master his inherent weaknesses and to realise his destiny. He is the first writer who has dared

to fictionalise that giant of the Kabbalah, and the common reader has to thank him for opening a window into a world of mysticism and thought, which, as a rule, is approachable only to a few initiated scholars.

The author tells the story as if written from the inside by a 16th-century witness, the atmosphere of the times being rendered authentically. Judaism is shown at one of its most tragic crossroads—the era of Spanish Jewry had closed in blood and torture, leaving its survivors in a trauma of despair. Luria's genius lies in his determination to link the remnant of Jewish heritage to the future, by an intense messianic belief in the ultimate victory of faith over scepticism.

Shalom Ben-Chorin, who has lived in Jerusalem since 1935 and is well-known as a writer, lecturer and journalist and has many Biblical studies to his credit, wrote this novel as a young man while still living in his native Munich. The manuscript was left in his drawer for 38 years—the same number of years that encompassed the life-span of the "Lion of Safed".

## PLEA FOR SYRIAN JEWS

The Action Committee for Jews in Arab Lands organised a prayer meeting outside the offices of the Syrian Arab Airlines in London's Piccadilly. Hundreds present were told that the aim of the demonstration was to protest against the brutal treatment and imprisonment of Syrian and Iraqi Jews, as well as to mark the fourth anniversary of the hangings of nine Jews in Baghdad. An appeal to the President of Syria was handed over to the manager of the Syrian airline.

## AN EIFEL TOWN REMEMBERS ITS JEWS

Memorial Stone Erected at Zuelpich

To commemorate its Jewish fellow citizens, the small industrial town of Zuelpich (Eifel) recently erected a Memorial Stone. In an article published on the occasion, the Koelnische Rundschau reports that the events of the November 1938 pogroms were entered in the parish chronicle by Oberpfarrer Karl von Lutzenberger. A letter in which von Lutzenberger expressed his solidarity with the persecuted Jews is preserved in the local museum. The priest lost his life during an air raid on December 24, 1944.

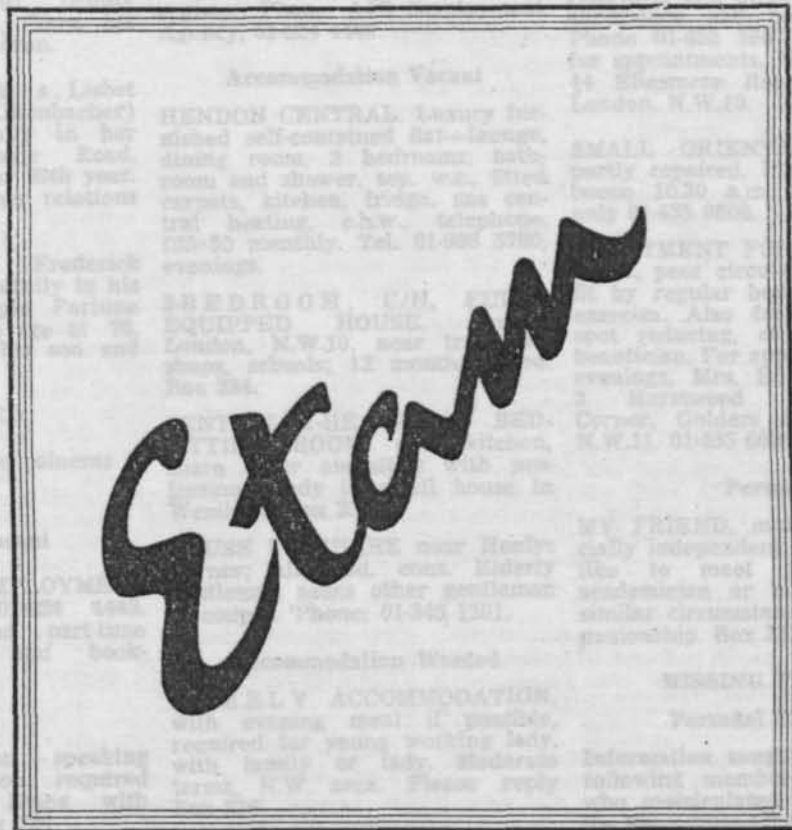
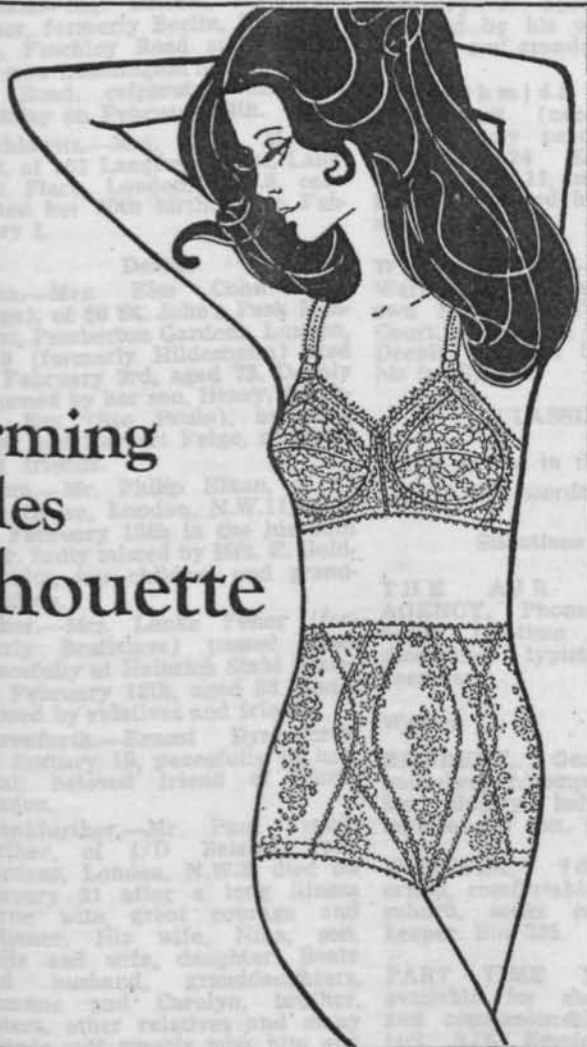
The former Jewish community can be traced back to the 13th century. In 1932, it comprised about 100 members, i.e. three per cent of the town's total population of 3,500. As late as May 1939, the number was still 87, some of whom could save their lives by emigration, whereas the others were deported. Family names like Juhl, Liffmann, Schwarz, Sommer and Voss frequently appear among the Zuelpich Jews. E.G.L.

## COMPENSATION FOR SS MAN

Arnold Strippel, a former SS non-commissioned officer and chief guard at Buchenwald concentration camp, was, in 1949, sentenced in Frankfurt to hard labour for life (allowing for release after 20 years) on charges of co-responsibility for the murder of 21 Jewish prisoners in Buchenwald quarry in 1939. In 1969 he was freed by a Frankfurt court, which confirmed that the evidence of a former witness was unreliable. At his re-trial in 1970 he was convicted on a lesser charge of complicity in the deaths of the 21 Jews and sentenced to six years imprisonment.

Strippel has now been paid 150,000 marks (about £16,500) compensation for 14 years' "unjustified imprisonment". This award is an insult to the victims of Nazism, the Buchenwald Survivors' Committee states.

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# IN ROUND AND ABOUT

## BRANDT'S PROGRAMME

Outlining the programme of his new Government to the West German Federal Parliament in Bonn, Mr. Willy Brandt, the West German Chancellor, referred to the Middle East conflict. Underlining that Israel's right to live was particularly incontestable to the West Germans, he said that understanding for this attitude was growing in the Arab countries. Germany, he said, wished to continue her friendship with all Arab peoples.

Although stating that the recent elections had proved that political extremism had no real chance in the country, Mr. Brandt warned the enemies of the constitution to expect a determined defence. New acts of crime and terror not least piracy in the air, he said, required international co-operation, for which West Germany was striving hard.

## C.B.F. MAKES GRANTS OF £30,000

Grants totalling £30,000 were made at the last meeting of the Central British Fund for Jewish Relief and Rehabilitation. £20,000 was for Jews in, and coming out of, Eastern Europe and included £5,000 towards emigration and £5,000 for winter relief. £10,000 was to help Jews in and from North African countries. It included £3,500 for bedding and equipment for refugees in France; £4,000 towards the erection of new buildings at the Yabne School in Marseilles, where vast educational problems have been created by the increase in the Jewish population from some 15,000 to 75,000 owing to the influx of refugees from North Africa.

## FAMILY EVENTS

### Birthdays

**Balsam.**—Sigi Balsam, restaurant owner, formerly Berlin, then London, Finchley Road and Mayfair and now Leamington Spa, 12 Beverley Road, celebrated his 75th birthday on February 14th.

**Mechlowitz.**—Mrs. Hilda Mechlowitz, of 101 Langford Court, Langford Place, London, N.W.8, celebrated her 80th birthday on February 1.

### Deaths

**Cohn.**—Mrs. Else Cohn (née Feige), of 60 St. John's Park Mansions, Pemberton Gardens, London, N.19 (formerly Hildesheim) died on February 3rd, aged 73. Deeply mourned by her son, Henry, daughter, Eva (Sao Paulo), brothers, Hans and Herbert Feige, relatives and friends.

**Elkan.**—Mr. Philip Elkan, of 13 The Grove, London, N.W.11, died on February 13th in his 90th year. Sadly missed by Mrs. E. Goldschmidt, her children and grandchildren.

**Feher.**—Mrs. Lenke Feher (formerly Bratislava) passed away peacefully at Heinrich Stahl House on February 12th, aged 83. Sadly missed by relatives and friends.

**Dyrenfurth.**—Ernest Dyrenfurth, on January 19, peacefully in hospital, beloved friend of Herta Fenton.

**Frankfurter.**—Mr. Paul Frankfurter, of 1/D Belsize Park Gardens, London, N.W.3, died on January 21 after a long illness borne with great courage and patience. His wife, Nina, son, Felix and wife, daughter, Beate and husband, granddaughters, Suzanne and Carolyn, brother, sisters, other relatives and many friends will greatly miss him and keep his memory for ever.

## ADELE REIFENBERG EXHIBITION

On March 3, the painter Adele Reifenberg will celebrate her 80th birthday. To mark the occasion, a Retrospective Exhibition of her work will be held at 2 Lambolle Road, London, NW3, from March 2 to March 24. The Exhibition will be open Monday to Friday 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## SHYLOCK PRESENTATION CRITICISED

The Bochum stage production of the "Merchant of Venice" has been sharply criticised by the West German press.

Der Spiegel compared the presentation of Shylock with the Nazi "Stuermer" picture of the Jew, declaring that this was the first openly antisemitic performance of the play since Hitler's day.

The play was directed by Peter Zadek, the son of German Jews who emigrated to this country during the Nazi régime (Peter Zadek was at one time a contributor to this journal). Der Spiegel quoted him as saying that he had "never suffered from the fact that I am a Jew" and that he hoped that the performance would make German audiences turn "the Jewish problem over in their minds".

## AWARD FOR "UNsung HERO"

Thirty-four years ago, Mr. Friedrich Kaiser saved the life of the Jewish merchant, Max Rothschild of Wuppertal, who was wanted by the Gestapo, by hiding him in his house. In recognition of his courageous deed, he has been awarded the German Federal Cross of Merit.

## DR. S. E. VELDEN 80

Dr. S. E. Velden, the well-known G.P., will celebrate his 80th birthday on April 1. He hails from Strohitz in Southern Bohemia, where his father was also a doctor. He qualified in 1921 and after working in hospitals in Dresden and Vienna, practised in Marienbad. Shortly before the Second World War he came to England and in 1948 started his own practice in Hampstead. His personal charm and outstanding ability contributed largely to his success. With him there existed that special doctor-patient relationship so regrettably rare these days, and often enough he went out of his way for his patients, who in many cases regarded him as a friend in whom they could confide. He helped them readily with advice drawn from long experience.

On this occasion our thoughts are with him in sincere gratitude for all he has done and achieved. We convey to him our fondest greetings and wish him many more years of health and happiness. E.G.

## PROFESSOR DR. ALBERT SALOMON 90

The surgeon, Professor Dr. Albert Salomon (Amsterdam), recently celebrated his 90th birthday. He was Professor at the University of Berlin and later director of the out-patient department of the Berlin Jewish Hospital. Together with his wife, the singer Paula Lindberg, he emigrated to Holland in 1939. There, the couple were arrested in 1943 but managed to escape from Westerbork Camp. They survived the Second World War in hiding. Professor Salomon's works include a book on "Aerztliche Ethik und Umgangspsychologie" and a collection of lectures on outstanding personalities in Jewish history. He also published a new edition of the late Kurt Singer's book about "Die Berufskrankheiten der Musiker".

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## MISSING PERSONS

### Personal Enquiries

Information sought regarding the following members of Form 7A who matriculated on 11.6.1929 at the Realschule Albertgasse, Vienna, VIII, Austria: Robert Beck; Horowitz; Katz. Please reply to: Robert E. Lenk, 53 Lauderdale Mansions, Lauderdale Road, London, W9 1LX.

## AJR Enquiries

Sternberg.—Mrs. T. Sternberg, last known address: 10 Chestnut House, Newhaven Close, Birmingham 7 4NL.

Freyhan.—Dr. Max Freyhan, of 43/20 Abbey Road, London, N.W.8, passed away peacefully on February 3, aged 91. Deeply mourned by his wife, Clara, his children and grandchildren.

Goldschmidt.—Mrs. Lisbet Goldschmidt (née Offenbacher) passed away peacefully in her sleep at 24 Eastside Road, London, N.W.11, in her 89th year. Deeply mourned by her relations and friends.

Wartenberg.—Dr. Frederick Wartenberg died peacefully in his own home, 13 Temple Fortune Court, N.W.11, at the age of 76. Deeply mourned by his son and his family.

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# IN MEMORIAM

## DR. MAX FREYHAN

Dr. Max Freyhan, who died on February 3 at the age of 91, was one of the most colourful and popular personalities in our midst. Born in Breslau, he grew up and lived in Berlin. By profession he was a lawyer, but his main interest was in the field of literature. His works include publications on "Das Drama der Gegenwart", Georg Kaiser and Ibsen. His book about Gerhart Hauptmann was greatly appreciated by the poet and resulted in a personal friendship with him. Until 1933, Dr. Freyhan was a theatre critic of the *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, and he also lectured at the Lessing-Hochschule and the Staatliche Schauspielschule under Leopold Jessner. He was imprisoned in Sachsenhausen during the November, 1938, pogroms and came to this country in 1939. Here, he worked as a part-time tutor for German at a technical college. Yet, above all, he left his mark on our community by his numerous lectures under the auspices of the New Liberal Jewish Congregation (now Belsize Park Synagogue), the Club 1943 and the Leo Baeck Lodge. He was an expert on both the Greek and Latin classics and on works by authors and poets like Dante, Shakespeare, Goethe, T. S. Eliot and Gerhart Hauptmann. His inexhaustible knowledge became evident not only in his lectures but also in the personal discussions with his numerous friends. His enthusiasm and mental alertness remained unimpaired also after his health made him housebound, and only five days before his death he enjoyed a vivid conversation, sparked with quotations from various sources of literature, with a visitor who, like him, had personal bonds with Gerhart Hauptmann. His erudition was coupled with a youthful flexibility with which he would approach current issues on their own merits. Last but not least, his was an indelible sense of humour.

All those who had the privilege of knowing Dr. Max Freyhan will remember him with affection. We express our sympathy to his widow, Mrs. Clara Freyhan, still active in communal work in spite of her great age, and to the other members of his family.

## KLAUS PRINGSHEIM

The composer, conductor and musicologist, Klaus Pringsheim, died in Tokyo at the age of 89. After having held positions with several opera houses in Germany, he became musical director of the Reinhardt theatres in Berlin in 1918. He was also a contributor to the *Weltbuehne* and musical critic of the *Vorwaerts*. In 1931, he was invited to Tokyo, where he was appointed Director of the Imperial Academy of Music. He later built up the Academy of Music in Bangkok and, after a stay in Los Angeles from 1947 to 1951, returned to Tokyo. Klaus Pringsheim was the twin brother of Katja Mann.

## MR. LUDWIG LOEWENTHAL

It is announced with deep regret that Mr. Ludwig Loewenthal passed away in his 75th year. His personality embodied the best qualities of German Jewry. Born as the son of a rabbi, Dr. Abraham Loewenthal (Hamburg/Berlin) and married to the daughter of Rabbi Dr. Benno Jacob (Dortmund), he was deeply steeped in Jewish tradition. His respect for Jewish scholarship was linked with an understanding of the practical needs of Jewish communal life. He was open-minded and helpful and, at the same time, unassuming and modest. His cheerfulness and sense of humour endeared him to everybody who worked with him. His was a happy life, enhanced by the love of his wife and the success of his children, of whom he was very proud.

Ludwig Loewenthal's main sphere of activity was the Leo Baeck Lodge. Yet his work for his fellow refugees dates back to the first year of the Second World War, when the Jewish refugees who then lived in Golders Green organised a club with regular functions. At that time, he had already re-established himself in his profession as an insurance broker and lived in a house of his own, whereas most of us were not yet permitted to work and were accommodated in furnished rooms. Yet unlike many others in his position, he gladly lent his co-operation and support to our efforts.

It was only natural that Ludwig Loewenthal became a member of the AJR immediately after its foundation. Soon afterwards, he was elected a member of the Board. He always took a particularly great interest in our deliberations.

Ludwig Loewenthal will be sadly missed by our community and especially by the great number of those who had become his personal friends. We feel united in our sense of loss with his wife, his children and the other members of his family.

W.R.

## MR. HAROLD KURTZ

The historian, Mr. Harold Kurtz, who passed away recently, was a specialist on Bonapartism. His work "The Trial of Marshal Ney" (1957) was suggested to him by his own experiences as a translator at the Nuremberg trials. His other main work "The Empress Eugenie" (1964) refuted the image of the Empress as a bigot and interfering political fanatic. Kurtz was born in Stuttgart and came to this country shortly after Hitler's assumption of power. During the war, he worked in the German section of the European service of the BBC. Later he contrived some interesting programmes for the BBC Third Programme. "As a historian, within his own large but limited field, Harold Kurtz is likely to be remembered when some others more famous today, may be forgotten", writes Mr. Christopher Sykes in *The Times*.

## MRS. ERNA FEDER

Mrs. Erna Feder died in Berlin in her 80th year. She was the widow of the publicist and editor Dr. Ernst Feder, whose diaries ("Heute sprach ich mit..."), published in 1971, were based on the notes dictated to her every evening. A personality in her own right, she shared her husband's experiences during the eventful Weimar years and later, after the emigration, in Brazil. The Feders returned to Berlin after the Second World War at the personal invitation of the late President Heuss, a close friend of theirs. Up to the end of her life she would not get tired of recalling her reminiscences. Due to her sincerity and warm-heartedness, the number of loyal friends who mourn her death is very large. E.G.L.

## MR. SIEGFRIED OPPENHEIMER

Mr. Siegfried Oppenheimer (London), who died at the age of 81, was an authority on art and antiques. Born in Frankfurt to a family of jewellers, he, together with his brother, was associated with the well-known Margraf firm in Berlin. He came to this country in 1937 and lent his support to the Ben Uri Art Society and the Friends of the Art Museums of Israel as well as to many educational and charitable Jewish causes. He was also an acknowledged expert on Goethe.

## PROFESSOR ABRAHAM J. HESCHEL

Dr. Abraham J. Heschel, Professor of Ethics and Mysticism at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, died in New York at the age of 65. Born in Warsaw, he studied at the Hochschule fuer die Wissenschaft des Judentums in Berlin where he later became a lecturer. For some time he was also associated with the "Mittelstelle fuer juedische Erwachsenenbildung". Dr. Heschel emigrated to the U.S. after short sojourns in Warsaw and London. An expert scholar in Jewish subjects, he also participated in general movements, e.g., in connection with the Negro problem and the Vietnam war.

## MRS. DOROTHY HARDISTY

Mrs. Dorothy Hardisty, M.B.E., who was secretary of the Refugee Children's Movement for ten years, has died at the age of 92. In her work as secretary of the "Children's Movement", she was responsible for obtaining admission of children from the Continent to this country and for finding them homes. Mrs. Hardisty then became chief administrator of the Violet Melchett Infant Welfare Centre in Chelsea until her retirement in 1967 at the age of 86.

## DR. EDWIN REDSLOB

Dr. Edwin Redslob died in Berlin at the age of 88. Under the Weimar Republic he held the office of "Reichskunstwart" but he was dismissed by the Nazis. He took a leading part in building up a new cultural life in post-war Berlin and was one of the founders of the "Tagesspiegel" and of the Free University. He was also a co-founder, and for many years a Board member, of the Berlin Society for Christian-Jewish Co-operation.

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# THE MIDDLE EAST

## "BLACK ISRAELITES"

The Supreme Court in Jerusalem has ruled that the American Negro sect calling themselves "Black Israelites" cannot be considered Jews, and their claim to Jewish ancestry is legally untenable.

The court rejected the application of a group of "Black Israelites" wishing to make their homes in Israel, who had applied to the Supreme Court for an Interior Ministry expulsion order against them to be set aside. Nevertheless, the court recommended that "Black Israelites" who had already settled in Israel should be allowed to remain.

## WORLD LIBERALS MEET IN JERUSALEM

The meeting of the Liberal International's Executive Committee held in Jerusalem recently was attended by politicians from 40 countries, including a number of Cabinet Ministers.

The committee approved resolutions recognising the right of Soviet Jews and Jews in Arab countries to emigrate to Israel. A Middle East settlement by means of direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs and international action to curb terrorism were urged. The latter resolution proposed the imposition of sanctions against countries harbouring aircraft hijackers and the release of Jewish prisoners held in Arab countries.

## THE EMBARRASSING RABBI KAHANE

Rabbi Meir Kahane, the head of the Jewish Defence League, who has made his home in Israel, is a source of constant embarrassment to the authorities. He continues to send letters to Arabs in Israel offering them "compensation" if they will sell up their homes and leave the country.

Rabbi Kahane claims that about 450 Israeli Arabs, mostly Galilee farmers aged more than 35 years, have accepted his proposal and estimates that it will cost about £425 per Arab to "buy" them out. He hopes to go to the United States when his passport is restored by the police, to raise an "emigration fund" and believes that, once the first aircraft of Arabs has left, large numbers will follow.

The rabbi's emigration call to Israeli Arabs has been sharply attacked by Israeli Government circles, and it has been hinted that he may face prosecution for sedition.

## BRITISH TOURISM

Topping those who came to Israel as tourists during 1972 were Britons, numbering 66,000. The total number of tourists last year was 727,400—22,600 short of the 750,000 target figure.

Mr. Hanoch Givton, the director-general of the Tourist Ministry, has said that the Lod massacre in May, international hijackings, threats to airlines and passenger searches, had their effect on tourism. Despite this, there was a general upward trend.

## HENRY MOORE MONUMENT IN JERUSALEM

The sculptor, Henry Moore, has donated one of his latest works, called "Vertebrae" to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. The monument, which is 7½ metres long, three metres wide and two metres high and has a weight of twelve tons, has been placed in the Billy Rose Sculpture Garden of the Museum. The exhibits of the Museum did already include three other large and three smaller sculptures by the artist. Another work, "Reclining Figure" stands in the Campus of the Hebrew University.

## INTENSIFIED IRAQI PERSECUTION

The American Jewish Committee has revealed that two, or perhaps three, unidentified Iraqi Jews arrested last September may have died in Baghdad. Mr. Abraham Karlikow, the A.J.C.'s director in Paris, also stated that there were "grave apprehensions" about the fate of other Jews now known to be in Iraqi gaols. The total of arrested Iraqi Jews is believed to be 14. About 500 Jews in all remain in Iraq.

## RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN STATES

Mali is the fifth African State to break off diplomatic relations with Israel during the past year. The other four are: Uganda, Congo (Brazzaville), Chad and Niger.

No major African State has so far ruptured relations with Israel, while a number of them have stated publicly how much they value Israel's assistance and friendship. However, the Jewish State does not rule out that more African countries may fall prey to Libyan and Saudi Arabian pressure.

## SYRIA AND WHITEHALL

Diplomatic relations between Syria and Britain, broken off by Damascus during the Six-Day War in 1967, are to be renewed. As a first step the two countries will exchange diplomatic officials to represent their respective interests, while operating from other embassies.

## HIGH DISTINCTION FOR SIR HANS A. KREBS

The Nobel Prize laureate, Professor Sir Hans Adolf Krebs (Oxford), was elected a foreign member of the chapter for science and arts of the German Order pour le mérite. Professor Krebs, whose awards also include the honorary membership of the Weizmann Institute and the freedom of Hildesheim, the city of his birth, has been associated with the AJR for many years and is particularly well remembered by many in our midst as the spokesman of the former refugees, when the proceeds of the "Thank-You Britain" Fund were handed over to the British Academy. We sincerely congratulate Sir Hans Krebs on this new distinction.

## GOLDEN DOCTOR DIPLOMA FOR EVA REICHMANN

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the award of her doctor's degree, Dr. Eva Reichmann received a renewed diploma from the Philosophic-Historical Faculty of Heidelberg University. In the accompanying letter, the Dean of the Faculty wrote:

"Ich bedaure ausserordentlich, dass viele widrige Umstaende zur Folge hatten, dass dieses Diplom nicht rechtzeitig in Ihre Haende kam. Gerade Ihnen haetten wir besonders gerne diese Ehrung am Tag Ihres Jubilaeums ueberreicht, wenn es schon unmoeglich ist, dies durch den Dekan selber geschehen zu lassen. Wir wissen von Ihrer vielfaeltigen, wichtigen Taetigkeit in der Bewahrung und Entwicklung juedisch-deutscher Traditionen. Zusammen mit unseren Glueckwuenschen spreche ich Ihnen im Namen der Fakultaeet unser aller Dank fuer Ihr Wirken aus."

We cordially congratulate our friend Eva Reichmann on this new recognition of her work as a courageous and undogmatic thinker, author and speaker, who has made invaluable contributions to the assessment of the Jewish-German relationship both before and after the catastrophe.

## AWARD FOR DR. VAN DAM

Dr. H. G. van Dam, General Secretary of the "Zentralrat" of the Jews in Germany, has been awarded the Federal German Grand Cross of Merit with Star. He received the insignia from President Dr. Gustav Heinemann.

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