

## INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

C. C. Aronsfeld

## NEW PERSPECTIVES OF THE PAST

## "Morally Relativistic Views"

I remember 10 or 12 years ago talking and writing on a subject which I entitled "Did Hitler ever live?" It was much like the question that used to be asked "Did Shakespeare ever live?", suggesting that the plays were written not by Shakespeare but by a different man of the same name. The man's image that emerged from the plays seemed strangely at odds with that presented in many biographies. The same, I thought, applied to Hitler. We know the man and his handiwork—who better?—but under the theories of document-ridden historians the image began to take on very different features.

The first time this happened was when Mr. A. J. P. Taylor published his book on "The Origins of the Second World War" in which he held forth that "in principle and doctrine Hitler was no more wicked and unscrupulous than many other contemporary statesmen", that *Mein Kampf* was just a set of "day dreams", that the Munich "conference" was "a triumph of all that was best and most enlightened in British life", etc., etc.

These opinions were largely dismissed as so many freaks designed to entertain rather than enlighten, but what was a freak ten years back is no longer so today. New perspectives are opening as the past increasingly appears incredible—a tale told by an idiot—and yet urgently in need of rational interpretation. Thirty years after the fall of Hitler is perhaps a suitable occasion to consider the process.

Inevitably it must have a particular significance among the chief *dramatis personae*, the Germans. The official view there is of course more or less beyond reproach. On the anniversary of the surrender, President Scheel delivered a speech in which he not only branded the crimes but also confessed the shame that Liberation had to come from outside. The German tragedy, he said, began in 1933 not in 1945, for "in 1933 Germany lost her honour", and he emphasised the crucial importance of good relations not only with the Jewish State but equally with the Jewish people.

## German Reactions to Nazi Crimes

On the other hand, he could not help mentioning those, obviously no negligible number, who were tired of feeling sorry—"tired (as they put it) of running around in sackcloth and ashes because of crimes in which they had no share". It so happened that about the same time a Gallup Poll revealed that 70 per cent of all West Germans do not want to hear any more of the Nazi past. They want at last to live a "normal life", unburdened by the memories, and what is more, they feel that by reason of their achievements in politics and economics, they are entitled to make their presence felt again in world affairs.

These may, on the whole, be regarded as reputable reactions, understandable at a pinch. There are others—among those who have neither forgotten nor learnt. Guilt feelings? they say, the German people had been "talked into them". Poor Hitler had been the victim of a "fiendish plan" hatched by the "warmongers" Churchill and Roosevelt, and "the Nuremberg Laws merely served to reinforce

the sentence of death against the Germans" . . . A striking illustration of this spirit was provided by the biggest of the weekly neo-Nazi papers, *Deutsche National Zeitung*, which has a circulation of 120,000. Its steady campaign of whitewashing the Nazi régime was clinched by a front page banner headline "The Wrong done to Hitler: 30 Years of Lies are enough".

But the new perspectives are not confined to Germany. In Britain the 30th anniversary of V-Day passed unhonoured and unsung. The Sunday Telegraph tersely noted: "The British almost ignored the event", a reaction described as "quiet and realistic", for "though some things are impossible to forget, the time for actively stirring up dreadful memories has long since passed".

A similar line was taken by the French. Their President observed an august silence. In "banishing the memory of a great victory which for others was a crushing defeat" (a French commentator remarked), he had acted as a "good European" seeking to "avoid the obstacles on the road towards a European union".

## Fate of Nuremberg Trial Film

Here again the trend was illuminated by an interesting affair which blew up over a new film on the Nuremberg trials. The film was produced by a French director, Marcel Ophuls, who had the idea of a critical approach; he was troubled by the subject, as perhaps, in varying ways, many are. He came to the conclusion that it was impossible to pass judgment on the Nazis in the dock but that at the same time it was necessary to do so. The film, therefore, on balance upheld the trials.

The idea found, however, no favour in the eyes of the BBC and British producers. They wanted a different slant—more outspoken criticism. Nazi war crimes, yes, but what about Allied war crimes, what about the Nuremberg judges' "hypocrisy and self-righteousness"? And what about the US atrocities in Vietnam—was not My Lai much like Auschwitz? Ophuls took a determined stand: he would have no truck with what he called a "morally relativistic view" which—precisely like A. J. P. Taylor's—levelled everything down to much the same level of muchness. The argument is still in progress.

The game is being played particularly over the most important aspect of Nazi policy—the extermination of the Jews. More than any other crime does this one vindicate the Nietzschean aphorism: "The memory says, I have done it; the conscience replies, I cannot have done it. And gradually the memory gives way".

Against this psychological background, those who seek to whitewash Nazism hope to advance by querying the number of the murdered Jews. The idea plainly is that if belief in the 6 million figure can be sufficiently shattered, then perhaps other features of Nazi policy also will appear in a different light. The "six million" are regarded as something like the soft underbelly in the new Nazis' campaign.

Actually the figure, first stated on Eichmann's authority, has never been confirmed by

Jewish scholars. As far back as 1952, Gerald Reitlinger arrived, in his very conservative calculation, at a maximum of 4,581,000 and a minimum of 4,194,000, and Raul Hilberg, in 1961, put the total at 5,100,000, so that according to the best available knowledge, the figure, inevitably no more than an estimate, is probably somewhat between 5 and 6 million. But the "revisionists" altogether deny that millions were murdered, and even if—what?—a few hundred thousands perhaps had perished, in the admittedly unhealthy camp conditions "created by Allied bombing", what about "Dresden" and the millions of Germans who were expelled from their homes after the war? Such is the propaganda of the *Deutsche National Zeitung* and its friends. If it deserves to be called "morally relativistic", it is every bit the Big Lie of *Mein Kampf*.

The campaign against the six million has already spilled over the borders of Germany. Some splash was caused by a widely distributed brochure which appeared in this country—"Did Six Million Really Die? The Truth at last", by "Richard E. Harwood", a self-confessed pseudonym, purporting to be "with the University of London" (where nothing is known of him) and associated with the National Front. He claimed that "no gas chambers existed in the camps in Germany"—implying that none existed in any German-controlled territory. He asserted that Nazi policy was concerned not with the extermination but the emigration of Jewry—as if their slogan had been "Emigrate Judah", not "Perish Judah"—and he seriously explained (later) that "ausrotten, applied to the Jews, refers to expulsion from German life and culture".

Most of his allegations had been taken over, often even verbatim, from an anonymous American pamphlet entitled "The Myth of the Six Million". While discreetly omitting to acknowledge his source of inspiration, "Harwood" was candid enough to state that his "research" was done for a purpose—to expose the "mythology of the concentration camps" as "a form of political blackmail" designed to "arouse sympathy for the Jewish national homeland" and to extort "staggering" amounts of compensation from the West German Government; this he hoped to stop.

## "Did Six Million Die?"

It would not of course be difficult to debunk the lies infesting this crude screed, but some of them must be expected to stick, even among men of integrity and good will who simply cannot fathom the horror, and they are to be found in highly respected and competent quarters. A distinguished historian, Professor Geoffrey Barraclough, recently wrote: "Hitler's antisemitism in the 1920s was entirely conventional—that is to say, what he preached was not the extermination of the Jews but their expulsion from Germany. . . . I cannot find any convincing evidence of the view that Hitler was already planning the destruction of European Jewry in 1925, when he wrote *Mein Kampf*".

It does seem strange that the Chichele Professor of Modern History at the University of Oxford should have been unable to find any such evidence. He is unfortunately handicapped by the notion that Hitler's antisemitism was "entirely conventional". It was not, and it seems pertinent to recall that in his very first statement, in 1919, Hitler rejected "con-

Continued on page 2, column 1

## NEW PERSPECTIVES OF THE PAST

Continued from Page 1

ventional" antisemitism as "purely emotional" and "ultimately expressing itself in pogroms". That was not what he had in mind. His antisemitism was to be "rational"—*Antisemitismus der Vernunft*—"determined to attack the evil at its roots and to eradicate it root and branch". So was the Final Solution proclaimed in 1919 and so was it (very nearly) accomplished in 1945. It seems a pity that such elementary facts should require restating even now.

Particularly disagreeable was the misreading of history by another British scholar, Mr Robert Skidelsky, who recently published a biography of Sir Oswald Mosley—the fruit of seven years' labour. Skidelsky, a relatively young man lacking first-hand knowledge of the record, bent over backwards to be "objective", with the result that he found the British fascist movement had been made antisemitic because Jewish Communists attacked them. "The Jews themselves", he declared, "must take a large share of the blame for what subsequently happened".

So it was the Jews' fault after all. Skidelsky's scholarship has been the latest sacrifice to Sir Oswald's charisma, and the one time fascist leader can now claim, unrefuted, that he "attacked some Jews not for what they are but for what they did"—while the fact is that he attacked not some but all Jews and not for what they did but for what he untruthfully alleged they did.

However, sad though the tale is, it is not without the relief of the satyrs' intrusion. Skidelsky is pleased to acknowledge assistance from the Trustees of the Thank-offering to Britain fund who, by way of a research fellowship at the British Academy, enabled him to do the work. Perhaps only Heine could make the appropriate comment—*so witzig können die Götter sein*. Alas, literally, at our expense.

(The correspondence between the AJR and the British Academy about the publication of the Mosley biography with the help of the "Thank-You Britain" Fund was published in our August issue. A review of Dr. Skidelsky's book appears in this issue on page 5.—The Ed.)

## GERMAN "LASTENAUSGLEICHS" PAYMENTS

## No Tax on "Interest"

Compensation payments under the German "Lastenausgleichsgesetz" (LAG—Equalisation of Burdens Law) are made with the addition of "interest" ("Zinszuschlag") of 1% per quarter, or 4% per annum, normally as from January 1, 1953, the due date for payment of the compensation. In most cases, settlement is, however, only made many years later. "Interest" is, therefore, added in order—as stated by the Federal Minister of the Interior—"to provide the aggrieved parties with something to make up for the necessarily protracted waiting time". By a specific German law, all payments made under the LAG are exempt from German income tax.

The U.K. Inland Revenue has, so far, taken the view that the "interest" is taxable income, the whole of it chargeable for the tax year in which the Award (Bescheid) is made. In most cases, the "interest" has accrued over 20 and more years, thus reaching from 80% to over 90% of the principal compensation. This treatment would result in a formidable tax burden for the U.K. recipients of LAG payments.

We are, therefore, pleased to inform interested readers that, after a lengthy correspondence the Inland Revenue have now changed their attitude and agreed that the "interest" element in any awards under the LAG should not be subjected to U.K. tax. (There was never any question of the taxability of the capital payments.) In cases where tax has already been paid on the "interest", repayment should be requested.

F.E.F.

## NEWS FROM GERMANY

## BOMB OUTRAGE IN BERLIN

A letter-bomb was sent to Mr. Heinz Galinski, chairman of the West Berlin Jewish Community. The bomb arrived in a small parcel which had the address of an acquaintance on the back flap. A secretary became suspicious when about to open the parcel and called the police. It exploded in the police van without doing any damage. An anarchist group linked with the extreme Left-wing Baader-Meinhof gang claimed responsibility for sending it. In a letter to the West German news agency the "Red Army Group" stated that it sent the parcel because Mr. Galinski was "an agent of the Zionist régime which throws tons of bombs on Palestinian camps each day." The letter then expressed solidarity "with the people of Palestine".

A few days later two Molotov cocktails were thrown into the Offices of the Central Federal Bureau for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes in Ludwigsburg. They failed, however, to explode.

## WINIFRED WAGNER BANNED FROM BAYREUTH

Mrs. Winifred Wagner, the 78-year-old British-born daughter-in-law of Richard Wagner, was banned from this year's Bayreuth Festival by her grandson Wolfgang. She was a close friend of Hitler's for 22 years and she said in a recent documentary film: "If Hitler walked through this door today, I would be just as glad and happy to see and have him here as ever". During the inter-war years when she and her late husband Siegfried Wagner managed Bayreuth, Hitler was indeed a regular visitor.

After the war, her grandsons Wolfgang and Wieland Wagner worked hard to create a new image for the Festival and to free it from its Nazi associations. After Wieland's death in 1966, Wolfgang continued to run it in this spirit and introduced a great many scenic and stylistic innovations.

## THE DILEMMA OF OBERAMMERGAU

For years international Jewish and Roman Catholic organisations and individuals have complained of the open antisemitism displayed in the famous Oberammergau Passion Play which is performed every ten years by the population of the Bavarian village. 1970, the last year of the "spiritual festival in three parts", it had netted a cool 18 million marks (about £1.8 million) and attracted some 500,000 visitors. At that time the village Council resisted all attempts for a change, stating that 99 per cent of people questioned were against it. Now, however, a more pliant Council has yielded to representations by leading theologians and agreed on a different text which had already been performed between 1750 and 1850, as the basis for the next presentation in 1980. Written by a Benedictine priest this version attributes responsibility for the crucifixion to the devil—hitherto it had been to Judas and to the Jews in general. Half a million DM will be made available for the revised play.

## ANTISEMITISM IN COURT ROOM

Hesse Cabinet Ministers condemned an antisemitic uproar at Bensheim court when Mr. Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Vienna Jewish Documentation centre, sued 46-year-old lawyer Manfred Roeder for slander. Roeder is the chairman of the extreme Right-wing *Deutsche Buergerinitiative*. In court, he called Wiesenthal a notorious liar and German-hater who acted in accordance with a Talmud teaching that any lie was justified if used against a non-Jew. He then read for 30 minutes from an antisemitic pamphlet published and subsequently banned in Austria which claims that international Jewry declared war on the German Reich in 1933 and that this war is still being waged. Followers of Roeder surrounded the court building which had been daubed with swastikas and shouted "The Itzigs have returned", "Too few Jews were gassed" and "Juda verrecke". Neither Wiesenthal nor a representative of the Arolsen International Search Service were called as witnesses. The case was adjourned because one witness called by Roeder, Hermann Munk from Austria, did not appear and is unlikely to do so because there is an Interpol search warrant out for him. He is at present in Argentina. If he does not appear in court within six months, the case will come under the Statute of Limitation. Mr. Wiesenthal has protested to the President of the Darmstadt District Court against the way in which the judge Dr. Keller conducted the trial. The chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Mr. Werner Nachmann, has informed the Hesse Minister of Justice of the disquiet among the Jewish population at the fact that Roeder and his followers had revived the Nazi past and publicly encouraged the murder of Jews.

## GERMAN MINISTER MEETS PLO LEADER

The Israeli Government protested to the Federal German Government against the meeting between the German Minister of State Mr. Moersch and the head of the Beirut PLO Bureau, Schaufik al-Hut in the residence of the German Ambassador in Beirut. Mr. Moersch summed up his impression of the meeting by stating that it had been agreed that there was no divergence of opinion on many questions. He is convinced that the UNO can only function if all opposing parties are members. The Federal Republic could only work for a peaceful solution of the Middle East conflict by maintaining a balanced attitude to both parties to the conflict.

## BEN-GURION HONOURED IN FRANKFURT

The Frankfurt City Council decided unanimously to name a new ring-road between Frankfurt and Bad Homburg Ben-Gurion Ring.

## GERMAN SOCIAL INSURANCE

An article is published on page 9

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# HOME NEWS

# ANGLO-JUDAICA

## THE ARAB BOYCOTT

British Leyland Motor Corporation is said to have been promised that its name will be removed from the blacklist of the Arab Boycott Office. It will nevertheless honour its contract with Israel for the supplies of vehicles until 1976 and of spare parts thereafter. It is rumoured that Leyland's protracted efforts to open a Land Rover factory in Cairo have at last succeeded.

Mr. Victor Gillibrand, a commercial director of the General Electric Company has admitted to the *Jewish Chronicle* that the firm has "satisfactorily" completed and returned questionnaires from the Arab Boycott office over a number of years. GEC whose managing director is Sir Arnold Weinstock, has a substantial export trade with the Arab world, but only a small one with Israel.

Barclays Bank which has been operating in what is now Israel for more than half a century (as well as in many Arab countries) is also being threatened with blacklisting. There are some 50 Barclays branches in Israel, owned since 1970 by an Israeli banking corporation in which the British company has a 50 per cent holding.

Lonrho is another company threatened with being put on the black list because of its agreement together with a Volkswagen subsidiary, to supply Israel with a joint licence to produce Wankel engines.

## DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

The South Metropolitan conciliation committee of the Race Relations Board has found that the American-owned Gulf Oil Company Middle East had practised unlawful discrimination by withdrawing its offer of a secretarial post to Mrs Linda Friedberger, a non-Jewish London woman who married a Jew. She had been told on February 11 that she was accepted for the post of private secretary to a vice-president of the company on his arrival in Britain. Three days later she married a Jew. On February 24 she was told that for this reason the offer of a job had been withdrawn. The Gulf Oil Company denies that its policy is not to employ Jews in order not to offend Arabs. The finding of the committee is the first test case concerning allegations of discrimination in employment resulting from the Arab boycott.

## MASS DELIVERY OF NAZI LITERATURE

In several parts of London, thousands of households have received cards with a swastika declaring "We are back!". They are distributed by the National Socialist Irish Workers Party which operates through a post-office box in Dublin. An accompanying card lists "dates to remember", including January 30, 1933 when "the movement achieves power in Germany as the Leader becomes Chancellor. The work of building a New Order for Aryan man begins." Other dates commemorate the so-called martyrdom of notorious Nazis in Germany, the U.S. and Ireland, and one refers to "the full story of the Jewish-Marxist seizure of Germany".

## ALIEN LOYALTIES OF MPS?

The nationalist journal "Spearhead" referred in an article to Libya's request to buy arms from Britain under the headline "Pleasing the Israeli Lobby", and said the British Government "is loath to pick up this lucrative export business..." because of "an extremely powerful lobby in Parliament, particularly on the Labour side. This lobby is dead set against any supply of arms to countries which might use them against Israel... There is something truly appalling in the ability of powerful and well-organised lobbies with alien loyalties to dictate the policies of British Governments in a manner detrimental to British interests". Editor of "Spearhead" is John Tyndall, a former member of the National Front directorate. Assistant editor is Martin Webster, national organiser of the National Front.

## THE TUC AND ISRAEL

During the recent Trades Union Congress, the Labour Friends of Israel and their national chairman, Mr. Joe Gormley, the mineworkers' president, gave a luncheon which was attended by a number of prominent trade-union leaders. Mr. Eric Heffer, one of the few Left-wing MPs who have been consistently pro-Israel was the guest of honour.

Mr. Len Murray, the general secretary of the TUC Congress recently visited Israel as the guest of the Histadrut (Labour Federation).

## MEMORIAL FLOOR AT HILLEL HOUSE

### Dedication Ceremony

On September 10, the Hillel House Memorial Floor in commemoration of the Holocaust was officially dedicated. Its main memento is an impressive panel by Abram Games, listing in artistically designed characters the concentration camps, in which six million of our people perished.

The erection of a Memorial was originally meant to be a joint effort of all Jewish organisations and their members, and a special committee to raise the necessary funds had been formed several years ago. However, ultimately, almost the only acting organisation was the AJR which raised altogether about £4,500 among its members. In his opening address, Mr. Fred S. Worms, who was in the chair, paid special tribute to the co-operation of the AJR. The two main speakers at the function were the Rev. Leslie Hardman who, as a chaplain of the British Forces, was one of the first to enter the Camp after its liberation, and Mr. Graham Ballin of the Union of Jewish Students, who stressed the increasing need of combating anti-Israel and anti-Jewish trends at British universities. The El molé rachamim was recited by the Rev. Joseph Dollinger, and the ceremony was enhanced by beautiful performances of the singer Martin Lawrence and of the Hillel Choir under Mr. Jack Halter.

## FREEDOM OF THE CITY FOR LORD AND LADY JANNER

At the London Guildhall, Lord and Lady Janner were each admitted to the Freedom of the City of London. A luncheon in their honour was later given at the City Livery Club when it was stressed that it is very rare for a married couple to be granted that honour. The City Chamberlain made a speech in which he gave details of the Janners' public life and in particular of Lady Janner's activities as trustee of one of the City's educational trusts for some 25 years.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

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## The Mayor's empty car

The Hackney mayoral car was repeatedly seen arriving empty at official engagements, with only the gold chain of office on the back seat. The Mayor, Councillor Arthur Super, has now explained that as an Orthodox Jew he walks to Saturday engagements, but sends the chain of office by car in case he should be mugged. He estimates that he will have walked 150 miles by the time his year in office ends. He is now asking people to sponsor his walks to raise £1,500 for charity.

## More chaplains for students

At the meeting of the national chaplaincy board it was decided to appoint five additional chaplains for students in the London, Yorkshire, South-West and South Coast areas taking in the university towns of Birmingham, Bristol, Bradford, Cardiff, Hull, Leeds and Sheffield. The £20,000 scheme is to be financed from equal contributions by the communities involved and the board.

## Jewish schools in the U.K.

Dr. Jacob Braude reports in a survey for the Institute of Jewish Affairs that there are 12,700 children in Jewish day schools and nurseries, including 488 non-Jewish children. The secondary grammar schools showed an increase of 15 per cent in the number of pupils, due to the establishment of two new schools and to the greater readiness of parents to send children to Jewish secondary schools.

## Home for Jewish deaf children

The Norwood Homes for Jewish Children will be responsible for the new residential centre for Jewish deaf children in South Woodford, next door to the internationally famous Woodford School for Deaf Children which has over 20 Jewish pupils. The old centre at Tottenham had to be closed because there were not enough places for residents at local schools.

## Hebrew University Friends' New Director

Danzig-born Mrs. Rachel Hubner, who was educated partly in England before she went to Palestine in 1938, has been appointed new director of the Friends of the Hebrew University (London). She succeeds Mr. Leslie Finer who has resigned in order to resume his career as a full-time journalist. Mrs. Hubner has been closely connected with a variety of public and cultural activities in Israel.

## New Reader for Golders Green Synagogue

Rabbi Dr Eugene Newman, minister of the Golders Green Synagogue introduced the Rev. Chaim Abramovitz to his new office as chazan.

## Closure of synagogues?

Treasurers of the United Synagogue have worked out plans of rationalisation which might result in the closure of a number of constituent synagogues. They hold the view that where two out of three synagogues could be closed leaving the third spiritually and financially viable, this should be done, provided provision was made for small services in the affected areas. One area mentioned is that served by Willesden, Cricklewood, and Dollis Hill Synagogues where there is a total male membership of some 1,500 with combined attendances on the Sabbath of about 400. These synagogues have 12 full-time officials. A similar area embracing the New West End Synagogue, the Central Synagogue and the Marble Arch Synagogue have much the same figures with 8 full-time and several part-time officials.

## Willesden Ajax memorial service

October 12

The fifth annual interdenominational Memorial Service organised by the Willesden Branch of the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women in conjunction with the Reserve Forces Association will be held on Sunday, October 12, at 2.30, at the Prisoners' Memorial, Gladstone Park. The service is public, and all readers and their friends are invited.

# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## UNITED STATES

### Saudi Arabia Orders Uniforms

Saudi Arabia has concluded a multi-million-dollar contract to have uniforms for its army manufactured in the United States. The American Jewish Congress wants Washington to guarantee that Jewish manufacturers will not be excluded from the deal. Rabbi Hertzberg, president of the AJC, has written to the Secretary of Defence, Mr. James R. Schlesinger, asking him to "require in advance firm and clear assurances" that there will be no discrimination against Jews or firms which employ Jews. He pointed out that Saudi Arabia is one of the more enthusiastic supporters of the Arab boycott of Israel and of Jewish firms.

### Jewish Congregation Bankrupt

A large Jewish community in a suburb of Detroit has announced that it will have to go bankrupt, as it is unable to pay debts amounting to 4 million dollars. The congregation has a membership of 850 families. The leader of the Bar in Detroit has stated that this is the first time in history that this has happened.

### Jewish Music Festival in New York

An audience of several thousand people attended the Jewish Festival in Central Park, New York. The Festival is an annual free event, jointly organised by the Jewish Actors' Union, the Jewish Working Men's Association and the Musicians' Union.

### New York's Israeli Taxi-Drivers

It is estimated that about 700 of the taxi-drivers in New York are Israelis who came to the United States during the past few years in order to earn more money than they could have got at home. Most of them want to return to Israel at a later date.

## ISRAEL SCHOOL IN BRAZIL

A Zionist leader in Brazil will provide the money to build a new municipal school named the State of Israel School at Teresopolis near Rio de Janeiro. The Israeli Consul-General, Mr Ephraim Dowek attended the laying of the cornerstone of the school which will have more than 300 non-Jewish pupils.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Ark Given to Museum

The St. John Street Synagogue in Oudtshoorn near Cape Town is to be demolished because the community has shrunk to about 40. Its Ark has been presented to the Cape Town Mel Museum. It is an exact replica, the only one in existence, of the Ark in the synagogue in Kelm, Lithuania, destroyed by the Nazis in 1941, when all the Jews in the town were killed.

## IDI AMIN AND ISRAEL

President Amin of Uganda wanted military supplies from Israel in 1971 in order to invade Tanzania and open a route from Uganda to the coast, but Israel refused, and this led to the expulsion of the Israeli experts from Uganda in 1972. This was revealed by Mr. Abba Eban who was Israeli foreign minister at the time. He added that he "had the impression that Amin was not mature from a mental viewpoint."

Since then the president's hatred for Israel has grown. In an interview published in the Lebanese paper *Al Moharrer* he promised actively to support the Palestinians in their fight against Israel. He added that Uganda was going to provide settlements for the families of the "Palestinian martyrs" and that both in Iraq and in Uganda, death commandos were being trained for fighting Israel "side by side with the Palestinian people".

## HOLLAND

### Royal Visit to Synagogue

Crown Princess Beatrix of Holland and Rabbi Ovadia Yossef, the Sephardi Chief Rabbi of Israel were guests of honour at the 300th anniversary service in the Portuguese Synagogue in Amsterdam. A Sephardi choir from London participated in the service. At the same time a Sephardi world congress took place presided over by the Haham Rabbi Dr. Solomon Gaon and the president of the World Sephardi Federation, Mr. Nissim Gaon of Geneva.

The Synagogue which is a protected monument, was designed by Amsterdam's city architect. Five rows of copper chandeliers containing 960 candles light the synagogue which to this day has no heating system. The Ark is made of jacaranda wood. At the time of the consecration of the synagogue there were 559 Sephardi households in Amsterdam, all descendants of Marranos who had fled from the Spanish Inquisition at the end of the fifteenth century and returned to Judaism in Holland. At the time of the Nazi occupation, the community numbered 5,000 living mainly in Amsterdam and The Hague. Today there are fewer than 500 Sephardim left in the whole country, and The Hague community only exists in name.

## FRANCE

### Success of Jewish Fighter-Plane

During the recent Air Show in Le Bourget, the Israeli fighter-plane Kfir (Young Lion) had some spectacular success. Five hundred million dollars-worth of planes were ordered—as much as the Israelis will be able to supply, as during the immediate future most planes will be needed at home.

### Legion d'Honneur for Chief Rabbi

The Chief Rabbi of France, Jacob Kaplan, was made a Grand Officer of the Legion d'Honneur by the French Council of Ministers. This is the first time that this highest of French honours has been conferred on a Chief Rabbi. Rabbi Kaplan is a great Jewish scholar who has never concealed his condemnation of the official French stand in Middle East politics.

### One of the Just Men Honoured

The Israeli Government has conferred the Medal of the Just on Heinrich Frauli, Münster (Upper Alsatia). During the last war, Frauli was in charge of French refugees from Alsace-Lorraine and risked his own life in helping a number of Jews to escape to Switzerland.

## CANADA

### A Rabbi Backs Arafat

Rabbi Reuben Slonim who is also a freelance journalist, supported the admission of PLO representatives to the UN-sponsored congress on crime prevention which was to have been held in Toronto. After strong protests by Jewish and non-Jewish organisations against the presence of the PLO, the Canadian Government suggested to postpone the Congress, but the UN decided to move it to Geneva. Rabbi Slonim is the minister of a small Habonim synagogue in Toronto which was established by Jewish Refugees from Germany. In his article in the *Toronto Star*, he said that "for thousands of Palestinians on the West Bank the PLO represents a hope for peaceful co-existence with Israel."

### BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

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### SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

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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## JEWRY IN THE EAST

### YEHUDI MENUHIN APPEALS FOR JEWISH MUSICIANS

In a letter to the Russian Ambassador, Yehudi Menuhin took up the case of two Russian violinists, the twin brothers Arkady and Leonid from Kharkov. In his letter he said: "There is a bond between people who pursue the same profession and I have always felt compelled to be of assistance to those violinists less fortunate than myself. . . . (One of the brothers) is at present in a camp in the far North of the Soviet Republic, the other presumably in a different prison. I am not acquainted with the charges against them, but I know that at this moment their situation is heart-breaking and desperate. Surely nothing can justify so harsh a penalty. I understand that even their former prison on the outskirts of Kharkov would be preferable. I shall await your reply with hope and interest."

### WEEKLY SEMINARS OF SCIENTISTS IN DANGER

The Moscow prosecutor recently questioned for six hours Mark Azbel, a physicist who had lost his job after applying to emigrate. Since then there had been weekly seminars held in his flat by scientists in a similar position. In May the KGB had threatened Professor Azbel with prosecution unless the seminars were stopped.

### IVAN MAISKY DIED

Mr. Ivan Maisky, who was Soviet Ambassador to Britain from 1932 to 1943, died in Moscow at the age of 91. He was born in Omsk, the son of Mikhail Lyakhovetsky, a Jewish doctor in the Russian army, and a non-Jewish mother. In 1949, he was arrested, according to his wife as one of the victims of Stalin's anti-Jewish purges. He was released after Stalin's death. Maisky was always in sympathy with the aims of Zionism, the *Jewish Chronicle* writes, and his last known Israel-related action was in June, 1967, when he was one of the public Soviet figures who refused to sign a statement condemning Israel for the Six-Day War.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

### Revelation about Charles Jordan's death

The *Frolic Defection* is the title of a book recently published by Leo Cooper in which Josef Frolic, a major in the Czech Intelligence Service, produces some startling information. He claims to reveal how Mr. Charles Jordan, director-general of the American Joint Distribution Committee, was murdered in Prague. According to him, the murderers belonged to a gang of Arab terrorists which had followed him to Prague. There were Czech eye-witnesses to the murder, but they told the Egyptian Ambassador to whose embassy Jordan was taken that they would neither ask for the murderers nor inform the Americans of what had really happened. The murder has in fact remained unexplained to this day.

### Shrinking community

The Prague correspondent of the New York Times, Mr. Malcolm W. Browne, believes that in about 20 years' time Judaism in Czechoslovakia will be no more than a memory. Before the Second World War, there were an estimated 360,000 Jews in the country, now there are only about 5,000 who are still professing Jews. There are only two functioning synagogues left, along with a kosher restaurant catering largely for ageing pensioners. The last Rabbi, Dr. Richard Feder, died five years ago, at the age of 90, and there is no replacement in sight. Two cantors look after the spiritual needs of the community. The remaining Jews are too old to want to emigrate.

Lionel Kochan

## R. SKIDELSKY'S MOSLEY BIOGRAPHY

This book\* has on its title-page a motto from Solzhenitsyn's *Cancer Ward*: "It is a universal law; everyone who acts breeds both good and evil. With some it's more good, with others more evil." It is fair to take this as an expression of Dr. Robert Skidelsky's determination to assess as scrupulously as possible both the good and the evil for which Mosley was responsible. Given the odium that surrounds Mosley and his British Union of Fascists (B.U.F.) an attempt to discern anything good or positive in Mosley's actions must seem dangerously close to a work of apologetics and rehabilitation. There is no doubt that this source of resistance must be overcome by the reader, especially the Jewish reader, if justice is to be done to Skidelsky's work.

In this light then, Skidelsky makes out a plausible picture, impressively documented and ably presented, of Mosley as an honourable British patriot, burning with zeal to bring the enthusiasm of youth to the creation of a better Britain and a better world—"a land fit for heroes". Mosley's first programme, issued in support of his parliamentary candidature in 1918, already enunciated a list of reforms that never essentially changed: the maintenance of high wages; State-controlled transport; electricity and slum clearance; extended educational opportunity; fiscal protection for British and colonial industries; anti-alien legislation with repatriation of aliens already in this country; unity of the British Empire to allow it to play a full part in the future League of Nations. This, the agenda of 1918, is what Mosley remained loyal to throughout his life. Of course, from time to time the details changed—e.g. the aliens in 1918 were German, in the 1930s Jewish and in the 1950s black. What remained constant, Skidelsky points out, was the primary loyalty to those with their roots in Britain.

### Changing Party Loyalties

But as a man of action and eloquence Mosley could find his home in no existing party. He moved from Conservatism to Labour, to the "New Party" and thence to a brief spell as Independent. In his early Socialist days he saw himself as Lassalle. This model, disturbing though it may be, is perhaps the key to the origins of Mosley's fascism. Skidelsky sees this as the product of "the Whiggish desire" to introduce from above the reforms necessary to preserve existing society, and a pronounced alienation from that society once the glamour of high politics had worn off.

The British Union of Fascists was formally launched in October, 1932. Mosley had no previous history of antisemitism but a few months earlier he had been in contact with antisemitic fringe groups and was himself apparently prepared to use antisemitism as a political weapon. In any event, when the B.U.F. moved into action it had no antisemitic policy but did include a number of antisemites in its ranks.

The identification of the B.U.F. with antisemitism in outlook and action was not slow to come. It is at this point that Skidelsky's work shows traces of serious distortion and bias. The book degenerates into insinuation and into an apologia for the Blackshirts. Thus he argues that the intense nationalism

of the B.U.F. must win it support among those who were already "disposed to dislike foreign immigrants, of whom the Jewish community at that time formed the largest number . . .".

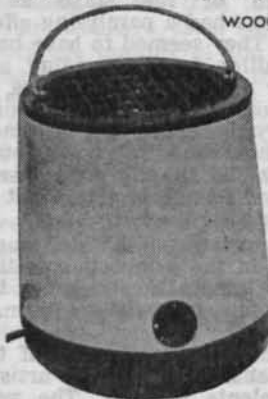
The B.U.F. itself explained that only those Jews who were associated with Communism and international finance had anything to fear. If words mean anything this shows that the B.U.F. was from its inception committed to a policy of outright antisemitism, for the category of those associated with Communism or international finance could include anyone—as Hitler showed.

### "Jews to be blamed"

But now Skidelsky suddenly turns around. It appears, after all, that it was not the B.U.F. who were responsible for the development of their own antisemitic policies but that "the Jews themselves must take a large share of the blame for what subsequently happened". And what happened was, Skidelsky argues, the formation of a Jewish-Communist alliance to goad and provoke the B.U.F. into violence and thereby make its suppression a matter of Government policy. In a phrase of monumental ineptitude, Skidelsky declares that "a Jewish malaise at this time was to be obsessed with fascism. If some Jews found it intolerably provoking they certainly went out of their way to be provoked". But what is not more than a conjecture on p. 381 becomes on p. 515 "the old Jewish-Communist alliance". Skidelsky never denies that the B.U.F. used insulting and abusive language, that among its members were indeed militant antisemites. He is even prepared to admit that it "was not perhaps auspicious" to open a meeting in Oxford by playing the *Horst Wessel Lied*. But to present quasi-innocent Blackshirts, attracted to the East End by the justified grievances of those suffering from Jewish landlords and exploiters is a travesty of the truth. A fair sample of Skidelsky's approach to the analysis of social conditions runs as follows: "as Jews prospered they bought up derelict housing and were thus able to screw up rents even higher . . .".

It is a pity that these lapses should disfigure a work the bulk of which marks a definite contribution to the study of the British political scene in the 1920s and 1930s.

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Hans I. Bach

## ANTISEMITISM OF THE 1880s A Compilation of Literature

In his PhD thesis,\* the author presents a compilation of antisemitic literature in Germany and Austria up to the First World War, attempting to place it in an historical setting. As, however, he also includes, somewhat indiscriminately, the dregs of trivial literature which may well stir up primitive instincts, there could indeed be doubts whether such a presentation might not even spread some of the antisemitic charges instead of refuting them as is his intention.

To give an idea of the contents, there are chapters on: The Jews as murderers of Christ; attacks against the Jewish religion, in particular the Talmud; 'ritual murder' allegations and law suits; discussion about *shechita*; alleged Jewish hatred of Christ and Christians; antisemitism and 'dechristianisation'; 'Kulturkampf'; Jews and Freemasons; antisemitism in writings on music (without mentioning Richard Wagner's pamphlet) and in German 'poetry'; its influence on youth; superstitions regarding Jews; antisemitism in the Law Courts and Parliaments; attitude of the Churches; religious antisemitism and racial thinking.

Closely following a study by Peter Heinz not only in the title, but also in defining antisemitism as 'social prejudice', 'referring to the relationship of members of a certain in-group to those of one or several out-groups', Mr Lehr characterises it as usually 'rigid', its arguments 'stereotyped', as 'emotionally highly charged', distorting the perception of the environment and tending to increase in its bearers the subjective feeling of prestige. Adorno is quoted as describing the personality type of antisemites as 'authoritarian' in the sense of ego feebleness, dogmatic thinking, a conventional attitude, intolerance, subservience to authority, often after frustrations, and the tendency to project guilt feelings outward.

Of the 'religious motives' of antisemites which the title promises, only that of Jews as 'murderers of Christ', i.e. deicides, is discussed at some length which to interested readers might be useful.

### Germany's aspirations

As the author appears to be seriously interested in studying antisemitism—he mentions his intention to publish a separate study of Stöcker's antisemitic propaganda—his attention may be drawn to two aspects of this subject: the first that, in the years after the Franco-Prussian War of 1870/71, with the economic might of the young German Empire increasing by leaps and bounds and a massive materialism dominating the German scene, Christian influence was at a comparatively low ebb. It is thus rather doubtful whether, on the strength of the charge of murderers of Christ alone, the antisemitism of that time could have got the mass response which it did in fact achieve. The second is the observation of the Jewish expert psychologist Heymann Steinthal, who saw the dominant motive of antisemitism at that time clearly in the German aspiration to become a Favoured Nation which, combined with the erroneous notion that there could only be one Chosen People, almost automatically meant denigrating and baiting 'The Jews'.

\*Stefan Lehr: *Antisemitismus—religiöse Motive im sozialen Vorurteil*. Munich (—Chr. Kaiser) 1974. DM 20.

\* Robert Skidelsky: *Oswald Mosley*. Macmillan £6.95.

Egon Larsen

## ENGLAND AND THE GERMAN THEATRE

The relationship between Germany and Britain in the sphere of the theatre has quite an extraordinary history. Shakespeare was the most powerful influence on the German stage and German dramatists in the neo-classic period which began at the end of the eighteenth century, and he is still the most popular "German" playwright on the Central European stage, closely followed by G. B. Shaw and, at some distance by Oscar Wilde and the contemporary English dramatists. In Britain, very few German playwrights have been performed in the past two hundred years until Brecht was "discovered" twenty years ago, starting with the *Dreigroschenoper* (whose international success has been largely due to Kurt Weill's music). Another discovery is Wedekind, whose 85-year-old *Frühlings Erwachen* recently made an enormous impact on British audiences and critics, who had never heard of him before; and last year, his *Marquis von Keith* was produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company, also most successfully.

Thus the timing of the first monograph on Frank Wedekind in the English language—published by Oswald Wolff, London, in their series *Modern German Authors*—is excellent. The booklet (cloth £2.50, paper £1.50) has been written with great care and understanding by Dr. Alan Best, lecturer in German at the University of Hull and co-translator of the *Marquis von Keith*. Admittedly, even those of us for whom Wedekind is a household name will learn many unknown facts on his life from Dr. Best's splendid account.

He begins, for instance, with the extraordinary scene ("that could well have come from the writer's own pen") at the funeral of Wedekind, who died in March, 1918, at the age of only 54: "His young widow, distraught and on the verge of exhaustion, was accompanied behind the cortège by distinguished mourners from civic and artistic bodies and, so it seemed, half the bohemian life of the Bavarian capital, ably supported by a large contingent of ladies of the town." There was "a mad stampede" at the cemetery, with everybody trying to get a good vantage point, mainly because of "the activities of one Heinrich Lautensack, a young, precariously neurotic writer and admirer of Wedekind, who had engaged a camera crew to film events for posterity". Somehow, says Alan Best, it seems fitting that Wedekind, "who had created such confusion and disorder about him while he lived, should provoke such a grotesque enactment of his last rites. Even in death he was denied the dignity that society had so diligently withheld during his lifetime".

He had indeed a dreadful reputation, that of a libertine, an anti-bourgeois exploiter of sexuality, a threat to public morality. Under the Kaiser, many of his thirty-odd plays had been banned by the censor, and he had been imprisoned because of a cheeky satire on Wilhelm II in the *Simplicissimus*. In fact, Wedekind's great time was posthumous—he was appreciated as a leading German playwright (and, somewhat mistakenly, as a prominent Expressionist) only in the 1920s when there was no more censorship. Alan Best tells us that the Nazis "did not quite know how to deal with him". There was the project of a film version of the *Marquis von Keith*, that shady character, but provided he was portrayed as a Jew. Wedekind's widow Tilly refused to allow this, the film was never made, and Wedekind's name disappeared from the theatres and bookstalls of the Third Reich.

Today, he is "securely established" among Germany's younger generation while his plays are being produced in many countries. Alban Berg's opera *Lulu* is often revived, G. W. Pabst's film version of the same two plays, *Erdegeist* and *Büchse der Pandora*, is shown again and again. Best analyses their attraction in our time: "The Lulu plays focus on

the fringe of respectable society and are exclusively peopled by individuals who do not belong to respectable society. . . . Wedekind seeks to bring home to his audience the common motivation of the worlds in which Lulu moved and the relevance of the human speculation on the stage to the standards and conventions of its own society". But, says Best, there is the possibility that even now Wedekind's message may fall on deaf ears: "Today's audiences may conveniently hide behind the fiction that Wedekind's true significance is as an interesting eccentric in the history of the theatre". Still, his tragedy of adolescence, *Frühlings Erwachen*, speaks passionately for our young generation as it did for that of the 1890s. "We watch parents putting children into the world," says the headless ghost of Moritz Stiefel, "so that they can say to them: 'How lucky you are to have parents like us!'—and we see the children grow up and do the same".

Wedekind also figures large in the symposium *The German Theatre* (also published by Oswald Wolff, London; £6.50). Edited and introduced by Ronald Hayman, who writes for *The Times* and has published books on modern German playwrights (some of whose works he has produced) and on the English theatre, it contains contributions by a dozen British, German, Austrian, and Swiss critics and scholars who view the German stage of the past two hundred years from various angles. It is a most timely volume; although dramatic imports from the German-speaking countries have multiplied during the past two decades, Britain and the other English-speaking countries still show a "remarkable ignorance"—as the publisher's blurb puts it—in view of the strong mutual influence of the two literatures: "Shakespeare is arguably the most important playwright in the whole of German drama, while Brecht has had an enormous influence on the English and American theatre. But Brecht can be understood only in relation to the tradition which he was both continuing and opposing, and relatively little is known here about the playwrights and the directors who were his predecessors".

This symposium fills the gap admirably. Much of what is told about Lessing, Kleist, Goethe, Schiller, Büchner, Hölderlin, Hebbel and other masters of the neo-classic and romantic period will be new to English readers; pre-Nazi creators of Central Europe's dramatic style such as Max Reinhardt, Carl Sternheim, Toller, Piscator, Schnitzler and Hofmannsthal (as well as, of course, Wedekind) are evaluated and analysed, and their influence on present-day playwrights is investigated. Perhaps a contribution on the lack of humour in German nineteenth-century theatre should have been added and an accusing finger might have been pointed at Schiller—his notion of the stage as a *moralische Anstalt* has had a paralysing effect on the playwrights. They seemed to have been warned off by Schiller from providing any light relief in their dramas and tragedies, as Shakespeare did whom they admired so much: "His humour is everywhere, even the grimmest and wildest tragedies cannot keep it out," says J. B. Priestley. To the German dramatists this would have been completely out of keeping with a *moralische Anstalt*.

An even more important point which ought to have been made in the symposium is that the paucity of the German theatre after the Second World War—as compared to its magnificent flourishing after the first—was, without doubt, mainly due to the absence of the Jews in a sphere that had suited their artistic and intellectual talents so well. The very few who have returned, such as the playwright Peter Weiss and the controversial producer Peter Zadek have shown that the German theatre lost and what it is still largely lacking.

### MAX DIENEMANN CENTENARY

September 27 was the centenary of the birth of Max Dienemann, one of the protagonists of the liberal tradition in German Judaism. He was born in Krotoschin in 1875 and graduated in Breslau with a thesis on oriental philology. In 1901 he was ordained a rabbi. He held office as a rabbi and religious teacher in Breslau and Ratibor until 1919 when he was elected rabbi of Offenbach on Main where the Jewish community had 1,700 members. He remained there until his emigration in 1938.

Offenbach was only a few miles from Frankfurt, a centre of Jewish learning. He soon became involved in teaching and research at Franz Rosenzweig's *Jüdisches Lehrhaus* and was first a frequent contributor and later for a time an editor of the periodical *Der Morgen* founded by Dr. Julius Goldstein (Darmstadt). As secretary of the *Allgemeine Deutsche Rabbinerverband*, Dr. Dienemann became a personal friend and close collaborator of Leo Baeck. Soon after the Nazis came to power, he was imprisoned for a short time, because a Gestapo official had misinterpreted one of his sermons. In November 1938 he was sent to Buchenwald and was only released from there, when Lily H. Montagu secured his emigration to this country. He had been on the board of the German branch of the World Union for Progressive Judaism of which she was one of the leaders. In March 1939 he went to Israel with his family, but his health had been broken and he died in Tel Aviv on April 10, 1939.

His writings and teachings are remembered by friends and pupils and by former colleagues all over the world. He wrote a great number of articles and books on aspects of Jewish ethics, religion and communal life and he was also one of the first religious leaders to enter into and maintain a dialogue with Christian Churches. As early as 1914 he published an essay *Judentum und Christentum* in which he stressed that Judaism is intent on individual moral responsibility and for this reason rejects redemption from outside.

After the war his widow Mally Dienemann published a short biography "Max Dienemann 1875-1939" with an introduction by Lily M. Montagu. His private papers and writings are now at the Leo Baeck Institute in New York.

In 1960 Rabbi Dr. Max Grünwald paid tribute to Dienemann's memory in the *Aufbau* and remarked that Max Dienemann had been one of the German religious leaders who combined constructive criticism with a deep philosophical involvement in the Jewish religion.

Dr. Dienemann's two daughters are now living in Britain. Paula Schindler is the wife of the lawyer Max Schindler who was for a time URO representative in Hanover, and Gaby Jacoby is head of the Department of Domestic Science and Fashion at Luton Technical College.

### OSCAR STRAUS ARCHIVE IN VIENNA

The Vienna National Library has recently acquired the manuscripts and other papers of the Jewish composer Oscar Straus. Straus was the composer of more than 50 comic operas and operettas who was never forgiven by his teacher Anton Bruckner for having abandoned serious music. He had written popular songs for Ernst von Wolzogen's *Ueberbrettel* in Berlin before achieving world fame with operettas like the "Chocolate Soldier", "The Last Waltz" and many others. In 1955 he wrote the music for the film "La Ronde". Oscar Straus left Vienna in 1939, and after a short stay in Paris went to the United States. His attempts to combine American and Austrian musical traditions were not very successful, and some time after the war he returned to Vienna. He died in the neighbouring spa of Ischl in 1954 at the age of 84.

E.G.L.

Georg Nador

## JEWISH PROVERBS

Many books are widely discussed on their first appearance, but are totally forgotten after forty or fifty years. Contrariwise, it is only now, decades after its original publication, that Ignaz Bernstein's collection of Jewish proverbs is gaining recognition for its importance to Jewish culture and scholarship. The recent German reprint is an indication of this.\*

Ignaz Bernstein (1836-1909) was not a professional scholar, but a well-to-do businessman living in Poland who devoted all his spare time and talent to the study of Jewish folklore and Yiddish proverbs in particular. Having collected tens of thousands of everyday maxims and proverbial expressions from the people he met in the street or in his business dealings, he classified these sayings according to subject, transcribed them into Latin characters, added an index and glossary, and at his own expense published the compilation—the work of a lifetime.

In addition, he issued a limited edition of *Erotica and Rustica*. This, now extremely rare, is reproduced as a welcome appendix to the current edition of *Jüdische Sprichwörter und Redensarten*.

Hans Peter Althaus (Marburg/Lahn) has provided a scholarly introduction, as well as a most useful up-to-date bibliography of the literature on Jewish proverbs. The book is moreover, attractively presented.

When Bernstein carried out his gigantic work in the second half of the nineteenth century, unaided by other individuals or by institutions, the concept of collecting and studying Eastern

European Jewish mass culture was shared by few. He could, therefore, expect no support, either from the Orthodox section or from the progressively minded *Wissenschaft des Judentums*. In Orthodox eyes, the subject was secular, while for the *Wissenschaft* popular mass culture was of little value. They prized the philosophical, theological and poetical part of the Jewish heritage, but it did not occur to them that the "uneducated" masses of Eastern Europe, speaking mere "jargon", could produce anything of value or interest in that despised language. Bernstein, however, displayed a folkloristic approach to the culture of his people, an approach which did not begin to gain general acceptance until our own times.

Among the nations of Western Europe, the Enlightenment and Romanicism aroused interest in popular culture and its specifically national characteristics. Under the influence of these movements, for example, Herder compiled various kinds of national literature, such as ballads and poems, and the Brothers Grimm collected German fairy tales.

Nevertheless, little of this is to be found in Jewish intellectual life at that time. The champions of Jewish culture restricted their researches to the educated classes. Even the most gifted among them were prevented by their "aristocratic" attitude from appreciating the cultural potentialities of the *am haaretz*, the ordinary Yiddish-speaking people.

Naturally enough, they rationalised their neglect of folklore by their contempt for the superstition of the masses. They disparaged popular belief in such conceptions as the *Dibbuk*, which has become so widely known, even to non-Jews, through the play by the folkloristic poet An-Ski. Since they identified Jewish folklore with superstitious beliefs and practices, with childish legends and *Maases*, they preferred to avoid the subject altogether.

All Oriental nations are rich in proverbs, some expressing popular wisdom, others of a more learned and scholastic nature. Ancient Jewry possessed collections of such wisdom in teachings like *Mishle* and *The Wisdom of Ben Sirach*. The Talmud contains hundreds of genuine folk-sayings, covering all aspects of everyday life and expressing the common people's views and feelings on life and death, friendship and love, and the like.

Less is known about the proverbs in mediaeval times. The Jews seem to have taken over the popular wisdom of the nations among whom they lived, so that the influence of German folk-sayings is clearly seen and there are frequent borrowings from German folklore.

Few of the sayings preserved by Bernstein go back further than the eighteenth century. Their language, local colour and approach reflect the outlook of the *stedtl* and the great East European ghettos. Intellectually, attitudes held before, during and after the time of the Enlightenment are all represented. To sense the feel of the *Sprichwörter*, one has only to read the chapter headed *Rabi* ("Wunder-rabbi"): "A rabi ün a doktor weren reich fün weiber", "Der rebi trinkt alejn aus dem wein, ün hejsst dernuch di andere solen frejlich sein".

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Who were the authors of these sayings? Not, of course, the "people": each must have been created by an individual. The names of the sharp-witted men, rabbinical scholars or rabbinically unlearned, who first created each adage, each *wertl*, are lost for ever. Their number must border on the infinite.

Are the folk-sayings diametrically opposed to the religious and theologically determined culture of the post-mediaeval period? Are they expressions of *am haaretz* culture, totally at variance with scholarly culture, the *Talmid Chacham* and the *Wissenschaftler*? Only a romantically prejudiced approach to the history of literature could suggest such an exaggerated position. We do not believe in the creative force of the People as a collective force, nor do we think that the untutored folk is in a better position to create folk-culture than the learned members of the same community.

But it is clear to every student of the *Sprichwörter* that, in the main, their attitude is that of an anti-Establishment spirit. They oppose the rigid conservatism of the Establishment, ridicule many superstitious beliefs and hierarchical concepts, suggest a more lively and flexible attitude to religious issues, the relationship of the sexes, the position of women, and so on.

It is scarcely conceivable that these proverbs and sayings, admirably formulated and profoundly critical, sometimes to the point of aggression, were the work of ignoramuses. On the contrary, the authors of these *Sprichwörter und Redensarten* must have been highly educated men with complete mastery of the language and its finesses, who had received a talmudic education. Nevertheless, they were not at ease within the limits of established values. In expressing themselves, they voiced the inarticulate feelings, not only of the common man, but also of women and children, as well as the underprivileged within the hierarchically structured society of the ghetto.

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\*Ignaz Bernstein, *Jüdische Sprichwörter und Redensarten* (Olms, Hildesheim, 1969. Neudruck der Warschau-Ausgabe, 1908). DM 88.

Herbert Freedman (Jerusalem)

## THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN ISRAEL

The "International Women's Year" will be remembered by a sorry and shameful performance of the "International Women's Conference", held in Mexico City where the Israel representative, Leah Rabin, had to make her speech before an almost empty hall, as her sister delegates of the "Third World" countries had demonstratively staged an exodus. However, the "Women's Year" had not too happy a passage in Israel either. A storm arose when a cross section of members of all Knesset factions—the religious parties and Herut excluded—tabled a law with the view to amending the social and political status of women in Israel. Although the Declaration of Independence of 1948 speaks also of equality of the sexes, certain areas of family life, such as marriage, divorce and inheritance, are still governed by halachic law which does not always correspond to a modern interpretation of sex equality.

The opponents to the newly tabled law claim that such a step would violate the "status quo"—which has become an institution in itself. Introduced at the initiative of David Ben-Gurion to prevent anything that may faintly resemble a "Kulturkampf", it has frozen the situation as it existed at the end of the Mandatory administration, with no changes permitted. To cite an example in another field: in Haifa, public transport was allowed to function on Sabbath in mandatory times, then consisting of buses only. When after the establishment of the State, underground trains were added to the public transport network, they were excluded from running on Sabbath. Nevertheless, it would be erroneous to assume that the lack of equality of women in Israel is solely the result of religious legislation. There are quite a number of mundane activities where women are placed at a disadvantage, even discriminated against. True, Israel was led for several years by a woman prime minister. For a short while, it also listed a female member of the government without portfolio. This, however, exhausts to a large extent the role of women in the leading cadres of Israel politics. Among the 120 members of the Knesset, only seven are female, although women form 52 per cent of the population. No woman has ever become vice-minister or been appointed director-general of a ministry; no woman sits on the bench of the Supreme Court, nor on the mayor's chair in one of the larger cities.

One can detect quite a number of oddities in the labour market. Most women fill occupations which carry a low prestige—either physically heavy work such as nursing or cleaning, or monotonous jobs such as typing or work on assembly lines. Even where they succeed in "conquering" previously male-dominated fields, e.g. education, men still retain the controlling and leading positions.

The share of women in office work is 85 per cent, in nursing 80 per cent, in teaching in elementary schools 68 per cent but only seven per cent of the supervising posts in the educational network are held by women. In the free professions and the higher echelon of the civil service, the proportion is still worse—female representation is under ten per cent; in the legal profession—seven per cent; among the engineers—five per cent; and a mere two per cent of the academic staff at the universities are women. 36 per cent of all civil servants on the state and municipal level are women, yet only nine per cent of the leading posts are filled by women. Women earn

less than men, even for the same kind of jobs. On the average, they earn 30 per cent less than their male colleagues. The educational level of women in Israel is lower than that of men. Although women make up for more than half of the number of students in higher institutes of learning, only 37 per cent of BA degrees are awarded to them, 34 per cent of the MA degrees and a mere 16 per cent of the doctor titles. More women are illiterate than men, mainly those coming from oriental countries but also because the Israel army gives free tutelage to male soldiers only.

70 per cent of all women in Israel call themselves "housewives", and there one finds the syndroms and symptoms of housewives the world over. If one believes the statistics, mental depressions are more frequent with women than with men, and in the past year, 67 per cent of all suicides and suicide attempts were made by women. Looking at the figures, it seems that there is still plenty of room for improvement on the professional and social level as far as equality of women is concerned, before tackling the "holy cow" of the religious status quo.

### THE ISRAELI SCENE

#### CROSSMAN FOREST IN JERUSALEM

The first trees were planted in the 13,000-tree forest dedicated to the memory of the late Mr. Richard Crossman in the Jerusalem Hills. His widow, Mrs. Anne Crossman, was present, as was Mr. Yigal Allon, Israel's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and a close personal friend. He recalled that as a member of the Anglo-American inquiry committee in 1946, Mr. Crossman had steadfastly resisted Ernest Bevin's hostile policy. This had at the time seriously jeopardised Mr. Crossman's career, but contributed directly to the eventual decision to submit the Palestine issue to the U.N. The Richard Crossman Forest, sponsored by the British Zionist Federation, will form part of the commemorative forest of British Jews in which ten million trees have been planted during the past ten years.

The British Ambassador attended the tree-planting ceremony and conveyed a message of congratulations and good wishes from the Prime Minister, from the leader of the Opposition and from the leader of the Liberal Peers to Israel's deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Yigal Allon.

#### LUDWIG GUTTMANN MEDICAL CENTRE

At the Chaim Sheba medical centre in Tel Aviv a spinal injuries centre will be opened. It will be named after Professor Sir Ludwig Guttmann, director of the Stoke Mandeville national spinal injuries centre where several members of the Tel Aviv staff were trained. Ninety per cent of Israel's wounded during the Yom Kippur War were treated at the Tel Aviv hospital. At present there are 24 beds for paraplegics and an outpatients' clinic. A London-based committee Operation Wheelchairs under the chairmanship of Mrs. Lily Perry has undertaken to support the £125,000 project which will provide a 50-bed department and a clinic dealing solely with neurological rehabilitation. Operation Wheelchairs, established by only four determined people in 1970, has so far raised over £250,000 for medical centres and hospitals in Israel.

#### TOY FAIR IN TEL AVIV

An annual toy and music fair sponsored by the City Council was held in Tel Aviv in August. The square outside the city hall was filled with stands displaying toys, games, records and musical equipment. There was a great demand for do-it-yourself stereo sets.

### WAR AGAINST TAX-DODGERS

Israel's income tax authorities have announced that they will prosecute a number of firms and individuals who are alleged to have evaded paying millions of pounds in taxes during the past few years. One Beersheba bakery is accused of not declaring income of about £1,072,000.

In Jerusalem, Professor Abraham Hochman, 65, head of the Haddassah Hebrew University medical centre's oncology department, and his wife were indicted on charges of not declaring income of £7,285 in private medical fees received over a period of three years.

The campaign against tax evasion coincides with the introduction of a new income tax system, which reduces income tax payments, but cancels all tax-free benefits including car and telephone allowances.

### TEACHERS' STRIKE AT BEERSHEBA

2,200 primary pupils had extended summer holidays in Beersheba, because their teachers were on strike protesting against the authorities' failure to employ educational psychologists.

### HONORARY DOCTORATE FOR RECHA FREIER

Recha Freier who even before 1933 started the Children and Youth Aliyah in Germany, received an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She was born in 1892 in Norden/Ostfriesland and married Dr. Moritz Freier, a Berlin rabbi. In 1940 she left Germany with the last Youth Aliyah transport to be allowed to leave. She stayed with the group in Yugoslavia and went to Palestine in 1941 when Yugoslavia was overrun by the Germans.

### BEDUIN WANTS TO CONVERT

A 32-year-old Israeli Beduin, Mr. Ibrahim Shvili, who holds one of the highest awards for bravery in action, has applied to become a convert to Judaism. He lost a hand in an Israel Defence Forces action before the Yom Kippur War and wants to marry a 23-year-old Herzlia widow who recently bore him a daughter. The rabbinat refuses to consider his application, and as there is no civil marriage in Israel, he intends to emigrate with the young woman and her child unless his application is granted.

### VIETNAMESE GIRL IN LOVE WITH ISRAELI

A young Vietnamese girl, Fong Kim Lee, arrived in Beersheba with her two children in order to marry their father, an Israeli who ran a night-club and hotel in Saigon. His wife and seven children also live in the town, and the two families are said to be on good terms, but the rabbinat refuses to convert her to Judaism.

### ELIZABETH TAYLOR AND BURTON IN JERUSALEM

On the occasion of their four-day visit to Israel, Elizabeth (called by her Hebrew name Elisheva Rachel) Taylor and Richard Burton were guests of the Kissingers at a party in the King David Hotel, where both couples stayed. There was also a public performance in the 1,000 seat Jerusalem Theatre, where Richard Burton read passages from the Bible, excerpts from Shakespeare and from Dylan Thomas' "Under Milkwood". The proceeds of the evening were \$10,000, which will go to Mayor Teddy Kollek's fund for children's cultural activities.

### KOSHER ARAB RESTAURANT

A restaurant in the Galilee village of Um el Fahm is the first in an Israeli Arab village to receive a kosher licence. A group of 25 Jewish teachers are staying in the village on a four-week course and want to eat there. They are teachers of Arabic in Israeli schools who want to improve their knowledge of the language and of Arab customs. Similar groups are expected later.

## NACHENTRICHTUNG VON BEITRAEGEN ZUR DEUTSCHEN SOZIALVERSICHERUNG

Wir haben in unserer Juni 1975-Nummer ueber den Ablauf der Frist Ende dieses Jahres fuer Stellung von Antraegen auf Genehmigung der Nachentrichtung von Beiträgen berichtet. Auf diesen Fristablauf wird nochmals hingewiesen. Ergaenzend wird folgendes bemerkt:

(1) Zusaetzlich zu den bisherigen Voraussetzungen des Nachentrichtungsrechts (Unterbrechung einer versicherungspflichtigen Beschaeftigung durch Verfolgungsmassnahmen oder bei Beginn der Verfolgung bestehende Arbeitslosigkeit) kann jetzt auch die Tatsache, dass der Verfolgte EntschaeDIGUNG wegen Ausbildungsschadens erhalten hat, oder dass Verfolgungsmassnahmen gegen ihn innerhalb von 12 Monaten nach Beendigung der Ausbildung begonnen haben, das Nachentrichtungsrecht begruenden, falls eine Versicherungszeit (Beitragszeit und Ersatzzeit) von mindestens 60 Monaten vorliegt. Diese Ausdehnung der Nachentrichtungsmoeglichkeit ist aber fuer Personen unserer Gruppe nur von beschaenker Bedeutung.

Wenn fuer einen Ausbildungsgeschaedigten Beiträge in der Sozialversicherung vorliegen, so kann in den meisten Faellen auch Unterbrechung einer versicherungspflichtigen Beschaeftigung durch Verfolgungsmassnahmen nachgewiesen werden. Hieraus ergibt sich dann das Nachentrichtungsrecht bereits nach der bisherigen gesetzlichen Regelung und es ist in diesen Faellen nicht notwendig, dieses Recht auf die Tatsache der EntschaeDIGUNG wegen Ausbildungsschadens zu gruenden, zumal die so begruendete Nachentrichtung in ihren Auswirkungen weniger guenstig ist als diejenige, die auf verfolgungsbedingter Unterbrechung einer versicherungspflichtigen Beschaeftigung beruht. Das eben Gesagte sei an folgendem Beispiel erlaeutert:

Ein Jude hat in Deutschland von Juli 1931 bis Ostern 1932 eine kaufmaennische Stellung gehabt und Beiträge zur Reichsversicherung fuer Angestellte entrichtet. Ostern 1932 beginnt er, Medizin zu studieren, muss dieses Studium aber Ostern 1934 aus Verfolgungsgruenden aufgeben. Er ist dann bis November 1938 im vaeterlichen Geschaefft taetig und als dieses zwangsweise geschlossen wurde, im Januar 1939 ausgewandert. Er hat EntschaeDIGUNG wegen Ausbildungsschadens und auch (was hier nicht interessiert) wegen Berufsschadens erhalten.

Nach der bisherigen Rechtslage: Kein Verfolgten-Nachentrichtungsrecht, da keine versicherungspflichtige Beschaeftigung durch Verfolgungsmassnahmen unterbrochen.

Nach der jetzt erfolgten Gesetzesaenderung: Verfolgten-Nachentrichtungsrecht besteht, da das Erfordernis des Vorliegens von mindestens 60 Monaten Versicherungszeit (Beitrags- und Ersatzzeit) erfuellt und EntschaeDIGUNG wegen Ausbildungsschadens gewaehrt worden ist.

Hat jedoch der eben Genannte nach zwangsweiser Aufgabe seines Studiums nicht im vaeterlichen Geschaefft gearbeitet, sondern eine Stellung bei einem Arbeitgeber gehabt, fuer die Beiträge zur Reichsversicherung fuer Angestellte geleistet wurden und die im November 1938 auf Grund der damaligen Verfolgungsmassnahmen zu einem Ende kam, so besteht ein Verfolgten-Nachentrichtungsrecht bereits nach bisheriger Rechtslage. Die Tatsache, dass der Betreffende EntschaeDIGUNG wegen Ausbildungsschadens erhalten hat, ist fuer das Nachentrichtungsrecht nicht von Bedeutung.

(2) Andererseits gibt es viele Ausbildungsgeschaedigte, fuer die keine Versicherungs-

beiträge vorliegen und die nicht in Deutschland auf Hachsharah waren und daher auch auf diese Weise nicht die Anerkennung einer Beitragszeit erreichen koennen. Bei diesen Personen ist die Moeglichkeit der Nachentrichtung von 60 Monatsbeiträgen in der niedrigsten Klasse von DM 18—also einer Summe von DM 1080—nach dem Renten-Reform-Gesetz zu erwaegen, um das eben erwaehnte Erfordernis des Vorliegens von 60 Beiträgen zu erfuellen, und dann durch eine weitere Nachentrichtung nach dem Gesetz zur Regelung der Wiedergutmachung nationalsozialistischen Unrechts in der Sozialversicherung (Verfolgten-Nachentrichtung) ein Rentenrecht zu begruenden. Die eben erwaehnte Nachentrichtung nach dem Renten-Reform-Gesetz kann nur fuer 60 zwischen dem 1.1.1956 und dem 30.9.1972 liegende Monate geleistet werden, jedoch nur fuer Zeiten, die nicht bereits mit Beiträgen zur British National Insurance belegt sind. Britische Staatsangehoerige, sowie natuerlich deutsche Staatsangehoerige, sind zu dieser Nachentrichtung berechtigt.

Die Verfolgtennachentrichtung ist guenstiger als die Nachentrichtung nach dem Renten-Reform-Gesetz. Die Ausbildungsgeschaedigten, fuer die keine Versicherungsbeiträge vorhanden sind, koennen jedoch die Verfolgten-Nachentrichtung nur in Anspruch nehmen, wenn fuer sie eine Versicherungszeit von mindestens 60 Monaten vorliegt. Dies ist der Grund, aus dem sie, wie oben ausgefuehrt, zunaechst DM 1080—fuer 60 Monate nach dem Renten-Reform-Gesetz nachentrichten muessen, wenn sie die Grundlage fuer einen Rentenanspruch schaffen wollen. Die Hoehe der weiteren Verfolgten-Nachentrichtung wird durch die Beitragsklassen, in denen die Nachentrichtung vorgenommen wird, bestimmt.

(3) Die Bundesversicherungsanstalt oder gegebenenfalls die zustaeNDIGE Landesversicherungsanstalt (siehe unten) uebersendet auf Anfrage Tabellen, nach denen man sich ein Bild ueber die Nachentrichtung und die erwartete Rente machen kann. Viele Interessenten werden den Nachentrichtungsbeitrag, der zur Erwirkung einer lohnenden Rente erforderlich ist, als zu hoch betrachten und von der Nachentrichtung Abstand nehmen. Es ist unmoeglich, im Rahmen dieses Artikels weitere Einzelheiten anzugeben. Unverbindlich sagen wir, dass eine weitere Nachentrichtung von ca 10,000 bis 15,000 DM zusaetzlich zu dem oben genannten Betrag von DM 1,080 erforderlich waere, um die Wartezeit von 180 Monaten zu erfuellen und ein Altersruhegeld von ca. DM 3,000 bis 4,000 DM jaehrlich zu erlangen.

Auch bei Errechnung einer Berufsunfaehigkeits- (50%ige Arbeitsunfaehigkeit) oder Erwerbsunfaehigkeits- (100%ige Arbeitsunfaehigkeit) — Rente wird eine Nachentrichtung von der Versicherungsanstalt beruecksichtigt, jedoch nur dann, wenn die Nachentrichtung vor Eintritt der 50%igen oder hoeheren Arbeitsunfaehigkeit vorgenommen worden ist.

(4) Auf die EEC—Bestimmungen ueber die soziale Sicherheit, nach denen eine Sozialversicherungsrente eine Kuerzung erfahren kann, wenn der Rentenberechtigte von mehr als einem EEC—Staat z.B. von Grossbritannien und von der Bundesrepublik Deutschland Sozialversicherungsrenten bezieht, sei in diesem Zusammenhang hingewiesen. Die praktische Anwendung dieser Bestimmungen hat gezeigt, dass in den meisten Faellen, in denen der Rentenberechtigte die Voraussetzungen fuer ein

deutsches Altersruhegeld mit 65 Jahren (180 Monate Wartezeit) erfuellt, tatsaechlich eine Kuerzung nicht stattfindet.

(5) In dem in der Juni 1975 — Nummer erschienenen Artikel ist gesagt worden, dass die Verfolgten-Nachentrichtung vor Ende des Jahres beantragt werden muss, dass die Erledigung des Antrags und die Zahlung des Nachentrichtungsbeitrages aber spaeter erfolgen kann. Bei der oben erwaehnten Nachentrichtung von DM 1,080 nach dem Renten-Reform-Gesetz ist es jedoch nach dem Wortlaut der Gesetzesbestimmung nicht ganz klar, ob eine Zahlung des Betrages nach dem 31. Dezember 1975 vorgenommen werden kann, wenn sich auch die Versicherungsanstalten dahin ausgesprochen haben sollen, dass sie die fristgemaesse Antragstellung fuer ausreichend halten. Um ein Risiko zu vermeiden, wird denen, die sich dieser Nachentrichtung bedienen wollen, empfohlen, den Betrag von DM 1,080 in einem Bank-Scheck auf eine deutsche Bank vor Ende des Jahres an die betreffende deutsche Versicherungsanstalt zusammen mit dem Antrag auf Genehmigung der Nachentrichtung einzusenden. Der Betrag wird nicht zurueckgezahlt, falls der Versicherte spaeter zu dem Schluss kommt, dass er die Verfolgten-Nachentrichtung nicht vornehmen will. Falls keine Vorgaenge bei einer Versicherungsanstalt vorliegen, wird Antragstellung bei der

Bundesversicherungsanstalt fuer Angestellte

Ruhrstrasse 2

1 Berlin 31-Wilmersdorf

empfohlen. Falls Vorgaenge bei einer Landesversicherungsanstalt vorliegen, ist der Antrag an die

Landesversicherungsanstalt Rheinprovinz  
Koenigsallee 71

Duesseldorf

zu richten. Sollte ein Rentenanspruch bei der Landesversicherungsanstalt Hamburg, Ueberseering 10, Hamburg 60 schweben, ist der Antrag an diese Anstalt zu richten.

(6) Wir betonen wiederum, dass unsere Ausfuehrungen keinen Anspruch auf Vollstaendigkeit erheben. Es muss denen, die glauben, ein Nachentrichtungsrecht zu haben, ueberlassen bleiben, weitere Erkundigungen anzustellen.

### UNDISCOVERED CONCENTRATION CAMPS ?

Albert de Cocatrix, director of the Arolsen International Red Cross Search Bureau, said in a broadcast that since the Bureau's first report in 1969 so many new camps and subsidiary camps had been discovered that similar discoveries would have to be expected in the future. In this context he mentioned that recently a considerable number of totally unknown camp commando points had been found in the neighbourhood of the notorious Stutthof camp near Danzig.

In another broadcast the deputy director of the Ludwigsburg Bureau for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes, Dr. Arzt, pointed to the growing interest of young people in the Nazi past. A group of students of the Ludwigsburg Pedagogical Academy were working on a project to study camp Natzeweiler in Alsace. They had inspected the locality and interviewed local inhabitants about their knowledge of the camp and its inmates.

### NO ARAB MONEY FOR VOLKSWAGEN

The Beirut *Petromoney Report* alleged that an unnamed Arab Gulf State was planning to invest in 15 per cent of the Volkswagenwerk A.G. (Wolfsburg) equity. Both the directors of the firm and representatives of the Federal Government denied any knowledge of such a deal.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### SUCCESSFUL DEAL WITH RUSSIA

Mr. Richard Beecham, group managing director of Dunbee-Combex-Marx, the group which is responsible for the Hornby-Pedigree-Scaletic toys has just completed a £2½ million deal with the Soviet Union. He is the son of Mr. Simon Bischheim (an Executive member of the AJR).

He started a plastic bathing cap business went into partnership with Mr. Basil Feldman with £500 which he had borrowed. Later he of Edgware to build up the toy business which last year employed 4,000 people and had a turnover of £31 million.

### CHURCHILL FOR AJEX RALLY

Mr. Winston Churchill, M.P., will be the main speaker at this year's rally following Ajex's annual remembrance parade on November 16. The Reviewing Officer at the Parade will be the First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Sir Edward Ashmore.

### FAMILY EVENTS

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

#### Birthdays

The AJR Club extends heartiest congratulations to its dear member, Mrs. Theresa Mandelbaum, on the occasion of her 80th birthday on October 13.

**Alexander.**—Many happy returns of the day to my dear granddaughter, Marcele Alexander on her 18th birthday. A lot of health and happiness in your future life.—Grandmother.

**Wallach.**—To our dear mother and grandmother, Mrs. H. Wallach, of 123 Dartmouth Road, London, N.W.2, congratulations on your 80th birthday on October 15th, good health and many happy returns, from your loving children and grandchildren. At Home from 6-8 p.m.

#### Golden Wedding

**Marx.**—Dr. Bernhard and Mrs. Irene Marx, of 141 Station Road, Hendon, London, NW4 4NJ, will celebrate their Golden Wedding on 18th October.

#### Deaths

**Calmsen.**—Dr. Curt Calmsen, of 5 Kilverton Close, Salford Drive, Wollaton Park, Nottingham, aged 88, passed away peacefully on August 18. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by his wife Assi, daughter Lotte, son-in-law Philip and other family members and friends.

**Cohen.**—Mrs. Erika Cohen (née Hertz) formerly Allenstein, East Prussia, wife of the late Dr. Frederick Cohen, our dearly beloved sister and aunt, passed away after a grave illness, on Friday, 22nd August. Sadly missed by her family and friends.

**Erlich.**—In loving memory of my dear husband, Hermann Erlich, taken from me so suddenly on August 14 and so sadly mourned by relatives in Leeds, St. Annes, America, Germany, Israel and Argentina and his friends everywhere. His kindness will remain with us for ever. Shalom.—Anne, 52 Arnos Grove, London, N.14.

### "ROSENTHAL" FOR THE COMMONS

Philipp Rosenthal whose firm in Bavaria obtained the contract to supply crockery for the House of Commons, spent the war years in Britain as a refugee. He arrived via North Africa and the Foreign Legion and became a member of Sefton Deimer's *black propaganda* organisation which broadcast alarming news bulletins in German for German consumption. Later on he interrogated German officers in prisoner-of-war camps under the alias of Philipp Rossiter. After the war he reclaimed the family firm which had been expropriated by the Nazis (his father was a Jew) and returned to Germany to direct it. Since then he has devoted a lot of his time to politics: he is a member of the socialist party in the office. He was naturalised at the end of the Bundestag and has held important government war and now has dual nationality.

**Godfrey.**—Charlotte Margaret Godfrey died in her sleep peacefully at Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, London, on August 31. Beloved "Lottchen" to countless people around the world; loved and admired by whole generations; by their children and their children's children. In her 87th year, eternally young, with a zest for living undiminished by age and a joy in life that outweighed all sorrows. "Lottchen's" place in the hearts of her family and of her friends is assured for all time, our happy memories of her the only monument she ever wished.

**Hoernes.**—Mr. Max Hoernes, of 13 Fernhurst Gardens, Edgware, Middlesex, died during May, 1975. In loving memory—his sisters, Mrs. T. Jaeckel and Mrs. E. Gruder, and his daughter, Jenny Crowder.

**Sandberg.**—Mrs. Luise Sandberg (formerly Leicester) died in Osmond House, The Bishop's Avenue, London, N.2, on August 12 after a short illness.

**Schottlaender.**—Mrs. Jenny Schottlaender (née Haase) passed away in London on August 10. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her relatives and numerous friends.

**Vincent.**—Frank Vincent (Vulkan) of 7 Brampton Court, Hendon, N.W.4, passed away peacefully on August 16. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by his wife Betty (née Plaut), Marcel, Regie and Aranka Vulkan, relatives and Friends.

#### Memorial Stone

**Gluckstein.**—The memorial stone in memory of Mr. David Gluckstein will be consecrated at Bushey Jewish Cemetery on Sunday, October 12, at 5 p.m.

### CLASSIFIED

The charge in these columns is 15p for five words.

#### Situations Wanted

#### Women

THE AJR EMPLOYMENT AGENCY needs ladies for dress alterations and mending who would be prepared to collect and deliver work/do fittings at clients' homes. Please contact Mrs. Casson, 01-624 4449.

PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER required for academic institute. Working knowledge of German essential. Box 527.

#### Situations Vacant

#### Women

2 HUNGARIAN LADIES, very good cooks, available for parties. AJR Employment Agency, tel: 01-624 4449.

ALTERATIONS OF DRESSES, etc., undertaken by ladies on our register. Phone AJR Employment Agency, 01-624 4449.

NURSING COMPANION. Continental lady, German speaking, seeks non-residential position. Also night duty and as travelling companion. Box 522.

SURREY AREAS near Richmond/Kew/Wimbledon, also Hammer-smith and Putney areas: Lady, car owner, available for shopping, cooking, companionship. Would use car for outings, transport. 3-4 hours per day, Mondays to Fridays. Please contact AJR Employment Agency, 01-624 4449.

#### Accommodation Vacant

PLEASANT ROOM AVAILABLE in small residential London Home for elderly ladies. Kosher food, central heating, garden. Phone 01-346 8732 between 8 and 9 a.m.

TO LET. Large single room (ground floor), centrally heated with small kitchen, use of garden. Elderly lady preferred. N.W.6 district. Box 530.

#### Miscellaneous

HELP FOR CHILDREN with learning and behaviour difficulties from specialised, caring teacher. Golders Green district. Phone 458 3646.

STAMP COLLECTOR requires knowledgeable enthusiast to assist in major reorganisation of collection. For details contact Box 525.

LADY CAR OWNER, based North London, available for trips, airport, shopping, doctors, etc. contact AJR, 01-624 4449.

REVLON MANICURIST / PEDICURIST. Will visit your home. 01-445 2915.

### TRIBUTE TO MR. JACK SCHRIER

Mr. Jack Schrier, who recently died in Winchester, was a most helpful friend to many victims of Nazi persecution, writes Mr. W. M. Schwab. A blacksmith in Camden Town prior to his retirement, he was instrumental in establishing a workshop for the training in metalwork of young refugee boys, many of whom later settled in Palestine. He also erected a house in his own garden for two young orphan girls who had suffered in concentration camps.

### GERMAN JEW'S PHOTO FOUND IN TOKYO

Mr. H. E. Kiewe, Oxford, a member of the AJR, sent us a photo which his nephew had discovered in a junk shop in Tokyo. It depicts an elderly gentleman and carries the dedication: "Very sincerely yours—Hermann Prinz". Any reader who thinks he is related to Hermann Prinz, who obviously had done business in the Far East, or can give any hints which might help to identify him should get in touch with the AJR.

EXCLUSIVE FUR REPAIRS AND RESTYLING. All kinds of fur work undertaken by first-class renovator and stylist, many years' experience and best references. Phone 01-452 5867, after 5 p.m. for appointment, Mrs. F. Philipp, 44 Ellesmere Road, Dollis Hill, London, N.W.10.

#### Personal

CULTURED INDEPENDENT WIDOW, late 60s, Vienna born, living alone in nice block of flats N.W. London (Garage facilities), seeks acquaintance with congenial, refined gentleman for friendship. Box 523.

YOUNG BUSINESS EXECUTIVE living near London wishes to meet refined young lady 20-24. Replies in confidence to Box 526.

FOR MY FRIEND, attractive widow, middle-aged, with beautiful home, wealthy, independent, looking for intelligent gentleman for companionship, eventual marriage. Box No. 524.

MIDDLE-AGED WIDOW, pleasant appearance, nice home, would like to meet a very kind widower (car owner preferred) for companionship, marriage considered. Box No. 528.

WIDOWER, early 70s, with Council flat in Wembley and has offers of Housing Association flats near coast, wishes to meet lady in her 60s who wishes to share the home for companionship and eventual marriage. Box 529.

LADY (Berlinerin), middle-aged, independent, would like to meet gentleman for friendship. Box 531.

### MISSING PERSONS

#### AJR Enquiries

Allan.—Mr. G. Allan, last known address: 132 Cromwell Road, London, SW7 4HA.

Freund.—Dr. jur. Gerhart Freund, born 1912 or 1913 in Brünn, Czechoslovakia, as far as is known married to former Miss Christl Oppenheim from Brünn.

Horowitz.—Mr. David Horowitz, last known address: 105 Cazenove Road, London, N.16.

# IN MEMORIAM

## DAYAN DR. I. GRUNFELD

Dayan Dr. I. Grunfeld, who died at the age of 75, was one of those Jews from Germany, who attained leading positions within the Anglo-Jewish community. Before he came to this country, he was a lawyer in Wuerzburg. Whilst always a strictly Orthodox Jew, his previous professional work outside the clerical sphere may have been one of the reasons for which he always had an open mind for general problems of our times and warned of the dangers of a one-sided Jewish education at the expense of worldly subjects. In this respect, he followed the footsteps of Samson Raphael Hirsch who aimed at a synthesis between Jewish teaching and European culture, and he also translated works by S. R. Hirsch into English. His legal background stood him in good stead in his work as a Dayan as well as in his negotiations with the authorities in questions of legislation.

Dr. Grunfeld always loyally remained aware of the values of his German-Jewish origin. He was an interested member of the AJR and repeatedly expressed his appreciation of our activities, especially of the standard of *AJR Information*. When the "Thank-You Britain" Fund was launched he agreed to join its Appeals Committee.

## ERNEST ULLMANN

The sculptor Ernest Ullmann died at his Sandton, Johannesburg home in his 75th year. He was recently elected Sandton's first "Citizen of the Year". Born in Munich, he went to South Africa as a refugee in 1935. He was soon recognised as one of the country's finest sculptors and painters. Several South African cities have acquired his monumental sculptures, and works of his are also displayed at Yad Vashem (Jerusalem) and in the Ez Chajim Memorial Hall in Johannesburg. His numerous awards include the Queen's Coronation Medal (1954). "A great artist has gone from the South African scene", writes the South African Digest.

## PROFESSOR OTTO KURZ

Professor Otto Kurz who died recently, aged 67, had been librarian of the Warburg Institute from 1944-65. He subsequently was Professor of History of Classical Tradition at London University and Slade Professor of Fine Arts at Oxford until 1971.

In his later years, Professor Kurz's interests turned particularly to the Near and Middle East. Among his many literary achievements was the editorship of Mayer's monumental *Bibliography of Jewish Art*.

## MR. JOSEF ROSENSAFT

Mr. Josef Rosensaft, President of the World Federation of Bergen-Belsen Survivors, died at the age of 64. Born in Bendzin (Poland), he escaped from the death train to Auschwitz but was later captured by the Germans and ended up in Belsen. After the liberation by the Allies, he became the leader of the camp's survivors. Until the very end, "Jossel" Rosensaft was deeply involved in helping the survivors and in many efforts to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive for posterity.

## MR. OTTO KUZNITZKY

Mr. Otto Kuznitzky (London) died on September 1, shortly before his 91st birthday. Born in Upper Silesia, he studied pharmacy at Breslau University. After the First World War, he settled in Hamburg, where he married and where he was employed as a pharmacist until the Nazis came to power. In this country, where he arrived as a refugee in 1939, Mr. Kuznitzky obtained his English qualifications after the war and worked as a pharmacist in London until he was 70 years old. Mr. Kuznitzky was an interested and helpful member of the AJR, and it is learned with gratitude that he left a bequest for this organisation in his will.

## CHARLOTTE GODFREY

Since 1957, when she celebrated her 70th birthday, the name of Charlotte ("Lottchen") Godfrey (formerly Gottgetreu) appeared in these columns at five-yearly intervals to wish her many happy returns of the day. In fact, when she became 85 three years ago, she was so alert that we had every reason to look forward to the celebration of her 90th birthday. Yet it was not to be. On August 31, she passed away peacefully.

Hers was a long and full life. I liked to quote that she had already played a role in my life before we really met, because she sang at my barmitzvah celebration as a member of the Levetzowstrasse Synagogue choir (mind you, not so much on account of her knowledge of Hebrew but of her musical proficiency). Yet we really got to know each other, when, though already in her sixties, she joined the staff of the AJR and became my secretary. Her loyalty to the work developed into a personal friendship with my wife and myself, and we kept contact with each other all the years after her retirement.

The celebration of her 85th birthday differed from many similar occasions by an unusual predominance of young people among the guests. For them, she was not an old lady but a real friend. There will be few people who had contacts with so many relatives, friends and acquaintances.

Almost up to the end, until her health gave way, she was enterprising, enjoying opera, theatre and concerts and seeing people, either in her beautifully arranged flat or paying visits to them.

Only a few months before her death she felt that she might require more sheltered accommodation, and she moved into a recently established residential home. Yet hers was only a short stay there, and death after a heart attack made an easy end of her life. In accordance with her wishes, her funeral was private. Yet we act as the spokesman for many if, through the medium of these columns, we say with feelings of gratitude and affection: "Farewell, Lottchen".

WERNER ROSENSTOCK

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## MISCELLANEOUS

### THEATRE AND CULTURAL NEWS

**German Literature in Decline?** This is a much discussed subject which in the main concerns the lack of dramatic works of our time. In contrast to the prodigious output of British authors (Osborne, Pinter, Bond, Orton, Ayckbourn—to name just a few who scored outstanding successes during these last decades), achievements by the "modern" Germans appear meagre indeed, and the same names—Wolfgang Bauer, Peter Handke, Martin Walser and Thomas Bernhard—are mentioned again and again. Most dramatists whose works will be played during the coming season are well known old-timers: Frisch, Hochwaelder, Lernet-Holenia and Zuckmayer. Duerrenmatt's "Romulus the Great" will be on tour all over Germany (starring Charles Regnier). The Austrian author and translator Friedrich Torberg (who first made his name with the best-seller "Der Schueler Gerber hat absolviert") calls himself "the last Jewish author to write in the German language."

**East Berlin:** An unusual Kleist-evening at the Deutsche Theater combined the full-length "Prinz von Homburg" with the "Broken Jug." Could the common denominator be called "Justice and Trial?"

**Düsseldorf:** It is emphasised that the Thomas Mann Exhibition at the Goethe Museum to commemorate the author's 100th birthday (see July issue of AJR Information) was the only one held in the whole of West Germany.

**Obituary:** Fritz Wotruba, the Austrian sculptor has died at the age of 68. His work has been exhibited all over Europe and America, and he became a powerful influence on the younger sculptor-generation.—Siegfried Arno, the actor who will be remembered by many former Berliners, died in Los Angeles at the age of 79. S.B.

### FRANZ WERFEL RE-INTERRED IN VIENNA

Thirty years after his death in Los Angeles on August 26, 1945, the ashes of the Austrian poet and writer Franz Werfel were interred in the Vienna central cemetery. The grave was provided by the city of Vienna, but the costs of the transfer of the ashes from Los Angeles to Vienna were borne by a rich Armenian. In his book *Die vierzig Tage des Musa Dagh* Werfel had described the desperate fight of the Armenians against the Turks and for this reason he is still held in great respect by Armenians all over the world. A priest of the Vienna Armenian Church expressed this feeling during the re-interment.

### VISIT OF ISRAELI PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA TO GERMANY

The Bonn Konzert agency Hoenisch and Kaminski has been in charge of the arrangements for a number of concerts by the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra in Germany. The orchestra which received no Israeli subsidies for the tour, appeared in nine German cities and received about £9,000 in subsidies from German sponsors.

### ISRAELI COMPOSER AT MUNICH OPERA FESTIVAL.

The best birthday gift for Professor Josef Tal in Jerusalem must be the news that his opera *Die Versuchung* has been accepted for the 1976 Munich Opera Festival. Professor Tal was born Joseph Grünthal in Pinne on September 18, 1905. He studied at the Berlin High School of Music and emigrated to Israel in 1934. Since 1965 he has been head of the Department of Musicology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In 1969 he was elected an associate member of the West Berlin Academy of Arts, and earlier this year he received the Music Prize of the City of Berlin (*Kunstpreis Berlin für das Fach Musik*). His opera will have its first night in July, 1976. E.G.L.

### TEN YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICES Tribute to Leo Baeck House Matron

Whenever one enters Leo Baeck House, one is immediately captivated by the atmosphere it radiates. Converted from a private villa, it has still retained the character of a personal dwelling place. Yet important as these architectural assets may be, the feeling of belonging among the residents is first and foremost due to the spirit in which the Home is run. In this respect, Leo Baeck House has been particularly lucky, last but not least by the continuity of its senior staff. After the retirement of the first Matron, Miss E. Merlander, in 1965, the obvious choice of her successor was Mrs. G. Dick, who had already been on the staff since 1963. Thus, this month we may extend to her our grateful congratulations for the completion of ten years' work as Matron.

Originating from Germany or, to be more explicit, from Bavaria, she understands not only the language but also the mentality of the residents. She embodies two qualities which are indispensable for her difficult work: helpfulness to the individual resident and authority where the personal wishes have to be weighed against the needs of the total community. In this way, Mrs. Dick has welded the residents into a happy family.

Yet to keep the Home going, she also has to cope with a great amount of administrative work and to deal with emergency situations which call for quick and level-headed action. Equally, she does not just supervise the staff, but gives them an example by joining in whatever kind of job may have to be tackled. It is certainly no accident that she keeps contact with her staff members from abroad even after they have returned home and visits them in their countries of residence.

She also has become a trusted friend of the members of the House Committee, and the recent death of its chairman, Mr. F. Ury, was felt as a great personal loss by her.

Yet a congratulatory note must not end on a low key. We thank Mrs. Dick for all she has done, and it is not only for her sake but also for not quite unselfish reasons that we wish her happiness and many more successful years of work for the benefit of our people. W.R.

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