

## INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Eva G. Reichman

## THE MEANING OF HITLER

Renaissance or Re-Damnation?

Another Hitler-Rook in Germany? Yet another product of that odious Nazi Renaissance in Germany of which we have heard too much already?

Don't let us be rash, dear reader: another Hitler book all right (Sebastian Haffner, *The Meaning of Hitler*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London 1979, £5.95, translated by Erica Osers from: *Anmerkungen zu Hitler*, Munich 1978). What is less sure is whether it contributes to a Hitler "re-born" or rather a Hitler "re-destroyed".

What we have come to regard as the Nazi Renaissance in Germany—for the time being almost exclusively in the literary, not the political field, although even there a number of troublesome symptoms are discernible—is a highly ambiguous phenomenon. According to the less pertinent to the history of ideas, it had to be expected that some time or other there would arise a new questioning about one of the most formidable happenings of recent history: the Nazi catastrophe. A new sceptical generation was bound to emerge anxious to learn more about its origins, its meaning, its consequences. There is nothing unnatural or frightening in the wish to penetrate, after the passage of some 40 years, the layer of oblivion which had darkened and distorted the events, still topical and unaccountably hard to find out what really happened. Regrettably though it is that part of that new and growing awareness of whiteness, most of it is directed to responsible research resulting in unprejudiced conclusions.

Within this perplexity Sebastian Haffner's book comes as a welcome clarification. The author is well-known to our circle as the very fine editor of "Die Zeitung", a German weekly published in London, of an unambiguously anti-Nazi stance. By an original arrangement of his material Haffner avoids the outright damnation wrought from the start of the man of doom. Unlike the usual biographical progress following the phases of life, Haffner divides his account in seven chapters giving an intriguing picture of Hitler's ascent and decline. Their headings—"Life, Achievements, Successes, Misconceptions, Mistakes, Crimes, Downfall"—provide a startling outline of what to expect. In the first place he creates a rather impressive portrayal of a man of unpromising beginnings as a down-and-out in Vienna, without education, conviction or defensible ambition, who proceeds in the second and third chapters to notable "Achievements" and "Successes". These seem to evolve from a vacuum unless we attribute to Hitler's early political posture—the only positive element in his otherwise empty personal make-up—a driving force endowed with the stupendous potentiality to lead him to prominence, world-power—save if to lapse eventually in a faithless void. Haffner has little hesitation in ascribing this way. The other characteristics he ascribes to him as possible latent abilities are his power as an

orator of an almost hypnotic potency, his uncanny gift to play with the collective unconscious wherever he got hold of it, and his total lack of self-criticism which is a great help in achieving the unthinkable.

Not surprisingly, decisive importance is given to Hitler's authoritarianism which will have to be mentioned in several contexts. Sceptical though Haffner is with regard to his socialist leanings, notwithstanding he regards—together with a vague nationalism destined to evaporate hopefully in the face of crucial national danger—as "the real Hitlerian bedrock, his primal and lowest layer". Less convincing is Haffner's insistence on the nature of this authoritarianism as a typical East European product. In his opinion authoritarianism in Germany was on the wane during the relevant period, its remnants being directed towards assimilation and integration rather than towards the effacement of the Jews—a daring statement in the light of what was to happen. Unlike this—in Haffner's opinion—German brand of authoritarianism, Eastern European authoritarianism was "unfalsifiable and murderous", directed towards "liquidation and extermination". As to how Hitler picked it up, Haffner confesses ignorance. "There is," he says, "no record of any disagreeable personal experience." The statement is, to say the least, surprising. In "Stein Kowatz" Hitler enlarges on five whole pages (372/374 edition, pp. 59-63) on how he became an authoritarian ending up (p. 89) with the categorical declaration: "From a weakly cosmopolitan I had grown into a fanatical antisemite." Not only on the preceding pages but on numerous throughout the book he makes innumerable points on the subject. What other explanations or "personal experience" may Haffner have expected? Specific records may be missing but distinct suspicions suggest themselves.

## "Achievements and Successes"

From the dismal life of his Viennese youth Hitler happily escaped to Germany where he met with the even greater luck that war broke out. To him the war years were happy ones. The revolution of 1918, the "November Crime" as he and his partisans preferred to call it, was a terrible thunder-clap, but one he determinedly refused to take as a jolt or shock. He regarded it as a preliminary and in the hostilities, brought about by treachery, and therefore only as an obvious interruption of Germany's ascent to world power. His hasty decision "to become a politician" meant that from now on every step he climbed as the leader to personal power would mean a step to the resumption of war.

Haffner classifies these steps as Hitler's Achievements and Successes. And that is what they were. But it is here where he sometimes errs on the side of unwarranted credulity. It is to some extent the credulity of the German people which he unwittingly accepts as stage of Hitler's magic, to some

extent his own, intent on recording first the positive accomplishments, if possible without their darker implications, or choosing to ignore in this context that all these "Achievements and Successes" were carried out in the shadow of future bloodshed. He enthuses, e.g. about Hitler's "economic miracle" his "positive achievement" "outshining all others". "The term did not flatter him," he writes. "It was coined much later for the astonishingly rapid reconstruction feat of the Erhard era after the Second World War, but it applies even better to what was taking place under Hitler during the mid thirties. There was then a much deeper and stronger impression that a real miracle was being accomplished, and that the man who accomplished it, Hitler, was a miracle worker." "Helplessness and hopelessness had given way to confidence and self-assurance," Haffner rejoices. "Even more miraculous was the fact that the transition from depression to economic boom had been accomplished without inflation. . . . Not even Erhard succeeded in doing that later in post-war Western Germany."

It is true, he has to admit, there existed at the time those concentration camps and there was the less, nastily nurtured and dispelled simultaneously, that opposition was likely to lead anyone there if he was careless enough to vent it. But in Haffner's opinion, "there was even a certain logic on the side of those who, for the sake of the economic miracle, were prepared to accept the concentration camps." "A certain logic?" Is it not perhaps a rather inappropriate euphemism to abuse one of the supreme gifts of the human mind for the sake of tolerating one of the most odious Nazi inhumanities?

Haffner denies furthermore one of the most generally accepted facts in the field of Nazi achievements, namely that Hitler's "economic miracle" and his military miracle, the rearmament, were basically the same thing. The enormous requirements on which Hitler started immediately after the seizure of power removed in his opinion "a few hundreds of thousands of potential unemployed from the streets. . . but the great bulk of the six million unemployed whom Hitler had inherited found re-employment in entirely normal civilian industries." Contrary to this view Wolfgang Iser devotes a whole chapter of the standard work *Die Nationalsozialistische Machtergreifung. Studien zur Errichtung des totalitären Herrschaftssystems in Deutschland 1933/34* (Westdeutscher Verlag, Köln/Opladen 1960, by Karl Dietrich Bracher, Wolfgang Iser and Gerhard Schulz 1960) to the subject "Rearmament and Economic Crisis". He describes in detail that as early as on the 25 February 1933 Hitler declared in a Cabinet Meeting that "all public measures that were to serve the re-employment of the unemployed had as a matter of principle to be judged from the point of view to what extent they promoted the rearmament which had to be accomplished within five years!"

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What we have come to regard as the Nazi-Renaissance in Germany—for the time being almost exclusively in the literary, not the political field, although even there a number of troublesome symptoms are discernible—is a highly ambiguous phenomenon. According to the laws pertaining to the history of ideas, it had to be expected that some time or other there would arise a new questioning about one of the most formidable happenings of recent history: the Nazi catastrophe. A new sceptical generation was bound to emerge anxious to learn more about its origins, its meaning, its consequences. There is nothing unnatural or frightening in the wish to penetrate, after the passage of some 40 years, the layer of oblivion which had darkened and distorted the events, still topical and consequential, and to find out what really happened. Regrettable though it is that part of that new zeal favours a resemblance of whitewash, most of it is devoted to responsible research resulting in unequivocal condemnation.

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Haffner denies furthermore one of the most generally accepted facts in the field of Nazi achievements, namely that Hitler's "economic miracle" and his military miracle, the rearmament, were basically the same thing. The enormous rearmament on which Hitler started immediately after the seizure of power removed in his opinion "a few hundreds of thousands of potential unemployed from the streets . . . but the great bulk of the six million unemployed whom Hitler had inherited found re-employment in entirely normal civilian industries." Contrary to this view Wolfgang Sauer devotes a whole chapter of the standard work "Die Nationalsozialistische Machtergreifung. Studien zur Errichtung des totalitären Herrschaftssystems in Deutschland 1933/34" (Westdeutscher Verlag, Köln/Opladen 1960, by Karl Dietrich Bracher, Wolfgang Sauer and Gerhard Schulz 1960) to the subject "Rearmament and Economic Crisis". He describes in detail that as early as on the 8th February 1933 Hitler declared in a Cabinet Meeting that "all public measures that were to serve the re-employment of the unemployed had as a matter of principle to be judged from the point of view to what extent they promoted the rearmament which had to be accomplished within five years."

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## The Meaning of Hitler

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limited further conquest. Was it to be Europe? Was it to be "the world" as his youngsters were used to rave about in one of their most popular songs? He probably was not sure about it himself. What he was sure about was that it meant war. For the time being it was to be kept a well-guarded secret. It would have been exceedingly unpopular with the people. Incredible, even repulsive, to venture openly on rearmament while six millions of unemployed—those in fact who had helped him to power—were still lying on the streets! But Hitler had discovered an ingenious trick. He had found out that, in actual fact, the fight of the economic crisis and the preparation for war could be combined: by ordering arms one could at the same time create the necessary jobs.

On the whole, Haffner avoids value judgments. Busy as he is to enumerate Hitler's successes and achievements he does not classify them by good or bad marks. However, the accumulation in itself is a value judgment. When he quotes a speech Hitler made in April 1939 which abounds in self-glorification—"I overcame chaos in Germany, restored order, enormously raised production in all fields, restored the thousand-year-old historical unity of German living space . . . all that without shedding blood . . ."—he, seemingly startled himself, exclaims: "sickening self-adulation", yet feels immediately impelled to continue "but, damn it, it was all true, or nearly all. Anyone clutching at those few points which were perhaps not quite true . . . was bound to feel just a petty nit-picking know-all. As for the rest, how could anyone challenge that in April 1939?" For quite some time Haffner goes on extolling the stupendous change of conditions, not sparing some kind of surprised admiration *malgre soi*. Equally surprised, though less against their own free will, were, Haffner points out, the German people: "A colossal achievement to have united virtually the entire nation behind him—and accomplished in less than ten years!" If there were still professional grumblers trying to cast doubt on this miracle-worker: "What in 1938 or still in the spring of 1939 could one really reply to that?"

There were, it seems to the less enthusiastic on-looker, some quite relevant replies. Of the ominous "logic" of the concentration camps we have spoken. That the price paid for the fight against unemployment was an enormous rearmament has been mentioned. Was it not equally "logic" or rather more to ask what the rearmament was meant for? As early as November 1938 Hitler admitted in an address to the editors-in-chief of the domestic press that all the promises of peace he had made in the preceding years—and they had been numerous and axiomatic—had been deceptive. "Circumstances compelled me to speak of almost nothing but peace for years on end. Only by continually emphasizing Germany's wish for peace . . . was I able to give the German people . . . the rearmament that was necessary . . . as a prerequisite of the next step". That the next step was to be war could hardly be doubtful for an observant contemporary. And yet: there had not only been doubt, there was ignorance and downright incredulity. The secret may be that the Germans dreaded a new war. The mortal terror of it may have blinded them. "Had the Germans known that Hitler's achievements had always only served the preparation for a war, many of them might well have thought differently about them. . . ." Was not the real purpose evident enough? Could it not have served as an eye-opener?

Very correctly Haffner warns not to reject anything out of hand only because it had been stated and believed by Hitler. He is, we repeat, or at least tries to be scrupulously objective. But to his

honour it must be said that there is a limit even to scrupulous objectivity. As to what Hitler did to the Jews Haffner's indignation is limitless. His chapter entitled "Misconceptions", the first of the negative ones, deals with this sordid subject, although, to his disgust, Haffner confesses he has to deal with it in every chapter. He leaves nothing undone. He thoroughly examines roots and essence of antisemitism as Hitler conceived of it—according to his lights. And in this field, barricaded as it was by prejudices and diabolic hatred, his lights definitely failed him. Haffner evinces meticulously the contradictions and absurdities of Hitler's anti-semitic convictions, ending up with the abysmal cruelty of the "final solution". A "would-be slayer of dragons was murdering the helpless."

### Hitler's Big Mistake

In these pages where all too often the unthinkable had to be propounded further details may be omitted. It deserves, however, to be mentioned that Haffner sees in Hitler's antisemitism not only the terrible inhumanity but also a sizeable self-injury. It deprived Germany of some of her best brains, including possibly the chance to be the first possessor of the atom bomb. It also destroyed, he argues, the chance of a—as we would see it: calamitous—peace in 1940 after the fall of France. "If Hitler had only wished it, he could have had peace with France at any time in the summer of 1940, and if that peace had turned out to be reasonably generous it would, without any doubt, have made all the lesser European countries . . . equally hungry for peace." There existed in Europe at the time an undeniable though subdued preparedness for peace and European unification, albeit under German hegemony. The Jews had been everywhere in the world an element friendly to Germany. Hitler's anti-Jewish policy had changed this fundamentally. "By his antisemitism Hitler not only needlessly created additional enemies throughout the world, he also made enemies of friends and thus changed the whole balance of world sympathies in his disfavour." That he thus antagonized world opinion may not have been a decisive factor in averting the peace chances at this juncture but an additional one. No great stimulus was needed to tip the precarious balance anyway. "I was Europe's last chance", Hitler dictated to Bormann in February 1945. In a fateful sense he may have been right. But he should have added: "And I wrecked it." It is good to remember in the light of this vision of an eminent German observer how near in those fateful days we were to a German victory within a German-dominated Europe, had it not been for the decisive turn of events brought about by Churchill.

From then on the wheel of Fortune went irreversibly downhill. Hitler declared war on Russia while Britain was still unconquered and gaining strength. After the obvious underestimation of Russia's power had led to the defeat of the winter campaign 1941/42, the log-book of the German General Staff contains the entry: "When the disaster of the winter 1941/42 broke, the *Führer* . . . realised that from this point . . . no victory could any longer be won." The entry was made on 6 December 1941. On the 11 December Hitler declared war on America. This further step to his ruin Haffner calls "the crowning" and "most inexplicable of the mistakes with which Hitler dug his own grave." "There is to this day", he goes on, "no comprehensible rational explanation for what one is tempted to describe as an act of lunacy."

For years on end Roosevelt had done everything to provoke Hitler into war. Roosevelt wanted this war, he considered it necessary. Only resis-

tance on the home-front prevented him from declaring it. So great was his hesitation that even the unforeseen Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour failed to challenge Roosevelt into the war as long as Germany kept quiet. But she did the contrary: by declaring war on America herself Germany saved Roosevelt the trouble to appease a reluctant home-front. The motives are incomprehensible. Was it a cry for help against a triumphant Russia, not exactly liked as an ally by the United States? Was it an act of desperation? Rational explanations will no longer do, Haffner declares; hypotheses have to take over.

Haffner's hypothesis is an appalling one. At the beginning of war, he sets forth, Hitler had two main purposes: world domination and the extermination of the Jews. When he realised that world domination had irrefutably escaped him, he turned his mind to the annihilation of Jewry. "He was", in Haffner's words, "among other things, quite simply also a mass murderer". He committed murders on an unimaginable scale even when any "national" advantage was missing. At times, they even became obstacles to the conduct of war. To no small extent they dislocated essential traffic and absorbed badly needed manpower. But, if we are further to follow Haffner's convincing argumentation, we are let in to an almost inconceivable disclosure: towards the end of the war Hitler had given up the hope for victory over the Allies. From now on it was his intention that together with his own apparently no longer avoidable end the whole of Germany was to perish.

The idea was not a new one. He had expressed it already in "*Mein Kampf*". There he had written (op. cit. p. 359) half a century ago that nations which are destroyed by a power stronger than their own do not owe their destructions to any "injustice", but rather to the restoration of a higher "justice". This moment was apparently now at hand. The Germans themselves had brought about their ruin, presumably by the neglect of "their racial purity".

### Against his own People

From now on, Hitler's main effort was no longer directed against his enemies, but against his own people. Haffner tells us of remarks, which were recorded, to two foreign visitors, the Danish Foreign Minister Lorkovic and the Croatian Foreign Minister Lorkovic, which he made on 27 November 1941 when the German offensive towards Moscow had been halted: "On this point, too," he had said, "I am icily cold. If one day the German nation is no longer sufficiently strong or sufficiently ready for sacrifice to stake its own blood for its existence, then let it perish and be annihilated by some other stronger power. . . . In that case I shall shed no tears for the German nation."

After more years of terrible bloodshed—"over-kill" as it would now be specified—the Germans were to all appearance tired of a war which had, as became clearer every day, failed to fulfil their expectations. They still wanted to keep the Russians at bay, but they wanted peace with the Western powers. Unbelievably though it appears, Hitler set out to destroy even this last desperate hope. Had he not sworn that the debacle of 1918 would never re-occur? He stuck to his word. Instead of stopping at a time, comparable to 1918, when there was still hope of saving his country the worst and saving what could be saved, Hitler systematically foiled this hope against hope. He started a new offensive in the Western hills of the Ardennes. "It was," says Haffner, "from a military point of view, an insane enterprise." But that was what it was meant to be. It would use up the forces needed for the defence of the Western territory of the Reich and at the same time open up the East for the deadly Russian onslaught. At this

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## The Meaning of Hitler

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point Haffner's responsibility lets him hesitate to express too categorical an opinion. In spite of every condemnation pronounced before, even to him the horror of charging Hitler with the unambiguous wish to annihilate the whole of Germany seems unthinkable. But he cannot help to suspect that exactly this was the purpose of the Ardennes offensive.

The last chapter, in which Haffner describes Hitler's war against his last enemy, Germany herself, is duly entitled "Betrayal". "The annihilation of Germany was the last goal Hitler set himself." Even for readers deeply convinced of Hitler's depravity it makes sinister reading. Had Hitler at first been to the Germans a "miracle", a "god-send"—when the monstrous spectacle had come to an end he stood revealed as an ogre, a scourge of hell.

Was this how the Germans saw him? Had not perhaps—contrary to the regenerated majority and explicitly to the successive Governments of the Federal Republic—a not quite negligible number of exceptions chosen to look the other way? To find mitigating circumstances, alleviating comparisons with war-like deeds of the enemy or even to deny the abomination altogether? In fairness and responsibility it may be said that these incorrigibles are an annoying and to some extent disquieting minority. A little strange though it may appear that it needed an American Television film "Holocaust", shown 37 years after the events allegedly to "acquaint" the Germans with the Nazi past, not to mention other ominous but as yet rare signs of a reawakening of the Nazi spectre, we should keep our calm and beware of conjuring up infernal spirits.

To this end Haffner's book is a great help. His method of starting with a modicum of appreciation in order to condemn afterwards all the more inexorably, may not be the worst to be applied to readers still wavering under the burden of revelations from which, not unnaturally, sound minds recoil to be associated with.

### NAZISM AND DOCTORS

Two young German scholars, a jurist and a social scientist, have embarked on a thorough research of the progressive movements within the medical profession before 1933 and of the treatment of these pioneers, many of whom were Jews, after the Nazis had come to power. On the basis of their investigations they have come to the conclusion that the percentage of Party members among the doctors was very much higher than among certain groups of civil servants, e.g. among certain groups of municipal doctors, the members of the civil service were considerably more dependent on the Nazi State than the members of the so-called "liberal professions". Equally, the treatment of progressive Jewish and non-Jewish colleagues was particularly harsh and exceeded the regulations enacted in the Nazi laws. To obtain a full picture of the position the research workers are anxious to get material on the structure, strength and activities of progressive associations of doctors, such as the various Social Democratic doctors' organisations, the Unions of "Kassenärzte" and municipal doctors, the bodies aiming at the improvement and modernisation of the health service, to mention only a few examples. Unfortunately, the number of those who can give information from first-hand knowledge is steadily dwindling. Any emigrated doctors or their relatives, who can give information or have material in their possession are asked to get in touch with: Professor Stephan Leibfried, Universitaet Bremen, POB 33 04 40, 2800 Bremen 33, German Federal Republic.

## ASPECTS OF IMMIGRATION

### THE WHITE PAPER AND REFUGEES

Dr. S. Levenberg, former vice-president of the Board of Deputies, warned the Board of the dangers contained in the White Paper on Immigration. It said that British women not born in this country, had no right to bring a husband from abroad, and that only in exceptional circumstances may parents and grandparents over 65 be admitted. This did not only apply to coloured immigrants, it could also be applied to the large number of people who came here as refugees and were naturalised after the war.

It has always been one of the tasks of the AJR to safeguard the interests of the community it represents, whenever measures in the public or private sector threatened to differentiate between UK born and UK naturalised citizens. Fortunately, throughout the past years, there were only very few incidents of this kind, and the AJR always succeeded in getting matters straight.

When the proposals of the White Paper on Immigration became known, the AJR immediately associated itself with the efforts of the Board of Deputies which took up the matter at the highest level. Furthermore, on December 3, the President of the Board and the Chief Rabbi issued a statement, expressing "the deep concern of the British Jewish community at the proposed discrimination between men and women and between those born in this country and other citizens of the United Kingdom—a distinction not previously made. While appreciating the wish of the Government to stop the abuse of the immigration laws (the statement ends), it is hoped that Parliament will not adopt discriminatory rules which run counter to British justice and tradition and are bound to affect community relations adversely".

As readers know, after the introduction of a few amendments the Government proposals, which in certain instances will also affect naturalised pre-war refugees, were adopted by majority vote in Parliament. Whilst it is hoped that, as long as the White Paper regulations will not be replaced by less restrictive legislation, the immigration authorities will use their discretion in special cases, the discrimination is to be deeply regretted for reasons of principle, last but not least by those who were compelled to leave their countries of origin as victims of a racial policy.

### RADIO PLAYS ON PREJUDICE

Rabbi Dr. Albert Friedlander, director of Leo Baeck College and minister of Westminster Synagogue, has announced that the Michael Goulston Foundation of which he is a trustee, has contracted the writer Bernard Kops to write the scripts for five radio plays which have been recorded and will be sold to schools all over the country and in the United States. They all deal with the problems of prejudice, and antisemitism in particular, in the twentieth century. They are collectively called "In a strange Land" and based on real incidents, featuring families in different countries, their attitudes to Judaism and their experience of persecution. The plays are designed to enable students of all faiths to become aware of their own identity and of their attitude to these problems. One of the plays, called "Boxcar", is the story of a German Jewish family on their way to Auschwitz.

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### A RECORD OF OUR TIME

#### Herbert Freeden's Broadcasts Published

Under the heading "Menetekel im November—Ein deutscher Jude zwischen 'Reichskristallnacht' und englischem Exil" two German broadcasts by Herbert Freeden were published in a well laid out, 46-page brochure (Deutschlandfunk, Abt. Presse—und Oeffentlichkeitsarbeit, 5.000 Koeln 51, free of charge). In his autobiographical introduction, the author states that he had to experience the upheavals of emigration three times in his life: first after the World War when his city of birth, Posen, became Polish, then under the Nazis, when he found refuge in England and in 1950, when he left this country to settle in Israel. During his stay in London, where he was associated with the work of the fundraising organisations for Palestine, he was also the first co-editor of AJR Information (founded in 1946). In Israel, he became press officer of the Jewish National Fund and he now also works as correspondent to German newspapers. Under the auspices of the Leo Baeck Institute, he wrote a history of the Jewish Kulturbund and is at present engaged in research of the Jewish press in Germany from 1806 to 1938.

His first story, broadcast on the 40th anniversary of the November pogroms, describes in a partly autobiographical, partly fictional way the ordeal of those who aimlessly wandered through Berlin, constantly changing their abodes, in order to escape the mass arrests. It also describes the destruction of the synagogues and deals with the reaction of the general population to the widely visible terror acts of those days. "The majority remained silent and was afraid", he states. Yet from a political point of view, the pogrom turned out to be a failure for the Nazis: they lost the sympathy of those Western countries with which they had come to an agreement in Munich and which now could no longer be under any illusions about the real face of Nazi Germany.

The atrocities resulted in rescue activities, especially in Britain. Their outcome is described in Herbert Freeden's second broadcast, entitled "Wie ich Briten wurde". The story evokes memories most of us shared with him. It includes recollections of the Transit Camp in Richborough, of the internment, of the English landladies, "many of whom were no angels", of the mysteries of the fireplace, of the Blitz and of the gradual adjustment of the newcomers. The AJR and the "Thank-You Britain" Fund are also referred to. Though basically written in a lighter vein, the essay reflects the difficulties we had to go through.

The brochure will give German readers an idea of the fate of the German Jews before and after their emigration. At the same time, it also makes good reading for us, being *dramatis personae*.

W.R.

### THREAT TO AU PAIR GIRLS

According to a Home Office spokesman, under the new immigration laws no Israeli au pair girls will be admitted. Last year 74 Israeli au pairs came to Britain. In future, apart from girls from EEC countries, only girls from Malta, Cyprus, and Turkey, aged between 17 and 25, will be admitted. A Society of Au Pair Agencies has been formed to fight the new legislation and has submitted a petition to the Prime Minister.

### FISHER FOREST FOR ISRAEL

A Lord Fisher of Camden Forest is to be planted in Israel on a site to be chosen by Lord Fisher's widow. Organisations with which Lord Fisher was connected and individuals have been invited to contribute. Donations should be made to the Chairman for Traditional Fund-raising (Lord Fisher Forest) at the Jewish National Fund, and all donors will receive commemorative certificates. When the Forest is complete, Lady Fisher will be presented with a volume listing the names of all contributors.

## HOME NEWS

### GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE BOYCOTT AID

The Foreign Office has revealed that, while all British Chambers of Commerce are opposed to the Arab boycott of Israeli-produced goods, those who traded in the Arab world feared that a refusal by the Foreign Office to authenticate certificates of origin would pose an unacceptable risk to British exports. However, in answer to strong criticism by the Select Committee of the House of Lords earlier this year, the Foreign Office would add a separate note saying that the authentication of signatures did not imply condoning the contents of boycott-related documents.

### NO JEWISH DATES IN 1980 DIARIES

One of Britain's major diary publishers, Charles Letts and Co., has admitted that the firm is acceding to the Arab boycott for "purely a profit consideration". A spokesman said that they had received complaints from customers who had sent diaries to Middle Eastern countries and would therefore omit any reference to Israel and Jews, unless they were sure the diaries were distributed in countries which did not object to such references.

### DUTIES OF A JEWISH MP

At a meeting of the Guild of Jewish Journalists, Mr. Ian Mikardo, Labour MP for Tower Hamlets, Bow and Bethnal Green, said: "You ought to stop thinking of Jewish MPs as Jewish MPs because they happen to be Jewish. For me, Zionism and the Middle East generally are one of seven or eight causes to support. . . . Why should a Jewish illiterate in my constituency think that I should spend all my time on Jewish problems, when I have five times as many Bangladeshis as Jews there?" He pointed out that the Labour Friends of Israel had 120 members which showed considerable support for Israel.

### NEW CHIEF RABBI FOR IRELAND

29-year-old Rabbi David Rosen, the youngest son of the late Rabbi Kopul Rosen, founder of Carmel College, has been appointed Chief Rabbi of Ireland to succeed Rabbi Dr. Isaac Cohen, who after 20 years is retiring to settle in Israel and study Jewish Law at the Hebrew University. Previously to his appointment, Rabbi Rosen served for a time as chaplain to the Jewish Defence Forces in Israel and as national Jewish student director in South Africa. Previous holders of his new office were Dr. Isaac Herzog who later became Chief Rabbi of Israel, and Rabbi Dr. Jakobovits, now Chief Rabbi of United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth.

### RANK DENIAL

In a letter to the "Financial Times", Mr. J. B. Smith, chairman of Rank's Industrial and Product Companies, denied reports about a Rank Deal with Israel Electra Company, distributors of colour TV sets. He stressed that the Rank Organisation and its subsidiaries did not contemplate any local manufacture or local assembly in Israel, as they have for many years been trading with Arab countries in a wide variety of products and services for leisure activities. A number of other companies, such as Grundig, Philips and ITT have been profitably operating in both Israel and Arab countries.

### ARAFAT ATTACKS BRITAIN

In an interview in Beirut, Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO, launched a vicious attack on British Middle East policy and said Britain was the Common Market country most opposed to the Palestinians. The PLO would demand hefty reparations for the losses attributed to British action under the League of Nations Mandate. Britain, with its oil wealth, would be able to pay, and every Briton should "feel ashamed if he has any conscience".

### BRITISH SHUN PALESTINE DAY

When a "day of solidarity with the Palestinian people" was observed for the second time at the United Nations Offices in New York and Geneva, the British Government refrained from participating as the Labour Government had done last year.

### WHO IS AN ISRAELI?

Mr. Hyam Corney, executive director of the Board of Deputies' public relations committee, has written to the editor of the new Collins English Dictionary, pointing out that one of its definitions of the word "Jew"—"another word for Israeli" was inaccurate. There were many thousands of Israelis who were not Jews, and millions of Jews all over the world who were not Israelis. The definition should be omitted from future editions.

### VISIT BY ARAB ISRAELI MP

Mr. Zeidan Atashe, an Arab Israeli MP, has arrived for an extensive tour of Britain and Ireland. He is regarded as the head of the 40,000 strong Druse minority who live in small villages around Galilee and Haifa. The Druses, who settled in Syria and southern Lebanon after the Crusades, are Moslems with their own religious and social traditions, and Atashe is trying to modernise them. At present, their women are hardly allowed to leave their villages. He himself served in the Army, and subsequently became a trade union organiser, lecturer and journalist in Israel. When he was appointed Consul for Information at the Israel Consulate General in New York, he was the first non-Jewish Israeli to hold a diplomatic post. In 1977, he was elected to the Knesset where he sits with the Socialists as a member of the Shai party, an offshoot of Yigael Yadin's centrist party. He still lives in his native village Osifiya.

### JEWISH GUESTS AT THE DORCHESTER HOTEL

Mr. Ruault, the new managing director of the Dorchester Hotel in London, has claimed that Jewish guests are returning to the hotel which was acquired by an Arab syndicate in 1976. The number of private and charitable Jewish functions had sunk from 15 a week to one a fortnight, but there was a steady flow of Jewish guests.

### "ELDERS OF ZION" IN PUBLIC LIBRARY

At the request of a local resident, the Edenbridge, Kent, Public Library obtained a copy of the notorious antisemitic forgery "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" and displayed it on its open shelves, on a table with books for recommended reading. Mr. Peter Swan, when approached by a Jewish objector, said that libraries had no authority to refuse a book when it was requested, as long as it was not barred by law. The book displayed is a 1978 edition, sold at £2 and published by "British Patriot Publications", a member of the British Movement, known to have distributed antisemitic material. The Board of Deputies has asked the county librarian to place the book in a special reference section and pointed out that members of extremist groups are asked to request such books in local libraries to ensure their widespread distribution.

### CHEAPER GRAPEFRUIT

The first Israeli grapefruit has now reached British greengrocers and has caused a dramatic drop in price. In order to encourage the export of citrus fruit, the Israeli Citrus Marketing Board has fixed the price level low enough for retailers to sell the fruit at much cheaper prices than have recently been paid. This year's quality is particularly good.

### ZIONISTS ON THE MOVE

Because of the expiry of the lease at Rex House, Regent Street, London, the headquarters of the British Zionist Movement will be moved to Blue Star House, Archway, next June.

### HUNGARIAN MOHEL IN BRITAIN

The Hungarian Jewish community recently sent one of its officials, Mr. Laszlo Herczog to be trained as a mohel in Britain. After his training, he has now returned to Hungary, from where he will visit other Iron Curtain countries to conduct circumcisions and probably train further students.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

## ANGLO-JUDAICA

### Service for Handicapped

The Chief Rabbi Dr. Jakobovits conducted a service at the Dollis Hill Synagogue, held by the Rishon Multiple Sclerosis Aid Group as a service of rededication. Multiple sclerosis sufferers in wheelchairs lined the gangways. They had been brought to the synagogue by St. John Ambulances, by the group's two buses and by volunteer car drivers. The guests of honour were the Deputy Mayor of Brent, Cllr. McLellan, and the chairman of Brent education committee, Cllr. Len Snow.

### London Jewish Hospital Closed

Under a temporary closure order, the last two in-patients were moved out of the London Jewish Hospital. The Friends of the Hospital have agreed to the closure on condition that the hospital is returned to them for use as a residential home for the aged.

### Amalgamation of London Synagogues

A representative of the Brixton Synagogue said that a new synagogue and communal centre were to be built in Streatham Hill, South London, on an empty site provided by Lambeth Borough Council. To finance the new venture, the Brixton synagogue, founded in 1921, which had become uneconomical to run, would be sold, and Brixton and Streatham synagogues would be amalgamated. For several months Clown Cavalcade, a registered charity which trains professional clowns, has been trying to raise £200,000 to buy the synagogue, where it will install a 500-seat theatre, a hall and workshops.

### Wrestling for the Synagogue

The Shaarei Shalom North Manchester Reform Congregation organised a night of all-star wrestling which raised £2,250 for the synagogue building fund. One of the organisers was former professional wrestler Jack Yaffe who also took part in the proceedings.

### Residential Hillel House for London Students

The new Hillel House in Stepney which was recently opened, was set up by the B'nai B'rith First Unity Lodge. It has a warden's flat and single-bedroom accommodation for 11 students. It is named after Harold Godfrey who died in an air crash in 1977 and who had initiated the project. A committee of the Lodge was set up to locate other sites for new Hillel Houses. Three more will be opened in Reading, Exeter, and Aberdeen in the near future.

### Japanese Friends of Israel

In the Hendon Synagogue, some 20 Japanese singers and dancers, belonging to the Japan Christian Friends of Israel, gave a performance in full ethnic dress and armed with Japanese musical instruments. According to a programme note, the organisation was founded in 1938 by Father Takeji Otsuki to whom one night in Manchuria the Almighty appeared revealing to him that the State of Israel would be created and the Messiah would come.

### Big Success for Inter-racial Meeting

Nearly 1,000 people attended a Jewish-West Indian evening, organised by the Leeds Jewish Social Responsibility Council.

### Newcastle Meeting on Holocaust

A recent issue of the Newcastle Jewish Recorder carries the text of a talk on the Holocaust, given to the local branch of the Council of Christians and Jews by Mr. Walter Sharman. Based on first hand experience and thorough research, the speaker, who formerly lived in Munich and came to this country as a refugee, gave a concise and impressive description of this darkest period of our history.

### Dublin Museum of Hebrew Studies

The Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, officially opened the "Weingreen Museum of Jewish Studies" at the university, named in honour of Professor Jacob Weingreen who over the last 30 years has contributed to the collection of Egyptian and Babylonian artifacts, Canaanite and Israelite pottery, and sections of ancient Torah scrolls. Professor Weingreen, who with his wife, Bertha, took an active part in the work of the Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad after the war, has recently retired.

# NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

## UNITED STATES

### New Jewish Ambassador to Middle East

President Carter has appointed Mr. Sol Linowitz to succeed Mr. Robert Strauss as US special Ambassador to the Middle East. Like his predecessor, he is a rich and powerful lawyer and a former president of the Xerox Corporation and a Rochester, New York. Mr. Ghorbal, the Egyptian Ambassador to the US, welcomed the appointment and said he was sure that Mr. Linowitz was unbiased. He had developed a close friendship with him over the years.

### Jewish Secretary of Commerce

President Carter has nominated 72-year-old Mr. Philipp M. Klutznik as America's new Secretary of Commerce. The appointment requires Senate ratification. Mr. Klutznik, a wealthy Chicago businessman, is Nahum Goldman's successor as president of the World Jewish Congress and a veteran fund-raiser for the Democratic party. Mr. Harold Brown, the Secretary of Defence, and Mr. Neil Goldschmidt, the Secretary for Transport, are other Jews in Mr. Carter's Cabinet. The new head of Mr. Carter's re-election campaign, Mr. Robert Strauss, is also Jewish.

### Kissinger at New York Leo Baeck Lodge

In 1944, German-Jewish immigrants in New York founded a B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck Lodge. To mark the 35th anniversary of the Lodge, a dinner was held in the New York Hilton Hotel. The climax of the celebration was an address by Dr. Henry Kissinger, in which he identified himself with his community of origin and stated: "This Lodge is the embodiment of our best traditions". Dr. Kissinger's parents, Louis and Paula, were already Lodge members in Fuerth and joined the New York Leo Baeck Lodge immediately after its foundation. As an expression of sympathy and solidarity, their son Henry signed his own enrolment form at the end of the function.

### A Boycott "Error"

In a Freedom of Information lawsuit, the American Jewish Congress obtained from the Department of Commerce a number of documents revealing 1,659 reports on Arab boycott activities before October 7, 1976. They include documentation of a tender for goods to be delivered to a Saudi Arabian Army assistance programme by the Engineers Corps, which contained a clause that firms applying must not be owned or managed by personnel having connections with any country not recognised by the Saudi Arabian Government. An Engineers Corps spokesman said the corps would never encourage this sort of thing. Somebody seemed to have made an error in an isolated case. Three other documents pointed to boycott requests by the World Health Organisation and stipulated that the invoices "must show that the goods are not manufactured in Israel or of Israeli origin."

### Jane Fonda calls for Peace

Left-wing actress Jane Fonda stated during a visit to New York that she wanted Israel to live in peace and security and that she disagreed with Vanessa Redgrave, her co-star in the "Julia" film on "every issue from the bottom of my toes." They had only stopped fighting on the set after agreeing not to discuss politics. Miss Fonda is the wife of a Jew, Mr. Tom Hayden, head of the Left-wing Campaign for Economic Democracy, and one of the founders of the "Radical Students for a Democratic Society" in the early 1960s.

### A New Peace Prize

"New Outlook", the Left-wing Israeli English language magazine, has established a new "Peace Prize" in Washington to be awarded every year to an Israeli and an Arab for work in achieving Israeli-Arab understanding. It was announced at the end of a four-day symposium on the Middle East, attended by some 50 Israelis and several hundred Americans. The moderates among the Israelis opposed a call for unconditional talks with the PLO, but declared their readiness to talk to any Palestinians renouncing terrorism and accepting Israel's right to exist.

## Courses on Holocaust

The New York Yeshiva University opened its 94th year with about 7,000 students of both sexes at its four New York campuses and affiliated centres in Los Angeles and Israel. Among its 50 new courses are some on the literature of the Holocaust, and one on "Holocaust and Genocide", given by Professor Goldhagen of Harvard who holds the chair in interdisciplinary Holocaust studies. Scholarships were awarded to 26 out of the 100 Iranian Jews who had applied for them.

### After "Holocaust" "Massada"

The American company which made the "Holocaust" TV film, has just returned from Israel where it has started a film on the Massada story. As in "Holocaust", the Jews are played by non-Jewish Americans, and their enemies, this time the Romans, by British actors, headed by Peter O'Toole.

### Yiddish Theatre Tour for US

The Jewish State Theatre of Poland, the most celebrated surviving Yiddish Theatre company, will tour America early next year. A troupe of 30 actors will present "The Dybbuk" on Broadway for six weeks and then tour other cities.

### Rabbi Condemns Zionism

The new leader of the Orthodox Satmar sect, the Sigeter Rebbe, said in a sermon, that his sect would remain hostile to Israel. The Holocaust, which he deplored, had been brought about by Zionists weakening faith among Jews. The Rebbe also criticised Jews who leave their Jewish environment to spend winters in Florida and escape New York's harsh winters. Such vacations should in future only be taken if doctors insisted on them.

### Retirement of leading "Joint" Official

After more than four decades of service, Mr. Herbert Katzki (New York) has retired as a senior official of the "Joint". From 1939 onwards, he worked for many years on the European Continent. In this capacity he has rendered signal service to the Jewish persecutees and Displaced Persons. Mr. Katzki is also a Board member of the United Restitution Organisation, where his sound and well-founded advice is greatly appreciated by all his colleagues.

### An Israeli Mafia?

For the last five years, young Israeli toughs have been preying on small businesses in the Jewish Fairfax area of Los Angeles and extorting protection money from businessmen, many of them Israelis, threatening fire-bombing or retaliation against relatives in Israel. Members of the gangs, estimated to number about 500 by the police, are mainly Israelis of North African descent, with a sprinkling of Iranians, Arabs and Armenians. They recently murdered a 22-year-old Jewish woman and her 24-year-old husband whose body has not yet been identified. Two men, who knew the victims and lived in their neighbourhood, are suspected of the murders and have disappeared. The Israeli authorities are cooperating in the investigations by supplying background information on the criminals.

### Roosevelt's Rescue Mission

At a special ceremony at the late President Roosevelt's Hyde Park home, Mr. Ira Hirschmann, 71, a former diplomat, banker, author and UN consultant on refugees, deposited a number of documents connected with the rescue of 50,000 Rumanian Jews during the last war. In 1943, President Roosevelt had sent Hirschmann to Turkey as his special envoy to supervise American efforts to save refugees in Southern Europe. He had been given \$5 million in gold sovereigns, but was told that he would be disavowed if his activities were discovered. He secretly met the Rumanian Ambassador to Turkey and told him that as the Soviet Armies would soon be entering Turkey, it would be in his interest to secure the freedom of 50,000 Jews in Transnistrian camps, because in that case, he and his family would be given American visas. After two days, the Ambassador said he had agreed a deal. Soon afterwards, 5,000 children were released and sent to Israel through Turkey. The other inmates mostly went to the States after their liberation.

## Jordanian Terrorist Deported

In Los Angeles Immigration officials arrested a 32-year-old Jordanian, Milidos Dergarebedian, who admitted in court that he had thrown a hand-grenade during an attack on the Athens office of El Al some years ago. He was deported to Jordan.

## CANADA

### Problem of the Israel Embassy

When the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Joe Clark, said in June that he would fulfil an election promise and move Canada's Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Canada lost £2 million worth of contracts with Arab countries. Mr. Robert Stanfield, who was subsequently sent on a fact-finding mission to the Middle East, has now returned and said, all Arab countries in the Middle East would disapprove of such a move, and some might translate this into their trade policy. The Canadian Government has now dropped its proposal to move the Embassy to Jerusalem.

### Windfall for Old Age Home

Mr. Jacob Rosenstadt, who has died in Hamilton, Ontario, aged 97, left about £176,000 interest on his £2,400,000 fortune to Toronto's Jewish home for the aged and another amount for a similar home in Hamilton on condition that it would be established by the end of 1981. His fortune was based on tobacco plantations in Puerto Rico and cigar manufacturing, but he retired from business 50 years ago and was afterwards very successful in his investments.

### ANTISEMITIC BOOKS

Hitler's "Mein Kampf", translated and printed in Portugal, and the Tsarist forgery "Protocols of the Elders of Zion", translated and printed in Brazil, are on sale in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. The Brazilian Parliament had banned both books in 1950.

### A FRIENDLY MOVE

Dr. Israel Klabin, the recently elected Jewish Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, has announced that Mr. Teddy Kollek, Mayor of Jerusalem, had been invited to a Rio conference of Mayors from various countries. Dr. Klabin denied having invited the PLO representative in Brazil, Mr. Farid Sawan, who had described him as a leader of "racist Zionism in Brazil".

### MEXICAN OIL EMBARGO?

After a visit by President Jablonski of Poland, a joint Mexican-Polish statement demanded recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. A number of Mexican Left-wing parties announced that they will bring in a Bill in Parliament to suspend Mexican oil sales to Israel unless she evacuates all occupied territories.

### SOUTH AFRICA AND THE JEWS

In an interview, the South African Prime Minister, Mr. P. W. Botha, praised the contribution of South African Jews to the country's development and their commitment to Israel. He said he would continue to encourage Israeli investment in South Africa and allow South African capital to be used for Israel's economic and humanitarian needs. Israel and South Africa had common problems of soil erosion, limited water supplies and arid zone farming which could be resolved by joint effort.

### FEZ JEWS TOLD TO LEAVE

After a Moslem religious conference, Moslem religious functionaries told the Jews of Fez they should move to other Moroccan cities, because they want to make Fez a holy city. Fez and Marakesh are the two Moroccan cities with a long history of Jewish associations which have produced a number of famous rabbis. Morocco had a Jewish population of more than 300,000 until 1949 when many of them emigrated to the new State of Israel and to France. Some 25,000 are now left and have so far been unmolested. King Hassan II, like his father, King Mohamed V, has always protected the Jews, a number of whom are members of the Civil Service. King Hussein also sends representatives to Jewish ceremonies to observe the High Holy-days and other festivals. According to some unconfirmed reports, Mr. Moshe Dayan was one of a number of Israeli functionaries who have visited Morocco. He is said to have secretly met Egyptian officials there for important talks before President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1977.

# NEWS FROM EUROPE

## BELGIUM

### Unsung Heroes honoured

Several Belgian citizens, who during the war risked their own lives by sheltering Jews threatened with deportation, were presented with Yad Vashem medals and diplomas by the Israeli Ambassador during a ceremony at the Brussels Hilton Hotel. In Namur, a number of survivors attended the unveiling of a plaque in memory of Abbé Josef Andre who saved many Jewish children from deportation by placing them in convents and reliable families.

### Neo-Fascist arrested

Bert Erickson, head of the Belgian neo-Fascist organisation, was arrested after a clash between his Vlaamse Militanten Orde and the police, together with 140 members of the organisation who were subsequently released. His arrest is the first strict application of a 1934 law prohibiting the organisation of private military units.

### Protest against PLO visit

Hundreds of Belgian Jews protested outside the residence of the Belgian Foreign Minister, Mr. Signoret, who had invited Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO political department, to a private meeting. After a two-hour working session, Mr. Signori stated: "The PLO speaks in the name of the most important of the Palestinian people." Kaddoumi also talked to other Belgian ministers and to Mr. Cheysson, a member of the EEC commission dealing with developing countries. Several leading newspapers took up the protest.

The Israeli Ambassador criticised the Belgian TV network in a speech for its daily propaganda for the PLO which it described as an "honourable group". In one programme of the French-language TV network Israel was compared with the Nazis.

### Refugee Chief Rabbi for Antwerp

Fifty-three-year-old Rabbi David M. Liebermann was elected the new Chief Rabbi of the Antwerp Shomre Hadass community with an overwhelming majority. He first came to Antwerp with his parents as a small child fleeing from the Nazis. In 1940 the family fled to the US but returned after the war. Rabbi Liebermann is married and has seven children.

## NETHERLANDS

### Anti-Boycott Legislation

Under pressure from a majority of MPs, the Dutch Government is introducing legislation, requiring businesses to report any attempt to make them comply with discriminatory measures against Israel and banning declarations to Arab countries that their employees are not Jewish. However it does not prohibit negative certificates of origin which state that a product has not been manufactured in Israel.

### Congregation in Money Trouble

In 1974, the Hague Synagogue Community bought the Good Friday Church for some £450,000 to convert it into a synagogue and community centre. The conversion including the building of a mikvah, cost about £250,000, but the mikvah could not be used because it did not work. The sale of the old synagogue in the former Jewish quarter to the municipal authorities brought in about £400,000, but the congregation was still faced with an annual expense of £150,000 against an income of some £60,000. The old synagogue has now been acquired by Turkish workers to be used as a mosque. The synagogue board sought drastic expenditure cuts and proposed to sell the new synagogue. Subsequently, Rabbi Ansbacher, 28, and the synagogue reader and secretary, who all came from Israel last year, are planning to return home rather than take a cut in salaries. Rabbi Ansbacher was recently the focus of criticism for his ruling that at communal functions, husbands can only dance with their wives and wives with their husbands.

## Dutch Leaders' Wartime Record

Professor de Jong, director of the Dutch National Institute for War Documentation, has stated that the Dutch Government in Exile in London during the war failed to help the country's persecuted Jews. He said that many ministers of the Government made antisemitic statements and refused to employ Jews. Dutch consular and diplomatic representatives in Vichy France and elsewhere also refused to help refugees. The Dutch Red Cross in London refused to send parcels to imprisoned Dutch Jews or to reimburse the "Joint" for sending such parcels. The only person to stand up for the Jews was Queen Wilhelmina whom the Germans called "die Judenfreundin".

## ITALY

### Pope praises Einstein

During a Vatican celebration to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of Einstein's birth, Pope John Paul told a distinguished audience of cardinals, ambassadors and scientists of different nationalities and creeds in the Royal Hall of the Apostolic Palace that the Church had great admiration for Einstein's genius. Einstein, he said, had made a "sublime contribution" to the progress of science and to the knowledge of truth which "is present in the mystery of the universe". The main address was given by Professor Chagas of Brazil, the president of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, who stressed Einstein's Jewishness and Zionist sympathies and extolled him for his zeal and courage in the service of justice, and "since 1914, in the struggle against militarism, abuse of power and racial discrimination." The meeting also proclaimed the formal rehabilitation of Galileo, who in the seventeenth century was charged with heresy and placed under house arrest for saying that the Sun and not the Earth was the centre of the solar system.

### Anti-Jewish Slogans in Ostia

Virulent antisemitic slogans have been daubed on street walls in Ostia, where between 3,000 and 5,000 Soviet Jews await their papers for the United States, Canada, and Australia. One of them reads "I use Camay Soap because it reminds me of my mother, says the little Jew", and another "Ten, a hundred, a thousand Holocausts, and we still have ovens ready at the right temperature for cremation." The Union of Jewish Communities protested against two interviews with Professor Faurisson of Lyons University in the Magazine "Illustrated History", in which the Professor repeats his claim, published in "Le Monde" in Paris last year, that Hitler never ordered the killing of anybody because of race or religion, and that the purpose of the gas-chambers was the delousing of camp inmates. Subsequently, the paper's editor resigned.

### Historic Cemetery desecrated

A group calling itself the "New Armed Fascists" has claimed responsibility for the desecration of the historic Jewish cemetery at Leghorn when 40 gravestones were overturned and slogans daubed in praise of Nazi concentration camps. The Fascists said in their message: "We have desecrated a Jewish cemetery. Soon we shall aim higher."

### Monza Grand Prix for Jewish Champion

Jody Scheckter, South Africa-born, who has been motor-racing since 1972, is the 1979 world motor racing champion and the first Jew to have reached such an eminent position in the sport.

### Israeli for Rome Opera

Daniel Oren, who in 1975 won the International Conductors' Prize, founded by Herbert von Karajan, has been appointed director of the Rome Opera.

## RHEIMS SYNAGOGUE CENTENARY

Leading French military and civic representatives joined the Jewish community in the celebration of the centenary of the Rheims Synagogue. During the service, 29-year-old Rabbi Rene Gutman, whose wife is the former Miss Sara Goldschmidt from London, was inducted as new rabbi of the community.

## AUSTRIA

### Growing Number of Refugees

According to a report published by the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration, there were almost 50 per cent more refugees from Eastern Europe this year as compared to 1978. In October alone, 4,800 legal emigrants from the Soviet Union arrived in transit in Austria. The main reception centre of Traiskirchen near Vienna was filled beyond its 2,000 capacity, and three more camps had to be opened.

### Fear of Antisemitism in Europe

For the first time, the European B'nai B'rith convention was held in Vienna. The opening session was attended by President Kirchsclaeger of Austria and Cardinal Koenig, the Roman Catholic Primate. During the conference, a statement was issued according to which antisemitism under the guise of anti-Zionism was growing in several European countries, particularly in France, Spain and Belgium, and to a lesser degree West Germany, but hardly in Austria. It was attributed to intense Arab and Communist propaganda and to fading memories of the Holocaust.

### New Kreisky Statement

Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Austria called for direct negotiations between Israel and the PLO and simultaneous, mutual recognition of each other, when he addressed the UN General Assembly last month. He said the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt remained a historic achievement of President Sadat's. Asked why he had not included Begin in his praise, he said: "It is known all over the world that Prime Minister Begin and myself are not great friends." Referring to Jews in America, he said their role was peculiar, because they had a certain influence on American policy, but not on the US Government.

## JEWISH THEATRE IN GENEVA

The Tsavta (Together) Theatre Company of Geneva, the only major Jewish theatre group in Western Europe, have scored a great success with a revival of "Anne Frank's Diary" to mark both the 50th anniversary of Anne Frank's birth and the International Year of the Child. An estimated 4,000 people watched the play in Geneva, Lausanne, and France. Tsavta was formed two years ago by Miss Sandra Stinghe, a former director of the Bucharest National Theatre.

## PROTECTION FOR ISRAELIS AT OLYMPIC GAMES

After negotiations in the Dutch Embassy in Moscow between a delegation from Israel and the Soviet Olympic authorities, the Russians promised to provide special security measures for Israeli participants. The Israeli team will be housed on the top floor of the most secure building in the Olympic village, adjacent to the Soviet security headquarters. Soviet soldiers will mount a round the clock guard inside and outside the building. The Soviets also agreed to the Israelis' demand that only representatives of friendly nations should be housed in the same 15-storey-high building: the other teams come from Holland, Yugoslavia, and Surinam. After agreement was reached, the Israelis dropped their request to bring their own security staff.

## NEW RABBI IN ROMANIA

For the first time since he took office in 1948, the Chief Rabbi of Romania, Dr. Rosen, inducted a new Rabbi, Dr. Carol Iolesz, a survivor of Hungarian-German persecution, as minister of Cluj-Napoca, once the capital of Transylvania. Before 1944, when more than 16,000 Jews were deported to Auschwitz, Cluj had a strongly Orthodox community. Between 1940 and 1944, the area was occupied by Hungary. Today's congregation numbers some 340 families. In the whole of Romania, there are about 37,000 Jews left.

## PLO IN TURKEY

Yasir Arafat visited the Turkish capital Ankara to hoist the PLO flag on the newly established Palestinian diplomatic mission in a ceremony attended by the Turkish Foreign Minister, and ambassadors from Soviet Russia and other Communist and Arab countries. However, the Prime Minister, Mr. Ecevit—who has since resigned after an election defeat—said, Turkey had no intention of severing her ties with Israel.

F. Hellendall

## THE CHEVALIER VAN GELDERN

### New Material on Heine's Great-Uncle

In one of its recent publications the Heinrich Heine Institute in Düsseldorf has published a booklet by Dr. Ludwig Rosenthal, the author of the book "Heinrich Heine als Jude" (reviewed in AJR Information, June, 1974), on Heine's great-uncle Simon van Geldern, containing interesting new material on this fascinating man.\* Heine refers in his "Memoiren" at length to Simon van Geldern's Diary (the original of which was probably destroyed by the Nazis in Berlin, but a photocopy of it has fortunately been preserved in the Schocken Archive in Jerusalem).

Rosenthal's study is the result of painstaking and thorough investigations by the author at numerous places, but particularly the State Library in Darmstadt where many of the original written relics by and relating to Simon van Geldern have been preserved. The work contains German translations of a second Diary by Simon van Geldern and of 133 other documents, mainly letters or draft letters by and to Simon giving account of the travels of the "Chevalier van Geldern" throughout Europe and to the Holy Land.

Although Heine describes his great uncle as a "charlatan", Rosenthal rightly points out that Simon's life was conditioned by the sociological position of the German Jews in the eighteenth century: The mass of the Jewish population lived in the Ghetto, and only a small minority of "Court Jews"—amongst them the van Geldern family in Düsseldorf who were Court Jews of the Palatinate Electors—were able to live a more civilised existence as financiers to the innumerable German kings and princes. Rosenthal points out that Simon van Geldern's life developed more or less on two levels which in the author's view were completely separated from each other. On the one hand Reb Simon learned in Thora and Talmud who travelled several times to the Holy Land as a pilgrim and who was able to obtain certificates

from famous rabbis of his days recommending him as a learned man worthy of material help by his fellow Jews; on the other hand the "charlatan" who granted himself a doctor's degree and the title of Chevalier de Gueldres and who in oriental dress succeeded in gaining entrance to the Courts of several reigning monarchs of his day. In the meantime he seems to have lived partly on the fortunes of the van Geldern family, and partly from charity received from wealthy Jews all over the countries where he travelled.

However, when Heine described his great uncle as a "charlatan" he was probably not aware of Simon van Geldern's most important contribution to the history of his period: Towards the end of his life he lived in Buchweiler (Bouxviller), Alsace, in an outbuilding forming part of Buchweiler Castle which belonged to the Hereditary Prince of Hesse. The Prince had appointed Simon his "Court Cabbalist" in gratitude for his imagined supernatural force as a cabbalist to which the Prince ascribed the birth of his male heir in 1777, and he permitted Simon to live at Buchweiler until the end of his life in 1788.

According to Rosenthal, in Buchweiler Simon van Geldern made the acquaintance of the Abbé Henri Grégoire, a Catholic priest in the neighbouring town of Emberménil. Grégoire participated in a competition organised by the Royal Academy in Metz in 1785 on the question of how "to make the Jews in France more useful and happy". In this connection Grégoire frequently consulted Simon van Geldern on many questions relating to the Jewish religion and customs and generously acknowledged Simon's help. This co-operation resulted in Grégoire winning the competition and his work being printed in 1789, after Simon's death. Abbé Grégoire became a Deputy in the revolutionary French National Assembly and used his work as his basic material in his fight in the Assembly for the emancipation of the Jews which was suc-

cessfully concluded by the Emancipation Decree of November 13, 1791. A German translation of a letter from Grégoire to Simon van Geldern indicating to what extent the Abbé relied on Heine's great uncle for his knowledge of Jewish laws and traditions has been reprinted in Rosenthal's study. Thus Simon van Geldern helped to bring about the success of the fight for the emancipation of the Jews in the French revolution, an emancipation which seven years after his death the victorious French armies brought to Düsseldorf, where the van Geldern family had lived for generations and where Heinrich Heine and his mother Betty van Geldern were born.

We cannot but agree with Rosenthal's conclusion that the "black sheep of the van Geldern family accomplished far more than all the other honourable members of this well reputed family who lived before him or in his days"; however, when Rosenthal politely ascribes the "charlatancy" of Simon van Geldern to the "sociological position of the Jews in the eighteenth century" he might have been more outspoken. In Simon van Geldern's lifetime the Jews in Germany were outcasts and it was impossible for gifted young Jews, even in cities like Düsseldorf where under the reign of a comparatively liberal ruler no physical ghetto existed, to develop in any normal way. Thus to a man like Simon van Geldern who wanted to grow out of the narrowness of life as a Court Jew in a small German principality charlatancy appeared to be the only way out. As we now know he helped to put an end to the conditions which forced him to become a charlatan.

When the great and tragic history of the emancipation of our ancestors from the fetters of the Ghetto and its eggshells is written, the proud name of Simon van Geldern, great uncle of the "free Rhine's far freer son" Heinrich Heine, will not be forgotten.

\*Ludwig Rosenthal, *Heinrich Heines Grosseheim Simon van Geldern, Ein historischer Bericht mit dem bisher meist unveröffentlichten Quellenmaterial*, Aloys Henn-Verlag, Kastellaun, 1978.

### £2,000 LITERARY AWARDS "Oppression and Prejudice"

The 1979 Jewish Chronicle H. H. Wingate Literary Awards have been presented to Emanuel Litvinoff for his novel *The Face of Terror* (Michael Joseph, £4.50), which is the final part of his trilogy on the Russian Revolution which details the oppression of Stalin's regime, and to Dr. Nelly Wilson for her study of the French Jewish writer, Bernard-Lazare (Cambridge University Press, £14.50), who first exposed the prejudice and became a central character in the Dreyfus Affair. The authors each received a cheque for £1,000 at the presentation party at Stationers' Hall, London.

The Awards, administered by the National Book League, are not confined to Jewish writers, as shown this year, but are aimed at stimulating an interest and awareness in Jewish themes as well as giving a tangible reward to writers and scholars.

### ZION HOUSE, HAMPSTEAD, CLOSED DOWN

After 36 years as a centre of Zionist activities, Zion House, Eton Avenue, Hampstead, has closed down. Over the years it served as a home to the Hechalutz, Habonim, the Theodor Herzl Society, Maccabi and Poale Zion. It was also for many years, before the opening of Hannah Karminski House, the home of the AJR Club.

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C. C. Aronsfeld

## MEMORIES OF A POSEN CHILDHOOD

I was born in Exin (Kcynia), near Bromberg, in the then Prussian province of Posen, not far from the Russian border, and the time was—incredibly—four years before the first world war. The tiny place had little claim to fame except that its history went back as far as 1262 and when Jews were mentioned in its chronicles for the first time in 1594, it was only to affirm the disabilities they were to suffer together with—the Scots whom one would not normally expect to find in these parts and who have long since returned to more congenial regions.

My parents' families had been living in Exin and known each other for several generations. My father had inherited a kind of general store and cereal business combined with a spirits and off-licence trade. I remember being told that "we" had supplied Napoleon's army on its advance into Russia (1812). I was told this as a kind of historical oddity, a little incident to be recorded in the family scrap book.

Old Philip Cohen, father's great-grandfather, who I believe was then in charge cannot have been very enthusiastic about this particular commission, for we were all good Prussians albeit of recent vintage like Prussian rule itself though not the family roots which (at least on father's side) stretched back far into the 18th century. As for Napoleon, whatever we may have thought of the ideas of the French Revolution, he was a foreign conqueror and I am sure we were anxious to be rid of him. We were, or fancied ourselves, enlightened liberals, and my father managed to be at once a partisan of the revolution of 1848 and an admirer of Bismarck (if only because of a shared contempt for the Kaiser).

I must suspect a sympathy for Napoleon only in my mother's mother as she was an ardent devotee

of Heinrich Heine who of course worshipped the Emperor as an idol that would have been disapproved of alike by the Second Commandment and the Prussian historians. A portrait of Heine hung in her drawing room and she owned a fine edition of his works. But then it is also possible that she cared not so much for Heine's politics as for his poetry which, like most of her (Jewish) generation, she knew largely by heart. She had been given a sound all-round education; her father, David Badt, went to the unusual trouble of advertising in the *Allgemeine Zeitung des Judenthums* for a governess to teach his three daughters English, French and music. They also were taught an unquestioning belief in the ideals of 1848 and in a progress which, having emerged from what used to be called the Dark Ages, was sure to be irresistible. Since the 19th century had shown so much promise, what would not the 20th bring by way of fulfilment?

My father shared this belief and in token of it he built, in place of his inherited rather run-down little cottage, a proud and spacious three-floor mansion which, standing prominently on the market square, seemed to proclaim its determination to last at least another hundred years. It did not occur to him that he might have built on shifting ground. The society in which we lived seemed secure enough.

We were relatively well off, as were most of the 200 Jews in a total population of 4,000. They were assessed, in 1914, at anything between £1,500 and £30,000 (at the then exchange of £1 to 20 Marks). Among them were 20 shopkeepers of various kinds, four cattle-dealers, three bakers, three glaziers, two butchers, two tailors, two hauliers, one solicitor (though no doctor), one stationer, as well as of course a teacher at the

small Jewish school and a Chazan. We had a fine *Tempel*, about 40 years old, quite a stately building, but no rabbi, at least not in my time, though Exin once had the benefit of such talmudic luminaries as Akiba Eger and Wolf Klausner. There was in fact little religious life apart from the punctiliously maintained regular services and only at rare intervals did a wandering minstrel appear on behalf of an orthodox society in Posen to treat those sufficiently interested to a more or less learned subject. Nor was social life more effectively developed; one of the frequently changing Jewish teachers once tried his hand but the feeble effort soon petered out though an old established Mutual Aid Society was conscientiously supported.

During the war which left Exin largely unaffected, we met two foreign Jews, P.O.W.s who were to work for local traders. One of them was "ours", a Russian from Lublin, a most lovable person whom we soon were delighted to treat as one of the family. The other was French, a sullen and defiant fellow, much like the one of Heine's "Two Grenadiers"; when we, having heard that it was his *Jahrzeit*, asked him to the synagogue for kaddish, Monsieur conveyed as intelligibly as he could that he refused to join in prayer with Germans. . . .

Our Jewish interests were particularly fostered by my (maternal) grandmother who ran a leather shop as well as a stationer's and a lending library, mainly for the benefit of the predominantly West German seminarists at the local Royal Teachers' Training College. She was a subscriber to the *Allgemeine Zeitung des Judenthums*, and through her we frequently received Jewish calendars and almanacs. I remember one in particular which impressed me with its impassioned manifesto by "an unknown Jew" at Konstanz am Rhein, 1840, calling upon his brethren to return to the ancient land.

We were no Zionists but of course we did not deny ourselves to the claims of charity, and when Zionist messengers visited the town, offering for

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## MEMORIES OF A POSEN CHILDHOOD

Contd. from page 8

sale goods made in Palestine we would buy the picturesque souvenirs. I still have a magnificent little album bound in solid red leather and covered in heavy cedar wood containing "Flowers and Views of the Holy Land" (Verlag A. L. Kahane, Jerusalem), with explanations in English, German, French and Russian—colour picture postcards and pressed flowers from Mount Zion, Mount Moriah, Mount of Olives, Mount Carmel, also from the Tomb of Rachel, from the Jordan Valley and from Jaffa, Hebron, Tiberias and Sfad. Under their veil of yellowing tissue paper, they must by now have reached the biblical age and I devoutly hope my daughter will treasure them well into the next century.

Living as we did in a kind of ghetto, we did not seem to understand the society into which we were cast. It was a divided society, to some extent a colonial society. For this land had been part of the Kingdom of Poland as recently as 140 years ago, and the Poles were still there, in spite of latterly determined, often crude, efforts to Germanize them. For the past 25 years Germans had been systematically transplanted here, and I remember the innocent delight with which I gazed at the pretty national costume of the women from Bückeburg, Westphalia, one of whom was my nurse.

### "Like the Whites in Black Africa"

Little did we think how much like the whites in black Africa they were. It is only now that I suddenly recall the significance of the poem that grandmother often, movingly, read to me, *Das Negerweib*, by Johann Gottfried Seume, an American negro mother's lament over her baby's likely future—I can still hear the pathetic last line about those far-off days to come "when the Christians will turn human", a line which I am sure we applied not merely to the relations between black and white. Certainly the Polish "negroes" were made to feel the manner of a *Herrenvolk*.

Yet they refused to forget the cruel partitions of their country, and though the spirit of resistance had aroused itself to no avail in the rebellions against Russia (1831, 1848, 1863), nevertheless the hope for a national resurrection was not crushed; I early became familiar with the lively lilt (as yet subdued) of the Polish national anthem *Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła* ("Poland is not lost yet"). There were rumblings in Prussian Poland too, even in Exin, but here the issue remained political, social and especially economic.

Germans and Poles (and Jews) lived in strict apartheid. The Government was buying up land for the exclusive use of the fast increasing settlers, and a tight network of sponsored cooperatives was designed to assure them of substantial advantages over the Poles who in turn developed their own cooperative defence.

In this struggle of the nationalities, the Jews held an unenviable middle ground. They felt drawn towards the Germans whom they regarded as rather more cultured than the Poles; in no particular animosity against the Poles; in Russian Poland, for example, they felt drawn towards the Poles whom they regarded as more cultured than the local Russians. In Exin too Jews could have met Poles who were by no means their inferiors either in culture or general education—if anything rather the reverse. However, as it was, they were met with sympathy neither by the Germans nor the Poles. In the circumstances, perhaps naturally the Poles were, on the whole, no friends of the Jews whom they suspected of undue sub-servience to the ruling power.

The Germans again did not particularly care for the Jews except where they needed them, i.e., in those areas where Germans were facing a strong majority of Poles. There the Jews would come in handy as a counterweight in the balance of power. There the Jews could be allowed a larger measure of those rights which the Constitution granted but which Government practice frequently withheld. Actually, not until 1869—four years before my father was born—were the Jews in Prussian Poland fully (and reluctantly) emancipated, and where the administration was conducted in the spirit of the reactionary Eastern Marches Association (*Ostmarkenverein*)—popularly known as the H.K.T. lobby after the names of its founders Hansemann, Kennemann and Tiedmann—antisemitism did not always trouble to be discreet. Certainly where German rule was held to be secure, no need was felt to treat the Jews as equals (except on paper), and though Jews had once been allowed to hold office in local government—even the city of Posen once had a Jewish Lord Mayor—the lately growing trend was to keep them out.

### Where Germans depended on Jews

In Exin we did not notice much of it, but then Exin was one of those areas in which the Germans depended on the Jews who accordingly enjoyed some standing. The balance here was indeed precarious. The population of 4,000 in 1913 included about 3,000 Roman Catholics and 800 Protestants, apart from the 200 Jews, and the Roman Catholics were virtually all Poles, the Protestants all Germans. The 12-men town council—with its pseudo-egalitarian set-up of four Germans, four Poles and four Jews—was presided over by the Jewish *Justizrat*, and in the "executive" of six, two were Jews and only one a Pole. In all elections, general and local, Germans and Jews joined forces against the Polish candidate who could always rely on support from the Catholic Church then still very different from the one which produced a Polish Pope.

Our German sympathies remained to the end. In November 1918, when the armed struggle began for the possession of the Province, we hoped the partisans of the German *Freikorps* would get the better of the Polish "insurgents"—just as in spirit we sided with the Red Army then fighting against the Tsarist White Russians and the Poles. Exin, with its great Polish majority, was taken over almost at once, without any trouble, and we only heard relief-promising gun fire from a distance.

Many Germans and Jews, known for their sympathies, were soon interned in the dreaded Szczepiorno concentration camp, and I remember some anxious talks being hurriedly convened both in our house and at the synagogue as to what action to take. My father eventually escaped internment; the reason must have been that as a confirmed liberal he never left any doubt of his unqualified opposition to the diehards of the H.K.T. and always diplomatically managed to keep on good terms with the Poles.

But now the time had come for us to make a decision. All Germans were offered the choice either to adopt Polish nationality and stay or remain Germans and go. Many Germans chose the first, but my parents and indeed the majority of the Jews decided otherwise. My father was a German patriot, he *could* not be a Pole, even if he had not heard as we now did of the insolent manifestations of a Polish antisemitism which, all over Posen, openly called for pogroms against "the parasites no nation will tolerate".

As we thus, in 1920-21, prepared to leave, we joined the trek that had been on the move for

over two generations. In 1852 there were 1,100 Jews in Exin—44 per cent of the total; by 1871 they were down to 470, by 1905 to 220, less than four per cent. In all these years they left to escape from the upper German and the nether Polish millstones that were grinding them, and they fondly hoped German bigotry would be less marked in Breslau or Berlin; some made a more resolute break by going overseas, to the Americas or England. For most of them it was no easy choice, and few could have been more profoundly attached to their ancient, hallowed homesteads than my parents. My father never again struck the roots that were now torn up.

Many years later he told me he once discussed the decision to leave with the Chazan who was a bit of a kabbalist. Cantor Schmul could not understand why we wanted to go to Germany, even the fact that father's brother was well established in Berlin did not seem to him sufficient reason because, he said (in 1921), "there are going to be very black times in Germany". My father made a note of the forecast but of course did not, could not, believe it. Anymore than he believed the further forecast that there was only one country to emigrate to, the United States, and that's where the Cantor himself went shortly afterwards, to join his son, a young doctor, who had gone there in 1920.

I left with my mother, some time before father as he still had some business to attend to, selling the house that he had built, in the very year I was born, a double token as it were of his trust in the future. I was thinking of him when I later heard Liuba's words in "The Cherry Orchard": "I was born here, you know, my father and mother lived here, and my grandfather too, and I love this house—I cannot conceive life without the cherry orchard, and if it really has to be sold, then sell me with it". This is how father must have been tempted to feel, yet he went on his way, even as Liuba eventually went, and he at any rate still had hopes of planting a new orchard. As we took leave, he said to me: "You will be crossing the frontier at Schneidemühl. When you get there, remember, son, put off thy shoes, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground".

The year was 1921. Jakob Wassermann had just written his essay *Mein Weg als Deutscher und Jude* in which he said, as if paraphrasing Cantor Schmul, the Jew was an outlaw among Germans and likely to find justice there among the dead rather than the living. But we did not know about this, and, in fairness, had we known we would hardly have thought or acted other than we did.

### THE SURVIVOR SYNDROME

Professor Niederland of the Psychiatric Clinic of New York University said during an international debate, arranged by the German Documentation Centre for Traumas after Imprisonment and Persecution, in Cologne, that the psychological traumas suffered under the Nazi regime, did great psychological harm to the children of survivors. He had investigated 60 families and found that there was a symbiotic link between survivors and their children. The young generation were either expected to see that such things did not happen again, or the parents had such a low image of themselves that the children felt they had to overcompensate. Dr. Herberg, chairman of the Documentation Centre pointed out the difficulties which faced experts in claims for restitution for damage to health. It was not enough to deal with the damage done during the persecution, what happened afterwards when they returned to normal life was equally important. If such people had their claims accepted, it helped them to respect themselves. Unfortunately, in his opinion claims from communists and prisoners-of-war received better treatment than those from the racially persecuted.

# NEWS FROM GERMANY

## AN IMPORTANT COURT DECISION

The West German Supreme Court at Karlsruhe has ruled that any denial of the Nazi German mass murder is an insult to all German Jewish citizens, even those who had not been born at the time. The court dealt with the case of a Mannheim citizen who had been banned from spreading allegations that the mass murder of Jews by the Nazis was a "Zionist swindle". An appeal court had quashed the original sentence. The man had been repeatedly sentenced for similar transgressions. He is a friend of the notorious American neo-Nazi Gerhard M. Lauck who was expelled from the Federal Republic.

## IN PRAISE OF GAS CHAMBERS

A 15-year-old pupil of Berlin's Carl-Zeiss-Oberschule wrote on the blackboard of a classroom in which a Jewish teacher was to take a class: "There is nothing more beautiful on earth than the gassing of Jews". Another 15-year-old had added two swastikas. The juvenile court decided that this was not a political crime, but rather a foolish prank by ignorant youngsters. It reserved judgment and ordered both boys to write an essay about their reactions to the court case.

In Hamburg, 50-year-old former journalist E. W. Geiss was sentenced to one year's imprisonment without remission for having organised an unauthorised demonstration near Hamburg's main station, where three men, wearing donkey masks, carried posters proclaiming: "I am an ass to have believed in the gas chamber lie."

## FIVE YEARS MAIDANEK TRIAL

The Maidanek Trial, which deals with the most terrible atrocities committed by Nazi henchmen, has now been going on for five years. The Court has been sitting on 370 days, and there is no end in sight, because defending counsels apply a technique which has proved effective in German terrorist trials: under German law they continuously produce new evidence and ask for new witnesses to be heard, and even if the court does not agree to their suggestions, they manage to delay the proceedings even further. The head of the Ludwigsburg Central Office for the Prosecution of Nazi Crimes, Adalbert Rückerl, said at a meeting of leading lawyers, that it was impossible to shorten such involved proceedings, but that there was no intention of deliberately trying to save the Nazi defendants. He was contradicted by Professor Friedrich Kaul, the leading East Berlin lawyer, who said that the Nazi crimes had been known and documented since the Nuremberg Trials and should not be dealt with as ordinary murder, but as genocide under international law.

## A COVER-UP ATTEMPT?

Koblenz's prosecutor-general has opened inquiries into why the Frankenthal public prosecutor, Mr. Beisswenger, failed to investigate allegations that a former SS lieutenant Arnold Strippel had been involved in Nazi crimes at the Dutch concentration camp of Vught in 1944. He is alleged to have suppressed Dutch files stating that Strippel had been involved in the deaths of at least ten women at Vught. In 1950, Strippel was sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering 21 Buchenwald prisoners, but at a re-trial, in 1969, the sentence was reduced to six years and he received about £30,000 compensation for the 15 years he spent in prison in excess of the final sentence. At present, he is one of the nine SS guards on trial in the Düsseldorf Maidanek case.

## CAMPS

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## TV OVERSTEPS THE MARK

A TV show on the Palestinian problem on Bremen TV has led to angry reactions in wide circles. One of the speakers, Dr. Michael von der Goltz, remarked: "for me Begin is a pig". Helmut Pohl, a former W. German terrorist, explained that he had been released from prison after an agreement between the Federal Government and the PLO. Wolfgang Harisch, a writer from East Germany, said he supported the just cause of the Palestinians. The publisher Axel Springer wrote to Prime Minister Begin to apologise for the insult and added that, going by past experience, he was afraid that no action would be taken against those responsible for the outrage. However, the director of Bremen TV expressed his regrets that the insulting remarks had not been refuted during the show. Jewish organisations and the major political parties have called for a review of the situation.

In Berlin, proceedings were started against two 17-year-old students and a 25-year-old coal merchant for having given a TV interview in the backroom of a tavern, which was decorated with Nazi posters, during a TV programme called "Only a few brown sheep?" One of them said their "Fighting Association Grossdeutschland" had set itself the task to rebuild the German people and to work for the disappearance of all foreigners, including Jews, from Germany. One of the defendants stated in court that the TV team had insisted on the Nazi background of the show, and on their wearing their black uniforms. The producer of the programme said this was absolutely ridiculous.

## JUSTICE FOR GIPSY VICTIMS

More than 1,500 people assembled before the Bergen-Belsen memorial during a demonstration for the rights of gypsies in the Federal Republic, organised by Gypsy organisations and by the "Societies for Races in Danger". Madame Simone Veil, president of the European Parliament, once herself an inmate of Belsen, who was liberated by British soldiers in 1945, said in her address that she had come to bear witness to her solidarity with the gypsies. She was worried to notice tendencies which made themselves felt and which were of a kind which had once before led to genocide. Society's intolerance against anything that was alien to it and claimed its own identity and culture, was growing. Equally growing was the will of those concerned to fight for their rights. One gypsy, Alfred Steinbach, also a former inmate, said that Madame Veil's presence was the first acknowledgement of the wrong done to the gypsies for 34 years. Until now all governments had kept silent about it. The gypsies are drafting a memorandum to be sent to the Federal Government, demanding restitution for gypsies. The Berlin community had sent a message to the gathering expressing their solidarity with the gypsies as with all persecuted races.

## A MISPLACED JOKE

The Münster Administrative Court fined Recklinghausen Oberkreisdirektor Horst Kann £750 for having quoted the NS slogan "One Volk—one Reich—one Führer" during a tour of Israel with a delegation from Recklinghausen. He said he had never been a Nazi, but had intended the remark as a joke. The court decided that in his position and in the circumstances, even a joke was misplaced and leading to misunderstanding. After his return, he was suspended from office.

## NAZI LITERATURE IN BOOK FAIR

The Berlin Jewish community protested against the fact that a number of neo-Nazi publishers took part in the 26th International Book Exhibition in Berlin, displaying books glorifying Hitler and Goering, the SS and other Nazi organisations and referring to the "Auschwitz Lie".

## WUERTTEMBERG'S OLDEST SYNAGOGUE THREATENED

Land Baden-Württemberg has protested against the plans of the village of Freudental near Ludwigsburg to demolish the 200-year-old synagogue which is under a preservation order. The local church councils and ministers have joined the protest. The renovation and conservation as a public monument is estimated at some £500,000.

## FAMOUS FRANKFURTERS REMEMBERED

Peter Cahn, a Frankfurt musicologist, has published a history of the famous musical academy, the Hoch'sche Konservatorium in Frankfurt, where many famous Jews taught and were taught. The teachers included Professor Bernhard Cossmann, whose daughter Lulu died in England as a refugee whilst his son, the philosopher Nikolaus Cossmann, perished in Theresienstadt, Bernhard Sekles (Director from 1923-1933), Dr. Lothar Wallerstein, Matyas Seiber, and many others. The book devotes a special chapter to banker Emil Sulzbach (1885-1932), who was himself no mean musician and a great patron of the arts, and who was chairman and later honorary president of the "Hoch'sche Stiftung". He was the father of our friend Herbert Sulzbach.

## FORMER FRANKFURT CITIZENS INVITED

Following the example of West-Berlin and several other towns, the Municipality of Frankfurt/Main has launched a scheme by which former citizens of Frankfurt will be enabled to visit their home town. An amount of DM 100,000 per year has been allocated and the first 80 visitors are expected in spring. The programme is meant for those former Frankfurters, who cannot afford to pay the travel and accommodation expenses. As most of the applicants are expected to be of an advanced age, the invitation will also include the spouses, even if they were not born in Frankfurt. E.G.L.

## THE JEWS OF MAINZ

After a successful showing in Jerusalem and Haifa two years ago, the exhibition "The Jews of Mainz" in the historical Mainz Town Hall is attracting visitors from the whole of the Federal Republic and from abroad. At the same time, the Town Council has arranged for a series of lectures on the long history of Jews in Mainz and the many famous scholars and martyrs among them. The Lord Mayor suggested in his opening speech, to commemorate these people by naming streets and public squares after them. He regretted that so far there was only one Ludwig-Bamberger Street.

## EXHIBITION IN MARTIN BUBER HOUSE

The International Council of Christians and Jews held an Exhibition under the heading "Burnt Books" (Buecherverbrennung) at its headquarters in Heppenheim in the former house of Martin Buber. Its object was to make visitors, especially of the younger generation, aware of the works which were burnt on May 10 1933, because they were considered as incompatible with the Nazi ideology. The Exhibition was supplemented by a number of lectures pertinent to the Jewish situation, given in the school in Heppenheim, which also bears Martin Buber's name.

## AWARDS FOR JEWISH LEADERS

The Grand Federal Service Cross with Star was awarded to Mr. Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Berlin Jewish community. Lord Mayor Stobbe presented him with the insignia of the Order in the Golden Hall of the Schöneberg Town Hall in the presence of leading politicians, and expressed his admiration for the work done by Galinski for his community and for a reconciliation between Jews and their non-Jewish fellow-citizens.

Dr. Hans Lamm, chairman of the Munich Jewish community, was made an honorary fellow of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in recognition "of his unceasing efforts for the promotion of Jewish education and culture".

79-year-old banker Eric M. Warburg, a partner of the Hamburg Bank M. M. Warburg, Brinckmann, Wirtz & Co., was awarded the Federal Grand Service Cross with Star, which was presented to him by Hamburg's Lord Mayor H. U. Klose.

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## THE ISRAELI SCENE

### THE FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION

Israel's new Finance Minister, Mr. Yigal Hurwitz, has announced stringent cuts to fight the 100 per cent inflation rate. Superfluous manpower is to be fired from the Civil Service. Mr. Hurwitz said, thousands of "idling" civil servants would be told to leave their jobs and take up work in the labour hungry export industries. Cabinet Ministers' and Knesset Members' salaries will be cut by 5 per cent. Senior civil servants will no longer have private drivers, and Tel Aviv offices, duplicating those in Jerusalem, will be closed. He said he wanted to change the climate in which the Government "was printing money without thinking of the consequences." Sweat and hard work would be needed to reduce the foreign balance of payments deficit, which is growing at the rate of around £1,000 million annually and now approaches £6,000 million. Waste in Israel was so great that it could support another country. Foreign currency credits for new borrowers will be frozen, and the cost of credits to exporters will rise by 40 per cent. Expenditure on schools and hospitals is to be halted. Measures against "black capital", including tax evasion and undeclared income, will be strict and are expected to yield billions of Israeli pounds. Mr. Hurwitz expects inflation to rise for some time, but in the long term, with pay restraint and jobs harder to find, consumption is expected to drop and the Israeli pound to rise.

The Histadruth Labour Federation was obliged to cancel a nationwide strike in protest against the new measures, because the rank and file did not accept it. Workers at several large factories and civil servants announced publicly that they would not participate.

### EL AL'S TROUBLE

El Al ground staff at Ben Gurion Airport staged a 36-hour strike, forcing the cancellation of eight flights and costing El Al about £215,000, to support their demand for a new pay agreement. They claimed that their existing agreement kept their pay at 1976 level. Two thousand passengers had to be transferred to other airlines.

The airline has refused to accept Mr. Egon Ronay's claim in his 1980 Lucas guide, that El Al was the worst transatlantic airline for food and courtesy. An El Al spokesman said Mr. Ronay's inspectors, who had taken part in three flights, had been put off by the stringent security measures and this had affected their judgment of the rest of the flight. However, it was generally recognised that security was El Al's best feature and that people felt safer once they had been searched.

### BEGIN AND SADAT TRUE FRIENDS

Whilst not attending the transfer of Mount Sinai and the surrounding country to Egypt on the second anniversary of President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, Mr. Begin sent a warm message of "heartfelt congratulations" to him. When the London "Times" resumed publication, it published an interview with President Sadat by one of its contributors in which the Egyptian leader said: "I have known Begin, and we have dealt together, and I feel the man is true for peace, as he is also true for the security of Israel. He has proved himself to be a strong enemy and a strong friend."

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### "MURDERERS IN ISRAEL'S ARMY"

Under the heading "Murderers in Israel's Army" the London "Spectator" recently published details of two cases which have been hotly debated in Israel, but were suppressed by censorship. Left-wing Mr. Uri Avneri, a Knesset member, had circulated a memorandum in which he revealed that Lt.-General Eitan, the Israeli Chief of Staff, had reduced the five years' prison sentence, imposed after a court-martial on Lt.-Col. Aryeh Sadeh for ordering the death of an Arab captive in South Lebanon and had promoted Sadeh, who had been demoted to private, back to the rank of major. A month earlier, General Eitan had reduced an eight-years jail sentence to two years on Lt. Daniel Pinto, 22, who had been convicted of killing two Lebanese during the invasion. There has been wide-spread demand for the general's resignation, and the Israeli paper "Haaretz" wrote that "General Eytan is not the right man to head the Israel Defence Forces". Mrs. Yaffa Sadeh, on the other hand, who is fighting for her husband's release, said that before the operation began, senior officers were briefed by a high-ranking officer that in revenge for the Haifa bus murders by terrorists, when 34 civilians were killed, no prisoners were to be taken. The man shot by her husband had carried weapons and documents which proved that he was a terrorist. An Army spokesman categorically denied the report of the Army briefing.

### REBURIAL OF JEWISH SOLDIERS

In a modest military ceremony on the Mount of Olives cemetery in Jerusalem, the ashes of Jewish soldiers of the Soviet Army's 16th Lithuanian Division have been re-interred. The division was founded in 1941, recruiting men from towns and villages on the Volga; its bulk was made up by 5,000 Jews whose unit was acclaimed for its brave resistance to the advancing German Army. Most, however, were killed in a single battle in February 1943. The soldiers in that unit generally talked to each other in Yiddish and sang Yiddish and Hebrew songs.

### SPORTSMANSHIP

Bowing to Arab pressure, Japan withdrew an invitation to Israel's national karate team to take part in the Tokyo world championship, saying that in view of warnings from other competing nations, they were unable to guarantee the safety of the Israeli competitors. The disappointed Israeli team will now travel to the United States to take part in competitions arranged by the World Jewish Karate Federation.

In the 1982 World Cup games in Spain, Israel will form part of the Europe Group No. 6 to which Northern Ireland, Scotland, Portugal and Sweden belong. Most other groups had refused to admit Israel into their ranks.

### ETHIOPIAN JEWS WELCOME

For many years, the black Beta Israel (Falasha) Jews of Ethiopia were denied entry into Israel under the Law of Return, because their Jewishness was widely disputed. They have lived in Ethiopia for 2,000 years and claim to be the descendants of the Queen of Sheba. Only a few hundred, mainly young people, were allowed to settle and study in Israel. They have for a long time campaigned for measures to allow the 28,000 Jews remaining in Ethiopia to join them. After a recent visit by Mr. Yona Bogale, leader of the Falashas in Ethiopia, and his meeting with Mr. Begin and senior officials, the policy was changed: recognition was given to their status as Jews and a committee was set up to alert world opinion to the demands of the Ethiopian Jews to settle in Israel. Except for Mr. Bogale, no member of Beta Israel has been allowed to leave Ethiopia for the last two years. Some of the Falashas in Israel claim that they have met discrimination and suspicion because of their colour and different cultural background.

### IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL ARRESTED

Mr. Shimon Hadar, a senior official of the Immigrant Absorption Ministry's Student Authority, was arrested for embezzling large sums of money, alleged to be about £327,000, from funds to subsidise overseas students who might become immigrants. He was a founder of the Student Authority, set up 11 years ago.

### BRITISH STAR ARCHITECT FOR SYNAGOGUE

Sir Denys Lasdun, who created London's National Theatre, has drawn the plans for the rebuilding of the Hurva Synagogue in the Old City of Jerusalem which was destroyed by the Jordanians when they occupied the Old City. The late Sir Charles Clore bequeathed a substantial sum for the rebuilding of the historic synagogue the cornerstone of which has just been laid in the presence of the Clore family and Mayor Teddy Kollek.

### TRADE WITH BRITAIN

The first British investment mission has just visited Israel and returned with plans for a number of industrial and commercial joint ventures. Mr. Gideon Patt, the Minister for Trade, Industry and Tourism, had invited top executives of 14 leading British companies, led by the chairman of the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Sumray. Earlier this year, the Chamber had arranged an investment seminar in London.

### "YEKKE" NOT AN INSULT

A German-born Israeli citizen, Mr. Ralph Hellinger, asked the Israeli High Court to have the title "The Yekkes" changed in a planned TV programme about German Jews. He said he did not want to be called names in Israel as he had been in Germany and France. Justice Haim Cohn ruled against him and said: "I myself belong to this race and I always thought 'Yekke' was a title of respect and affection. If you ask me, it's worse to be called German."

### PROMOTION OF RELATIONS WITH GERMANY

On the occasion of the congress of the Israeli-German Society in Israel, the Rudolf Kuestermeier Prize, which carries a monetary value of IL 50,000, was bestowed on Dr. Felix Shinnar in recognition of his promotion of economic relations with the Federal Republic, Dr. Katz (Jerusalem) for the section Youth and Sport, and, in equal parts, to Shalom Ben Chorin and Inge Deutschkron for Literature and Publicity. The prize was created in memory of Rudolf Kuestermeier, the first German correspondent in Israel, who stayed in the country also after his retirement.

### TOURISTS ROBBED

Mr. Frank Gibson, a Barnet councillor who toured Israel as member of a study group, was robbed at gunpoint whilst in bed at the Diplomat Hotel in Jerusalem. His group consisted of 18 members of the Friends of Ramat Gan with which Barnet is twinned, and the Anglo-Israel Friendship League of Finchley. The secretary of the Friends, Mrs. Rosemary Middleton, was also robbed in a room of the same hotel which she shared with another member of the group. Both women lost all their money and jewellery.

### BLACK PANTHERS' PROTEST

Some 150 Left-wing "Black Panthers" staged a demonstration at the Elazar settlement between Jerusalem and Hebron to protest at what they called large-scale government investment in West Bank settlement instead of slum clearance. After a clash with the settlers, many of whom were immigrants from the USA, they were evicted by the police.

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## TAKING OFF THE YELLOW STAR

On January 15, 1943, Inge Deutschkron and her mother took off the yellow stars from their clothes, carefully concealing the stitches, and moved in with the Gumz family, simple, "Aryan" anti-Nazis who welcomed them with joy—undaunted by the terrible risks to their own liberty and lives. From now on, mother and daughter lived underground in Berlin, equipped with false identity papers, well aware that the slightest slip could mean discovery, deportation, and death.

Inge Deutschkron has told her amazing story in a splendidly written, moving and thrilling book, *Ich trug den gelben Stern* (Verlag Wissenschaft und Politik, Cologne, DM24), which was published just before "Holocaust" was screened by the West German television stations, providing more convincing evidence of what large sectors of the population had not known or not believed. But the book also pays homage to those decent and courageous Germans, the unsung heroes of the Nazi era, who helped 1,200 Berlin Jews to survive. "The book tells us, simply and without emotionalism, about these Germans," writes Klaus Schütz, the former Mayor of West Berlin and now Federal German Ambassador in Israel, in his foreword. "This is exemplary for today's young people."

The authoress was born at Finsterwalde in 1922 as the daughter of a Social-Democratic teacher, who later worked in Berlin and emigrated to England in April, 1939, in the hope of getting visas for his wife and daughter as well. But one month later, Britain introduced a new quota system for immigration to Palestine, where the family wanted to go; the two women were trapped in Nazi Germany when the war broke out. Inge Deutschkron tells us about one small but significant incident: "A short little man rose from his seat in the Berlin *U-Bahn*. 'I ask you to sit down at once,' he said to me very loudly and imperatively, pointing to the seat he was offering me. Most of the other passengers pretended to have heard nothing. The train was crowded like every morning at this hour; I was only one of many who had to stand. Surely this man had not offered his seat to me, of all people, had I not been wearing the yellow star—for the first time that morning."

After the Gestapo had threatened to deport Inge's mother, the two Jewesses decided to accept the Gumz family's offer to harbour them and

provide them with new identities, including jobs. The story of their existence under these appalling circumstances reads like a spine-chilling thriller. Eventually, they succeeded in merging with the German refugees fleeing from the approaching Russian army—and were accepted without questioning by "helping Hitler youths" and social workers.

After the war, Inge went to England to learn the language and settled for a few years as a journalist in West Germany before emigrating to Israel, where she is now working as an editor at the *Maariv* newspaper.

Her book ends on a critical note: 'I When returned to Germany (after the years in England) I found what I had not expected. Old Nazis or those who had been responsible for helping Hitler were installed—though under democratic premises—in important positions. Had there not been enough anti-Nazis? I did not understand. . . . My lack of understanding and indignation at seeing old Nazis even in government departments of the Federal Republic, murderers of thousands of Jews walking around free like after some kind of gentleman's offence, frequently discharged by very lenient judges—these feelings were shared by the people of Israel.'

### "TOLERANCE AND EMANCIPATION"

The Moses Mendelssohn Anniversary was marked in the Governmental Weekly "Das Parlament", published by the "Bundeszentrale fuer politische Bildung", Bonn. Its recent supplement "Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte" carried an article by Cécile Lowenthal-Hensel under the heading "Moses Mendelssohn—Gedanken zu Toleranz und Emanzipation". The authoress admits that the history of the "great emancipation" on German soil has come to an end under the Nazis. Most of the Jews who now live in Germany have no connection with the German past. Yet it would in her view be a false conclusion to assume that such a history could never be started anew. This depends, however, on a type of tolerance which does not expect from the fellow man to give up his own specific qualities and leanings. The monopoly of one particular conception—in Mendelssohn's time the idea of the "Christian State"—must give way to the recognition that we now have to live in a pluralist society. W.R.

### JEWISH PUBLISHERS UNDER THE NAZIS

Under the title "Das juedische Buch im Dritten Reich" the "Archiv fuer Geschichte des Buchwesens", Frankfurt/M. has recently published a study by Volker Dahm, which describes the gradual elimination of Jewish authors, publishers and booksellers, which started with the "Aryanisation" of Jewish enterprises and later restricted a few remaining firms to the production of exclusively Jewish works. Dahm bases his study on preserved files of the Nazi authorities such as the "Reichskulturkammer", the "Reichsschrifttumskammer" and the "Reichssicherheitshauptamt". He also refers to the activities of the "Reichskulturwalter" Hans Hinkel who was in charge of supervising the cultural activities of the Jews in Germany. A forthcoming second volume of the study will deal with the largest publishing firm of Jewish works, the Schocken-Verlag (Berlin 1931-38).

E.G.L.

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### FRANZ ROSENZWEIG COMMEMORATED

To mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Franz Rosenzweig, an Exhibition was held in the Municipal Library of Frankfurt, the city of his main activities; it was opened by the theologian Dr. Reinhold Mayer (Tuebingen), a leading Rosenzweig research worker. In Kassel, where Rosenzweig was born in 1886, the Mayor of the City, Hans Eichel, in the presence of representatives of local cultural organisations, placed a wreath on the Rosenzweig Memorial Stone. (An article in memory of Franz Rosenzweig will be published in this journal shortly.—*The Ed.*) E.G.L.

### GERMAN RADIO PLAYS

Macmillan Education Publishers have just issued a volume "Das Hörspiel—Passages from German radio plays", selected, edited and annotated by our member Marie Burg, former Head of the German Department of the Alice Otley School, Worcester. Modern language students are fortunate indeed to have access to such a thoughtful collection of the very best of present-day German authors, including Heinrich Böll, Siegfried Lenz, Friedrich Dürrenmatt and many others. In her preface, Marie Burg points out that "Hörspiele" in Germany have been established as a new art form and are taken more seriously than elsewhere. The anthology is intended for O-level students as well as for those studying at colleges or evening classes.

### PAUL EHRLICH SOCIETY

The "Society of Friends of Paul Ehrlich" aims at keeping the memory of the great scientist alive. Among its objects are the preservation of the Frankfurt house in Westendstrasse, where Ehrlich lived from 1899 until his death (1915) and the erection of an Ehrlich monument in that city. The Society also works for arrangements by which Ehrlich's literary estate, which is deposited in the New York Rockefeller Institute, could be made accessible to the wider public.

### A PLEA TO AJR MEMBERS

It has always been the principle of the AJR to cut down its administrative costs to the lowest possible level. Our small staff would not be able to attend to the manifold practical tasks of the AJR if it could not rely on its members sending in their subscriptions as soon as they have received our statements. Unfortunately, there is, however, a minority of members who do not respond to the statements and to whom second reminders have to be sent. In a number of cases, these second reminders have even to be followed up by personal letters. All this causes unnecessary labour and expenditure. We, therefore, urgently appeal to our friends to send in their subscriptions whenever they receive their statements from us.



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## A REVALUATION OF THE C.-V.

The failure of Jewish emancipation in Germany initially resulted, particularly amongst younger Jewish historians, in a negative attitude towards the German-Jewish majority group which had identified with the German nation and its values. From a Jewish-nationalist stance they had nothing but derision for their father-generation, with the *Centralverein deutscher Staatsbürger jüdischen Glaubens* (the major Jewish self-defence organization founded in 1893), often cast in the role of the villain of the "assimilationist" piece. Moreover the changing consciousness of these rebels against a mode of life which to their mind had irrevocably failed also manifested itself in a growing Socialist orientation which tinged their assessment with contempt for the bourgeois limitations of this Jewish fight against antisemitism. Recent historiography has taken a more detached view of an intricate Jewish situation and more than redressed the balance. This has above all resulted in a reevaluation of the *Centralverein*. Marjorie Lamberti continues the process of its rehabilitation with gusto.\*

The *Centralverein* was instituted as a reply to the mounting wave of antisemitic agitation and the continued state of semi-legal discrimination against the Jewish citizens of Imperial Germany. Its activities multiplied over the years and Mrs. Lamberti has wisely eschewed treading ground covered by her predecessors, ignoring Jewish apologetics or the battle in the courts. Instead she concentrates on the functioning of the *Centralverein* as a Jewish pressure group in Wilhelminian politics, pushing for full Jewish civic equality. She charts in detail the stormy relations between the representatives of Jewry and the Left Liberals with whom a Jewish middle-class group had willy-nilly to ally itself (the Socialist connection came later). That intervention in party affairs was on a lavish scale is well documented but she also demonstrates that the Jewish problem was a side-issue even for

the generally philosemitic German Progressives, with Jewish interests cheerfully sacrificed to the exigencies of party strategy. Not surprisingly school questions loom large in an American historian's investigation; Jewish religious instruction fared badly in comparison with the two Christian confessions when it came to state support. The Jews as tax payers sought their rightful share of the educational hand-out and were confronted with an imperial school policy which is here clearly revealed as antisemitically inspired.

Overall the author has disproved that "timidity and accommodation" were the traits of German-Jewish behaviour. She has also established that the *Centralverein* was less plagued by the rule of notables than has hitherto been assumed but had achieved in Wilhelminian terms a remarkable degree of inner democratization. Rightly she hails the Jewish defence as a harbinger, in an unfavourable climate, of a Western pluralistic society in which an emancipation ideology akin to that of the *Centralverein* can be said to have proved victorious.

Marjorie Lamberti has so much fallen in love with her subject that she somewhat overrates her Jewish activist heroes. The early leaders of the *Centralverein* were angry and honourable men, mainly astute lawyers, but with all the limitations of their group and type. No Bamberger or Lasker here or men of the calibre of those Jewish intellectuals who threw in their lot with the Socialist movement in which they rose to commanding positions. The Jewish defence offered a field of political activity to Jews of ability who could not find a commensurate occupation in the service of the German state or parties; and here they did exceedingly well.

A dash of irony would not have been amiss. The work of the *Centralverein* did not lack its pathetic or comical aspects (such as the inanity of attempting to counter the racialist notion that flat feet were a distinctly Jewish characteristic). So while one would wish for a more muted enthusiasm these are minor reservations. Mrs. Lamberti in her admirable study has demolished unfounded criticism of the *Centralverein* by marshalling solid evidence and has further corrected a distorted picture of Wilhelminian Jewry.

\* Marjorie Lamberti: *Jewish Activism in Imperial Germany. The struggle for Civil Equality*. 235pp. Yale University Press 1978. £12.60.

### CLUB 1943

Vorträge jeden Montag um 8 p.m.  
im Hannah Karminski House,  
9 Adamson Road, N.W.3.

- 7 Januar. Poline Williams: "Die Wandlungen der deutschen Sprache seit dem Weltkrieg".
  - 14 Januar. Kurt Stein: "Moses Mendelssohn und die Zeit der Berliner Salons".
  - 21 Januar. Else Goldschmidt: "Cruises to the Greek Islands and to Istanbul and Jugoslavia" (with colour slides).
  - 28 Januar. Walter Fleass: "25 Years of Vegetarian Catering".
  - 4 Februar. Dr. K. Lai Polan-Whitaker: "China Revisited" (with colour slides).
  - 11 Februar. Mally Burger: "New York is not America" (with colour slides).
  - 18 Februar. Elisabeth Bergner liest aus der Bibel: "Gleichklänge".
  - 25 Februar. Dr. Erwin Seligmann: "Der Jude und die Umwelt". Dritter Teil: "Vom Beginn zu Beginn—Israel und die Zerstreuung".
  - 3 März. Fred Uhlman, RBA, AGA, FRSA: "The Making of an Englishman".
- \* Tickets £1—for the evening with Elisabeth Bergner are obtainable at Club evenings or from the Secretary, Mrs. B. Sterly (Tel.: 883 2158). Seats will be numbered according to date of booking.

### NEW PROJECTS DEDICATED

Mr. Menachem Begin was one of the speakers at the dedication ceremony for the new £5.5 million Rappaport Medical Research Centre in Haifa in which Rabbi Unterman of the London Marble Arch Synagogue, Rabbi Shulman of the New York Fifth Avenue Synagogue, and Rabbi Safran, the Chief Rabbi of Geneva, took part. 300 of the guests were brought from Europe in a special plane. The funds were donated by the Rappaport couple from Geneva.

The First Secretary at the British Embassy, Dr. Harris, attended the dedication of the Segev Mountains Development Project for which British JNF has raised £2,500,000. Dr. Harris made part of his speech in Hebrew. Also attending were 40 members of the British JNF who presented President Navon with the Volume of Peace to which several thousand of Anglo-Jewry have subscribed.

### MORMON PARK IN JERUSALEM

Some 2,000 members of the American Mormon Church have been on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to dedicate a five-acre park in memory of Orson Hyde, one of the founders of their movement who prophesied more than a century ago that there would be a fully-fledged Jewish State with Jerusalem as its capital. The park was established with a gift of one million dollars from the Mormons to the city of Jerusalem. Many Mormon students visit Israel every year on special study courses.

### AID FOR MENTALLY SICK

Berlin-born Mrs. Hanita Rodney (formerly Annelise Lowi), a mother of four who has a schizophrenic daughter, founded an organisation "Enosh" (humane), catering for the mentally sick in the 20 to 50 age range. It is one of Israel's fastest growing organisations, widely publicised on radio and television and has a centre in Tel Aviv and branches in Jerusalem and Raanana. Further branches are to be opened in Beersheba, Haifa, Hadera, Rehovot, Ashkelon and Ashdod. They will provide vocational training, sheltered housing, research, and clubs. Mrs. Rodney said, mental illness was Israel's skeleton in the cupboard—there were many people who needed psychiatric help and could not find it.

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# IN MEMORIAM

## HANS TRAMER'S LAST WORK

This month, a year has passed since the representative organisations of the Jews from Germany lost one of their leading personalities by the sudden death of Hans Tramer. It was his express desire that no appraisals of his personality and his work should be published, and we respected this wish. Yet now, at the time of his *yahrzeit*, we feel entitled to break the silence. He was a man of many parts, and his initiative and advice are missed by the Council of Jews from Germany, its affiliate in Israel, the Leo Baeck Institute and the Board of the United Restitution Organisation. He was at home in the fields of welfare work, finances and administration and, by his sound knowledge, also an able spokesman who had gained the respect and confidence of the Jewish and non-Jewish bodies with which he negotiated on our behalf.

Yet Hans Tramer was equally outstanding as a research worker and creative writer on subjects of literature and history, especially as far as they pertained to the past of German Jewry. One of his duties was the editorship of the Bulletin of the Leo Baeck Institute. The latest issue, which, alas, was to be his last work, became available a few months ago. Of the five monographs which the 188-page volume carries, two were written by him. One of them deals with "The Jewish Problem in the Life and Work of Ludwig Meidner", and the other with Eduard Strauss and his friendship with Franz Rosenzweig and Martin Buber. Both works are the result of patient and thorough research of the source material. They re-create the atmosphere which prevailed in the lives of the personalities he deals with—a gift not granted to every scholar. As the number of those, who have witnessed the last chapter of German-Jewish history is steadily decreasing, Hans Tramer's numerous contributions to the assessment of our spiritual heritage are of particular value.

The Bulletin also carries a collection of letters of the Belmont family of Alzey, edited by Rahel Liebeschuetz, an assessment of the life and work of the painter Moritz Daniel Oppenheim by

Elisheva Cohen, reminiscences and letters of Franz Rosenzweig's mother Adele, née Alsberg, and an essay by Klaus Ernst Hinrichsen about the beginnings of the "Ebräer-Schule" in Riga, which was founded in 1835 and whose first director was the Munich born scholar Dr. Max (Menachem) Lilienthal.

Among the variety of LBI publications, which also include the Year Books (in English), "Schriftenreihe wissenschaftlicher Abhandlungen" and memoirs, the Bulletin has always fulfilled a special function, carrying comparatively shorter, but nonetheless equally valuable, contributions to the history of Jews from German speaking countries. Its high standard was due to its editor, Hans Tramer. We can only hope that a way will be found to continue this important part of the LBI's work.

W.R.

## DR. ARTHUR BERGMANN

Dr. Arthur Bergmann, who recently died in Tel Aviv at the age of 72, was a highly gifted jurist from whose untiring work in the field of restitution and social insurance thousands of Nazi victims benefited. The son of the late Berlin rabbi, Dr. Juda Bergmann, he emigrated to Palestine in 1933. After the creation of the State of Israel, he held several responsible posts with the Ministry of Finance. Later he became Deputy Head of the Israel Purchase Commission in Germany and, after his return, special adviser to the Ministry of Finance in questions of restitution and compensation. He was also a Board member of the representative body of the Jews from Central Europe and rendered signal services in establishing residential homes from funds which had become available by private endowments. Last but not least, he was the helpful representative of a number of fellow German Jews, whose indemnification and social insurance claims would hardly have been settled but for his thorough knowledge of the subject matter and his legal resourcefulness.

## RABBI CHARLES BERG

Rabbi Charles Berg (formerly Rautenberg), who has died aged 68, was born in Berlin, where he was also active in the German-Jewish youth movement. He studied at the "Lehranstalt" under Rabbi Dr. Baeck and at the Universities of Berlin, Heidelberg and Goettingen. After his release from Sachsenhausen concentration camp, he came to this country in 1939, volunteered for the British Army and was for five years in the Pioneer Corps. In 1947, he became minister of the newly-founded Bournemouth New Synagogue. From 1953 until his retirement in 1974 he was minister of the Wimbledon Reform Synagogue.

## ROSA LEVINE

Mrs. Rosa Leviné Meyer, who died at the age of 89, was the widow of Eugen Leviné, the President of the short-lived "Raeterepublik" in Bavaria, who was executed in 1919. She married again in 1922 Ernst Meyer, a co-founder of the German Communist Party who died in 1930. When the Nazis came to power, she left Berlin and settled in London. She used her intimate knowledge of the leading figures of the Russian and German revolutions by writing articles and books, published in English and German.

## Dr. HUGO MARX

Dr. Hugo Marx who died in Basel, aged 87, was buried in his native Heidelberg. Before 1933, he was Public Prosecutor and Judge in Mannheim. He emigrated at first to Paris and Brussels and graduated in law in both countries. In 1941, he managed a last-minute escape to the USA, but returned to Europe in 1957 and lived in Switzerland. As an act of restitution, he was promoted "Landgerichtspräsident (ret.)". Before and after his emigration, he was deeply interested in Jewish affairs. His autobiography "Career of a Jewish Public Prosecutor and Judge in Baden, 1892-1933", with an introduction by Minister of Justice Dr. Haussmann, is the political and sociological mirror of a period of history. He wrote a number of other books on modern Jewish and legal issues which always met with great interest, even though they were occasionally controversial. He was also a gifted Graphologist.

E.G.L.

## FAMILY EVENTS

*Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge; any voluntary donation would, however, be appreciated. Texts should be sent in by 15th of the month.*

### Birthdays

The A.J.R. CLUB extends its heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Emma Levi on her 80th birthday on January 13 and also, though belatedly, to Miss Hermine Weiss.

**Baruch:**— Mr. Alfred Baruch of 12 Aberdeen Court, Maida Vale, London, W.9, celebrated his 80th birthday on December 26, 1979.

**Kaatz:**— Mrs. Hertha Kaatz of 69 Delaware Mansions, London, W.9, will celebrate her 70th birthday on January 27.

**Schmidt:**— Mrs. Irmgard Schmidt (née Urbansky), The End House, Gate End, Northwood, Middlesex (formerly Frankfurt a/M), celebrated her 80th birthday on December 31, 1979.

## Deaths

**Gort:**—Hans Gort died on November 26. We miss him so much. From his wife and children, Lore, Monica, Tommy, and from his family and many friends.

**Jablonski:**— Elsa Maria (née Hofmann), 10 Wynford Grove, Leeds 16, departed to eternal peace on October 16, 1979.

**Kohn:**—Hans Kohn of 11 Whitehaven Gardens, Didsbury, Manchester 20, died on November 21, 1979. Born in Lom nr. Most, Czechoslovakia, he leaves a widow, Magda, one daughter and son-in-law, Judith and Peter Reiss and two grandchildren.

**Leshem:**—Dr. jur. Hava Leshem née Eva Lappe (Chemnitz) passed away after a long illness on December 7 in Jerusalem. Deeply mourned by her husband Perez, her son Micah and his wife Hava née Gillon, and her brother Professor Rudolf Lappe, Dresden, and all relatives and friends in Israel, New Zealand, Holland, England and USA.

**Neumann:**— Helene (Lena) Neumann of Heinrich Stahl House, The Bishop's Avenue, London, N.2, died after a long illness on December 1. Deeply mourned by her family and many friends.

**Weill:**—Ben L. Weill died peacefully on November 22, 1979, in his 77th year in Munich, deeply mourned by his wife Eva. Sadly missed by his sister, his relatives in London and many friends. 108 Chapman Crescent, Kenton, Middx.

## CLASSIFIED

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**SEMI-RETIRED BACHELOR** would like to hear from unattached lady interested in sharing holidays in Israel Jan./March 1980. Box 791.

## INFORMATION REQUIRED

### A.J.R. Enquiries

**Schaps:**— Relatives of the pediatrician Dr. Leo Schaps, formerly Berlin-Friedenau, who died after his release from the Concentration Camp in 1938 are wanted for research work. His widow, Dr. Kaete Schaps, also a medical doctor, emigrated with her three sons to London. Box 789.

**Young:**— G. E. Young—last known address 6 Bronwen Court, Grove End Road, London NW8 9HH.

# THE ART SCENE IN LONDON

"Hampstead Present" was the title of the exhibition organised by the Hampstead Artists' Council at Burgh House. It included a lovely oil by our old friend Adele Reifenberg "Letterbox, Primrose Gardens", a fine painting by her husband, Julius Rosenbaum, "New End", and a gouache by Lottie Reizenstein "Nutley Terrace".

At the Institute of Education, Bedford Way, Amnesty International held a fine exhibition of sculpture. It included two outstanding works by Naomi Blake, two works from the early 1960's by Siegfried Charoux, "The Prisoner" and "The Survivor", a work entitled "Farewell" by Käthe Kollwitz and two delightful works by our old friend Fred Kormis. A piece entitled "Mourning" by Kenneth Samson is, of course, by the late Dr. Samson the well-known pediatrician.

At the Hayward Gallery, the Arts Council and The Victoria & Albert Museum have arranged a most interesting exhibition "Thirties", British art and design before the war, comprising decorative arts, painting and sculpture, graphics and architecture (not forgetting Tilly Losch's Bathroom). The exhibition is open until 13 January 1980 and is an experience not to be missed.

Finally, the terrific Post-Impressionism exhibition at the Royal Academy. One visit is not enough either to see or describe its wealth of treasures, but during a quick walk round I noticed two beautiful Liebermanns, three Corinths, three Kirchners, two Noldes, two von Stucks and many others. And that was just a start! Open till 16 March.

Michael Werner came to this country from Germany as a political refugee. Apart from teaching and lecturing (he is presently Lecturer in Fine Art at the Watford School of Art) he has held numerous one-man exhibitions and his work is included in several public and private collections. His present exhibition at Annely Juda Fine Art, 11 Tottenham Mews, London W1 (until 26 January), comprises assemblages and sculpture. His sculptures are warm and sensitive pieces, sometimes displaying a whimsicality of spirit. The assemblages, often centred on an utilitarian article, e.g. a paintbrush or knife, have, as the artist himself says, a form of inner beauty and, he asserts, can display their own intrinsic message.

At Fischer Fine Art, 30 King Street, St James's there is an exhibition until the end of January of Viennese Turn of the Century Art and Design,

including works by Kolo Moser, Josef Hoffmann, Egon Schiele, Gustav Klimt and Oskar Kokoshka.

ALICE SCHWAB

## GERARD HOFFNUNG EXHIBITION

Berlin-born Gerard Hoffnung died in London 20 years ago at the age of 34 and at the height of his creative career. Since then, his cartoons and paintings have been seen all over the world, Israel included. His widow Annette is constantly asked to give illustrated talks on his life. Until the end of January, a large selection of his work is beautifully displayed in Hampstead's Burgh House and attracting old and new members of the growing Hoffnung cult.

M.P.

## Letters to the Editor

### THE "ANSCHLUSS"

Sir,—I was interested to read the Review of the book by Prof. Botz "Wien vom 'Anschluss' zum Krieg" by F. S. Brassloff (your November 1979 issue). Carl Zuckmayer happened to be in Vienna on the day, the 11th March, 1938. I wonder whether Prof. Botz is aware of a horrifying description Zuckmayer gives in his autobiography "Als waer's ein Stueck von mir" (S. Fischer Verlag, 1966). I think your readers might like to have it!

HERBERT LOEBL

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# THEATRE AND CULTURE

**Emigration Dreams thwarted.** Investigations into the fate of German-Jewish actors are still going on and sad discoveries are being made. A Viennese film director who plans a "History of the German-speaking Film" has come across the tragic story of Kurt Geron, Berlin, actor and cabarettist, who is also remembered for his appearance in the great success "Drei von der Tankstelle". After leaving Germany, he was arrested in Holland, taken to Theresienstadt where he was ordered to direct a propaganda film "Der Führer schenkt den Juden eine Stadt" which, alas, was to be his last task; three weeks after completion, he and his team were brutally murdered by the Nazis. . . .

**Emigration Dreams fulfilled.** The success story of composer Frederick Lowe, son of the Viennese singer Edmund Loewe, is crowned by his musical "My Fair Lady", currently revived in London and many theatres all over Europe. As a young man in the United States, he tried his luck as riding teacher, ship's musician and bar pianist; his eventual meeting with script writer Alan Jay Lerner resulted in a happy collaboration. In an ascending line, their musicals "Brigadoon" (1947) and "Paint your Wagon" (1950) led to the adaptation of Shaw's "Pygmalion" which, with its 28 musical numbers, has held the stage ever since 1956. Frederick Lowe, now 75, has gone a long way since his lean years as a new arrival and his reorientation in the New World.

**Tit-Bits.** Anneliese Rothenberger, the charming soprano, who was first presented to Britain when the late Eric Robinson introduced the pretty German singer in his television series "Music for You", has a regular German TV show with the title "Anneliese Rothenberger gibt sich die Ehre", in which she herself takes part and also provides guest appearances of old and new artists. Vienna's English theatre, a permanent state-subsidised

feature of the city, has had Dame Anna Neagle, Peter Wyngarde, Miriam Karlin and Adele Leigh among its protagonists. The cast of the latest dramatic production, "The Lion in Winter", included the American actress Joan Fontaine as its prominent visitor. Camilla Horn (76), the first Gretchen in the silent "Faust" production of 1926, who acted in many films (but never on television), is living in quiet retirement along the shores of Ammersee in Bavaria.

**Obituary.** The death at 71 of Friedrich Torberg is a heavy blow to Austria's literary circles. Torberg, who called himself "the last Jewish author who writes in German", became famous overnight when, at the age of 23, his first book "Der Schüler Gerber hat absolviert" described the severity of Continental schools in the Twenties (he, himself, went to school in Prague). Returning from America after the Second World War, he became a theatre critic and editor of the magazine "Forum". Many of his books testify to his strong will power and intelligent argumentation: "Die Mannschaft", "Die zweite Begegnung", "Hier bin ich, mein Vater". His own favourite was "Suesskind von Trimberg", the story of the first Jewish minstrel. Torberg's last two books about "Tante Jolesch" mirrored humour, charm and bitterness; they demonstrated almost historically how the old Austro-Hungarian monarchy was doomed and ultimately collapsed. Only a few days before his death he said to his many admirers with the sarcasm of an experienced reviewer: "No fear, there won't be a third volume". Sadly, he was proved right. Torberg was buried in the old Jewish section of the "Zentralfriedhof" in Vienna, next to the grave of Arthur Schnitzler and other prominent Jews. The speakers at the funeral included the Austrian Federal Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, an old friend of his.

## PETER HERTZ 85

It does not seem all that long since his 80th birthday; many of his literary achievements were recorded on that occasion, and a happy retirement anticipated. Facts proved otherwise: Professor Peter Herz, who this month celebrates his 85th birthday, still leads a very full and busy life in Vienna and during the summer months in neighbouring Baden, gradually returning to his usual activities after a minor operation last autumn. He is Vice-President of the Austrian Authors' Association, honorary member of the Performing Rights Society, and he contributes to several Jewish papers in Europe ("Die Gemeinde", Vienna, "Allgemeine jüdische Wochenzeitung", Düsseldorf, "Jüdisches Gemeindeblatt", Zürich). He also appears in cabaret performances at the Vienna Jewish communal centre. The "Peter Herz songs" have retained their fluency and charm. Hans Lang's new number "Weil ich durch Wien mit verliebten Augen geh", to be heard on the radio and in variety performances, makes a new generation familiar with the ever-young Herz lyrics.

Despite all these preoccupations in Austria, he has not forgotten his friends in Britain. He keeps asking about the Swiss Cottage area and its inhabitants and remembers with some melancholy the "bad old wartime days", when he and his audience were "worried but so much younger", as expressed in his popular song "Zwanzig, dreissig Jahre juenger muesst man sein". We all, those who worked with him, and those who laughed with him, wish Peter Herz the best of health and many more years of continuing successes!

STEFAN BUKOWITZ

## KLEMPERER BIOGRAPHY

The musicologist Peter Heyworth (London) is preparing a biography of Otto Klemperer. He is looking for letters written by or to the conductor. Any readers, who can contribute material, are asked to send photostats to Professor Klemperer's daughter (Lotte Klemperer, Rebwiessstrasse 50, CH 8702, Zollikon, Switzerland). Expenses will be reimbursed.

B.S.

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