

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Margot Pottlitzer

THE 1940 INTERNMENT POLICY

A Tale of Muddle and Confusion

If, in 1967, the Public Records Office had not reduced the period, after which official documents become available for inspection, from 50 to 30 years, most of us would probably not live to learn what really happened during those crucial years at the beginning of the war, when our fate depended on political decisions taken by the authorities in this country. Fortunately, the period has been reduced, and anybody who wants to find out about the events of those days, can now do so. Researchers at all levels have eagerly seized the opportunity. Some books recently published have revealed quite a lot of startling discoveries about the policies of various British governments which affected Jews in general and refugees in particular. Jon Kimche, the well-known writer and journalist, recently issued a warning that one should not forget the difficulties Britain faced in the Thirties and in the early days of the Second World War, that some accusations hurled at her policies have to be considered in this context, and that, moreover, most of them are based on the same, rather narrow, source material.

However, there is one aspect of such policies which concerned most of us in one way or another—either as a fact or as a continuing threat—and which has only in the last few months been more thoroughly investigated with shattering results: the Internment of Aliens in 1939/40. In 1940, Francis Lafitte, a young researcher who had himself helped many refugees, wrote a book which is still the standard work on the subject "The Internment of Aliens", published as a Penguin Special in November 1940. Nearly all the 50,000 copies, at 6d. (2½p) a time, were almost immediately snapped up. He strongly attacked the internment policies, stressing the benefits many of the eminent and also of the less eminent refugees had brought to their country of refuge and cited examples of shocking, and in a number of cases fatal, official callousness. Yet, at the time he was only able to judge the practice and effects of official action, and only now, 40 years later, has it become possible to study its political background.

Peter Gillman, a member of the Sunday Times "Insight" team and his wife Leni have done just that and unearthed an undreamt-of wealth of new information.* It was no easy job: an unpleasant surprise awaited them at the start of their research at the Public Record Office. In 1969, the Government had decided that, as an act of convenience to historians, all records of the Second World War should be released by 1972. There was one proviso: The Lord Chancellor or individual ministers can still prevent access to documents for a number of reasons such as a presumption that

disclosure would embarrass individuals or their descendants, or would be contrary to the public interest. The Gillmans found that, as far as internment was concerned, this broad definition had been most generously applied. The Public Record Office therefore contains virtually no Home Office documents on internment. After strenuous efforts and assisted by a helpful official, they were given access to a number of documents which had never before been inspected, but even so, none of them referred to the period between September 1939 and June 1940 when the things they wanted to investigate, actually happened. To make up for this vital gap, the Gillmans had to cast their nets wide. They consulted the national archives of the United States, of Canada, and of Australia, the files of the less secretive ministries in this country, and they interviewed as many surviving internees as they could get hold of. They uncovered a story of inter-departmental wrangling and of a wide-spread and appalling ignorance of even the most basic facts, of much deep-rooted prejudice and a lack of compassion that is truly frightening.

Their book also reveals how little we—or, for that, the general public—knew of what was really going on and what might have happened, if, at one time or another, the war had taken a different turn. There are few among us former refugees who, when they first came to Britain, did not gratefully recognise unexpected acts of kindness and generosity at all levels of the population, but who were not, at the same time, sometimes shocked at the ignorance and lack of the most basic understanding of our particular predicament and our reasons for coming to this country, often by the same people.

Before the outbreak of war, there was a general consensus among the authorities and people in general, that, in case of war, the mistakes of the First World War should not be repeated. In that war, anti-German feeling had reached such heights that a close relative of the Royal family, the father of Lord Mountbatten, then still Battenberg, had to resign public office, that German shops were attacked and closed down and even dachshunds were stoned because of their German connotation. Then, more than 20,000 aliens were interned in the Isle of Man; they included, apart from Germans, Turks and Bulgarians, tribesmen from the German Cameroons. When they held a protest demonstration against overcrowding of their billets, five internees were shot by their military guard. When that war ended, there was general agreement that such nonsensical and, on top of it, costly measures must not be repeated in any circumstances.

In 1939, when another war threatened, government spokesmen hastened to stress that they wished to avoid their predecessors' mistakes. Alas,

it was not to be. According to the Gillmans, there were 55,000 refugees from Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia in Britain in September 1939. Up to then they had been treated with generosity and compassion. (Lafitte gives the number, probably more accurately, as 70,000 of whom 5,000 re-emigrated by April 1940). What happened after war broke out, is well-known and well-remembered. Tribunals were set up which more or less arbitrarily subdivided aliens in A, B, and C categories; depending on the knowledge of the tribunal members, the criteria varied from one district to the next, and a "B" often denoted no more than the fact that a particular refugee lived and worked in a particular place where everybody got a "B". At first this did not seem to matter very much, except for the unfortunate "A" cases, equally arbitrarily selected who were at once interned. An "A" classification was meant to denote really dangerous aliens, liable to work and spy for the Germans. In the event, they included a considerable number of Jews.

Anderson wrongly blamed

The Home Office had devised policies and laid preparations for internment even before war broke out. On the day war was declared, Sir John Anderson became Home Secretary. When internment reached its summit, it was he whom most internees and anti-internment politicians held responsible for everything that went wrong. The Gillmans show that he was obviously greatly wronged. (An anti-internment pamphlet of the time bore the title "Anderson's Prisoners".) When he took office, it was agreed that the Home Office should decide who was to be interned, and the War Office should provide the camps and the guards. It was here that the never-ending inter-departmental wrangle and the confusion started, with quite a few ad hoc committees and MI5 influencing future developments, and eventually nobody in possession of all the relevant facts and data.

However, in September 1939, Viscount Cobham of the War Office informed Parliament that the Government did not want to indulge in mass internment, and that only between 1,000 and 1,500 aliens were to be interned. Sir John Anderson declared himself in favour of a liberal internment policy, but he had apprehensions. In March, 1940, already, he wrote in a letter to his father: "The newspapers are working up feelings about aliens. I shall have to do something about it or we may be stampeded into an unnecessary oppressive policy. It is very easy in wartime to start a stunt." Nevertheless, his liberal policy was allowed to continue for another few weeks.

The invasion of Belgium and Holland and the arrival of thousands of vastly unprepared official and civilian refugees from these countries was to confirm his fears. Among the early arrivals from Holland was Sir Neville Bland, British Minister to the Dutch Government. He started the Fifth Column scare which was to be disastrous, in a 1,000 word report, written immediately after his arrival in Britain for the Foreign Secretary, Lord Halifax. In it he maintained that the fall of

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* Peter and Leni Gillman, *Collar the Lot! How Britain interned and expelled its wartime refugees*. Quartet Books. London, Melbourne, New York 1980. 334 pp. £8.95.

INTERMENT 1940

Continued from page 1

Holland was due to the fact that the country had been swamped with invisible traitors and conquered by parachutists. According to this Old Etonian and classical scholar who had little knowledge of the real world, the culprit who had betrayed Holland, "was to be found below stairs . . . the paltriest kitchenmaid", he wrote, "not only can be, but generally is, a menace to the safety of the country" and concluded "Every German or Austrian servant, however superficially charming and devoted, is a real and grave menace. . . . When the signal is given, there will be satellites of the monster all over the country who will at once embark on widespread sabotage and attacks on civilians and the military. . . . ALL Germans and Austrians, at least, ought to be interned at once."

Bland's report was taken very seriously, it was at once submitted to Churchill, by then Prime Minister, all government departments and embassies abroad and given to the recently set up Ministry of Information for general distribution. On 30 May, Bland repeated his accusations in a BBC broadcast, saying that all German nationals should be immediately apprehended. It should be noted here that neither the Dutch government officials who fled to Britain then, nor subsequent research have provided even a shred of evidence for Bland's allegations. A captured German document revealed that, far from having to rely on the military expertise of kitchenmaids, the German military attaché at The Hague had personally inspected Holland's defences, on the pretext of making a tour of the tulip fields, two days before the invasion took place. Other sources have shown that parachutists played only a very minor and far from successful part in the invasion.

However, the Bland report had done the trick. Government departments with shreds of information and lots of mis-information and public opinion swung round and the cry for internment grew stronger. Lord Vansittart, Chief Diplomatic Adviser to the Government, joined the chorus: all male and female aliens should be interned, as the females were often the most dangerous ones. Most of the "B" cases were interned, and the "C" cases were to follow in due course. The Home Office which still tried to stick to its liberal policies, had to give way. In the Isle of Man, following the example of the First World War, camps were hastily prepared to take the bulk of the internees, but there was never enough room and many remained for long periods in unhealthy and vastly inadequate camps from Devon to Scotland. As the Gillmans conclude:

"The elaborate system of internment in controlled phases, devised and protected so long by the Home Office, lay in ruins; power now rested with a tiny body of men whose very existence was secret, whose members were not responsible to Parliament or even to Cabinet, among whom MI5 and the War Office were in clear ascendancy."

On 10 June, Italy declared war on Britain. This meant, that immediately, the fate of the 19,000 Italians in Britain, like that of the refugees, was now practically in the hands of MI5. Their equally tragic story has received less publicity than that of the refugees from Central Europe, partly perhaps because there were not so many highly articulate men and women among them. It was, however, just as cruel, and, as a matter of fact, their inclusion into the internment net has provided the book's title: Churchill, angry at Italy's behaviour and concentrating on the strategies of war, refused to listen to the carefully worked out provisional plans for the internment of selected groups of Italians, and issued the terse instruction "Collar the Lot". The "Lot" consisted of a number of chefs of all the leading hotels and restaurants in London, and small restaurant

owners and waiters, many of whom had been living in Britain for more than thirty years, but never bothered to take out British nationality. Many had married British wives and had British children, and had no longer any links with their homeland.

Robert Mark, later Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police in London, was a young constable in Manchester at the time. He was sent to arrest an Italian, Ernani Landucci who had been a waiter at a Manchester hotel for over 30 years and had a British wife and British-born daughter. In his autobiography, and in a television interview, Mark said this event had been one of the most formative of his career. Landucci had struck him not as an enemy of the country, but as a simple, decent and very frightened Italian waiter who had shared a drink with him cursing the Fascists. He had seen equally unfair treatment of German and Austrian refugees.

By then, mass hysteria was as high as during the First World War. Internment became indiscriminate, German civilian internees, captured merchant-seamen, and Jewish refugees were thrown together. More and more, camp commanders were surprised to find that their charges were mostly strong enemies of the Nazis, but their powers of action were limited. Churchill, who wanted to remove all problems interfering with the conduct of the war, decided that all internees should be removed from the British Isles. His predecessor Neville Chamberlain, already mortally ill, hastened to use his powers as overlord of the "Home Office Defence (Security) Executive" to execute Churchill's wishes. He approached the Dominions, persuaded Canada to accept 4,000 internees and 3,000 Prisoners of War and informed the Cabinet that these were the most dangerous of all. Australia showed herself eager to accept any number of prisoners the Government would care to send. On 21 June, the Cabinet learned that the first liner would sail that night. On the same fateful day, the Home Office capitulated almost unconditionally to the demand for mass internment.

Tragedy followed rapidly. On the first boat, the "Duchess of York", one man was shot and ten were wounded by military guards when there was a delay in clearing the decks of prisoners. The incident was described in the press as a mutiny quelled. On arrival in Canada, the same thing happened as had happened in many British camps: the guards were surprised to find genuine Nazis and refugees mixed together, but it took a long time to sort this out. Worse followed—the "Arandora Star" tragedy. The liner, once a luxurious cruising liner, had been converted into an armed Prisoner-of-War ship with barbed wire barricades. On its voyage to Canada, with 1,564 internees and prisoners of war on board, she was sunk by the last torpedo of the notorious U-boat U47, on its journey home after sinking eight British ships. 470 Italians, 190 Germans, 42 crew members and 37 army guards were killed. Among the Italians was Ernani Landucci whom Robert Mark had arrested in Manchester. There was also Piero Salerni, an engineer who had invented a new transmission device and whose release had been eagerly sought by Beaverbrook's Ministry of Aircraft Production. The "Germans" included a number of Jewish and political refugees.

The survivors, who reached Britain, were almost all put on the "Dunera", a ship that was to become the centre of a different tragedy. It was to take 2,550 men to Australia, most of them only recently interned among the "C" category intake. During their two months in transit, they were ill-treated and robbed of their belongings by the crew—the only ones not to be robbed being the "Arandora Star" survivors who had no possessions left.

It became more and more clear that nobody in authority knew what was happening. Two more

ships had been sent to Canada, but despite some theoretical instructions from various authorities, the selection was invariably totally fortuitous. Neither the names nor the numbers of those deported were available anywhere. All official statements seemed to be pure guess-work, or deliberate lies and attempts to conceal unpalatable truths. However, this was bound to transpire, and once more it was one single document which eventually led to a total reversal of the policies employed: a young soldier, Merlin Scott, who had guarded Italian survivors of the "Arandora Star", was so appalled by the treatment meted out to men who not only had suffered terribly, but whom he judged to be too valuable to send away, that he described it at great length in a letter to his father, an assistant under-secretary at the Foreign Office. The effect was explosive. It turned out that nobody in the Refugee or Prisoners of War Section of the Foreign Office knew that survivors from the "Arandora Star" were again being deported.

Once more, interdepartmental investigations started. Eventually, the matter came before Parliament, and after an extensive debate, the management of the camps was transferred back to the Home Office, and a detailed policy of release was embarked upon. At the time, a total of 27,200 men and women had been interned, 7,350 deported overseas and 650 drowned. It proved as difficult to effect the release of those still alive as it had been to round them up in the first place.

In this lengthy review, I have only been able to summarise very broadly the wealth of information with which the Gillmans' book is packed. It has not been possible to mention some of the interesting personal stories of surviving internees. Only a few of them are refugees, and their stories are less familiar than those of eminent people which have turned up in one publication or another whenever internment is discussed. It is probably right that a book of this kind, dealing with the policies and administration of internment, should omit to repeat descriptions of life in the various camps which have occasionally appeared in newspaper articles and biographical notes. Against its dark background, it should perhaps be mentioned, that many survivors—for special reasons more often men than women—have retained a certain nostalgic feeling for their days in camp. This is partly due to the great number of scholars and artists in both men's and women's camps who succeeded, against the odds, to create an artistic and intellectual life which many internees had not known since before 1933. Others who had been doing badly-paid and uncongenial work, felt relieved in a kind of no-man's land with no obligations. For this reason, they were sometimes reluctant when their time came to be released: once more they had to start afresh and face a world greatly changed during their months of absence. The story of this side of the internment phenomenon remains to be written in a different context. Together with Lafitte's book, "Collar the Lot" will remain the standard work of reference for future students of the period. In addition, it is extremely well-written and easy to read and should be bought rather than borrowed, if only to appreciate its ultimate conclusion:

"Around the world, Britain's former internees came to terms with their new lives. Returning Germans had to adjust to a country divided and ravaged by defeat. Deportees who had chosen to stay in Canada and Australia settled into their new countries. Internees who had regained their freedom in Britain generally forgave the British for what they saw as a moment of panic; few at any rate have remained bitter to this day. The British government congratulated itself for admitting its mistake and did not point to any larger lessons; the episode was a mere aberration."

If the elegance of this summary does not make readers rush to buy the book, nothing will.

HOME NEWS

AWARD FOR DR. F. A. MANN

The Birthday Honours List includes the award of a CBE to Dr. F. A. Mann for services to International Law. Dr. Mann, who from 1929-1933 was an Assistant at the Faculty of Law of Berlin University, is a solicitor of the Supreme Court in London and an Hon. Professor of Law in the University of Bonn. An authority in the field of International Law, he has served on several Committees in this country as well as of the Council of Europe and has many publications on the subject to his credit. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and an Hon. Dr. jur. of Kiel University. In 1977, he was awarded the Federal German Grand Cross of Merit.

Dr. Mann has been associated with the AJR since its inception. During the war he was a member of the panel of lawyers who voluntarily held legal advice hours at its office. When the Council of Jews from Germany was founded, he became a member of its London Executive, where his expert knowledge was of particular value when the questions of restitution and compensation were under discussion. He has retained his interest in our activities throughout the years.

We extend our sincerest congratulations to Dr. Mann on this further recognition of his achievements.

JEWISH MAYOR FOR WESTMINSTER

Councillor Donald Du Parc Braham was installed as the City of Westminster's third Jewish Lord Mayor. He is a senior partner of the Mayfair estate agents firm Edward Erdman, where he started his career as a junior clerk in 1949. 52-year-old Mr. Braham is a member of the board of management of Hampstead Synagogue of which his grandfather, Mr. Charles Abrahams, was a founder. The synagogue's former minister, the Rev. Dr. Isaac Levy will be his chaplain during his year of office.

THE JEWISH VOTE IN BRITAIN

Dr. Geoffrey Alderman, lecturer in political science at the Royal Holloway College, said in a public lecture on "The Anglo-Jewish Vote" that during the 1970s, there had been a relentless move to the right among Jewish voters, ending the once high-level support for the Labour Party. The statement was based on a survey Dr. Alderman had conducted among Jewish voters in Hackney, Ilford, and Hendon North. He added that, because of social and demographic changes within Anglo-Jewry, several Conservative MPs were now "prisoners of Jewish voters", and that, if Jewish voters in Mrs. Thatcher's constituency of North Finchley were to change their minds, her 8,000-vote majority at the last general election might disappear.

MEETING OF CAMP SURVIVORS

More than 450 survivors of concentration camps and their families attended the annual dinner and ball of the Forty-Five Aid Society at the Bloomsbury Centre Hotel. Mr. Ben Helfgott, one of them, and now chairman of the society, spoke of the dilemma faced by all survivors: "why did we survive while our families perished?" He recalled the late Leonard Montefiore who welcomed the young survivors on behalf of the CBF in 1945 and thanked the president, Mr. H. Oscar Joseph, for his devotion. The society presented £5,000 to the CBF and £2,000 to the Israeli Michao Society for deaf and dumb children. The latter cheque was received by Mrs. Weizman, wife of the former Israeli Defence Minister who, after serving in the British Forces during the war had at the time taught some of the survivors who came to Britain.

CAMPS

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ROW OVER MAJOR HADDAD

In the House of Lords, Lord Trefgarne, speaking for the Government, said that Major Haddad's Christian militia in Southern Lebanon were hampering the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. Lord Janner said that Lebanon gave the PLO an open field to commit atrocities against children and babies in Israel, and that it was time to stop blaming Israel for pursuing those criminals into Lebanon, which she was entitled to do by international law.

In Dublin, a conference of the 11 nations whose contingents make up the UN Interim Force, decided to mount a diplomatic campaign in order to force Israel to stop supporting Major Haddad whose forces should be removed from Southern Lebanon.

MEETINGS WITH ARAFAT

After President Tito's funeral last month, both Mrs. Thatcher and Prince Philip met Yasir Arafat, the PLO leader, and shook hands with him, but spokesmen at Buckingham Palace and Downing Street were quick to point out that the meeting had been accidental and that only a few words of courtesy were exchanged.

APOLOGY FOR PLO PROPAGANDA

Sir David Hunt, chairman of the Commonwealth Institute, who some years ago became widely known as the brilliant winner of the Mastermind contest on BBC TV, has apologised to the Board of Deputies over the behaviour of the organisers of the Palestine Folklore Exhibition who distributed PLO leaflets in contravention of the Institute's regulations. After a protest by the Board of Deputies, the leaflets were removed from display, but a sign was posted that they would be available on request. A Commonwealth official explained that the exhibitors had refused to accede to the request that, according to the rules, no political literature should be distributed on the premises.

"COMPETING FOR LIBERTY"

At the House of Commons, members of the Union of Jewish Students and of the Student and Academic Campaign for Soviet Jewry, who are running a "Competing for Freedom Campaign", were present when Mr. Peter Blaker, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, launched a travelling exhibition on Soviet Jewry which will circulate around campuses in this country and abroad.

CARL FLESC 70

We have only just heard that our friend Mr. Carl Flesch celebrated his 70th birthday on 23 June. He has been associated with the work for his fellow refugees for many decades. As honorary officer of Self Aid he takes a decisive part in the arrangements of its annual concerts, and he is also a member of the AJR Executive Committee, where his sound advice has always been of greatest value. When his career in the German judiciary was cut short in 1933 and he was forced to emigrate, he became an expert in the field of insurance and finances and in this capacity gained the confidence and trust of his numerous clients. To keep the memory of his father, the famous violinist, alive, he initiated the annual Carl Flesch Competitions. By his alert mind and, last but not least, his sense of humour, he has endeared himself to his fellow workers who wish him many happy returns of the day in health and undiminished vigour.

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ANGLO-JUDAICA

Centenary of Reform Synagogue

The Bradford Synagogue (Reform), the third oldest Reform Community in the country, celebrated the centenary of the opening of its Bowland Street synagogue. In 1873, the 50-strong congregation engaged their first minister, 29-year-old Rabbi Joseph Strauss from Germany who remained their spiritual leader for 49 years, and in April 1880, the oldest member, 80-year-old Jacob Unna, laid the foundation-stone for the synagogue on land given by Mr. Bernard Cohen, a wealthy local merchant. The congregation largely centred on the families of Hamburg wool merchants who settled in Bradford and did much to establish the city's wool trade. Between 1927 and 1940, membership of the congregation reached a low ebb, but the influx of refugees brought an infusion of new life. To-day, the Synagogue has about 100 members. At the celebration dinner at the city hall, the Lord Mayor of Bradford said that the city owed a debt of gratitude to the Jewish community which, in addition to its part in business life, had made a great contribution to social and cultural institutions.

British Ort's Centenary Banquet

Nearly 400 guests attended the centenary banquet of British Ort at the Guildhall which was addressed by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, Mr. Chaim Herzog, Israel's former UN representative, and Lord Goodman. Over £150,000 was raised for the funds of British Ort.

Jewish Library at City School

A Jewish library, the first in a major non-Jewish school, was opened in the City of London school which has a large enrolment of Jewish pupils. It was the idea of the senior Jewish boy, David Sonn, which had the headmaster's backing, to make parents provide funds to purchase the books.

New Post for Rabbi Hugo Gryn

Rabbi Hugo Gryn, the senior rabbi of the West London Synagogue, was elected chairman of the Council of Reform and Liberal Rabbis. He also made a successful debut on Radio 4's "Any Questions?" programme.

Ignaz Maybaum Scholarship

Following the launching of Rabbi Dr. Ignaz Maybaum's last book, "Happiness outside the State", reported in our April issue, the council of the Edgware and District Reform Synagogue has set up a Rabbi Dr. Maybaum Scholarship Fund at the Leo Baeck College. Any interested readers may obtain particulars from the Synagogue Secretary, 118, Stonegrove, Edgware, Middlesex.

A generous Gift

Dr. Immanuel Bierer, the well-known refugee Harley Street gynaecologist and life-long worker for Israel, offered his entire valuable art collection for a lucky draw in aid of the Ben Gurion University Foundation. Miss Maureen Lipman, the TV star, made the draw at the Hamilton Gallery, London, which gave each of the 250 guests an original painting.

Woman President for Manchester

Mrs. Hilda Cohen was elected president of the Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester, the first woman president in its 61 years of existence.

Old Age Home Deficit

The Glasgow Jewish Old Age Home for Scotland with 24 geriatric patients among its 47 residents, faces a deficit of £100,000 in its £400,000 budget for 1980.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Call for New Dialogue with Israel

Mr. Edgar Bronfman, the acting president of the World Jewish Congress, has advised setting up a new body to open up a new dialogue between Israel and the Diaspora. He said the Israeli Government's refusal to recognise that its West Bank and new settlement policies was placing diaspora Jews in an unbearable position, made this necessary. He added: "I would like to defend Israel's position whenever and wherever I can. But I believe I speak for many when I say that I must, to be effective, believe in those positions as well as in the fundamentals of the Jewish State."

Jewish President for Moonies

Forty-year-old Dr. Mose Durst, born a Jew in Brooklyn and brought up in a moderately orthodox home, has been elected president of Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church, whose members are popularly known as "Moonies". The new President, who, in 1962, was cultural director of the small Hillel group at Oregon university and now lives in California, said: "I speak Yiddish. I read the Torah in English and am interested in fulfilling and dedicating the Jewish ideal." Many of the young adherents of the cult are Jewish.

ANNE FRANK CHURCH IN JAPAN

A new church near the town of Osaka, which has just been consecrated, is to be devoted to the memory of Anne Frank. A bronze statue of the 15-year-old girl was placed outside the church. The minister, Father Reiji Oisuki of the Holy Church of Jesus, is an old friend of Anne's father who lives in Basle, aged 90.

JEWISH WOMEN MEET IN ANTWERP

246 representatives from 13 countries attended the fourth European Conference of the International Council of Jewish Women in Antwerp, under the theme "Identity and Integration". The British delegation of about 30 was headed by Mrs. Ruth Winston-Fox, a vice-president of the organisation. The greater involvement of Jewish women in the community and in society at large was one of the topics discussed.

HOLLAND SENDS BOOKS TO ISRAEL

A valuable collection of 600 manuscripts and 2,000 books from the famous Sephardi Library "El Chaim" in Amsterdam has been sent to Israel on loan to the Hebrew University for three years. In view of the high value of the consignment, it was transported to Israel under conditions of extreme secrecy.

FRANCE

"Old Guard Defied"

Under this heading the "Times" of 28 May describes the tension between the French Jewish establishment, represented by the Chief Rabbi Dr. Jacob Kaplan and members of the Rothschild family, and the organisation "Renouveau Juif", headed by 32-year-old Maitre Henri Hadjenberg. In a broadcast on Radio Luxembourg, the Chief Rabbi said that French Jews could demand of those for whom they voted certain guarantees, such as that the PLO should not receive the backing of the Government, but that beyond that "each votes according to his conscience". On the other hand, at a mass demonstration "Twelve Hours for Israel", Maitre Hadjenberg called for the creation of a Jewish pressure group. Baron Guy de Rothschild warned that such a policy would "cut off French Jewry from the French nation", and described the group as a minority of extremists. According to Hadjenberg, the quarrel is partly a conflict of generations.

New Sentence for Knesset Member

Polish-born Knesset member Mr. Flatto-Sharon, was sentenced in absentia to five years' jail for fraud and a fine. Eight months ago, he received an identical sentence in absentia on other charges of fraud, forgery and tax evasion. They stemmed from business activities between 1971 and 1973 when he was a French citizen. In 1973, he went to Israel where the authorities were studying an extradition request when he was elected to the Knesset in 1977 and acquired Parliamentary immunity.

AUSTRIA

The Ex-Nazi Vote

President Kirchschräger of Austria was re-elected with 80 per cent of the vote. Jewish authorities are, however, concerned over the 140,000 votes for Dr. Norbert Berger, the extreme right-wing candidate and chairman of the National German Party. His support is supposed to have come from ex-Nazis and the extreme Right of the Christian Democratic Party.

A Letter to Chancellor Kreisky

B'nai B'rith International sent an urgent letter to Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, imploring him to reconsider his decision to accord full recognition to the PLO. The letter said that there was no doubt about Kreisky's genuine desire to bring about peace in the Middle East, but he started from the wrong angle. To embrace the PLO and its leader Yasir Arafat, meant undermining all efforts for peace and encouraged terrorism by the PLO and other organisations trained by it.

In an interview, published by the socialist Arbeiterzeitung in Vienna, the chairman of the German Social Democrats, Willy Brandt, said his party was trying to establish useful contacts with the PLO, but would never recognise it like the Austrians, because the Federal Republic would only recognise states, not organisations.

No Sale of Arms to PLO

The Austrian Government has categorically denied that Austrian arms manufacturers have been selling arms to the PLO. No licences had been issued for arms exports to Middle East countries. It was also stated that the PLO had enough Soviet arms, freely given, and did not need the relatively expensive Austrian weapons.

AUSTRIAN HOME FOR SOVIET JEWS

The Vienna Jewish community is opening a home for Soviet Jews who have decided to settle in Vienna, in order to establish contacts between them and the local Jews which have so far been non-existent.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

SWITZERLAND

German Responsible for El Al attack

The Swiss police have announced that they want to arrest 32-year-old Uwe Rabe from Berlin, said to be responsible for the attempted attack on an El Al plane in Zurich. After the attempt, they arrested 26-year-old Andreas Raak from Berlin who had handed in a suitcase filled with dynamite for the flight to Tel Aviv. It was discovered in time by Israeli security personnel. Raak maintained that Rabe had asked him to take the case to Tel Aviv telling him that it contained diamonds which he was to deliver in Israel for a handsome fee. If the case had not been discovered, Raak would have been among the victims of the explosion timed to take place after departure.

FEWER EXIT PERMITS FOR RUSSIAN JEWS

Owing to administrative restrictions, which are on the increase, the number of visas for Israel issued by the Dutch Embassy in Moscow which has been looking after Israel's interests since 1967, has fallen by more than half. This reflects the sharply reduced number of exit permits granted to Jews applying for them. Special restrictions have been placed on Jewish emigration from Kiev, Kharkov, Odessa, the whole of the Ukraine and Moldavia, and most of Byelorussia and Tashkent. Emigration from Kiev has been reduced from 900 a month in 1979 to 50 last April. In Riga, 20 families were granted exit permits and advised to leave before June 5, as after that date emigration would stop for three months. Some 2,000 Jewish families in Kiev protested collectively against the restrictions by sending more than 20,000 complaints to party and government authorities.

WARSAW SYNAGOGUE TO BE MUSEUM

Twenty members of a London study group paid a visit to Poland after finishing their course of lectures on the history of Jews in Poland. They attended the Shabbat service at the Warsaw Beth Hamidrash which was attended by 20 elderly men and two women. The only pre-war synagogue not destroyed by the Nazis is being renovated and will be reopened as a museum. The visitors met the directorate of the Jewish Historical Institute and visited the 200-year-old cemetery, the largest Jewish cemetery in Europe and in urgent need of repair. In Cracow, they visited the Remuh Synagogue, established in 1557 and the Historical Museum in the former 15th century Old Synagogue. There are now 600 Jews in Cracow, where 70,000 lived before the war. Three of the three-and-a-half million Jews living in Poland in 1939 were murdered by the Nazis. Between 6,000 and 8,000 mainly elderly Jews live in Poland to-day.



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THE ISRAELI SCENE

ISRAEL'S ARMY

Mr. Yigal Hurwitz, the Israeli Minister of Finance, has begun to implement the Defence Budget cuts which led to the resignation of Defence Minister Weizman. Israel's standing Army numbers 165,000. Britain, with a population 15 times as large, has an Army only twice that size. Israel has more tanks and aircraft than Britain, and Britain only spends twice as much on defence. One Israeli in four is in uniform, 24 per cent of the male labour force work in security, and the Defence Ministry wage bill is £400 million, whilst the Government's civilian wages bill is about £500 million. Without accounting for US military aid, Israel spends 15 per cent of its gross national product on defence.

BRITISH ISRAELI TRADE GROWING

In 1979, British imports from Israel increased by 20 per cent to £228 million while exports rose by 11 per cent to £271 million, making Israel Britain's third largest customer in the Middle East. The Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce is following with keen interest the Weizmann Institute's new interferon factory in Rehovot. Interferon is one of the world's costliest drugs, showing promise in fighting cancer.

MAYOR KOLLEK'S VISITORS

Teddy Kollek, Mayor of Jerusalem, received Metropolitan Filaret, a senior official of the Russian Orthodox Church who made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Kollek refused, however, to meet the US Transport Secretary Mr. Neil Goldschmidt, who did not wish to be guided by him on a tour of East Jerusalem. For the same reason, Kollek refused last year to see Mr. Michael Blumenthal, then US Secretary of the Treasury.

EX-SPY TEACHER REINSTATED

A former mathematics teacher at Kfar Saba, Mr. Dan Vered, 35, was released from prison after serving seven years of a ten-years jail sentence. He was one of 30 people, including six Jews, tried in 1973 for belonging to a Syrian spy and sabotage gang. He denied that information he passed on to the Syrians was intended to harm Israel's security. The Israeli Education Ministry has rejected an application from the Chief of Staff, Lt. General Eitan, to ban him from future teaching.

POPULATION MOVEMENT

Jerusalem's population has for the first time topped the 400,000 mark. There are 290,000 Jews, 100,000 Moslems, and 12,000 Christians living in the city. Since the Six Day War in 1967, the population has grown by 52 per cent. The number of Jews has risen by 49 per cent, that of the Arabs by 60 per cent.

According to an opinion poll, 4.9 per cent of Israelis over 18, almost 100,000 people, are planning to leave the country and settle elsewhere.

SWASTIKAS AT TECHNION

Swastikas and "Death to the Jews" were found daubed on the Haifa Technion building. There have been frequent disputes between Jewish and Arab students at nearby Haifa University.

In Jerusalem, an Arab student was convicted of extinguishing a memorial flame in a dormitory in the Hebrew University on Holocaust Memorial Day. He said he had only been seeking to save energy during day-time.

SHATTERED DREAMS

When Professor Elie Wiesel, chairman of President Carter's Commission on the Holocaust received the Zalman Shazar prize for diaspora educationalists at President Navon's Jerusalem residence, he said, the reality of Israel was a let-down, compared with the dreams of Israel he and others had had in their childhood. President Navon replied that every lofty dream must change when it is realised. "Making a dream real, can often be more elevating than the dream itself." Professor Wiesel was awarded the prize, named after the late third president of Israel, for his work in inculcating awareness of the Holocaust in the post-war generation and in drawing attention to the plight of Soviet Jews.

SAMSON RAPHAEL HIRSCH HONOURED

At Israel's only orthodox university, the Bar-Ilan University at Ramat Gan, a Samson Raphael Hirsch Chair was inaugurated, named after the 19th century leader of German orthodoxy. It has been endowed by Mr. and Mrs. Schwalbe of New York. Mrs. Schwalbe is a great grand-daughter of the famous rabbi. The chair will incorporate a study programme dealing with Hirsch's life and teachings.

VALLEY OF HOLOCAUST

Dr. Arad, director of Yad Vashem, has announced that a valley of remembrance is to be created in Jerusalem by Yad Vashem, the Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, as a permanent memorial to the 3,500 Jewish communities destroyed in the Holocaust. Their names will be carved into the rocks in a small valley near the Holocaust museum which will be landscaped to resemble a map of Europe. The project is part of a master plan which includes a children's memorial park and the Holocaust art pavilion.

ROMANIA REBUKED OVER PLO

The Israeli Foreign Ministry has asked Romania's Ambassador in Jerusalem to convey to his government Israel's profound concern at its readiness to give diplomatic recognition to the PLO.

SAUDI ARABIA HELPS PLO

King Khalid of Saudi Arabia received Yasir Arafat, leader of the PLO, in a private audience and promised him total support for the fight of the Palestinians and assistance in Arafat's attempts to mediate between Iraq and Iran. Many of Arafat's supporters work in Saudi Arabia.

BONN ENDOWS JERUSALEM CHAIR

As a contribution towards the scientific co-operation between Israel and the Federal German Republic the Bonn Government has endowed a Chair for Mathematics at the Einstein Institute of the Hebrew University. The donation amounts to DM 750,000.

ORTHODOX TELEPHONES TAPPED

Four prominent rabbis of the ultra-orthodox Eda Haredit sect have protested against the tapping of their telephones which they say was done by another Orthodox community, the Belz Chasidim. They have now acquired anti-bugging devices.

YESHIVA WEAPONS

Jerusalem police have arrested two national service soldiers who stored arms, grenades, and explosives in a dormitory at the Yeshiva Hakotel in the Old City. The material is believed to have been stolen from an Army base.

ELECTRIC BLANKETS PERMITTED

Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the Sephardi Chief Rabbi, has ruled that it is permitted to use an electric blanket on Shabbat and that electronic wrist-watches may also be worn, provided that the wearers do not press any buttons to activate elements on the dial.

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JEWISH LIFE IN POST-WAR GERMANY

Two Views of New Book

SITTING ON PACKED TRUNKS?

In 1933 about 600,000 Jews lived in Germany; at present there are less than 30,000 in the Federal Republic and a much smaller number in the G.D.R. What is life like for them in a country where only a generation ago trainloads with hundreds and thousands of Jews were rolling every day to the gas ovens in the East? When in 1978 Werner Nachmann, President of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, gave a declaration white-washing Filbinger, then Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg and erstwhile Nazi legal officer, and this declaration was widely regarded as a representative opinion of surviving German Jewry, two Jews of the younger generation living in the Federal Republic, Henryk M. Broder and Michel R. Lang, decided to find out "what the Jews living in Germany really think and feel, about what they worry, with what they can cope, and with what they cannot cope". The result is an interesting paperback giving the impressions of about 40 people of Jewish origin—some of them only "half-Jewish" according to Nazi parlance—of their lives in West Germany or Austria.* The authors state that they tried to get as many voices and standpoints as possible irrespective of their political or religious complexion; they only refused the co-operation of anybody whether on the left or on the right of the political spectrum who insisted that certain authors of the opposite colour should not be allowed to participate in this enterprise. It is difficult to imagine that 35 years after the holocaust there are Jews in Germany with such an illiberal approach whatever may be their political complexion otherwise, and one can only hope that this was not the reason why no official representative of any Jewish organisation and no Rabbi in the Federal Republic has contributed to this work.

In an introduction which gives an excellent summary of the history of German Jewry in a few pages Bernd Engelmann concludes: "The Jews now living in the Federal Republic have settled here well even if some of them behave as if they were sitting on packed trunks". The majority of contributors to this paper-back disprove this conclusion. Ilse Rewald who with her husband survived "illegally" in Berlin thanks to the courage of Christian friends states "I do not live under the illusions which my parents had that Radicalism on the right has no chance in the Federal Republic"; Professor Flechtheim who returned from the USA to take up academic teaching at the Free University of West Berlin admits to be yet more sceptical now than he was in 1962 when he stated: "At any rate my trunks remain packed". Michel Lang speaks of "Kofferjuden" ("Jews on trunks") who always guard against "in case of . . ." Jürgen Landeck, Chairman of the Jewish Library in West Berlin, states "Their distrust is stronger than ever". Alfred Moos who once studied law in Heidelberg at the same time as this reviewer admits that he "never fully recovered from the blow I received in 1933" although one might doubt his statement that in that respect he differs from the great majority of his fellow-sufferers. Moos, a distant relative of Albert Einstein and a descendant of a family which can trace its ancestry in South Germany for more than three centuries, considers himself as one of the

last anachronistic remnants from the period of the often quoted German-Jewish symbiosis and does not believe in a future for the Jewish community in Germany—having returned to his native Ulm after the war. Arie Goral, incidentally one of the protagonists of the re-erection of the Heine Monument in Hamburg, states "I am a Jew because of Auschwitz" and as a Jew in Germany he does not want "to forget or forgive anything". "I live in Germany, but do not love it any longer. In the house of the hangman one must not talk of love".

Peter Finkelgruen, born in the Shanghai Ghetto in 1942 as the son of a Jewish father and a Christian mother, records the history of an anti-Nazi resistance youth group in Cologne, the so-called "Edelweiss-Piraten" which united Jews and non-Jews and thirteen of whom were publicly hanged by the SS. Finkelgruen and his friends in Cologne are still fighting for their recognition as resistance fighters 35 years after they were murdered by the Nazis as "terrorists". No wonder that Finkelgruen states: "I tried assimilation, but I had to learn that I did not succeed. Fear remained. . . ." Another "half-Jew", the Christian Democratic member of the Bundestag, Eric Blumenfeld, an inmate of Auschwitz and Buchenwald from 1942 to 1945, admits that "for the vast majority of Germans the Jewish fellow countryman is the unknown neighbour". He records that the Jews in Germany more and more isolate themselves and registers the phenomenon that anti-Semitism shows its ugly face again—without there being any Jews.

A scientific investigation of the continued existence of anti-Semitism in the Federal Republic made by Alphons Silbermann, a well-known Professor of Cologne University, in 1975 came to the conclusion that 15 to 20 per cent of the West German population had clear anti-Semitic prejudices, a further 30 per cent were more or less "latent anti-Semites". No sign of an alleged "end of a prejudice". Silbermann in his contribution to the present paper-back complains bitterly that his work was virtually ignored by the official representatives of Jewry in Germany and accuses these representatives of exercising caution instead of militancy against such phenomena. Silbermann summarises the reaction of these representatives by saying that they believed themselves "to be secure enjoying citizenship recognised by the state and the rights bestowed on them . . . one might almost say the status of Court Jews and with blinkers on their eyes they are hardly aware of the dangers which could hit them like any ethnic minority having regard to the latent prejudices".

But blinkers are not confined to the official representatives of German Jewry, or as Professor Silbermann characterises them, the "Juden-funktionäre". On the extreme left a different type of blinkers appears: Etti and Peter Gingold, Jewish refugees in France and members of the Maquis, returned to West Germany in 1945. Their daughter Silvia, born in 1947, a member of the German Communist Party, successfully fought victimisation under an anti-Communist witch hunt in Hesse. The Gingolds concede that their Jewishness would have played an unimportant role in their lives if the Jews had not had to suffer such horrible fate during the Hitler years and ask the question: "Why should not the Jews in spite of the tragic past be completely integrated with our (meaning the German!) people?" The Gingolds think assimilation to be the most suitable solution of the Jewish problem. Emil Carlebach,

another member of the German Communist Party, whose life was saved in Buchenwald by the courage of a non-Jewish prisoner, alleges: "There had not been any pogroms in Germany for centuries until certain gentlemen had the idea to aryanise". Those who have studied German history slightly more carefully know that the history of German Jewry is a history of persecutions and pogroms from the days of the Crusades to the "Hep-Hep" pogroms after the so-called wars of liberation and the anti-Semitic movements of Stöcker and his friends—even if German history books remain silent on this aspect. Carlebach declares his willingness with his comrades in the "international working class movement to fight against racism and chauvinism, here in the country where I was born where I feel at home and where I know to have friends." One hesitates to destroy the illusions of idealists like Carlebach and the Gingolds, but have they heard of the fact that thousands of Jews are leaving the Soviet Union every year because they are persecuted as Jews? Are the Carlebachs and Gingolds fighting against this racism as well?

For reasons of space this review cannot do justice to numerous other valuable contributions to this work from Jewish inhabitants of the Federal Republic of a wide variety of opinions, but one impression remains clear: The bulk of the contributions to this exciting though depressing paper-back prove beyond any reasonable doubt that in the foreseeable future the after-effects of racist indoctrination and the trauma of Auschwitz make it impossible even to think of a revival of that great proud and tragic period of German-Jewish symbiosis which the Nazis destroyed.

F. HELLENDALL

A RESPECTFUL POSTSCRIPT

Having been given the opportunity to add some lines to Mr. Hellendall's review I feel inclined to remark that it says—*pace*—both too much and too little about the problem the book deals with. Too much because it treats it conscientiously like any ordinary conventional publication; too little because it fails to characterize the topic as one of secular gravity.

After the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492 it took three and a half centuries until Jews ventured to settle there again. Even after the venture of re-settlement had been undertaken by a few audacious fore-runners, the number of settlers remained minimal until the Nazi catastrophe drove more unhappy fellow-Jews to seek refuge wherever available. Contrary to a common misconception there had not been a solemn *Cherem* which forbade Jews to return to Spain; rather was the ban due to a self-imposed aversion to go back to the scene of unredeemed shock and terror.

In the case of Nazism neither the expulsion nor the holocaust caused a similar reaction. Jews did return to Germany after the overthrow of Nazism—hesitatingly, doubtfully, at first in small, then in larger numbers. Their motives were as varied as they were understandable. Most of the re-emigrants were just vagrant, perplexed people looking for a harbour. Not the slightest blame should be attached to their decision.

But a momentous decision it was. Whoever took it fortuitously without anticipating the formidable problems with which he was bound to be faced must not be surprised if they might threaten to overwhelm him. His proper reaction should have been to weather the storm and keep quiet. My primary objection to this collection of individual experiences is that they generally caught their victims in a state of intellectual unpreparedness. Not surprisingly the contributions are extremely different in outlook as well as in value. Some are moderate and responsible as—to mention only one example—that by Eric Blumenfeld, a member

**Fremd im eigenen Land; Juden in der Bundesrepublik*, herausgegeben von Henryk M. Broder und Michel R. Lang; mit einem Vorwort von Bernd Engelmann, Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag GmbH, Frankfurt, 1979.

of the *Bundestag*, some even optimistic as that of Léon E. Bieber. But these positive essays are in a minority, and your reviewer does not give them pride of place. The most impressive contributions leave the reader with the feeling that the precarious attempt at reviving the past has sadly failed. They mirror disappointment, resentment, often bitterness and animosity towards their old-new neighbourhood. In these wholly negative essays one would look in vain for a recognition of the German Federal Republic's generous efforts to make amends to the Nazi victims and to purify the political atmosphere poisoned by their Nazi predecessors. Surely, it is only too manifest that the efforts have not been entirely successful; worse, that fresh signs of Neo-Nazism show up in the political landscape, so utterly devastated during the years of unspeakable infamy. But equally visible is the general tendency of public life towards normalisation and soundness. That it sometimes appeared in the shape of an exaggerated philosemitism should not be denied; but to call this misguided, if generally well-intended, over-reaction "disgusting" and "loathsome", as several authors do, smacks of profound and even malicious misunderstanding. Eric Blumfeld calls it "demonstrative" well-behaving, thus suggesting both the positive aspects as well as the ambiguities of the phenomenon.

Michael R. Lang, one of the editors of the book, calls the Jewish functionaries, who are generally treated with a regrettable lack of empathy, persons who are "mentally destroyed". No reproach is intended when it is stated that this sad description applied with greater justification to a noticeable number of those authors who indulge with unmistakable pleasure in their albeit self-chosen, "misfortune" of having returned to Germany. The second editor, Henryk M. Broder, entitles his essay "Why I Would Rather Not be a Jew, and if There is No Other Choice—Then Rather Not in Germany"—no comment is required. Lang describes his own constitution as a "nearly neurotic over-sensitivity, an almost masochistic philosophy of life, an exaggerated self-centredness and an indifferent nonchalance towards everything non-Jewish, that is to say 'goyish'". People who like him regard their fellow-citizens as a "nuisance", who feel they are continually "moving along an abyss, are instinctively lying in ambush with an indefinable, ever-present anxiety" should never have returned. If in spite of everything they did choose to return, they should have kept silent until a measure of psychological recovery would have restored them to sanity. That they did lose their equanimity is not their fault, but they should heed their responsibilities. Herr Lang did not only not keep silent for himself, he also lent his cooperation to the collection and publication of more or less equally unbalanced self-analyses.

"The Germans have a difficult time with the few Jews among them, and it is true: the co-existence is not without its problems". This is the way Leon Brandt puts it in his essay entitled "An Abnormal Togetherness. An Existence Without Future". "Not without problems"—indeed. And problems are in need of being explored, made intelligible and thus cured from their more dangerous potentialities. It remains doubtful whether the book under review has done its share to further these highly desirable objectives.

EVA G. REICHMANN.

Friedrich Walter

"BESUCH IM HADES"

Im Jahr 1966 unternahm der jetzt nach vielen Wanderjahren in Wien lebende Schriftsteller Günther Anders, der sich neben zahlreichen anderen Büchern durch sein Hauptwerk "Die Antiquiertheit des Menschen" einen Namen gemacht hat, eine Fahrt nach Auschwitz. Auf der Rückkehr von dort kehrte er in seine Vaterstadt Breslau zurück. Seine Tagebuchaufzeichnungen über diese Heimkehr, wenn man sie noch so nennen kann, hat er jetzt im Verlag von C. H. Beck, München, veröffentlicht.*

Günther Anders, 1902 geboren, ist der Sohn des Universitätsprofessors der Psychologie, William Stern. Seine Aufzeichnungen sind ein schmerzlicher Erinnerungsschmerz Wiederaufsuchen des Vergangenen—von all den qualvoll zwiespältigen, widerspruchsvollen Empfindungen begleitet, wie sie jeder von uns kennt, der seine Heimatstadt nach dem Kriege wieder aufgesucht hat. Günther Anders' Breslau hat sich von Grund aus verändert, nichts ist mehr da von dem, was einst war, er verirrt sich oft in der gänzlich verwandelten Stadt und findet es gut und richtig so, dass an Stelle des Alten etwas ganz Neues und Anderes entstanden ist. Dennoch sieht er mit fast visionärer, traumhafter Deutlichkeit in der verfremdeten Stadt die vertrauten, verschwundenen Stätten seiner Kindheit und Jugend wieder vor sich aufsteigen, das Johanneum-Gymnasium, die Spielplätze, die Strassen und einstigen Strassennamen, das Elternhaus, in dem er aufwuchs, und dessen "hochherrschaftliche" Wohnung. Es sind beschwörende Bilder, die ihm vergegenwärtigen, was an der Vergangenheit erbarmungslos vergänglich, gnadenvoll beständig ist.

Immer wieder aber fühlt er sich auch gedrängt, sich nach all dem grässlich Geschehenen mit den Anschauungen, der Lebensweise seiner hoch-assimilierten, deutsch-jüdischen Familie kritisch auseinanderzusetzen. Ihr "Credo", der Glaube an ihre Zugehörigkeit zum Deutschtum und seiner Kultur, ihr Bestreben und Bemühen, ein Teil davon zu sein, will ihm nun, eben weil sie kluge und gebildete Menschen waren, als unbegreifliche "Naivität" erscheinen. Ja, er spricht sogar in diesem wie in anderem, entsprechendem Zusammenhang einmal von der "Dummheit der Klugen, von der Blindheit der Scharfsichtigen, von der Idiotie der Hoffenden".

In die polemische Schärfe und Härte seines Urteils kann man, wenn überhaupt, nur schwer, nur widerstrebend einstimmen, spräche auch aus dieser polemischen Leidenschaft nicht noch ein Ton innerer Ergriffenheit und Trauer. Auf einer der ersten Seiten seiner Aufzeichnungen schreibt Günther Anders einmal: "Selbst nachträglich verwüstet Hitler noch unser Leben."

Den Aufzeichnungen von 1966 hat er 1979, gleichfalls in Tagebuchform, ein Nachwort über den "Holocaust"—Film angefügt. Er setzt sich bedingungslos für ihn und seine Wirkung ein und verteidigt ihn aufs entschiedenste gegen die Einwände, die man dem Film wegen der oft "kinohaften" Behandlung seines Themas gemacht hat. "Wer uns hier mit Geschmackskriterien kommt, der ist unmoralisch" schreibt Anders, und: "nur durch fictio kann das factus, nur durch Einzelfälle das Unabzählbare deutlich und unvergesslich gemacht werden". Er belegt seine Ueberzeugungen durch eine Reihe oft schwieriger moralphilosophischer Argumente, denen eine Radikalität des Denkens, ein moralischer Rigorismus zugrunde liegen, die uns höchste Achtung abnötigen, auch wo wir ihnen nicht immer zu folgen vermögen.

* Günther Anders: *Besuch im Hades*. Auschwitz und Breslau 1966. Beck Verlag München 1979. DM 15.80.

THE DEBATE ABOUT REMARQUE

Was Erich Maria Remarque a "serious" or merely an outstandingly successful "popular" novelist? The question has been a matter of much acrimonious and confused controversy. The latest contribution to the argument* has the great merit of providing a much-needed scholarly approach. The authors demonstrate persuasively that most of the denigration of Remarque's work is rooted in political or personal animosity; this part of their treatise in itself makes interesting and instructive reading. Then, having cleared the ground, they proceed to apply the yardstick of literary criticism as it should be done; that is to say, they examine, not what they or other people think Remarque should have said, but how he said what he himself wanted to say.

Even so, not everybody will agree with the authors on the very favourable assessment of Remarque's work as a whole. Although they do not claim that his prose style was more than very readable and concede that he was sometimes guilty of triviality and sentimentality, their final verdict is that "his novels will live on for many a long year after the events he has described so memorably have lapsed into history". This may well be true of *All Quiet on the Western Front*, in which he could draw on his own overwhelming experience as a young soldier and make highly effective use of his greatest assets as a writer, acute observation and the gift of creating excellent dialogue. But can the same be said of the later novels of post-war disenchantment, emigration and exile? As a man to whom his first great success had brought fame, wealth and security he was no longer writing as a representative victim of the painful events he described and I for one feel that his imaginative insight was not profound enough to replace the inspiration of immediate personal experience. However, value judgments are bound to differ, and that I cannot fully accept the appraisal at which Drs. Barker and Last have arrived is much less important than the fact that their intelligent critical study has induced me to re-read three of Remarque's books with a keener understanding than before.

LEO KAHN.

*Christine R. Barker and R. W. Last: *Erich Maria Remarque*, Oswald Wolff Publishers, £6.50.

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A NUCLEAR 1984?

An Essay in Futurology

Robert Jungk, the son of a well-known Jewish filmwriter in pre-Hitler Berlin, returned to Germany from his exile and made his name with the popular-scientific book, *Die Zukunft hat schon begonnen*. It contained the first misgivings about a future in which nuclear energy would play an increasingly powerful role not only in armament and as an industrial factor but in political, economic, and social life. Appointed "Professor of Futurology" (to use the popular abbreviation of this comparatively new field of research) in Berlin, Jungk had the opportunity of elaborating his warnings.

His latest book, *The Nuclear State* (John Calder, London, paperback £2.95), summarises them thus: The assurances by governments and the nuclear industry that nuclear energy is safe are false; the record of accidents and security leaks in the peaceful exploitation of nuclear power is higher than in most other industries; and the health and perhaps the lives of all of us whose countries use nuclear energy are at risk. Even more important, says the author, are the political implications which will turn our democratic countries into "nuclear states"—which, he argues, are incompatible with democracy; and if we persist in our "nuclear folly", our civil liberties, including the right of dissent, will rapidly disappear. The greatest danger, of course, is the proliferation of nuclear weapons; today, there are six countries known to possess them, but many more may be equipped with them in the near future. How can we survive the world of tomorrow?

In his book, Jungk quotes chapter and verse of all kinds of evidence for his alarming theory; the decline of the constitutional into a totalitarian nuclear state—a "nuclear 1984"—is, in his view, inevitable if we ignore the political and social problems involved in the "massive introduction of nuclear energy first without the knowledge, and then against the will of a growing number of citizens". He devotes a special and particularly frightening chapter on "atomic terrorists", and he quotes Dr. Bernard Feld, head of the Atomic and High Energy Physics Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology:

"Let me tell you about a nightmare I have. The Mayor of Boston sends for me for an urgent consultation. He has received a note from a terrorist group telling him that they have planted a nuclear bomb somewhere in central Boston. The Mayor has confirmed that 20 pounds of plutonium is missing from government stocks. He shows me the crude diagram and a set of the terrorists' outrageous demands. I know that the device would work. . . . What should I advise? Surrender to blackmail or risk destroying my home town? I would have to advise surrender."

It sounds like a film scenario, unlikely to become reality. But then, so did the kind of accident that happened at Harrisburg. To be sure, Jungk likes to overstate his case, to sensationalise his arguments. But the more they shock us into awareness of the dangers, the greater the chance that a nuclear 1984 will never happen.

"TIMES" QUOTES "AJR INFORMATION"

Recently, this journal had the privilege of being used as source material by the "Times". Under the heading "Kosher lesson" the London Diarist writes in the paper's issue of May 28: "I am indebted to this month's issue of the publication *Information*, put out by the Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain, for the unexpected revelation that the last surviving kosher hotel in Brighton has been bought by a Muslim." This news item induced the Diarist to get in touch with the new hotel owner, Mr. Peter Bawa, and to publish an interview with him. The episode indicates the diligence with which the contents of "AJR Information" are followed up also by readers outside our community such as journalists, parliamentarians and other public personalities, who regularly receive our monthly.

JEWS IN LANGEN

Under the auspices of the municipality of Langen (Hessen), Mr. Gerd J. Grein, with the assistance of other residents, published a 60-page "Geschichte der juedischen Gemeinde in Langen und ihrer Synagoge". The first part deals with the situation of the Jews in the Rhine-Main district from early beginnings until 1900. The second part, which records the developments in Langen, states that the first Jews at that place were mentioned in the second half of the 17th century. In 1870, when the town had a population of 3,600, the number of Jews amounted to 103. They were integrated into their environment and took part in public life. The first synagogue, a converted residential house, was built in 1852. In 1902, a new synagogue was consecrated. By 1935, the boycott had become so intense that it made life of the Jews unbearable. The brochure ends with a list of 77 Jews, who lived in Langen in 1933, and describes their fate. Some of them died before the years of deportations, some left for Frankfurt or other larger places, from where they were also deported. The number of those who were deported from Langen amounted to 22; to these have to be added some whose fate could not be ascertained. The publication is enhanced by drawings and photostats of documents. W.R.

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NEWS FROM GERMANY

OBERAMMERGAU 1980

Despite the fact that the Oberammergau village council insisted on showing the Daisenberger version of the passion play which has been widely attacked for its anti-Jewish contents, a number of alterations were made under the impact of the showing of the "Holocaust" film. Jews and Christians have for a long time objected that the play disregards the effects of Roman rule in Palestine, that it depicts Jesus and his disciples as though they stood outside Jewish tradition, and that nobody who saw the play would ever recognise Jesus as a Jew. However, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in the United States has put forward proposals for further revisions of the text in order to heighten Christian awareness of religious and historical errors and to help visitors to detect distortions in the image and death of Jesus. The proposals were drafted by Leonard Swidler, professor of Catholic thought and inter-religious dialogue at Temple University, Philadelphia. They propose inter alia that the play should avoid giving the impression that most Jews wanted the death of Jesus, and that Pilate was an innocent and kindly bystander.

Cardinal Ratzinger, Archbishop of Munich, welcomed the changes and said the anti-Christian antisemitism of the Third Reich in its abysmal inhumanity must remain a warning which Christians could not disregard. The cross as a symbol of peace must rule the Christian's relationship to the Jewish people.

All performances this summer have been sold out. By the end of September, more than 50,000 people from all over the world will have seen a total of 100 performances of the five-hour play. The sale of tickets has brought the village about £20 million in cash.

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST NAZI LAWYER

Rechtsanwalt Eberhard Engelhardt of Nuernberg, who had joined the Nazi Party in 1932, has for many years demanded the release of Rudolf Hess and also requested the Federal Government to withhold any contributions towards the cost for guarding "the Last of Spandau". Recently he took an action which, even by neo-Nazi standards, is beyond belief. After the journalist Renate Harprecht, a Jewish survivor of Auschwitz, had stated in a broadcast that relatives of hers had been gassed, Engelhardt wrote to her that a client of his, a former SS man, felt offended by this remark. He asked Mrs. Harprecht to let him know, when and where her relatives were gassed, whether there were epidemics in the Camp, etc. He threatened that, unless he gets a reply, he would report her to the authorities with the view to having her prosecuted for slander and incitement to hatred and that he would also charge her with DM 174.90 for lawyers fees and expenses. The Nuernberg prosecutor has opened proceedings against Engelhardt, and the local chamber of lawyers unanimously decided to apply for criminal investigation and disciplinary action against Engelhardt.

DAMAGES FOR EXTREME RIGHT-WINGERS

The city of Heilbronn had to pay some £17,000 damages to The German Peoples' Union whose chairman is Dr. Gerhard Frey of the "Deutsche National-Zeitung", after years of quibbling in court over the ban on the organisation's Heroes' Memorial Demonstration in the town hall in 1977.

LONDONER PROTESTS AGAINST NAZI SENTENCE

The city of Aschaffenburg invited its former Jewish citizens all over the world to take part in this year's "Aschaffenburg Discussions" which had as their subject "Germans and Jews—wounds, realities, ways". 80 accepted the invitation, but 68-year-old Erich Rosenthal, now living in London, declined: he did not wish to visit his native town as the son of a convict. In October 1939, his father, the banker Arnold Rosenthal, had been sentenced to five years penal servitude and a fine of 524,000 marks. Arnold Rosenthal died in Zwickau prison in 1943. In 1958, his son was awarded 105,000 marks as restitution, but the sentence was not annulled. The High Court of Restitution in Nuremberg found that the sentence had not been passed because of the banker's race—even a non-Jew who had done similar things to help Jewish friends, would have received a similar sentence for infringement of the currency laws. Erich Rosenthal had lived in London at the time of the offence, supporting Jews whom he had helped to emigrate legally and organising children's transports to Britain. His father had sent him money wrapped in rolls of carbon paper. An Aschaffenburg lawyer, Dr. Hermann Leeb, has volunteered to take up the case for the rehabilitation of the banker. The local paper had reported on his trial in 1939, saying that "the accused was a typical example of Jewish trade morals . . . and intent on doing big business and damaging the cause of the Reich." During this year's discussions, a woman who had moved to Aschaffenburg after the War, circularised a list of signatures for an appeal to right this wrong.

PENSIONER SUSPECT OF CAMP MURDERS

The public prosecutor in Fulda ordered the arrest of 71-year-old pensioner Hermann E. A gipsy and former printer, he was arrested and sent to Buchenwald in 1943. He became "Kapo" in an annex of the camp at Nordhausen, where he is alleged to have collaborated with Polish inmates in drowning, suffocating and torturing Jewish fellow prisoners. The case has been under investigation for nearly four years.

In Bochum, a member of the Nazi police was arrested on suspicion of having been in charge of an execution squad in Russia, having shot prisoners and set fire to a school building in which a large number of Jews were being held.

MAIDANEK COURT'S 13TH TRIP TO POLAND

The Düsseldorf Court which is dealing with those responsible for mass murder in Maidanek concentration camp, have just concluded their 13th trip to Poland, in order to hear witnesses unfit to travel. Altogether they have made 30 journeys abroad during the four-and-a-half years of the case and heard more than 100 witnesses, in Soviet Russia, Israel, the US, Czechoslovakia, Austria and Australia. So far, the case has cost the Federal Republic some £4½ million. One of the witnesses heard in Poland, 63-year-old Ryszard Rohde who suffers from a severe lung condition, and who has steadfastly refused to set foot on German soil, recognised three of the accused who had killed and beaten prisoners for pleasure. One of them, 59-year-old Emil Laurich was known as the "Angel of Death" because his visits always meant executions.

CARL EBERT

Carl Ebert, the producer of opera, best known for his work at Glyndebourne together with the conductor Fritz Busch, has died in California, aged 93. After a successful career in Darmstadt, Frankfurt and Berlin, he left Germany in 1933 in protest against Nazi cultural politics. In 1934, together with Busch, he helped to launch the first Glyndebourne Festival, then regarded as a wild adventure, with "The Marriage of Figaro". Until the war, the two artists dominated the Glyndebourne stage and set standards in teamwork and production which influenced their successors in the decades to come. After the war, Ebert returned to Glyndebourne, where his productions of "Idomeneo", "Macbeth", and "Rosenkavalier" are remembered to this day. He also ran some vivid master classes for BBC Television.

DR. EUGEN GUERSTER

The publicist and author Dr. Eugen Guerster died in Munich in his 85th year. A staunch anti-Nazi, he emigrated in 1933 to Switzerland and, later, to the US. As cultural attaché of the German Embassy in London from 1953 to 1963 he became known to many former refugees in this country. His interest in Jewry and Judaism is reflected in his book "Die Judenfrage eine Christenfrage" (Lucerne 1938). E.G.L.

WEST GERMAN BISHOPS AND THE JEWS

The West German Conference of Bishops has called on Catholics to reconsider their attitude to the Jewish people in order to "overcome false judgements and attitudes within the Church. . . . We have a special reason in Germany", the call continues "to ask God and our Jewish brethren for forgiveness." Through silence, indifference and omissions, Catholics had helped to make Nazi crimes possible, and some had even become criminals themselves. The Church was still preaching erroneous and distorted views about the Jews.

GURS IN SCHOOL CURRICULUM

President Müller of Karlsruhe has suggested that in October, on the 40th anniversary of the deportation of Jews from Baden and Württemberg to Gurs in France, the event should be discussed in all schools of the Land. In view of the many Jews who used to live in Baden, there should be a lot of local interest for this particular part of the Third Reich history. Some 6,000 Jews were deported to Gurs in the Pyrenees, and last April the annual remembrance service was held there and attended by the president and other government officials.

UNSUNG HEROINE

82-year-old Mrs. Katherine Kluge is the 19th Berlin citizen to be awarded the West German Federal Order of Merit for having hidden two Jewish women, Lida Sauer and Cilli Wittenberg, in her Zehlendorf flat from 1943 until the end of the war. Frau Sauer still lives in Berlin and is in close contact with her benefactress, whereas Mrs. Wittenberg came to Britain after the war and died two years ago. The Senate of Berlin has honoured 700 other citizens who at one time or another helped to save Jews from persecution.

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IN MEMORIAM

KATIA MANN

Mrs. Katia Mann, née Pringsheim, the widow of Thomas Mann, has died in Switzerland, aged 97. She was the daughter of Jewish Professor Alfred Pringsheim, who held the chair for mathematics at Munich University and was an early passionate Wagnerian and art collector. Her mother was the daughter of Ernst and Hedwig Dohm, who were also of Jewish origin. Katia Mann was the first girl in Munich to obtain the *Abitur* for which she studied at home, and to study mathematics and physics. In 1905 she married Thomas Mann by whom she had six children. She remained his close companion until his death in 1955. In 1970, she published her "Ungeschriebene Memoiren" in which she described with zest and humour the private side of a life most of which was lived in public after her marriage.

MAX VARON (WEINER)

Max Varon, who was born in Poland and grew up in Dresden, recently died in his 68th year. A member of the KJV fraternity, he played an active part in the Zionist movement in Germany and the positions he held included that of a group secretary of the North Western district of the "Zionistische Vereinigung". In 1939, he went to Palestine, from where he joined the 8th Army, saw battle in North Africa and rose to the rank of Captain. After the war, he first took charge of the Swiss office of the Keren Kaymet LeIsrael (KKL) and soon afterwards was invited to become director of the JNF for Great Britain and Ireland. It testifies to the popularity he obtained in the course of this work that, when he left to join the KKL Head Office in Jerusalem, almost every local JNF Commission inscribed him and his wife Rosie into the Golden Book of the JNF. He later served with distinction in the Israel Diplomatic Service—rising to the rank of Ambassador in Burma and in Sweden. Upon his retirement he became European Director of the Weizmann Foundation in Zurich. His last job was with Teddy Kollek, Mayor of Jerusalem.

Max Varon will be sadly missed by all who knew him. We extend our sincerest sympathy to his widow, Rosie, who was his faithful companion throughout his life.

R. J. FRIEDMANN,
Paradiso, Switzerland.

BENNO D. FRANK

A Man of the Theatre

Benno D. Frank, who died in Jerusalem a short while ago, was a pioneer of theatre in pre-Israel Palestine. He used the wealth of talent—actors, singers and musicians—who, like himself, had come from Nazi Germany and started with a remarkable production of "Rigoletto" in Jerusalem, reinforcing the ad hoc orchestra with trumpeters lent with the High Commissioner's consent by the British police band. He also established the Palestine Chamber Opera. However, all his pre-war ventures were hampered by lack of funds. When War broke out, Frank was in America to organise the "Balfour Players", a group of Jewish actors sponsored by the ZOA in connection with the Palestine exhibit at the 1939 World's Fair. He interrupted his theatrical career and enlisted as a volunteer, when the US entered the war. He was eventually transferred to the Psychological Warfare Division and, after the end of the war, went to Germany as US representative for Cultural Affairs at the Allied Control Council in Berlin. In this capacity he was responsible for the elimination of Nazi activists from the German theatre and facilitated the return of non-Nazis such as Gustav Gruendgens and Boleslaw Barlog. Frank spent the next period of his life in Cleveland and during the last 12 years lived in semi-retirement in Israel. He was a member of groups fostering the idea of better Jewish-Arab understanding and cooperation.

E.G. (Jerusalem).

PROFESSOR ZEPLER

Professor Eric Ernest Zepler has died at Southampton, aged 82. He was born in Altena, Westphalia, and started his career in Germany as Head of Design of Receivers and Direction Finders with Telefunken. He came to this country as a refugee in 1935 and became Professor of Electronics and later research fellow at the Institute for Sound and Vibration in Southampton. He published a number of highly regarded studies on many aspects of electronics and on his hobby, chess-problems.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"LESS THAN SLAVES"

Sir,—Mr. Richard Grunberger's statement in your May issue to the effect that screening sub-Committees were set up in Prague, Vienna and Budapest as well as in Melbourne, London, Sao Paulo and Oslo, is somewhat misleading. For since the by far larger majority of the total of 5,800 rightful I. G. Farben claimants at the time resided in Israel and in the United States, the pre-screening had to be done by Committees set up for this particular purpose, first of all in Tel Aviv and New York. This was a most responsible and tiring undertaking requiring a minute knowledge of the circumstances prevailing in the camp and therefore taking a considerable length of time in order to pick out those former Auschwitz inmates who were really entitled to receive an award under the so-called I. G. Farben Agreement.

(DR.) E. G. LOWENTHAL,
Berlin (formerly Frankfurt/M.).

JEWS FROM EAST PRUSSIA

Sir,—I am engaged in research work on Jews in East Prussia (now partly USSR, partly Poland) from the beginning of the 18th century till the end in 1943/44. I would be most grateful if former members of East Prussian Jewish communities could assist me with information, photographs and documents.

27 Benjamin Metudella Str.,
Jerusalem, Israel. RINA AUERBACH.

HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Sir,—I am doing some research into Homoeopathic Medicine as a social and historical phenomenon. I am interested to know of the possible arrival in this country of Homoeopathic physicians as refugees and their work and influence.

I am also following up links between the ideas of Swedenborg and Steiner and Homoeopathy and I am looking for writings by George Adams Kaufmann. If any of your readers has any books, documents or recollections, I should be most grateful.

27 Milman Road,
London, N.W.6. FRANCIS TREUHERZ,
Lecturer in Social Policy,
Polytechnic of Central London.

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

Malinow:—Mr. Adolphe Malinow (formerly Breslau), now at 5A, Stanley Drive, Leeds 8, celebrates his 95th birthday on the 3rd July.

Weddings

Trenter-Moser:—Mr. and Mrs. George H. Trenter of London announce that the wedding between their daughter, Pamela and Naftali Moser, BCom, BA, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Moser of Sydney, Australia, took place on 25 June at Ramat Hasharon, Israel.

Balsam-Kedem:—Mr. and Mrs. S. Balsam of 12 Beverley Road, Leamington Spa are delighted to announce the wedding of their daughter Nancy to Mr. Gabi Kedem in Haifa.

Thanks for Congratulation

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, Dr. Rosenstock, for the most touching tribute to my 98th Birthday, and heartfelt thanks to the donors to my Fund and the charming hundreds of Birthday cards from my members.

MARGARET JACOBY.

Deaths

Herzberg:—Miss Marel Herzberg of 8A, Rosebush Court, London, N.W.3, passed away on 2 May, deeply mourned and sadly missed by her brother Joby, her sister Ruth and many friends.

Kory:—Leslie Kory, husband of Elisabeth and father of Manfred passed away on 8 June after a long illness. Deeply mourned by relatives and friends in USA, S Africa and Canada.

Marcus:—Dr. Erwin Marcus of 114 Wellesley Court, Maida Vale, London, W9 (formerly Breslau), died on 21 January, sadly missed by his devoted wife, relatives and friends.

Nass:—Berthold Nass passed away suddenly on 19 May. Deeply mourned by his wife and son, brother, sister-in-law, relatives and many friends in London and abroad.

Pauson:—Marie Pauson of Osmond House (formerly Frankfurt) passed away on 18 May, aged 96, in her sleep. Deeply mourned by her loving sister, Mrs. Eise, her only son in the USA and all the family.

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BIRTHDAYS

C. C. ARONSFELD 70

On 15 July, Caesar Aronsfeld will celebrate his 70th birthday. After a childhood in—then—Eastern Posen (about which he most charmingly wrote in our January issue), he came to this country from Berlin in 1933, having given up his law studies on the Nazi advent in Germany. He started here as a trainee in a machine factory, but soon felt that his real vocation and interests lay in historical journalism and the study of history. Dr. Alfred Wiener became aware of the special gifts of Mr. Aronsfeld and made him his principal assistant on the transfer of the Wiener Library to London. Caesar Aronsfeld continued to serve the Wiener Library as Assistant Director for 27 years. He edited the "Wiener Library Bulletin" and made a most valuable contribution to the work of the Library. In 1966, he joined the Institute of Jewish Affairs, serving as Senior Research Officer with great distinction and editing two scholarly Institute publications, "Patterns of Prejudice" and "Christian-Jewish Relations". The latter are very important to him and he takes a very active part in the Council of Christians and Jews.

A constant stream of articles and other writings on aspects of Jewish history, antisemitism, fascism and other subjects is flowing from his pen, all written in a lucid and pungent style and based on thorough and scholarly research. "AJR Information" is particularly grateful to Mr. Aronsfeld for the many excellent articles he has contributed. As a lecturer, speaking to countless Jewish and Christian audiences, he has made a special impact.

These achievements are the more remarkable as Caesar Aronsfeld had no special academic education for his activities. Entirely self-taught, he writes and speaks as a historian of sound scholarship and learning. His human make-up is a combination of innate modesty and shyness, kindness and integrity, allied to dry humour which often finds delightful expression in his writings. He and his wife Helga (who is very much a person in her own right, in her Synagogue and related spheres) have numerous friends who wish them many more years of a harmonious companionship and active contribution to Jewish life and knowledge. F.E.F.

PROFESSOR H. G. ADLER, 70

On 2 July, Professor H. G. Adler will celebrate his 70th birthday. Born in Prague, then a unique centre of symbiotic Czech, German and Jewish culture, he studied and graduated there. He was incarcerated by the Nazis in numerous concentration camps, amongst which were Theresienstadt and Auschwitz where he lost most of his family. After the war, he emigrated to London where he has lived since 1947.

Adler is one of the few survivors of Auschwitz who never complains about his fate. He has endeavoured to overcome the trauma of four years of horror not only by giving detailed accounts of life in the camps, but by analysing the legal and psychological absurdity of "administered man". His works on Theresienstadt and Auschwitz have become almost classics of the accounts of this tragic period of our history, and his main work "Der verwaltete Mensch", an outstanding analysis of the administrative machinery and

stupidity of the organised mass murder of Jews in Nazi Germany, written with the thoroughness of a trained research worker in sociology and psychology coupled with the art of an outstanding writer, has become an indispensable source for any writer, historian or lawyer concerned with Nazi crimes. It is a pity that it is not yet available in English and as a paperback.

Adler thinks that he has written enough about this dreadful period of his life and he is now concentrating on writing poetry. He is President of the PEN Centre of German Speaking Writers Abroad, and with his tact and diplomacy he has succeeded in keeping together this small band of writers who found new homes all over the world after the Nazi catastrophe but retained their attachment to the German language. Adler's numerous friends find it difficult to imagine that he is reaching the "biblical age". After his recent recovery from a serious illness they hope that he will be able to continue his work for many years to come in good health and under the loving care of his devoted wife Bettina and his son Jeremy. F.H.

MARTIN BEHEIM-SCHWARZBACH, 80

Novelist and biographer Martin Beheim-Schwarzbach who celebrated his 80th birthday in Hamburg, was born in London as son of a surgeon at the German Hospital. Shortly before the outbreak of war, he returned to Britain, as he had retained British nationality after his parents' return to Germany, in order to help refugee friends. He first worked in factories and later for the BBC. In 1946, he returned to Germany.

AWARD FOR JEWISH JUDGE

Dr. Arthur Emsheimer, a former German judge who headed the central agency for refugee relief in Switzerland after 1933, has been awarded the Great Service Cross of the Order of Merit in recognition of his work on behalf of Jewish refugees and his contribution to post-war German-Jewish reconciliation.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

Comedian par excellence is the title conferred posthumously on *Hans Moser* (1880-1964) who in his own way of acting was a unique and most engaging personality. An exhibition to be held in Vienna during the week 19th to 26 September will become a cultural documentation, comparing the Austrian actor with contemporary comedians everywhere, with Charles Chaplin, the Marx Brothers and Karl Valentin. Moser, who would have been 100 years old this year, played in some 150 films between 1921 and 1963, a splendid legacy to the world of entertainment.

Two holiday visitors in Vienna are *Walter Reisch*, 78, the film director and scriptwriter (who did not fail to visit his "Maskerade" star Paula Wessely) and *Walter Slezak*, 78, son of tenor Leo, and himself famous on Broadway.

Birthdays. *Kurt Herbert Adler*, General Director of the San Francisco opera house since 1953, is 75; *Nico Dostal*, operetta composer and nephew of Hermann Dostal, whose "Fliegermarsch" ("Komm und sei mein Kavalier") took Europe by storm in 1912, has reached the age of 85. His potpourris and operettas were much performed, mainly during the Thirties. "Clivia", "Monika" and "Ungarische Hochzeit" provided richness of colourful tunes, some of which have been heard in Britain, and were recently presented by Sam Costa in his Tuesday BBC programme "Glamorous Nights".

Obituary. *Hilde Konetzni*, soprano and member of the Vienna State Opera for many years, has died in Vienna aged 75. She specialized as a Wagnerian singer, and was the sister of soprano *Anny Konetzni* who died in 1968. S.B.

GRETE MOSHEIM, 75

To celebrate her 75th birthday earlier this year, *Grete Mosheim* returned to the Berlin stage to act in "The House by the Lake" by the American *Ernest Thompson*.

EXHIBITIONS

Joe Rose, BEM

It is three years since we have had an opportunity to see a major exhibition of *Joe Rose's* work in London, so it is all the more important not to miss his one-man exhibition at the Obelisk Gallery, 15 Crawford Street, W1, from 24 June to 8 July. The exhibition is entitled "Phantasms" and includes works in oil and various media. Prolific painter as he is, with an absolute mastery of technique and colour, *Joe Rose* has not managed to free himself from his obsession with his personal experiences of the concentration camps and Nazi persecution. His symbolism is stark and real, superbly executed, his surrealist fantasies strike a note in our inner conscience that we cannot ignore.

Joe Rose was born in Germany, imprisoned in concentration camps, escaped to England and served in the British Army in World War II. He emigrated to Australia in 1957, returned to London in 1972 and now divides his time between London and Sydney.

The Royal Academy

The annual Summer Exhibition of the Royal Academy opened on 31 May and continues until 24 August. It is impossible here to describe the wealth of talent on display, but in Gallery IX there is a charming polyester bronze maquette "Mother and Daughter" by our old friend *Fred Kormis*. That in itself, apart from all the other treasures, should not be missed.

ALICE SCHWAB.

TO ALL OUR READERS

It is impossible for us, much though we regret it, to ensure that *AJR Information* reaches our readers at the same time every month. The time of delivery entirely depends on various factors, over which we have no control such as the industrial situation in the printing trade and in the postal services. We would, therefore, ask our readers not to ring our office in case of delay.

DISTINCTION FOR MR. M. DURST

Mr. Manfred Durst, Chairman of the Leo Baeck House Committee, has been elected President of the British Jewellery & Giftware Federation. *Mr. Durst* came to this country from Germany at the age of 14 and, after finishing his education, was apprenticed to a jeweller at Hatton Garden. At the age of 21, he and a fellow apprentice, *John Najmann*, joined forces to found *Fred Manshaw Ltd.* in 1946. He serves on several trade committees and became a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths several years ago. We extend our sincerest congratulations to our friend *Mr. Durst* on his new, important appointment.

AWARD FOR SAUL FRIEDLAENDER

This year's *Andreas Gryphius Prize* (named after the Silesian 17th century poet) was awarded by the "Kuenstlergilde" to *Dr. Saul Friedlaender*, since 1965 Professor of History and International Relations at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. *Professor Friedlaender* was born in 1932 in Prague and fled to France in 1939, where he survived the war in hiding. His works include several documentations, among them "Aufakt zum Untergang—Hitler und die Vereinigten Staaten 1939-1941" (1965) and "Pius XII und das Dritte Reich" (1966). E.G.L.

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