

Margot Pottlitzer

## GERMAN JEWISH HISTORY BEFORE THE HOLOCAUST

XXVth YEAR BOOK OF THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

The 1980 Year Book of the Leo Baeck Institute is the twenty-fifth to appear, and what a splendid achievement it is! It has greatly changed in all its aspects since that first venture in 1956 when—as Arnold Paucker reminds us in his Preface—Martin Buber predicted that there would not be a second one. When the Leo Baeck Institute was founded in that year, it set itself the task of preserving the history of German Jewry which had ended with the Nazis coming to power. At the time it did indeed appear to be a limited task, relying on the literate and articulate survivors of that pre-Nazi era “to present and analyse . . . the many manifestations of German Jewry” and therefore seemingly destined to end with the eventual disappearance of such survivors.

There are two main causes for the fact that now, in its 25th edition, the Year Book—only one of the Institute's many publications—must be considered one of the best ever, and that there is every reason to assume that it will be followed by many more: For almost twenty years, Robert Weltch's splendid editorship ensured the attainment of the original aim, and in recent years the unforeseen interest taken in the history of German Jewry by young historians in Germany, in the Anglo-Saxon countries and in Israel has brought about an equally unforeseen development. As Ismar Schorsch shows in his introductory survey of the past twenty-five years, the average age of the 22 contributors to the 1956 volume was 60, and there were six academics among them. By 1978, the average age had fallen to 48, and there were 13 academics amongst the 18 contributors. Only four of the authors in the present volume left Germany as adults, six others came to the United States as children and were educated there, and another seven were born in the US, in Israel or in Britain. For all of them, German Jewish history now is a subject to be studied from source material.

Arnold Paucker who has been responsible for the editorship of the Year Book for several years, though initially as assistant to Robert Weltch, is to be congratulated on ensuring its continued existence by gradually transforming it into a depository of historical scholarship, which, from year to year, is eagerly awaited by researchers and students all over the world.

The previous, twenty-fourth, Year Book outlined the changing methods of historical research and stressed the need for studying the history of European Jewry against the background of the general history of the various countries of residence. In the present volume which has as its general theme “From the Wilhelminian Era to the Third Reich”, this principle has been applied. Present-

day historians have of course been greatly helped by technical progress: microfilming and ease of travel have given them access to almost unlimited amounts of source material. Furthermore, the New York Leo Baeck Institute, the centre of the Institute's scholarly activities, has been widely acclaimed by historians. It has for some years now been involved in the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Society, and an entire chapter of the Year Book records the contents of such a meeting in 1978 on “Religion and Secularisation in German Society during the 19th and 20th centuries”, whilst another chapter is devoted to the tributes paid to Martin Buber at a New York symposium to mark the centenary of his birth. There was no room, however, to publish the proceedings of the 1979 Oxford conference on “Revolution and Evolution in German Jewish History, 1848 in Historical Perspective”. This will be published separately as the first English-language volume of the *Schriftenreihe* of the Leo Baeck Institute.

### Emancipation and Assimilation

Altogether, Year Book XXV is a feast for historians, but it has also much to offer to the general reader, anxious to understand a period of history in which he took part. Its riches can only be hinted at in the framework of this short review: it throws new light on the Jewish policies of the Prussian Academic Establishment, on the controversial questions of emancipation and assimilation, on the even more controversial Jewish Right Wing Movement in the Weimar Republic “Naumann-Verband”, on Liberalism, Social Democracy and their attitudes towards Jewish rights, and on the Rebuttal of Racist Thought.

A whole chapter, to my mind the culmination of the entire discussion, is taken up by Professor Herbert A. Strauss's investigation of “Jewish Emigration from Germany—Nazi Policies and Jewish Responses”. The present article is only the first part of what promises to be the definitive study of the subject. For many years, Professor Strauss has concentrated on the study of emigration in all its aspects. He is the joint editor of the recently published “Biographische Handbuch der deutschsprachigen Emigration nach 1933”, which will be reviewed in a future issue of AJR Information and which tries to present a permanent record of Jewish refugee individuals in all walks of life all over the world.

The present essay, “Nazi Politics and Jewish Responses”, is only part of the complete review of the emigration issue; it will be followed by at least one other in next year's Year Book. The author, born in 1918, did not leave Germany until after the outbreak of war. He was therefore still a witness to the events to which he subsequently applied all the requirements of modern

historiography, and this gives additional impact to his writing. He, too, sees his subject as a special instance of a general trend—migration as the movement of a minority towards and away from the majority—and shows the involvement of Jews in earlier emigrations during the past 200 years. He also follows the dialectics of Jew-hatred long before the Nazis came to power, and states that the fore-runner of Nazism, the *völkische Bewegung*, called for all German Jews to be put under *Fremdenrecht* as early as 1873. In a number of statistics, relying on pre-war and post-war sources, he gives a lot of new information about the demographic aspects of German Jewry and puts a lot of other information in its proper context. He says for instance that in 1933 nearly 50 per cent of German Jews lived in the six large cities of Berlin, Frankfurt, Breslau, Hamburg, Cologne, and Leipzig and that the over 26,000 Jews who lived in Frankfurt, constituted 4.7 per cent of the city's population, whereas the 160,000 Berlin Jews only amounted to 3.8 per cent. Another interesting item, chosen at random among many equally interesting ones, is that by 1937, 200 of the 1,600 Jewish *Gemeinden* had ceased to exist, whilst 63 per cent of the Jews still in Germany were by then concentrated in seven major *Grossgemeinden*. Between 270,000 and 300,000 German Jews are estimated to have left the country to find refuge abroad, and some 30,000 of them were probably deported and killed when the Nazis occupied their countries of refuge. The author describes the fluctuations of Nazi persecution and their influence on the pattern of emigration, the economic short-term and long-term consequences of persecution, in fact he is enabled by his own unique position to describe all these developments both from the inside and from the outside.

### Jews in Sport

Another equally fascinating article was written by our friend Paul Yogi Mayer who on his part uses his lifelong involvement with the Jewish Youth and Sports Movement to write on “Equality-Egality: Jews and Sport in Germany”. He finds that the deepest desire of German Jews of all persuasions was to prove that they were *gleichwertig*—as good as the others, and that early Zionists like Nordau had dreamt of *Muskeljudentum*—muscular Judaism—to produce that proof. Mayer's well-illustrated essay deals with the role played by individual Jewish sportsmen and women within the modern German sports movement and the collective efforts and achievements of Jewish organisations since their beginnings in Wilhelminian Germany. He mentions that Jews excelled in middle class sports like tennis and fencing, and surprisingly enough flying (200 Jews served in the German Air Force in World War I, and some 50 of them were killed in action).

Mayer has been an active sportsman all his life. In his first term at Berlin University, he joined the Berlin Sports Club which had many Jewish members, and as late as October 1934, together with several other Jewish athletes, he was invited by *Reichssportführer* von Tschammer-

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## LBI YEARBOOK

Continued from page 1

Osten to report for training at a *Führerschule* in the Black Forest. They felt they had to accept in order to prove by their best performances that they were equal to other sportsmen, but they were equally determined not to participate in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. He discusses the Jewish successes at the Games and refers to a number of Jewish sportsmen and women who after emigration gained honours for their new countries in international contests. He concludes that the greatest contribution made by German Jews to sport and physical education was that of Kurt Hahn and Ludwig Guttmann: Kurt Hahn who introduced the principle "Compete with yourself and not with others" into the various schools he founded, Gordonstoun, Atlantic College and the Outward Bound Movement, a group of residential adventure schools in England and Wales, now internationally acclaimed, and Ludwig Guttmann, the founder of Stoke Mandeville Hospital for Paraplegics who also started the International Paraplegic Games.

It would be tempting to quote from other essays in the Year Book, such as for instance the hitherto unpublished "Analysis of Berlin Jewry's Spiritual Condition in the Early Nineteenth Century", introduced by Michael A. Meyer under the heading "The Orthodox and the Enlightened", but alas, it is impossible.

Authors and editor can be proud to have produced a study of one particular segment of Jewish history which will remain required reading for all serious students of the period for many years to come. Special praise is also due to the new team of bibliographers Irmgard Foerg and Annette Pringle who have continued the splendid work initiated and undertaken for many years by Bertha Cohn. The jubilee volume has been presented as a tribute to Robert Weltsch. He will be proud of it.

**"JEWISH" ARCHBISHOP FOR PARIS**

The newly ordained Catholic Archbishop of Paris is Jewish by origin and converted to Christianity as a secret evacuee to Orleans during the German occupation of France, in 1940, when he was 15 years old. Now known as Jean-Marie Lustiger, his identification papers still bear his given name of Aaron, but his parents who were Bundists did not give him any Jewish instruction and he was not *barmitzvah*. His parents were Jewish immigrants from Poland and he was born in Montmartre. His mother was deported to Auschwitz and killed there in 1943. His father survived the war and still works in Le Sentier, the predominantly Jewish textile district in Paris. Archbishop Lustiger said he always avoided emphasising his Jewish background "out of respect for the Jewish community, because they must feel uneasy about a Jewish bishop."

**UN CONTRIBUTES TO ANTISEMITISM CHARGE**

Israel's UN representative, Professor Yehuda Blum told a London audience that he firmly believed that the United Nations had "largely contributed to the creation of a climate in which antisemitic attacks worldwide have again become possible." He cited, among others, recent utterances by the representatives of Senegal and Jordan describing Israel as "a cancerous growth, a bubonic plague, a venereal disease."—"Surely," he said, "the UN should have spoken against this kind of talk in the General Assembly." There is a strong analogy with the 1930s, he said. Hitler did not begin with the physical extermination of the Jews, but instead created a psychological climate where the Jews were the scapegoats. The aims of Israel's enemies were exactly the same.

J. W. Bruegel

**AD VOCEM: GERMAN EXILE PRESS**

Much as I agreed in 1973 with Gabriele Tergit's criticism (expressed in this paper) of Hans-Albert Walter's first two volumes on German exile literature, I feel that I must now express disagreement with the views submitted on this subject by my friend F. Hellendall in the February issue. After the publication of his first two volumes on exile literature Walter has obviously learned a lot. He is now professor of exile literature at the University of Hamburg and must be regarded as the foremost German expert on the matter. In my opinion, for what it is worth, his book of over 800 pages, "Exilpresse", is a unique achievement, to be welcomed and not to be sneered at. Far from not betraying the author's alleged "ignorance of the problem of Jewish exiles from Germany in the USA and other countries" it shows his surprising familiarity with the problems of the Jewish and all other exiles and his unusual understanding of all conflicts, controversies and ideological and other somersaults inside the exiled community, coupled with a judgement which scarcely ever errs. I cannot find any, let alone repeated, "sneers at the 'Jewish mass emigration'" in the whole book but regard it as natural that in an investigation of such length and thoroughness a difference should be made (without discriminating between the groups) between papers defending or suggesting a certain political approach to the problems created by the Third Reich and those trying to help the emigrés to acclimatise themselves in the new surrounding which they regarded as their new homeland. There is nothing disreputable or inferior in an endeavour "only" to save one's life, and Walter is far from nourishing such ideas.

From my own experience I must contradict Hellendall's assertion that Willi Münzenberg's "Zukunft", published in Paris between 1938 and 1940, was "hardly known to the politically interested refugees". I was not alone in knowing it well and reading it in my time in Paris (1939-40). It is a strange charge that Walter does not give a "satisfactory explanation for his arbitrary choice of 12 journals" which he decided to investigate in every respect. Rightly or wrongly, he regarded just those 12 papers as both representative and typical—no paper published in Great Britain could be compared to "Neue Weltbühne" or "Neues Tagebuch", both of which Walter has magnificently analysed. It might be incommensurate to devote more than 100 pages to scrutinize the evasiveness and inner contradictions in the leading articles of the New York weekly "Aufbau", but nobody before Walter—here a kind of modern Karl Kraus—has done that with so much moral seriousness and nobody will do it after him. One of the further advantages of this book is that Walter—unlike most other authors coming from or living in Germany who normally misunderstand everything connected with Austria—is likewise fully conversant with the problems confronting the Austrian political emigration in the years from 1934 to 1945. There are very few factual mistakes in this large volume, particularly considering it is the outcome of the research work of one man alone. Especially valuable is his treatment of the publications with a more or less Communist tendency—we learn, e.g., that one of them, published in Moscow, even opened a "Geschäftsstelle" in Leipzig during the period of the Soviet-German non-aggression pact. From the quotations presented by Walter the remarkable fact becomes obvious that among all the party hacks, repeating slogans varying from day to day, Anna Seghers used original arguments and cultivated her own style, even when only defending the party line.

Perhaps the most interesting discovery he makes is the periodical "Orient", published by German emigrés in what was then Palestine in 1941-42, which tried to combine a basic acceptance of Zionism with a cosmopolitan outlook. Unlike Hellendall, who believes that "the historical value of Walter's new tome must be regarded as extremely doubtful", I am looking forward with interest to the further volumes promised by him.

I don't know the book by Alexander Stephan, very favourably reviewed by Dr. Konrad Feilchenfeldt of Munich University in the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" (13 February 1981), and condemned by Dr. Hellendall as "possibly worse" than Walter's last volume. It seems to me, however, that the question of whether one book by Lion Feuchtwanger is more important or of more lasting value than another book is primarily a matter of opinion without necessarily having a political connotation. I myself was more impressed by Feuchtwanger's historical novels than by his rather abhorrent glorification of the Moscow show trial against Karl Radek.

But I would like, if I may, to draw attention to another book on our subject which to my regret has not so far found the publicity it deserves ("Presse im Exil, Beiträge zur Kommunikations-geschichte des deutschen Exils 1933-1945", Herausgeber Hanno Hardt, Elke Hilscher, Winfried B. Lerg, Verlag, K. G. Saur, München 1979). It is a collective work by 12 different authors, dealing with German exile publications in Switzerland, France, the Benelux countries, Great Britain, Scandinavia and the USA (the chapter on Czechoslovakia is reserved for a second volume). The great merit of this book is that it deals with less well known publications than with the more representative ones analysed by Hans-Albert Walter, so saving them from oblivion. Who still remembers, for example, that the German Communists published a weekly, "Deutsches Volks-Echo" edited by Stephan Heym, in New York between 1937 and 1939? Especially valuable is the documentary annex, reproducing *inter alia* a controversy about exile literature in the "Frankfurter Zeitung" of 1933, when the paper still dared to publish an (anonymous) defence of the exiled writers in July of that year. The unavoidable misunderstandings, confusions between persons and omissions in a publication of this kind are unfortunately numerous. More difficult to understand is why Gerd Greiner in his contribution about Great Britain, paying attention to publications of various tendencies and significance, is almost entirely silent about the controversies surrounding the phenomenon of "Vansittartism", which are mentioned in detail in relation to the United States but not at all in regard of Great Britain, where they originated. Notwithstanding all these and other shortcomings, the book is and will remain a most valued addition to Liselotte Maas's *Handbuch der deutschen Exilpresse* (Vol. I and II, Munich 1976).

**AUSCHWITZ EXHIBITION IN BIRMINGHAM**

Poland's famous Auschwitz Exhibition will be shown in Birmingham for a month, starting on 13 June. It was brought over by Howard Wright, managing director of the Bull Ring Centre, who was in the 8th Airborne Regiment which liberated some other concentration camps. A London businessman, Mr. Michael Keefe, was so impressed by his sister's report on her visit to Auschwitz with a Leicester Christian group that he arranged for the exhibition to be transferred to All Hallows by the Tower later this year. The exhibition consists mainly of paintings and other works of art created by prisoners.

## HOME NEWS

### HOME OFFICE TO STUDY RACIALIST ATTACKS

The Home Secretary, Mr. William Whitelaw, MP, has ordered his department to make an urgent study of the activities of racist organisations in Britain. He told this to a delegation from the Joint Committee against Racism on which the Jewish community is represented by the Board of Deputies. The Committee presented the Home Secretary with its own survey covering 1,000 incidents of racist attacks over the last 18 months and believes several thousand more have gone unreported. The report stated: "We are greatly concerned by the apparent links that exist between racist and fascist groups and their counterparts in Europe and elsewhere, some of whom have advocated and used terrorist tactics. We would urge the Home Office to investigate these connexions." It speaks of the consequences of the failure to protect and defend synagogues, temples, burial grounds and other institutions against attacks, which are becoming widespread. The survey's information came from 71 community relations councils, community law centres, ethnic minority organisations, community groups and other bodies. Mr. Whitelaw later stated: "I want to make it absolutely clear that I intend to pursue this investigation vigorously and urgently."

### IRVING REFUTED

The historian David Irving who has claimed that Hitler neither ordered nor knew about the extermination of Jews was invited to give a talk to the Birmingham University debating society. 400 students had appeared at the meeting, but some 60 left-wing members of the audience began to chant "Fascists out" and prevented him from speaking. Our friend Professor John Grenville of Birmingham University, who had come to reply to Mr. Irving, took over; he gave a talk on the Holocaust and produced overwhelming evidence to refute Irving's known theories. Mr. Irving had to abandon his talk and was eventually smuggled out of the building.

### STUDENT ZIONISM BACK AT SOAS

After a four-year gap, following the banning of the Jewish Society during the anti-Zionist campaigning at British universities, Jewish students at the School of Oriental and African Studies held an avowedly Zionist meeting. A small number of Arab students joined the audience that heard John Levy, Director of the Friends of Israel Educational Trust speak on "Camp David and Middle East peace"—and left. But this time there was no opposition from the SOAS Students' Union.

### BRITISH-ISRAEL INVENTIVE CO-OPERATION

Two important Israel original inventions are to be developed and commercially exploited by British companies. One is a cold-cure machine, the other a system for producing cheap electricity using solar energy and other sources. The cold-cure appliance "Rhinotherm" was developed by scientists at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovoth and commercial manufacture is to begin next year by Ryford Ltd., of Aldridge in Staffordshire, with the primary licence being retained by Kibbutz Netzer Sereni which is producing the prototype machines. The electricity-saving system was developed at Ben-Gurion University in the Negev by a team led by Professor Herman Branover, one of the most highly qualified Soviet Jewish academics ever to leave the USSR.

### PRIZE FOR FILM DIRECTOR

John Richard Schlesinger, the renowned English film director is to receive the £5,000 Shakespeare Prize of the Hamburg FVS Foundation for his contribution to the preservation of the European cultural heritage. This entitles him to nominate the recipient of a further £1,500 scholarship who will study for one year at a West German University. E.G.L.

### RETIREMENT OF HERBERT SULZBACH

The official retirement age is nowadays 65. Some carry on for a further number of years but there will be few who retain their youthful enthusiasm and working capacity until they are 87. Herbert Sulzbach, who served as an official of the German Embassy in London since its inception, is one of these rare exceptions. His retirement will certainly not fully terminate his links with the corridors of power at Belgrave Square, and it will definitely not affect the friendly relationships he has established with people in many walks of life.

Throughout the postwar years, the promotion of understanding between Britain and post-war Germany and between Germany and Jewry has been the focus of his activities. It manifested itself first, when he was Education Officer at the German Prisoners of War Camp in Featherstone Park. Stressing his origin as a Jew from Germany, he helped to make his charges aware of the happenings under the Nazi regime and of the values of the democratic system of this country. Conversely, he worked among British people for an atmosphere of confidence between them and the newly built-up German Federal Republic. He tried to create the proper image of post-war Germany among his Jewish fellow refugees who, like himself, had lost many members of their families. At the same time, he did not belittle manifestations of neo-Nazism and energetically lodged his protests against them in the press and on radio and television. We also remember the dignified way in which he spoke on television after the massacre perpetrated by Arab terrorists during the Munich Olympic Games.

Herbert Sulzbach's success in his day-to-day activities is due to his capacity of establishing personal contacts between people of different backgrounds. If he is on first-name terms with more English people than many others in our midst, this is last not least due to the fact that he owns up to his origin and does not try to be more British than the British.

The AJR, among whose members he has many friends, has often experienced his helpfulness as a link between its officials and the Embassy. We have to be thankful for his unreserved solidarity with his "Schicksalsgenossen". May undiminished youthfulness and vigour continue to bless his life for a very long time to come. W.R.

### IRISH ADOPTION LAW PROBLEMS

Practical difficulties affecting the possibility of Jews in Ireland to affect adoptions have been highlighted by the case of a Dublin couple who found it necessary to go to Peru to find a child they could bring up in the Jewish faith. Michael and Edith Kelly, the wife being of French Jewish parentage, applied to the Eastern Health Board in Dublin to adopt a baby, only to be told that they "were perfect, except for one little flaw—our religion. We are Jews." According to the Irish Absorption Board's Registrar, Mr. John Cronin, legislation in 1974 laid down that as long as the natural mother and the adoptive parents shared the same religion no problem arose, but otherwise the natural parent had to grant consent. He stated that a health board was not expected to be denominational and religion "should not come into it."

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### HOLOCAUST VICTIMS COMMEMORATED

Meeting on 10 May

Every year, the major Jewish organisations in London, among them the AJR, hold a meeting on a Sunday afternoon to commemorate the 6,000,000 victims of the Holocaust. This year's meeting will be held on 10 May, at 3 p.m., at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Leicester Square, W.1.

The main speaker will be Mr. Simon Wiesenthal, the well-known Director of the Jewish Documentation Centre in Vienna, who, throughout the years, has been most active and effective in tracing and bringing to trial Nazi criminals. He will give an authoritative account of the work accomplished and of the problems still to be solved. His activities, like those of other Jews in the field, are not motivated by feelings of revenge but by a sense of justice. Above all, they are regarded as a moral duty to keep the memory of those who perished alive.

The programme of the Memorial Meeting also includes recitals by the Children's Choir of the Belsize Square Synagogue, one of the flourishing congregations, founded by Jews from Germany who came to this country as victims of Nazi persecution.

In previous years, we often had to express our disappointment at the fact that only comparatively few AJR members were to be seen in the audience. The majority consisted of Nazi victims from Eastern Europe. There were also many British-born Jews, who had not experienced the brunt of persecution at first hand but who, as descendants of Russian pogrom victims, were well aware of the impact of the Holocaust. Yet whereas they mourn the death of cousins and more distant relatives, we have lost parents, brothers, sisters and friends. All of us should consider it a sacred obligation to dedicate, together with our fellow Jews, our thoughts to the memory of their cruel fate.

For reserved seats, orders (with stamped and addressed envelopes enclosed) should be sent from the middle of April onwards to: The Secretary, AJEX, 5a East Bank, London N16 5RT.

### AJR CLUB

#### 25th Birthday BRING and BUY SALE

A crowd of 192 stormed the stalls. As it was a special occasion, there came not only the locals, but guests from Basildon, Bishop's Stortford, Cambridge, Wickford and a professor from Southampton. Due to this special occasion as a silver jubilee, we started already with receiving donations of £995. The total result is £1,721—an amount we never had before.

The hard working most efficient organisers of the Bazaar can be proud of this success. We are most grateful to them, to all our devoted helpers, selling joyfully downstairs and serving refreshments upstairs. Our sincere thanks go out to the generous donors of cash and goods. We are happy to be able to enrich our charities here and in Israel. MARGARET JACOBY

### JEWISH BOOK WEEK

This year's Jewish Book week excelled by a number of particularly interesting functions and a very comprehensive exhibition of publications. The subject of one evening was "Antisemitism Today—A Symposium". Speaking about "Antisemitism in Eastern Europe and the USSR" Professor Leonard B. Schapiro recalled the predominance of Jews among the first generation of Bolshevik leaders. The position changed, when the Russians had gradually brought up "their own" intelligentsia. Dealing with the situation in the West, Dr. S. J. Roth described it as a healthy symptom that the Jews had not to fight against their own governments and held office in their countries of residence; notwithstanding the neo-Nazi trends, their position could, on the whole, be regarded as balanced. A detailed analysis about the "Falsification of History" by denying the Nazi atrocities in books, pamphlets and speeches was given by Mr. C. C. Aronsfeld.

# NEWS FROM ABROAD

# THE ISRAEL SCENE

## UNITED STATES

### University returns Libyan Money

Georgetown University in Washington has returned a cheque of £267,000 to the Libyan Government because it does not wish to be linked with that country and its support of international terrorism and violence.

### Million Dollar Reward Offer

The United States Free Wallenberg Committee in Washington has offered a reward of \$1,000,000 for information leading to the release of Raoul Wallenberg. The announcement was made by Mrs. Anette Lantos, the Committee's co-chairman, who with her husband, Representative Thomas Lantos (Democrat, California) was one of the 100,000 Jews saved from the Nazis in Hungary through the efforts of the Swedish diplomat.

### BBC Shylock causes Offence

The nationwide screening of the BBC production of "The Merchant of Venice" provoked a strong protest from the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai Brith to the US Public Broadcasting Service because the producers had not "carefully exercised the social responsibilities demanded when staging a controversial presentation with an inherent potential for harm." Actor Warren Mitchell, who is Jewish, played Shylock with a broad Yiddish accent and Jack Gold, who directed, said that he had attempted to "show a Jew not ashamed of being the sort of Jew he was" and giving him more modern identifiable Jewish characteristics was a "dramatic truth" intended to underline the differences between him and the Gentiles around him. Mr. Justin Finger, the ADL Civil Rights Division director, stated the "portrayal of Shylock is almost unmercifully negative." Dr. Jonathan Miller, the co-producer, responded: "There's no satisfying some Jewish groups other than by peddling Shylock as a Park Avenue doctor manqué plus kibbutznik." In promoting the production in Britain, the BBC's *Radio Times* emphasised in a feature article that Mitchell, Gold and Miller were all Jews.

## CANADA

### What's Cohen on?

Of the 12 heads of family in the small Jewish community of Prince Albert in Saskatchewan, 10 are Cohanim and this causes, over and above the normal problems of forming a *minyán*, difficulties when any member dies. Pall-bearers have to be imported from elsewhere as Cohanim are not permitted to perform this particular religious duty. Weather, communications and distances make this no easy task.

### Racism condemned at UN Forum

Dr. Michael Novak, a professor of international law, a Roman Catholic and Democrat, but representing Republican President Ronald Reagan, made one of the strongest condemnations of Arab inspired racist attacks on Israel at agencies of the United Nations when leading the United States delegation to the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva recently. Said Dr. Novak: "I have heard in this chamber attacks upon Zionism in accents of murderous hatred and antisemitism not heard since the days of the Nazis. It is as though this chamber has retrogressed by 40 years, as though this is not 1981, but 1941."

### Recognize Jerusalem Call

The Swiss government has been presented with a petition signed by 5,845 Jews and Christians calling for the "immediate recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel". Sponsored by the Israel-Switzerland Association it also urged the expulsion from Switzerland of Daud Barakat, the PLO observer at the European office of the UN, and the closure of the PLO office in Geneva. It also expressed "deep concern at the increasing hostility of the Swiss authorities towards Israel."

## BELGIUM

### Nineteen Righteous Gentile Awards

Nineteen Belgians who saved Jews from deportation by the Nazis during World War II recently received Righteous Gentile awards from the Israel Ambassador to Belgium, Mr. Itzhak Minerbi, acting on behalf of Yad Vashem, the Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority of Jerusalem.

## HOLLAND

### Claims Office to stay in Jerusalem

Although the Netherlands Government is removing its Embassy from Jerusalem in accordance with the UN Security Council's call, it will retain an office so that the Dutch social affairs attaché may continue to deal with claims from and payments to Jewish victims of Nazism.

### Anti-Boycott Rules Strengthened

Holland's Justice Minister, Professor J. de Ruiter, has told Parliament that Dutch firms will no longer be permitted to issue statements to Arab states certifying that Dutch employees sent to their countries are not Jews, or to supply information about any worker's religion or ties with Israel without liability to prosecution.

### Community's Survival in Doubt

Fears for the survival of Dutch Jewry have been expressed in a newly-published report by the orthodox community's Nederlands-Israëlitisch Kergenootschap organisation. The decline is attributed to two main factors: the reduction of Holland's 140,000 pre-war total down to 30,000 by the Nazi holocaust; and the tendency of the country's open socio-cultural climate to erode minority cultures.

## ITALY

### Pope and Chief Rabbi Meet

Pope John Paul II invited Chief Rabbi Toaff and leaders of the Italian Jewish community to meet him when he visited a church near Rome's ancient Jewish quarter to celebrate mass. The meeting was held in an adjoining parish house and the Chief Rabbi thanked "His Holiness in the name of Rome's Jews for this meeting in the parish of the ancient ghetto." The sufferings of Rome's Jews "cannot and must not be forgotten," Dr. Toaff continued, but people should now look towards "the new reality" which was rediscovering the values of Judaism. In his response the Pope said: "I know that ugly things happened here. I come from Cracow, where even worse things happened. In Italy things were a little better." The Vatican's official newspaper described the meeting as "historical—from so many points of view—because it has no precedent in the history of the Catholic Church and the Jewish Community of Rome."

### Death Camp Relic Stolen

Thieves left a note signed "Adolf Hitler Squad" and covered with antisemitic and pro-Nazi slogans when they stole "Hackenholtz's death bludgeon" from the San Sabba rice mill, site of the Trieste concentration camp which is now a museum and memorial. The case is being investigated by Italy's security services. The stealing of the heavy iron club used on thousands of Jewish victims, Italian and Yugoslav partisans, to stun them before their brutal murder in Italy's only Nazi death camp, is the latest in a series of acts of desecration claimed by the "Nazi squad".

### REFUGEE PHILOSOPHER HONOURED

78-year-old Professor Sir Karl Popper is to receive this year's Leopold-Lucas-Prize of the Evangelical Theological Faculty of the University of Tübingen. He will be handed the prize in May after giving a lecture on "Tolerance and intellectual responsibility." Professor Popper who came to this country as a refugee from Vienna, was a professor at London University from 1949 until his retirement in 1969. He is a philosopher of world renown. E.G.L.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

## JERUSALEM BALANCE WORRIES GOVERNMENT

The Israel Government believes that Jerusalem's Jewish population needs to increase at the rate of 10,000 a year if the present balance of 73 to 27 per cent Arabs is to be maintained. Mr. Uri Oren of the Ministry of Housing believes that the ratio is changing because of the higher Arab birth rate and a continuing influx of Arabs from the West Bank. Some 8,000 new housing units have been constructed in new suburbs since 1979, sufficient to add 28,000 Jews to their existing population of some 90,000.

### GADAFI REPEATS THREATS

Libyan leader, Colonel Gadafi has sanctioned the renewal of the international assassination campaign against opponents of his regime. He told his people that "the masses have the right to liquidate their enemies at home and abroad." This fresh avowal has roused concern in several European capitals. Last year alone Libyan hit-squads committed more than a dozen murders in Britain, West Germany, France, Lebanon and Greece.

### UNWELCOME POSTMARK

The Israel Post Office has removed a postmark from their electronic sorting machine containing an appeal for contributions to the Israel Security Fund. They did so because the Soviet Union returned 1,000 letters because they objected to that inscription. Getting the mail through was considered more important than retaining the imprint however inconvenient.

### EAT KOSHER IN CAIRO

Kosher catering is returning to Cairo after a break of 35 years since the last Jewish restaurant closed in the Egyptian capital. Israel businessman Moshe Peritzki is sending a rabbi and two chefs from Israel to operate the new establishment which expects to cater mainly to Jewish tourists in the government-owned Continental-Savoy hotel.

### WUERZBURG BETH HAMEDRASH IN ISRAEL

A new Würzburg "Lehrhaus" was opened in Sichron Jaakov in Israel. The funds were provided by many German Jewish organisations. Sichron is supposed to be a centre for missionary activities, and the "Würzburger Rav Centenary Memorial Project," dedicated in memory of the Würzburg Rav Seligmann Baer Bamberger, is to counteract these activities. When it is finished it will have boarding schools for boys and girls, a rabbinical academy, and a publishing house for Hebrew books. Eventually there will be a Rav Bamberger Synagogue.



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## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### HOFMANNSTHAL'S COLLECTED WORKS

Among the great literary figures of the era ranging from the 1890's to the 1930's, Hugo von Hofmannsthal (1874-1929) occupied a prominent place. The recent publication of a paperback edition of his writings indicates that even today there is considerable interest in his oeuvre, consisting of poems, plays and stories, essays and lectures.\*

Every individual reader must decide the aspect of Hofmannsthal's writings which appeal to him, irrespective of their relevance for critics and historians. Some of his poems are still very impressive; among his plays "Everyman" has remained a permanent fixture at the annual Salzburg festival, always attracting a large audience; Richard Strauss' operas, notably "Der Rosenkavalier", owe much to the Hofmannsthal's likeable librettos, while the comedy "Der Schwierige" is still worth seeing, providing the production can convey the ambiance of Austrian nobility in the allegedly "good old days". The tragedy "Der Turm" is too mysterious and esoteric to be suitable for the stage. Hofmannsthal's essays and anthologies complete the picture of his personality as a highly sensitive and cultural personality, steeped in many traditions, from the classics to Catholic baroque, to which he was particularly devoted.

Hofmannsthal was basically a patriotic Austrian who—like most of his countrymen at the time—saw no difficulty in combining this attachment to identification with German culture. He was in his self-understanding "a German poet from Austria". His great-grandfather Isaac Loew Hofmann (1759-1849) was a leader of Jewish orthodoxy in Vienna, fervently opposed to liberalizing tendencies. He was knighted in 1835 in recognition of services rendered to the Habsburg empire in the sphere of industry, but his son had already been baptized. The poet's religious convictions were

\*Hugo von Hofmannsthal. Gesammelte Werke in zehn Einzelbänden herausgegeben von Bernd Schoeller in Beratung mit Rudolf Hirsch. Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag, Frankfurt am Main.

genuinely Catholic. He expressed his awareness of his Jewish roots in a well-known passage of a poem, stating that he could not rid his eyelids of the weariness of completely forgotten people. This cautiously phrased reference to his Jewish ancestry would not provide legitimate grounds for claiming him for Jewry; it would do neither justice to him nor to the people that he characterized significantly but incorrectly as "completely forgotten".

F. L. BRASSLOFF.

### A REMARKABLE FAMILY

Sidney Bloch is the grandson of Isaac S. Bloch, scion of a long line of Krottingen (Lithuania) rabbis, who accepted the call to become spiritual leader of the Sunderland Jewish community in 1889. His son George was minister to a small community in north London where Sidney was born. The latter's mother was the eldest daughter of Rabbi Dr. M. Jung, who was appointed rabbi of the Federation of Synagogues in 1911.

Sidney's book\* is an intimate account of family life in the period between the two World Wars. It shows that, with very small financial means, the family managed to live a rich and rewarding life, surrounded by numerous friends, relatives and acquaintances. Much of the family's subsequent success must be due to the author's mother who, despite her constant struggle with a limited house-keeping allowance, achieved a "level of budgeting which would have tested the skill of a financial acrobat", ably assisted by Mrs. Ruby "who could make a cabbage go further than anyone she knew." Despite the heavy burden of her domestic duties, Mrs. Bloch still managed to find time to study the commentaries, take a keen interest in philately and conduct a long and varied correspondence with, amongst others, the editor of *The Times*, the Cardinal Secretary of the Vatican, the Professor of Philosophy at Cambridge and numerous other academics.

Julius Jung, indefatigable crusader in the rescue of children from Nazi Germany and fighter for the freedom of the individual, was the author's

uncle and, as he fittingly describes him, "better than all our possessions". Little has been written about the lives of ordinary Jewish families in this period, although by any account this was no ordinary family. This modest volume is no learned tome, crammed with historical facts and figures. It comprises anecdotes, vignettes of small happenings and sketches of odd characters—the lady who would have been much happier if there had been proof that God had been born in Frankfurt. It not only has an intrinsic charm of its own, but faithfully portrays everyday life in a formative period of Anglo-Jewry—a period that has gone, never to return.

WALTER SCHWAB.

\*NO TIME FOR TEARS. Childhood in a Rabbi's Family. Sidney Bloch, William Kimber, 1980, pp. 176, £5.50.

### DR. ERWIN LICHTENSTEIN, 80

Dr. Erwin Lichtenstein (Tel Aviv), who started his Jewish activities in the "Kameraden", recently celebrated his 80th birthday. Born in Koenigsberg, he was for several years "Syndikus" of the East Prussian District of the CV. Later, he became editor of the progressive "Danziger Rundschau". After having passed his examinations, he joined his father's lawyer's practice in Koenigsberg. When the Nazis came to power, he settled again in Danzig as Director of the Jewish community. His experience during the subsequent years are recorded in his standard work about the Jews in Danzig under the Nazis (published by the Leo Baeck Institute in 1973). He himself left Danzig for Palestine shortly before the outbreak of war and, after having first worked in the book trade, obtained his legal qualifications and for many years again worked in his original profession for the benefit of his numerous clients.

### WILLY KATZ MBE 85

In Sydney, Australia, Willy Katz, MBE, Jewish teacher and cantor in Cassel from 1929-1939, celebrated his 85th birthday. He has just published his second book (the first was "And the Ark Rested") "William Katz, a Jewish-German Life 1904-1939-1978." In his previous book he described the foundation of the North Shore Community in Sydney by and for Jewish refugees, in his second he describes his own life. He was born in Diemerode and volunteered to fight in the Great War. The book contains his war diary and notes of his life in the Weimar Republic, after Hitler's coming to power and his emigration to Sydney. He discusses the Holocaust and describes his visits to Israel and a return to Cassel. The book is an honest and unbiased statement about his origins and his experiences and discusses the difficult problem of belonging—then and now.

E.G.L.

**CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE FOR SIMONE VEIL.** Simone Veil, president of the European Parliament, is the first woman to receive the Charlemagne Prize for European Unity from the city of Aachen for her "decades of fighting for Europe".

### FRIEDRICH-GUNDOLF PRIZE

This year's Friedrich-Gundolf Prize of the Darmstadt Academy for Language and Poetry was awarded to Leonard W. Forster who for 20 years has been Professor of German Studies at Cambridge.

### AUSCHWITZ VICTIM HONOURED

The university city of Giessen has established a Hedwig-Burgheim Medal, to remember educationalist Hedwig Burgheim who was head of the Giessen Froebel Gymnasium from 1918 to 1933 and who was killed in Auschwitz. The Giessen Lord Mayor said that this was done to remember a great woman and to prevent the re-emergence of policies which appealed to the lowest human instincts.

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## A STANDARD WORK ON KURT WEILL

Over 30 years have passed since the death of Kurt Weill, who would have been 80 last year. A good deal of his music has passed the test of time. His vital contributions to the "Golden Twenties", above all the *Dreigroschenoper*, have had their after-war revivals in both Germanies. In the Anglo-Saxon countries, the *Threepenny Opera* has "caught on"—if only a quarter of a century after its initial success in pre-Nazi Germany. Its status has been enhanced by the current evaluation of Brecht as a leading figure in 20th century literature.

There have been some books about Weill. (One, by Hellmut Kotschenreuther, published in 1962, has been reviewed in the August 1964 issue of this journal.) But the recently published study by the American Ronald Sanders (*The Days grow short: The Life and Music of Kurt Weill*; Weidenfeld and Nicolson; London 1980; £14.95) is likely to remain the standard biography for a considerable time.

The author came across Weill's music first through the works which were written for the Broadway stage. Much later he encountered the pre-1933 compositions and thus became aware of Weill's original background. But this is no handicap since he has made this background the object of very thorough research. The family genealogy is traced back as far as the Middle Ages, and the Jewish cultural scene of Weill's early years is portrayed with keen perception. Weill's links with the German theatre in general and especially with Georg Kaiser and Brecht are seen within the large frame of the literary climate of that period.

Sanders' biographical narrative is very detailed and well documented. Future Weill scholars will appreciate the generous Appendix which lists the source for each of the author's statements. The volume also includes a select bibliography, an up-to-date discography and some illustrations.

The biographical aspect has been the author's main concern. Analytical study of the music is not

attempted, and there are no musical quotations. But the comments on the music, although kept in general terms, are written with artistic insight, and they are not devoid of balanced criticism.

Kurt Weill was born in Dessau (also the birthplace of Moses Mendelssohn.) His father, who came from an old German-Jewish family, was a cantor and had published some synagogue compositions. Kurt's mother was the sister of the Brandenburg Rabbi Aaron Ackermann, author of a book on synagogue music. Both parents eventually emigrated to Israel and survived their famous son (who had visited them in Nahariya in 1947).

The reigning Duke of Anhalt-Dessau was well-disposed towards the Weill family and Kurt in particular.

This was the background. In later years, Kurt's left-wing sympathies brought an estrangement from the religious traditions of his family, but he did not sever his nominal links with Judaism and wrote, during his American years, a few works of Jewish allegiance: music for two pageants by Ben Hecht, and a *Kiddush* which he dedicated to his father.

For a short time he studied with Humperdinck, but after a period of professional engagements he became a pupil of Busoni whose teaching was of decisive importance even though Weill soon learned to pursue his own path.

Roughly speaking, one can distinguish three periods in Weill's work. He started, more or less, as an avant-gardist, with leanings towards atonality. (His admiration for Schoenberg was not reciprocated.) The next period was determined by his association with Georg Kaiser and Brecht. (In Kaiser's house he met Lotte Lenya who became his wife and an outstanding interpreter of his music.) This was the time of his epoch-making *Dreigroschenoper*, but also of the *Mahagonny* music and the school opera *Der Jasager*, which, together with Hindemith's *Wir bauen eine Stadt* established a new genre, which was taken up,

some 20 years later, by Britten.

Weill's third period comprises the works written after his emigration to the USA. His absorption of jazz was manifest already in the Berlin stage works. This, and a genuine affinity with American culture greatly facilitated his career in the USA and brought him the success which eluded so many of his fellow-refugees. Ambition and inclination combined to make his assimilation almost perfect. At what price this was achieved is a controversial question, but one must bear in mind that he aimed at nothing less than the creation of American opera, following on Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. And it is in line with his earlier ideals that the last of his American works, *Lost in the Stars*, was based on Paton's *Cry, the Beloved Country*.

For most readers of this journal—and not only for them—the name Kurt Weill will be associated above all with the *Dreigroschenoper* and its tremendous impact in the late 1920s. Sanders' report on the events which preceded the Berlin premiere is perhaps the most thrilling chapter in his book. Nothing seemed to be ready, changes were made at the last moment, and all who were concerned with the production expected anything but the unparalleled success it turned out to be. Its mass appeal bridged the gap between "straight" 20th century music and the large public, most of whom must at least dimly have sensed that this was no mere entertainment.

There is anger and violence in the words and in the music, but Sanders is quite mistaken when he ascribes to the *Cannon Song* "expressions of a violent racism" and concludes: "The enthusiasm of the audience for a song like this did not bode particularly well for the German future." The song's reference to "eine neue Rasse" whom the soldiers set out to fight is surely ironical, and the whole song has a pacifist intent and would have been anathema to Nazis and militarists. Its irony shows the full measure of Weill's genius, and so does his success in conjuring up the atmosphere of inner hopelessness which surrounds the criminal underworld, as represented by the main characters.

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# NEWS FROM GERMANY

## OLD AND NEW NAZIS IN COURT

Neo-Nazi Edgar Geiss from Stade who was repeatedly given suspended sentences for spreading Nazi propaganda material, was sent to prison for ten months for starting an anti-Jewish campaign after the showing of "Holocaust" on TV. His National Socialist Workers Front had distributed leaflets saying that the TV series was the produce of a perverted imagination and lying sentimental "Kitsch", which aimed at deepening the German guilt complex.

The Bavarian Organisation of Nazi victims has demanded the immediate re-arrest of Martin Sommer, a former SS-sergeant, known as "the Hangman of Buchenwald." A Bayreuth court had sentenced Sommer to life imprisonment in 1958, but more than seven years ago he was secretly released on grounds of ill-health and has since lived in a nursing-home near Nuremberg. Franz Josef Strauss, Prime Minister of Bavaria, has refused an application by Sommer's counsel, to release him unconditionally saying that Sommer had been sentenced for 25 cases of murder.

A Hamburg jury has acquitted a former Nazi SS Captain Karl Essig, 72, on a charge of having murdered a Polish prisoner in Kielce in 1943. The judge had directed them that after so many years, the evidence of a Polish eye-witness was not sufficient for a conviction.

Stuttgart district court confirmed the verdict of a lower court which convicted a 36-year-old locksmith of inciting hatred against Jews and of minimising Nazi crimes. He had been given a four-month suspended jail sentence for distributing 600 copies of an "Open Letter" declaring that only a few thousand Jews might have been killed by the Nazis.

In Celle, 36-year-old male nurse Ernst Bälke was given a suspended one year's prison sentence because as a member of the NSDAP Foreign Organisation he had distributed leaflets saying: "The Jews are our misfortune", "Don't buy from Jews" and "We are here again—NSDAP Foreign Organisation." The leaflets had come from the United States.

A trial against 75-year-old Walter Fasold in Frankfurt, which has been going on for over four years, may have to be suspended, because the accused is pleading illness. Lately the court came to his bedside in order to maintain the continuity of the case. Fasold is accused of having killed at least 100 Jews in Czenstochau, Poland, in 1943. He had been given a life sentence in 1949, but after 23 years in prison he succeeded in having the case re-opened. In a similar case, the sixth Auschwitz trial, proceedings against another accused, Horst Czervinski had to be suspended after 3½ years because the accused pleaded illness.

## THE MAIDANEK TRIAL

After five years the Maidanek case has now entered its final phase. Prosecuting counsels have started their pleas which are expected to take another few weeks. They have asked for a life sentence for Frau Hildegard Lachert, 58, who was "the sadistic terror of the camp which earned her the nickname of 'Bloody Brigitta'." The prosecution also called for life sentences for the only other woman defendant, Hermine Ryan, 61 "whose murderous and inhuman behaviour" had been attested to by all the witnesses, and three other ex-guards. He sought prison terms of between 5 and 10 years for three other defendants for complicity to murder. One of the guards, SS man Hermann Karl Villian, disappeared for some time but was later traced. Subsequently the court issued warrants for the arrest of three other defendants who had been released on bail. The trial, the longest and most expensive in West German history, has so far cost some £4 million. 250,000 inmates of Maidanek were shot, gassed, beaten to death or otherwise killed in the years 1941-44.

## SPOTLIGHT ON HOLOCAUST

The Federal Centre for Political Education has announced that during and after the showing of the "Holocaust" TV Film it received 150,000 enquiries and requests for additional information. 70,000 of them came from teachers, the majority of the others from young people between 14 and 29. This was the most intense discussion on the Nazi period ever to have been held in the Federal Republic.

The German film documentary "The Yellow Star" produced by Chronos film in 1980 has been nominated for an Oscar award in Hollywood. The film which uses hitherto unknown material from an investigation by Gerhard Schönberger, has already got the Bavarian 1950 film prize for best film of the year.

A record number of more than 800,000 visitors including 5,500 school classes and youth groups, came to Dachau camp last year. 497,000 of them came from abroad.

Psychologist Tilmann Ernst of the Centre for Political Education said that the interest engendered by "Holocaust" had led to a growing understanding for the necessity of restitution payments and a lessening of antisemitic resentment.

The TV Lottery which has just opened for 1981 has regularly given money to the Central Jewish Welfare Office amounting to some £100,000 since 1967. This has been used for children's and old age homes. In 1980 the lottery paid out some £80,000 to the Office and a further £100,000 for the Herzlia post-natal clinic, the old age home at Ramat Chen and for the victims of the terror acts at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games.

## "WITNESSES OF THE CENTURY"

### A German TV Series

Under the heading "Zeugen des Jahrhunderts" the "Zweite Deutsche Fernsehen" is preparing a series of interviews with well-known personalities of various walks of life. One of the personalities, whose life story has been put on record is Dr. Eva Reichmann, who was interviewed in her London flat by the writer and publicist Dr. Hans Lamm, President of the Munich Jewish community. Dr. Lamm also recently visited Jerusalem to complete the TV film of the Jochen Richter Film Production, which was initiated by him and which will be shown in the Federal Republic shortly.

Dr. Lamm also drew our attention to the fact that Mr. Shlomo Lewin about whose assassination we reported in our February issue, was the owner, but not the founder of the Ner Tamid Verlag. The founder was Dr. Lamm in 1957; he left the enterprise in 1963.

## CLUB 1943

Vortraege jeden Montag um 8 p.m.  
im Hannah Karminski House  
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- 6 April. Arno Reinfrank liest Auszuege aus seinem Buch "Wir waeren froh dieses Leben nur getraeumt zu haben".
- 13 April. Paul Rom, Studienrat a.D.: "Traumdeutung und Selbsterziehung".
- 20 April. Kein Vortrag (Ostern).
- 27 April. Dr. Erwin Seligmann: Carlo Schmidt. Das Lebensbild eines "Guten Deutschen".
- 4 Mai. Kein Vortrag (Bank Holiday).

### Besondere Anzeige:

Das Goethe Institut zeigt Filme mit Elisabeth Bergner an jedem Montag und Mittwoch, vom 6 Mai bis zum 10 Juni um um 7.30 p.m.

Die Vortraege des Clubs fallen darum aus. Karten sind erhaeltlich von Mrs. B. Sterly (883 2158).

Der Ausflug des Clubs findet in der 3. Juni-woche statt. "Eine Dampferfahrt auf der Thames".

## VISIT TO BUCHENWALD

The permanent representative of the Federal Republic in East Berlin, Secretary of State Klaus Bülling, visited the Buchenwald Memorial during his first week in office and put down a wreath for all the victims and a bunch of flowers at the memorial for Rudolf Breitscheid, last leader of the social democratic Reichstag faction. More than 6,000 people were either killed or died as a consequence of their imprisonment in Buchenwald.

## HISTORY OF FULDA

In our reference to the "History of the Jews in Fulda" (December 1980) it was stated that the author of the book (published in 1969) was Dr. Naphtali Herbert Sonn. We should like to add that the work was jointly written by Dr. Sonn and Dr. Paul Horn, who lost his life as a victim of the Swiss Air catastrophe in 1970.

## ANNE FRANK'S DIARY UNDER SCRUTINY

For years the diary of Anne Frank has moved many people both in print and on the stage. It had been found after the war by the only survivor of the Frank family, Anne's father Otto, in their Amsterdam hide-out. He published it in 1947, and when he died aged 91 in Basle last August, he left the manuscript to the Dutch nation. It is now in the custody of the Anne Frank Foundation in Amsterdam. To date, more than 15 million copies in 53 languages have been sold all over the world. For many years, various German neo-Nazi groups and individuals made allegations about the book's authenticity, and pointed out that the book was written in two styles, the one block lettering, the other flowing handwriting. Otto Frank sued a number of people making such allegations, and in 1978, Heinz Roth, a neo-Nazi writer and publisher was fined about £100,000 for slander and defamation. Fairly recently, the "Spiegel" reported that parts of the diary were not authentic because they had been written with a ball-point which had not existed in 1943. This was later corrected: there had only been 15 words written in green ink to clarify the meaning of some phrases. Subsequent tests proved that the diary was written in the identical ink used by Anne to send postcards to her Basle grandmother in 1942.

Officials at the Dutch Government Institute of War Communication have now revealed that some 40 per cent of Anne Frank's original diary was suppressed by her father when he prepared it for publication. He deleted large sections about her sexual development, her relationship with her mother and her comments about friends. Dr. Paape, director of the Institute, said that Anne had not been such a good-natured girl as had been made out, but that there was no doubt about the authenticity of the diary. The Institute plans to publish a facsimile edition with photographs and postcards used by Anne. Mr. Cor Suijk, a member of the Foundation's staff, said he was convinced that certain groups in Germany "are intent on disproving the authenticity of the diary, because no book on earth has so forcefully focussed attention on the persecution of the Jews".

In the Dutch Parliament, questions have been asked about the plans to publish the complete diary. Mrs G. Wessel, an Opposition Democratic Member has tabled a question to the Education Minister and the Science Minister, asking whether Mr. Frank's concern for his daughter's privacy should not be respected. No complete edition should be published during the lifetime of anyone who knew Anne or other people concerned.

## BUBER-ROSENZWEIG MEDAL

Isaac Bashevis Singer who received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1978 for his Yiddish writings and short stories, received the Buber-Rosenzweig Medal during the opening ceremony of the annual Brotherhood Week which has this year as its subject "Prayers and Rebels—the history of East European Jewry." E.G.L.

## BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES

### DOLF MICHAELIS 75

A. P. Michaelis, for the first few years of its existence vice-chairman of the AJR, has just celebrated his 75th birthday in Jerusalem where he has lived since 1946. He started his career in the foreign department of the well-known Berlin Jewish bankers Gebrüder Arnhold, later on Arnhold and S. Bleichröder, and travelled extensively for them. From quite an early age, he was an ardent Zionist and later a member of the executive of the Zionist Federation of Germany and of the Reichsvertretung. Good contacts with German authorities helped him to assist many people in arranging for their emigration after Hitler came to power. Late in 1937 he was warned that this was becoming too dangerous and he emigrated to Israel where he married Eva Stern, daughter of William Stern the pioneer of child psychology. In 1938 he was sent to London to take over the management of Intria, a company responsible for the transfer of Jewish capital, both private and institutional from Germany, and later also Austria and Czechoslovakia [to Palestine as it then was. Despite the fact that his work was of some importance for the British economy by producing American dollars, he was interned and sent to the Isle of Man in 1940. There he met Adolf Schoyer and Dr. Walter Breslauer both of whom he knew from their joint communal work in Berlin, and they decided after their release to set up an organisation which should present the case of the Jewish refugees to the authorities. Thus was the AJR born, and Dolf Michaelis who was almost bilingual, had to negotiate with British authorities, MPs and other people in public life. He was also instrumental in founding the Theodor Herzl Society, a Zionist organisation in the continental style, and the Institute of Jewish Learning. He was a well-respected member of the Home Guard in Henley-on-Thames where he lived during the war.

As soon as possible after the war, he and his wife went back to Palestine, and he again engaged vastly in public life. He is still a member of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University, a founder of the Artists Home and of the lithography studio where he himself studied and produced some very good work. He has also done a lot of genealogical research into his own and his wife's families and is at present studying his mother-in-law's family and their connexion with the Heine family. He has frequently written about the result of his research for the Leo Baeck Year Book among others. On top of everything, he devotes a lot of his time to his grandchildren. We wish him many more years of hobbies that have grown into work. M.P.

### PAUL BLUMENFELD, 80

All those, who know the 'cellist, Paul Blumenfeld, will find it difficult to believe that on 12 April he will celebrate his 80th birthday. His appearance and his unchanged proficiency seem to belie his age. Before the Nazis came to power, he was a member of the Bruinier Quartet, which rendered performances both in Germany and in other European countries. He was also a member of the "Tobis Tonfilm Orchestra" and the orchestra of the Berlin "Funkstunde" and held appointments with several gramophone record firms. Last but not least he played in leading Berlin theatres, when musical interspersions of plays were required. From 1933 to 1938 he was a member of the Mendelssohn Trio of the Jewish Kulturbund. In this country, where he had to face the usual difficulties after his arrival, he joined the Polish Quartet during the war. His standard as a musician was properly recognised after the end of

hostilities by his appointment as a member of the Sadler's Wells Opera orchestra and, later, of the Ballet Rambert Orchestra.

Our own community is particularly indebted to him, because, whenever called upon, he puts himself at the disposal of functions arranged by and for refugee clubs and, last but not least, the Homes for the Aged, where he plays together with Max Streat (violin) and Kurt Passer (piano). Like his wife Lotte, now the oldest member in years of service at URO, he has a strong solidarity with his fellow refugees as a member of the AJR and the Leo Baeck Lodge. In gratitude we extend our heartfelt birthday congratulations to Paul Blumenfeld.

### WALTER SCHWARZ, 75

Dr. Walter Schwarz, well known as a constructive jurist, recently celebrated his 75th birthday. Born in Berlin, he became a member of the KJV and during the years 1933 to 1938, when he worked in the lawyer's office of Dr. Siegfried Moses, assisted many German Jews in the transactions connected with their emigration to Palestine. After the war, he soon took a prominent part in the implementation of restitution and compensation claims. Beyond the individual "case work" he analysed and also criticised aspects of the legislation and jurisdiction. This part of his activities is reflected in his doctoral thesis "Rueckerstattung und Entschädigung" submitted to Heidelberg University in 1952. He also created the periodical "Rechtsprechung zum Wiedergutmachungsrecht" and initiated the publication of a monumental work on the history and problems of Restitution and Compensation. The first volume of this standard work was written by him in 1974. At the same time, Walter Schwarz takes a profound interest in the history of German Jewry. He is a member of the London Board of the Leo Baeck Institute and contributed several papers to the LBI Year Book. Last but not least, he saved from oblivion the "Repetitor" Siegbert Springer, to whom many law students from Berlin owe their legal proficiency and knowledge, in a touching essay published in the provincial "Juristische Schulung". In his so-called retirement in Zurich, Walter Schwarz is still active in many spheres. We extend our sincerest congratulations to him.

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## ANMERKUNGEN ZU EINER DEUTSCHEN UEBERSETZUNG

### Saul Friedländers Erinnerungen

Das in französischer Sprache geschriebene, ausserordentliche Buch von Professor Saul Friedländer, das in mehrere Sprachen (auch ins Hebräische) übersetzt wurde, hat mit Recht grosses Aufsehen erregt und eine starke Resonanz gefunden, auch in Presse und Radio. Wenn ich trotzdem einige Bemerkungen zu der deutschen Ausgabe machen will, so geschieht das aus dem Grunde, dass m.E. einige Punkte grundsätzlicher Art zu wenig beachtet werden, weil die Aufmerksamkeit natürlich auf den sensationellen Hauptinhalt des Buches konzentriert war, nämlich die in einem französischen katholischen Kloster verbrachte Kindheit des Autors, seine Taufe und Erziehung zu einem gläubigen, ja fanatischen Katholiken und die spätere Entdeckung seiner jüdischen Herkunft und alles was damit zusammenhängt, bis er in Israel zu einer prominenten Stellung an der Universität gelangte und nun rückschauend dieses Tagebuch schrieb.

Es ist nicht meine Absicht, dieses grossartige Buch hier nochmals zu analysieren, es ist vielfach besprochen worden, und erst kürzlich gab es in der israelischen Zeitung *Haaretz* unter fünf Befragten was sie für das "Buch des Jahres" halten (darunter der Arbeiterführer Shimon Peres), die die hebräische Ausgabe des Buches von Friedländer nominierten. Es wäre müssig, diese berechtigten Lobspprüche nochmals zu wiederholen. Ich beschränke mich auf einige Bemerkungen zur deutschen Ausgabe\*). Im Ganzen ist die Uebersetzung aus dem Französischen gut gelungen, und der ursprünglich französischen Formulierung verdanken wir die geradezu zündenden Metaphern, die sich dem Verfasser in der Rückschau aufdrängen; wir haben immer zu gewärtigen, dass dieses Buch ja keine Gesichtsschreibung und auch keine zusammenhängende Autobiographie ist, sondern in Wirklichkeit eine Meditation über das Problem der Erinnerung: was bleibt im Gedächtnis von Kindheits- und Jugenderinnerungen, was drängt sich dem Rückschauenden auf in der Erinnerung? Oft sind es nur Nebensächlichkeiten, oft verschwommene oder ambivalente Gefühle, so z.B. wenn er an seine ersten Reisen nach Tel Aviv als Zögling von Ben Schemen denkt: er war stolz auf Tel Aviv, aber etwas stimmte da nicht, es war wie Zahnweh, das sich plötzlich bemerkbar macht, das war der Kitsch und der provinzielle Urbanismus, das damals erzeugte Unbehagen haftet im Gedächtnis. Am 27 Juni 1977 erinnert sich Friedländer an eine 1938 erlebte Demonstration der Sudetendeutschen in Rochlitz, dem Heimatsort seiner Mutter, wovon ihm mehr als das Geschrei die weissen Wollstrümpfe der Henlein-Leute in Erinnerung geblieben sind. Er war damals sechs Jahre alt und hörte im Radio auch eine Rede des brüllenden Hitler, "wie das Keuchen einer grässlichen Lokomotive". Fast auf jeder Seite findet man solche treffenden Metaphern.

Wo das Buch nicht Erinnerung sondern Schlussfolgerung ist, steht die Argumentation manchmal auf schwachen Füßen. So z.B. wenn er im Anfang seine Herkunft aus Prag beschreibt, die er natürlich

nur vom Hörensagen kennt. Ganz richtig konstatiert er, dass diese assimilierte Judenheit sich wenig um das Judentum und jüdische Lebensweise kümmerte, und trotzdem ein unauslöschliches jüdisches Bewusstsein bewahrte. Im Fall Friedländer noch etwas mehr: Sein Vater, in Prag geboren, verbrachte mehrere Jahre bei einem Bruder in Lemberg, dort machte er auch das Abitur. Es wird nicht gesagt in welcher Sprache; es ist anzunehmen dass es ein polnisches Gymnasium war. Der Verfasser meint dass sein Vater in Lemberg ein intaktes orthodoxes Milieu kennen gelernt haben muss. In Wahrheit aber waren die bürgerlichen Juden in Lemberg nicht weniger assimiliert als die Prager; man denke nur an das von Martin Buber beschriebene Haus seines Grossvaters, wo Martin seine Jugend verbrachte. Der Grossvater war ein jüdischer Gelehrter, aber unter dem Einfluss der Grossmutter war das Familienmilieu durchaus deutsch. In Lemberg kam Friedländer senior als Gymnasiast wahrscheinlich mit dem "intakten orthodoxen Milieu" nicht viel mehr in Kontakt als sein Sohn 30 Jahre später mit dem freilich viel kleineren orthodoxen Milieu in Prag. Die Familie lebte in Prag auf dem Boden der ehemaligen, erst um die Jahrhundertwende "assanierten" Judenstadt aber das Kind hat die in nächster Nachbarschaft noch heute unter Denkmalschutz stehenden allen Touristen gezeigten jüdischen Altortümer (Altneusynagoge, Rathaus mit hebräischer Uhr, sagenumwobenen Friedhof) nach seiner eigenen Aussage niemals gesehen, also wahrscheinlich nicht bemerkt, da seine tschechische Gouvernante ihn nur in Kirchen führte. Vater Friedländer hat nach seiner Rückkehr aus Lemberg niemals über seine Lemberger Erlebnisse gesprochen; er hatte nur zwei Leidenschaften: Musik (Chopin) und Bücher, studierte aber Jurisprudenz und wurde ein führender Versicherungsdirektor. Das Judentum blieb im Hintergrund, aber es war da. So war eben das dekadente jüdische Bürgertum am Anfang des Jahrhunderts beschaffen.

Alle diese Dinge ziehen im Geiste Saul Friedländers vorüber, während er in der Jerusalemer Altstadt nach 1977 spazierengeht, und bilden den Stoff der Rückblendungen, aus denen die Kette der Erinnerungen entsteht und zum Problem wird. Es lohnt, das alles aufmerksam zu lesen, damit man sich zurechtfindet, was erlebt ist und was erträumt. Auch die Sprachenfrage führt in der deutschen Ausgabe zu manchen Unklarheiten. So z.B. zitiert Friedländer eine Reihe von Briefen, die seine Mutter im August 1939 nach dem Hitler-Stalin Pakt aus Paris an eine Freundin in London geschrieben hat und sagt dann, am 5 Juli 1977: "Während des ganzen gestrigen Abends habe ich diese Briefe übersetzt und abgeschrieben". So stand es wohl im französischen Original des Buches und so wurde es auch in der deutschen Version gedruckt. Aber die Briefe waren ja deutsch geschrieben, für die deutsche Ausgabe konnte das Original benützt werden!

Durch alle die vielen Wandlungen hindurch bewahrt der Autor, zumindest im Unterbewusstsein, selbständiges Denken und eine Art Nonkonformismus. Seine heimlichen Sympathien sind in den Wänden des Klosters auf Seite der Resistance. Er entdeckt auch den Unterschied von

Westjuden und Ostjuden, zwei grundverschiedene Menschentypen, ganz im Sinne der Prager Sicht von Franz Kafka 1912: auf der einen Seite rationalistische Betrachtung und Wahrung der Distanz, auf der anderen Seite elementare Ursprünglichkeit, Wärme und Leidenschaft, dank derer die ostjüdischen Siedler die israelische Wirklichkeit schaffen konnten. Nach 1967 verteidigt Friedländer nach aussen die israelische Aussenpolitik (Besetzung der von Arabern bewohnten Gebiete), ist aber innerlich voll Zweifel wegen der israelischen "Unbeweglichkeit" vor dem Jom Kippur Krieg. Dieses aufregende Ereignis lenkt die Gedanken des 1973 erwachsenen Israelis zurück zu den im Kloster miterlebten Kämpfen der französischen Resistance 30 Jahre früher; damals war Friedländer ein Kind in einer Pétain-treuen Umgebung. Da finden wir erschütternde Bemerkungen über das Problem der Angst, das Erlebnis der Verlassenheit. Im Oktober 1977 meditiert er im Tagebuch: "Schreiben bedeutet die Konturen der Vergangenheit nachzeichnen, Schreiben bedeutet das Dasein eines Menschen festhalten; von einem Kinde erzählen zu können, das eine Welt untergehen und eine andere entstehen sah. . . ."

Nach dem Krieg wird Saul von einem menschlich fühlenden Jesuitenpater über seine Herkunft und über das Judentum, das Schicksal seiner Eltern, aufgeklärt. Damit beginnt die neue Periode seines Lebens, die ihn über viele Hürden und innere Hemmungen hinweg schliesslich nach Israel führt.

Der letzte Abschnitt dieses einzigartigen Buches wurde im Dezember 1977 geschrieben, als schon die israelische und die ägyptische Fahne neben einander flatterten. Da führt die Erinnerung zurück zu den Tagen nach dem israel-arabischen Waffenstillstand 1948, der Landung der Altalena, auf der sich der 15 jährige Friedländer als jüngster der 940 Passagiere befand. Er war nur mitgenommen worden, weil er sein Alter gefälscht hatte. Die ganze Wucht der Erlebnisse von Prag 1932 über die Flucht nach Frankreich, Abschied von den Eltern, Klosterleben begleitet ihn unaufhörlich und alles wird zum Problem, in Aufhebung der Zeit (was sich auch im Stil des Buches spiegelt), zum Symbol; ein Leben auf zwei Ebenen, die einander durchweben, voll Skepsis und kritischem Blick. Dunkel aber empfindet er das Nahen einer Tragödie, "weil wir zum richtigen Zeitpunkt nicht verstanden haben den Kompromiss zu akzeptieren." Dann aber bedenkt er die Geschichte der Jahrhunderte, die ewige Ungewissheit auf dem Wege eines Volkes, dessen Schicksal die "unaufhörliche Suche der ganzen Menschheit" symbolisiert. So wird dieses brilliant geschriebene Buch ein Antriebs- und tiefgründiger, die Banalität der schwankenden Alltagswirklichkeit verdrängenden Besinnung auf das Wesentliche.

(By now, Faber & Faber, in conjunction with the French publishers, have brought out an English translation of Friedländer's book, "When Memory Comes". £5.20—The Ed.)

### BRITISH MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

The growing interest in the work of the German Expressionists is reflected in the exhibition of recent acquisitions since 1976 in the Department of Prints and Drawings of the British Museum. The Museum is at long last making a determined effort to improve its collection of 20th century material and is now able to show fine examples of graphic works by Kaethe Kollwitz, Max Pechstein, Erich Heckel, Karl Schmidt-Rottluf, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Edvard Munch, Max Klinger and many others. The exhibition is open until 12 April.

ALICE SCHWAB.

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\*Saul Friedländer: *Wenn die Erinnerung kommt* . . . .  
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# IN MEMORIAM

## PROFESSOR WALTER SIMON

Professor Walter Simon, CBE, FBA, who died on 22 February at the age of 87, was Emeritus Professor of Chinese in the University of London. Born in Berlin, he was from 1926 lecturer and from 1932 to 1934 Extraordinary Professor of Chinese at the University of the city of his birth. He came to England in 1936, where he was first lecturer and later reader at the School of Oriental and African Studies. From 1947 to 1960 he occupied a chair of Chinese. One of the few sinologists in this country, he was particularly valuable for his services during the war. "His many friends and pupils will remember him also for his unflinching kindness and for his strict and courteous honesty in everything he did", writes *The Times* in its obituary. Professor Simon, who was associated with the AJR for many years, leaves a widow and two sons, to whom we express our sincerest sympathy.

## LORE MANN

Lore Mann, née Ehrlich, born in Breslau in 1907, died in London in November 1980. She was a brilliant law student in Berlin and she was also a gifted mathematician. Before emigrating to London in 1933 she married an outstanding young lawyer, F. A. Mann, now internationally known for his academic achievements and recently appointed CBE. For many years, Lore Mann devoted herself to her family and enabled her husband to build up his successful legal and academic career. For the last 12 years of her life, after the family had grown up and her husband's career was secure, she finally started her own professional life. Having obtained the necessary qualifications she opened a solicitor's office in the Portobello Road in London where she helped with legal advice the many in her neighbourhood who were mostly the poor and the coloured. She spared no effort in this work which she did without thought of personal gain. She was loved by her family, her friendship was cherished by many for a life-time, her work was greatly admired, and her good deeds were without number. She was an unusual and strong personality who will long be remembered.

## GEORGE BUNZL

George Gustav Bunzl has died at the age of 65. In the Jewish community in Britain he was held in particularly high regard for his work as treasurer of the British committee for Children and Youth Aliyah and for his role as joint Chairman of Jewish Child's Day. In the business world he gained recognition for his chairmanship of the Bunzl Paper and Pulp Company, where he succeeded his father Hugo Bunzl, who brought the business from Austria after the Nazi *Anschluss*, to raise it from very modest beginnings into an international enterprise bringing considerable benefit to the British economy.

## DR. FRITZ ELKAN

Dr. Fritz Elkan, who died in Frankfurt/Main at the age of 84 after a prolonged illness, served for many years as a highly competent comptroller and trustee to several major organisations founded after the war, among them the Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation (JRSO) and the Compensation Treuhand GmbH of the Claims Conference. After his retirement, he continued to work in an honorary capacity for the German offices of Youth Aliyah and the Friends of the Leo Baeck Institute. "Kindness, reserve and modesty as well as regard for others marked his personality", writes Dr. Ernst Katzenstein, Director of JRSO. Dr. Elkan was born in Berlin and as a student joined the FWV fraternity. He emigrated to England after his release from the Concentration Camp and, before he obtained his appointments in Germany, worked for several years with the firm of Victor Gollancz.

## PROFESSOR F. SONDEIMER

Professor Franz Sondheimer, internationally known organic chemist, aged 54, committed suicide by swallowing cyanide in his office at Stanford University, USA. He was a naturalised British citizen, a fellow of the Royal Society and Royal Society Research Professor at University College, London. Born in Stuttgart, he came to Britain as a child and was educated at Highgate School and Imperial College.

From 1956 to 1964 he was head of the organic chemistry department of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel and took part in the first total synthesis of cortisone. After the death of his teenage daughter from leukaemia six years ago, he suffered repeated periods of depression.

## FELIX GLUCK

Felix Gluck, the publisher, artist and designer has died, aged 58. Born in Bavaria of a Jewish family, he left Germany with his family for Hungary in 1936, where he studied painting. He contracted tuberculosis while imprisoned in Mauthausen concentration camp in 1944-45. After the war he came to England to study art at Newcastle and on his return to Hungary found himself unable to practise as an artist, but became the art director of the State Publishing House. The 1956 uprising enabled him to return to Britain where he became art director for Aldus Books. He founded his own Felix Gluck Press in 1971, specialising in illustrated children's books, in facsimile editions and in other fields. He was to win the National Book League Design Award seven times and prizes at the Bologna Children's Book fair on three occasions.

## DR. STEPHAN HURWITZ

Denmark's first Ombudsman (Parliamentary Commissioner), Professor Stephan Hurwitz, the distinguished international lawyer, died in Copenhagen, aged 80. A specialist in criminology, he represented Denmark at the International War Crimes Commission and took part in the preparations of the Nuremberg war crimes trials. Later he became vice-chancellor of Copenhagen University.

## DR. ISRAEL FELDMAN

One of Anglo-Jewry's best-known and highly esteemed figures, Dr. Israel Feldman, has died at the age of 92. Among the many causes close to his heart were those of Children and Youth Aliyah and Jewish Child's Day, being respectively honorary president and life president of the two organisations. His work for Youth Aliyah started some 45 years ago and arose from his participation in endeavours to obtain immigration certificates for children rescued from Nazi Germany.

## PIERRE GILDESGAME

Mr. Pierre Gildesgame, who died in a traffic accident at the age of 77, was a leading personality in the Maccabi movement. He was one of the founders of the Maccabi Association in London, and the Hall of the West Hampstead Maccabi House bears his name. He also was the co-founder of the Maccabiah Village in Israel. As chairman, and later president, of the Maccabi World Union he directed the sporting destinies of a movement over 200,000 strong. In Britain, formal recognition was accorded to him in 1973, when he was appointed CBE for services to sport. Shortly afterwards, he opened the ninth Maccabiah in Israel, and the Jewish State, in turn, honoured him by bestowing on him its Olympic Award.

## HEINZ WARSCHAUER

It is learned with regret that Heinz Warschauer, who took a leading part in the work of the German-Jewish youth movement in Berlin, died in Toronto on 27 February. After having studied at the "Hochschule fuer die Wissenschaft des Judentums", he emigrated to England. He was deported to Canada and, few years after his arrival, became Director of Education of the Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto. By his knowledge and his human gifts as an educator and friend he was extremely popular among the old and young members of his congregation. Having been ailing for some time, he spent the last years of his life in retirement.

## DAYAN S. BAUMGARTEN

Dayan Shlomo Baumgarten of the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations has died at Stamford Hill. Before he came to this country, he had been rabbi of the Vienna Schiff Synagogue. His whole community transferred to the Stamford Hill area in 1938/39. 2,000 people attended his funeral at Enfield Jewish cemetery.

## FAMILY EVENTS

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

## Deaths

**David:**— Alowine David of Wembley Park Middx., died on March 19, deeply mourned by her nephew Henry and wife Hedy Brook and nephew Fritz Mendel, nieces Alice Mendel and Edith Heuman of New York and Miami, U.S.A.

**Deutsch:**— Alice Deutsch died in Osmond House on 29 January. Deeply mourned by her son, Prof. Ernest Deutsch, and niece, Mrs. L. Levy, and family.

**Landau:**— Bernhard Landau passed away peacefully on March 20, deeply mourned by his wife, son and grandson.

**Winter:**— Trudi Winter, née Pokorny, born in Vienna, passed away suddenly in her sleep during the night from 25 to 26 February. She will be badly missed and remembered by her many old and more recent friends as a warm and generous personality.

## In Memoriam

**Sinai:**— In cherished memory of a dearly loved wife "Rose", who passed away on Nisan 4 (17 March 1964). Never to be forgotten by her still grieving husband, children and grandchildren.

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## INFORMATION REQUIRED

### AJR Enquiries

**Gruber:**— Leo Gruber, last known address 18 Heathwood Drive, Thornliebank. Glasgow 646 7BT.

### Personal Enquiries

**Jessner:**— Any readers who can supply information for a biography to be written about the psychiatrist Prof. Dr. Lucie Jessner, who died in the US in 1979, should kindly contact the medical graduate Mr. Martin Fendel, Heimbacher Str.11, D-5000 Cologne 41.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## MATERIAL ON BERLIN SYNAGOGUES

Sir,—I am working on a pictorial documentation and history of the Great Synagogues of Berlin before their destruction. Only very few photographs exist of certain synagogues, and of some, to date at least, to my knowledge none at all. It is most likely that there are amongst your readers former members of the Juedische Gemeinde zu Berlin who may still have in their possession photographs or other documentary material, and I would be grateful if they contacted me. Every picture—however small or insignificant it may seem to appear in the eyes of its owners—may be of considerable importance as far as its historical value is concerned.

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HANS HIRSCHBERG.

## IN MEMORY OF TREVOR CHADWICK

Sir,—It has only recently come to my notice that Trevor Chadwick, who rescued many Jewish children before the war by organising children's transports from Prague, died in December 1979. His own account of his activities can be read in Karen Gershon's "We Came as Children" (published by Gollancz in 1966).

I have particular cause to remember him, as his mother became my guarantor (assuming responsibility for me to the age of 18) and because my first few months in this country were spent with

his family, while he himself was still in Prague on his life-saving mission. Most of the children he brought over may not even remember his name and may not be aware of how instrumental he was in their rescue. It is sad that his work never received its proper recognition.

12 Margaret Avenue,  
London, E.4.

GERDA MAYER.

## "DIE FUENF FRANKFURTER"

Sir,—May I refer to the article "Fuenf Frankfurter" (your report in AJR Information, February 1981)?

During my boyhood in Vienna, the name of the Rothschilds was pronounced in awe and with the utmost respect. I remember walking through the magnificent Rothschild Gardens, and the Rothschild Palais was a famous if not almost revered building. When Carl Roessler wrote the above-named comedy, it was thus no surprise that the play became firmly established in the Burgtheater repertoire, and it was shown (in the same production) 85 times between 1912 and 1927. At the time, there was vivid interest in the success stories of this renowned Jewish family, and actors of note obtained the main parts: Auguste Wilbrandt played old "Frau Gudula" (although well into her Eighties), and Hugo Thimig was Anselm Rothschild.

30 Cotswold Gardens,  
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STEFAN BUKOWITZ.

## FOUNDATION OF OPERA PRIZE

The Friends of the Hamburg State Opera have established a Rolf-Liebermann-Prize, in honour of Professor Liebermann, a great-nephew of painter Max Liebermann, who celebrated his 70th birthday recently. The Prize of £25,000 is to be distributed every three years on Liebermann's birthday. He is at present director of the Paris Opera, but was invited to Hamburg where he had worked for 15 years. Chancellor Schmidt and Dr. Elsbeth Weichmann, wife of the former Jewish Lord Mayor of Hamburg, paid homage to him during the inauguration meeting.

E.G.L.

## EXHIBITION OF MURDERED PAINTER

An exhibition under the heading "Life or Theater" was opened in the Amsterdam Jewish Historical Museum to show the work of Berlin painter, Charlotte Solomon, who was murdered in Auschwitz at the age of 26. She was the daughter of surgeon Professor Albert Salomon who died in Amsterdam in 1976. He had been director of the surgical department of the Berlin Jewish hospital between 1933 and 1939. The exhibition shows 160 gouache paintings which she hid before her deportation.

E.G.L.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

Professor Leon A. Feldman, the founding rector of the College of Jewish Studies at Heidelberg, has been appointed an honorary professor at Heidelberg University. Before coming to Heidelberg, he was Professor of Hebraic Studies at Rutgers University, New Jersey, since 1962.

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# THEATRE AND CULTURE

The German "Scene." A recent study of the "Living Theatre" reveals that Berlin, although no longer the capital (but still the focal point) attracts more theatre-goers than any other city with a German-speaking population. Indeed, statistics show that West Berlin—disregarding fringe and cabaret shows—has 19 theatres, followed by Hamburg and Vienna with 10 each, and Munich with 9 major stages. Frankfurt has 6, Stuttgart 5 and Duesseldorf and Cologne 4. Noteworthy perhaps that all these cities have their own state-subsidised opera houses.

**Fritz Grünbaum**, born 100 years ago, was one of the most sublime comedians of this century, comparable perhaps only with Max Pallenberg. His (mostly cabaretistic) and admirable qualities included improvisations in verse which were witty, intelligent and topical. Physically inconspicuous, wearing thick glasses, he looked almost helplessly lost when presenting himself to the public that adored him. Appearing in lavish Viennese revues together with his friend and partner Karl Farkas, he remained undisputed master of his metier until, sadly, during the dark days of the NS-regime, he was taken to a concentration camp where he died in 1939.

**Vienna.** Tom Stoppard's play "Every good boy deserves favour" will have its first performance in German during the Vienna Festival in June. It has been translated by Hilde Spiel; music is by André Previn.

**Opera Films.** After a series of opera films shown

during March, the London Goethe Institute, Princes Gate, has two special treats in store for the second half of April: Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana", one of the most significant German operatic works since World War I, with a cast including Lucia Popp and Hermann Prey (April 15th), and the Bavarian Television presentation of Offenbach's "Hoffmann's Erzählungen" (April 29th). This work seems to be an object of continued interest in Germany, for well-known reasons, it was not shown between 1933 and 1945.

**Birthdays.** Stage and screen actor, *Rolf Wanka*, who has been acting in many parts of Germany, is 80. Actress, *Lucie Englisch*, whose theatre career was mainly connected with the Lustspieltheater, Berlin, and later became one of the busiest and most popular film actresses, is 75 years old.

**Obituary.** *Paul Hoerbiger* who has died aged 86, was more than just an actor; he embodied the "true old Austrian" (although born in Hungary, he was educated in Vienna). Known to the public primarily as a film actor (he appeared in over 330, he was the youthful (and later) character comedian, partner of Moser and Lingen, Franziska Gaal and Maria Andergast. As an actor at the Vienna "Burg", one of his brilliant successes was Raimund's "Alpenkönig" in which he appeared together with his brother Attila. Arrested and imprisoned by the Nazis for "non-cooperation" and "unreliability", he became one of the founders of the Austrian Resistance Movement. S.B.

## ERNA AUERBACH EXHIBITION

Born in 1897 and educated in Frankfurt, Erna Auerbach established herself in pre-war Germany as a successful painter, with many exhibitions and one-man shows to her credit. After emigrating in 1933 to England, she rapidly acquired acclaim and was well reviewed. Tragedy struck during the Blitz on London when most of her precious collection of her German work was destroyed by fire. This was a bitter blow, and, disheartened and discouraged, she devoted most of her time to writing and lecturing on art.

The present exhibition at Campbell & Franks Fine Arts, 37, New Cavendish Street, London, W.1, is representative, so far as that is possible, of the wide compass of her works. It includes a number of very beautiful portraits in which she has excelled. I was particularly attracted by *The Lady With Full Headscarf*. The exhibition also includes several charming watercolour sketches of the Black Forest.

For those who missed the Stuttgart-born artist ERICH KAHN'S exhibition at Margaret Fisher, 4, Lambolle Place, London, N.W.3, I am informed that there is still a representative selection of his work at the Gallery which will be gladly shown on request. ALICE SCHWAB.

## MENDELSSOHN—BARTHOLDY COMPETITION

Four singers and nine pianists took part in this year's Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy competition of the Berlin Prussian Culture Foundation. The prizes of £1,500 each were awarded to Taiwanese soprano Yu-Ching Lai, aged 28, and to 20-year-old pianist Wolfgang Mann from Düsseldorf during a public concert at the Berlin Academy of Arts. E.G.L.

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