

ISSUED BY THE

**ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN**

## FORTY YEARS ON AJR General Meeting

The fortieth anniversary of the foundation of the AJR was a milestone much in the minds of the participants at the lively and well-attended General Meeting held at Hannah Karminski House on 16 June. The anniversary provided a sense of perspective, enabling members to look back at what had been accomplished in the past, and to look forward to the tasks that still lie ahead. In his welcoming address, Mr. C. T. Marx, Chairman of the AJR, paid tribute to the memory of Dr. Walter Breslauer, one of the founders of the organisation, who had given it such invaluable service over so long a time, and to Mrs. Steffi Panke, who had worked with the AJR office for the last 17 years (they were commemorated in the July AJR Information).

Dr. W. Rosenstock, Director of the AJR, first reported about the recently established Hardship Fund ("Abschlussgeste Wiedergutmachung"). It mainly refers to Jewish Nazi victims, who could not submit their claims under the German Federal Indemnification Law because they reached Western countries only after 1965, when the time limit had expired. They are to receive single payments of up to DM 5,000 provided that their health had been damaged and that they live in straitened financial circumstances. The guidelines also stipulate that five per cent of the Fund available may be granted to institutions which provide shelter for persecutees. Whilst our corresponding organisations overseas have submitted applications under this clause, the AJR has linked its claim with the application of the Central British Fund, with which we jointly administer most of the Homes and most of which are the property of the CBF.

Another point which occupied the AJR during the year under review was the Nationality Bill. One of its draft clauses envisaged that children of naturalised British subjects were not automatically to become British, if they were born abroad. This clause was withdrawn, but various political and religious bodies (including the Board of Deputies) expressed their misgivings about some principles of the Bill which they considered to be discriminatory.

In the field of indemnification, the recipients were unfavourably affected by the present exchange rate. Apart from this, several shortcomings of the law had been under negotiation with the German authorities, and these negotiations would go on. When receiving enquiries about the taxability of payments, we may always fall back on the expert advice of our Vice-Chairman, Dr. F. E. Falk.

Turning to AJR Information, the speaker stressed that its policy was always guided by the effort to create a proper equilibrium between articles and news items as well as between references to our background and current topical prob-

lems. He also expressed thanks to Mrs. Margot Pottlitzer who, until a few months ago, had rendered invaluable services as Associate Editor; new arrangements, he said, were under consideration.

The Financial Report was delivered by Mr. L. Spiro, the Hon. Treasurer. He recalled that two years ago he had reported, for the year 1978, an income of £48,000 against outgoings of £51,000; last year, for 1979, there had been an income of £49,000 against expenditure of £52,900. The accounts for 1980 have produced an income which has risen to £52,135 against outgoings of £55,543, constituting a loss for the year of £3,408. Income from members' subscriptions and donations had risen from £37,260 in 1979 to £41,028 for 1980.

The AJR Charitable Trust owns and administers Hannah Karminski, Marie Baneth and Otto Hirsch Houses, where we provide sheltered accommodation for some 24 elderly people. We own and administer the Flatlet Home, Eleanor Rathbone House, jointly with the CBF, where we provide accommodation for 54 residents, and administer with the CBF four residential homes (Osmond House, Leo Baeck House, Heinrich Stahl House and Otto Schiff House) with altogether 190 residents. Our share of these responsibilities is known. The cost of our administrative work has risen sharply, both as a result of inflation, and because we have had to intensify our social work to cope with the growing demands of our ageing community. The Association's income alone could not finance these social activities in addition to the publication of AJR Information, this most valuable but increasingly costly publication, were it not for the generous bequests from our members, who, in their wills, have enabled our Charitable Trust to assist us. Support from the Trust has risen from £4,000 in 1978 to £9,000 in 1979, and reached £13,500 in 1980. The Trust has also assisted the operation of the CBF Homes by making, during the year, a major donation to the Homes' operating fund, and so somewhat reducing the deficit there. Mr. Spiro asked that members remember the AJR Charitable Trust when making their wills.

Over many years the AJR has also obtained financial support from the Allocations Committee which administers what remains of heirless property recovered after the War by the Jewish Trust Corporation. Income from this source has declined, since it is running out. In 1975 we still obtained £18,800, but in 1980 only £11,000. The tasks before us are not reducing. Most of our activities are now of a social work nature. The members are familiar with the splendid work done by Mrs. Margaret Jacoby and her helpers for the AJR Club, by Mrs. Ruth Anderman with Meals-on-Wheels, by our Social Services Department in Fairfax Mansions and by all the devoted helpers who volunteer to assist and visit the Homes and who also visit some of the elderly in their own

flats and homes who live entirely on their own.

Where do we go from here? Mr. Spiro asked. The Association's sources of income are reducing in real terms. Should we allow our activities to shrink as age catches up with us, or should we go forward mindful of the fact that there will be a continuing demand for our social work for at least another 10 to 15 years? After taking stock carefully, it is against this background that we have decided that we must go forward. The tasks before us will not go away and it is our responsibility to tackle them rather than to stand aside—a policy which has never been ours. We rapidly came to the conclusion that we must broaden the membership base of the AJR. This could only be done if we are able to appeal to the younger generation, to our children born and rooted here, and often no longer conscious of or perhaps even interested in their parents' background. It is our aim to appeal to them and secure their concern for the less fortunate ones in our midst. To obtain this support we have created the new class of membership—Friends of the AJR. Mr. Spiro asked members to make a personal effort to recruit Friends of the AJR from among their family and acquaintances, each recruiting at least one Friend. The success of this campaign would probably have a decisive influence on the future of the AJR. He hoped that we would all find a way to convey our message to the younger generation, and that they would respond positively, so that both the financial and personal support for the work of the Association can be assured for the 10 to 15 years it will still be needed.

Mr. Spiro pointed out that the various Homes provide accommodation for over 240 refugees. They need our help, support, and spiritual aid. The effectiveness of the running of the Homes is closely linked with the strength of the Association and the interest displayed in the needs of our own people in the Homes.

Mr. C. T. Marx was re-elected Chairman. The other members of the Executive and of the Board were also re-elected, and Mrs. H. Lieser, Mr. G. Selby and Mr. H. Wetzler were co-opted to the Board.

The elections were followed by a most interesting talk by Mr. Herbert Loebel of Newcastle, who spoke on "A View from the North and Refugee Industries". His talk is printed on page 2.

Dr. F. E. Falk, Vice-Chairman of the AJR, offered the vote of thanks to the speaker, pointing out that Mr. Loebel had corrected the wrong impression of the North prevailing in the South, and that far from being a cultural desert, it was brimming over with a great variety of cultural activity. He had also fundamentally altered our mistaken notion that most of the refugees were professionals and businessmen who settled in London, and had made clear the magnitude of the contribution of those who had settled in the North, their energy, enterprise and acumen. Mr. Loebel's eloquent, lucid and interesting exposition, spiced with humour, was in itself proof of what the North had to offer.

In summing up, the Chairman, Mr. Marx, emphasised the importance of reinforcing and rejuvenating the strength of the AJR by promoting the Friends of the AJR to help assure its future.

## A VIEW FROM THE NORTH

### Herbert Loeb's Address at General Meeting

Before touching my main topic—and I cannot do more than touch it—let me give you a little background both on general and on Jewish matters: to Londoners, Bedford is in the North, Manchester and Leeds in the far North, and Newcastle, where I live and work, is in that vague no-man's land between England and Scotland.

Although that part of the country includes large industrial areas and heavy industries like coal mining, steel and shipbuilding—now much reduced in size—large parts of the area are unspoiled wild country, and Northumberland is one of the least densely populated counties in Britain.

The main centre is Newcastle upon Tyne, although Teesside is growing fast on chemicals and petro-chemicals. Newcastle is, in many ways, an ideal-sized city. It is fairly small in itself, about 220,000 people live there, but it is part of an area on both sides of the river Tyne as far as the sea and stretching down to the River Wear which has a population of almost 1 million. One finds there all the amenities of good urban living: good theatre and opera, good international orchestras, the only permanent chamber orchestra in Britain with its own purpose-built rehearsal centre, a chamber music society which has just completed its 100th season, a branch of the National Film Theatre and many others. Newcastle is a University City with 11,000 full-time degree students at the University and the Polytechnic. And in case you think the University is just another red-brick place, I might tell you that University teaching has gone on longer in Newcastle than in any other city in England, except for Oxford, Cambridge and London.

The Jewish Community of Newcastle, which in the 1920's numbered some 3,000 souls is now down to 2,000 and declining but still large enough to support three synagogues, a nursery school, a full-time first school for children up to 12, as well as the usual Jewish and Zionist activities, including a Maccabi Association housed in a fine building donated by a local philanthropist, and a small Hillel House for students.

Across the river at Gateshead is the famous Community which now boasts the largest Yeshiva and the largest Jewish bookseller in Europe, a first school, a secondary school, a teachers' training college for girls and a post-Yeshiva Institution, as well as smaller educational institutions. Whatever one might think of this miniature Vilna, of the stubborn way in which an 18th century life style is encouraged and perpetuated, Gateshead is a power house for Jewish education, albeit a narrow one. The vitality of the community of some 400 souls and 300 students is astonishing.

The Newcastle Community recently celebrated its 150th anniversary, but a large proportion of the families arrived only in 1905. One of the reasons for the popularity of the North East Coast was the sea link with the Baltic Coast, mainly from Danzig. Quite a few of the arrivals went on to the USA.

The arrival of some 350-400 refugees in the North made a strong impact on the two major communities, Newcastle and Gateshead. The refugees came mainly from Germany and Austria, but there were also Czechs, Poles and Hungarians. During and after the War, there were also some Jews who came from France, whatever their origins. They settled mainly in Newcastle and Gateshead, but there were smaller settlements in North Shields, Bishop Auckland (in S.W. Durham) and along the Cumbrian Coast, where there were

no indigenous local communities. During the War, there were quite a few evacuees there from the industrial cities of the North East, but no real communities developed.

While the Newcastle Community had contributed to funds for refugees and had established a home for children who arrived unaccompanied after November 1938, initial relations between the Community and the newcomers were cool. Part of this was a language problem, but the main reason was a cultural difference. The local community originated from almost penniless, ill-educated—except perhaps in the Jewish sense—people. The newcomers, although starting life in Britain with minimal resources, were at least one, if not two generations ahead culturally.

But they were a rather special group in any case: apart from a small number of students, academics, doctors or dentists and industrial specialists, they all had come to the North in order to start small manufacturing businesses. Indeed, it was a condition of their admission to Britain that they should go to the North. In parenthesis, I would like to say that the same applied to those refugee manufacturers who ended up in Wales or in Scotland.

#### Attitude to Newcomers

There existed undoubtedly a certain amount of jealousy towards the newcomers, because of their apparently high-level start—high-level in comparison with those Jews who came up to 1905, many of whom were still alive at the time. The recent arrivals were also sometimes accused of a certain degree of haughtiness. This did not apply, of course, to the relatively small number of families which settled in Gateshead in order to be near the Yeshiva and a life of Jewish practice. They and their children—even in later prosperity—never moved far away from the small and mean terrace houses in the town where they started.

In Newcastle, the Synagogue and Zionist activities soon overcame these barriers and, after some years, there was even some intermarriage between the older and the new families, but, on the whole, these were not successful. Refugees also took up communal responsibilities, particularly in the charitable field and, for example, the recently retired President of the Jewish Representative Council was a former German refugee, who was only eight years old when he arrived.

From 1939 onwards—and for most of the War—there existed an active refugee club, where the newcomers had a chance to meet many of the people concerned with refugee rescue before the War. These included a good many non-Jewish people, mainly Quakers and Anglican clergy. I remember the wife of one of the clergymen—he was also Professor of Hebrew at Durham University—with particular gratitude. When we were interned, she sent a set of instruments for a string quartet to the camp! There were also quite a number of refugees one met at the club whose absence from Jewish functions at first seemed odd. It was discovered only much later that these people were baptised, and, indeed, some of them were active Christians.

Why did refugee manufacturers come to the North (or for that matter, to Wales and Scotland)? And how can the pattern of settlement be explained?

I shall not trouble you with an exposé of the economic misfortunes of places like the North ever

since the end of the First World War, and particularly during and after the economic depression of the 1930's. Let it be enough to say that the consequences of unemployment in these depressed areas—later referred to as Special Areas—which reached 80 per cent in some places, were so appalling that even those believing in a free market economy realised that market forces alone would not correct the situation, and that some special action was required if the human misery in these areas was to be alleviated and the economic waste, represented by heavy and chronic unemployment, reduced.

Three leading articles in The Times in late March 1934 stimulated a course of events from which regional policy measures developed, measures which are still being used today. One of these measures which was eventually agreed was the construction of Government-financed factories on Trading Estates and on smaller sites, where roads and services were provided and which could be rented for modest sums.

But since the depressed areas had little or no tradition of light industries, where were the tenants for the new factories to come from? The authorities circulated some 5,000 firms in the more prosperous areas of Britain and suggested that they might set up branch factories in one of the depressed areas. Some 4,500 firms did not even bother to reply and only a dozen or so showed any interest. It is not surprising, therefore, that the authorities in the depressed areas were willing to take tenants from any part of the world. The Home Office was well aware of this problem and from the beginning of 1937 onwards, it suddenly began to look upon refugees not only as problems—as it had done hitherto—but also as presenting opportunities.

Given that most refugees had very small resources, the building of factories would, for most of them, have been impossible. So perhaps they did not need too much persuasion to go to the North or to any of the other depressed areas, although they were not, in most cases, ideal locations from a market point of view.

And since the major Trading Estate in the North was at Team Valley, Gateshead, it is not surprising that most people settled on the Tyne. In other words, refugee industries were established wherever factories were available for rent, and this did not, for example, include Sunderland or Middlesbrough before the War.

The factories were eventually filled by new local enterprise on the one hand, and by refugee firms, on the other. The desperate needs of the depressed areas and the equally desperate needs of refugees to find shelter coincided, to the eventual benefit of both, as I was able to show in a study I undertook on the history of this settlement and of the background, both political and economic.

To be concluded in the next issue

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## HOME NEWS

### AUSCHWITZ EXHIBITION CANCELLED

Amid an atmosphere of blame and disappointment, the organisers of the Auschwitz exhibition still hope that it will be seen in the North of England in the near future. It should have opened in Birmingham Bull Ring about two months ago but, owing to some misunderstanding between the organisers and the Birmingham administration, it had to be cancelled. George Him, the well-known exhibition designer who was responsible for the artistic layout of the project, has expressed bitter disappointment at the cancellation.

### CAMPS IN THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

A paperback on "The Alderney Death Camp" by Solomon Steckoll will be published soon. Already serialised in *The Observer*, the book tells how the camp was built by 1,000 prisoners brought from Sachsenhausen. Other camps were set up in the island, where French Jews were transported as forced labourers.

### LIBEL VICTORY FOR POLICEMAN

The man who shot Abraham Stern, the leader of the Stern Gang, nearly 40 years ago, has successfully prosecuted Weidenfeld & Nicolson for libel. Geoffrey Jackson Morton, then a deputy superintendent in the Palestine Police, killed Stern at the time of his arrest in the belief that the terrorist would carry out his threat to blow up himself and his captor. Mr. Morton was exonerated at the time, but a book on Ben Gurion by Michael Bar Zohar, published in 1979 by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, called the death a British murder. The amount paid to the plaintiff was not revealed in court.

### LETTER EXHIBITION

A collection of letters has recently been put on display at the Jewish Museum, Woburn House. Correspondence lent by the Valmadonna Trust includes letters from Albert Einstein, Leslie Hore-Belisha, Theodor Herzl and other famous people. Regretfully, the Museum has reported a drop in the number of visitors over the past year, probably related to the decline of tourism to this country. However, the total for 1980 amounted to 5,700 visitors and a number of organised tours have already been booked for this year and next.

### FROM CONVENT TO SYNAGOGUE

When the nuns of St. Marie-Auxiliatrice left their convent home, the Manor House, Finchley, they sold it to the new centre of the Reform Synagogues in Great Britain. Sister Theresa, the abbess, said she was glad the house, where the convent was established in 1916, had gone to another religious community. In the late 1930s it was a sanctuary for many Jewish schoolgirl refugees who were taught by the nuns.

### LEGACIES

Mr. Henry Berkovitch left a legacy of £5,000 and Mrs. Stephanie Ryde a legacy of £300 to the AJR Charitable Trust.

Mr. Josef Watt of Hampstead, who died in April 1980, left £6,500 to the AJR Charitable Trust. Most of his fortune will go towards scholarships in Israel.

### FREDRIC WARBURG

Frederic Warburg, the publisher of Orwell, Kafka and Arnold Zweig, has died in London at the age of 82. Chairman of the publishing house of Secker & Warburg up to 1971, he befriended a number of Jewish refugees from Germany in the thirties. His firm also publishes the Year Books of the Leo Baeck Institute.

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### UNIQUE MEETING OF SURVIVORS

A uniquely historical meeting was held in Jerusalem when 6,000 survivors of the Holocaust gathered from every corner of the world. Among them were 200 from Britain, headed by Frank Green, whose army career included the liberation of Belsen concentration camp.

Such an occasion was naturally one of great emotion. Old friends who had given each other up for dead at last found that against all odds they had survived to a happy reunion. Others, drawn by pathetic hope, could at last accept the fact of their dear ones' death. Organised by Ernest W. Michael, born in Mannheim and himself a survivor of the concentration camps, the arrangements included a computer in the "survivors' village" set up in the convention centre. This contained each participant's name and place of origin so that fellow-citizens and long-lost relatives might seek each other out.

The meeting was also meant to give a living answer to the "denial of the Holocaust" and tape recordings of the experiences of each of the participants are to be lodged in the Yad Vashem archives. At the same time, the opportunity was used to uncover further evidence of Nazi war criminals.

Present intentions are that this gathering of survivors will not be repeated.

### TRIBUTES TO MRS. MARGARET JACOBY

In our July issue we reported on the AJR Club celebration of Margaret Jacoby's 99th birthday. The rare event also attracted the attention of the "Ham and High" (Hampstead and Highgate Express) which devoted almost a page to an illustrated discussion of her life. The "Jewish Chronicle", too, published an article which was very appreciative of Margaret Jacoby's personality and achievements.

### OPEN DAY AT OSMOND HOUSE

The Open Day on Sunday, 14 June, at Osmond House, was a great success. Although there were fewer visitors than last year, the financial outcome was very satisfactory and will ensure the extra amenities which the residents so badly need. Thanks are due to the voluntary helpers who worked so hard to achieve this splendid result.

### A CENTENARIAN AT OSMOND HOUSE

#### Birthday Party for Mrs. Clara Schweitzer

Telegrams from H.M. The Queen and from the Secretary of State of the Department of Health and Social Security, Mr. P. Jenkins, were read out at the birthday party in honour of Mrs. Clara Schweitzer, a resident of Osmond House, who was 100 years old on July 13. The Mayor of Barnet, Cllr. Rosa Freedman, conveyed the greetings of the Borough; having been associated with work for Jewish pre-war refugees, she was able to give her cordial address a personal touch. It was a happy party, attended by members of Mrs. Schweitzer's family (including her great-grandson), the residents and Matron of the Home as well as by members of various Committees who, in one way or another, are associated with the work for the Home.

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## PERSONALIA

### DR. KURT MAY, 85

On 15 August, Dr. Kurt May, the General Manager and Chief Executive of the United Restitution Organisation (URO) will be 85. Still in harness, still working with undiminished energy, still—as one of our contemporaries called him five years ago—the Grandseigneur of Indemnification.

There is no need to introduce our readers to URO, the legal aid body established in 1948 to help Nazi victims to obtain restitution of spoliated property and indemnification for wrongs suffered. The United Restitution Organisation has represented more than 300,000 claimants and lodged more than 500,000 claims, figures of gigantic proportions. Although the bulk of the claims has by now been settled with outstanding success, there still remains a hard core presenting particular problems, to which the greatly diminished URO staff, under the leadership of Dr. May, devote their energies. As always, Dr. May is indefatigable in applying his legal acumen, his enthusiasm and above all his unsurpassed and truly irreplaceable legal knowledge, to the fight for justice for the victims of the Third Reich.

On behalf of our many members, whom Dr. May's work has helped to obtain redress, we wish him and his wife Vera many years of health and richly deserved contentment with his life's work.

### SIR KARL POPPER'S POUR LE MERITE

Shortly after receiving the Leopold Lucas Prize of the Protestant Theology Faculty of the University of Tübingen, Sir Karl Popper, the distinguished philosopher of science and author of "The Open Society and its Enemies", was awarded the Pour le Mérite decoration at a ceremony held in the Prussian National Library in West Berlin in the presence of the Federal President, Karl Carstens. Sir Karl's encomium was delivered by the physicist Prof. Freiherr Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker, with whom Prof. Popper has long carried on a lively exchange of ideas. On the same occasion a recently deceased member of the Order, the Heidelberg nuclear physicist Wolfgang Gentner (1906-1980) was commemorated, and his close connection with the Weizmann Institute was emphasised.

### CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE FOR SIMONE VEIL

Auschwitz survivor Mme. Simone Veil, president of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, has received the 1981 International Charlemagne Prize for her achievements in the service of European relations and for European co-operation in international understanding. Walter Scheel, the former Federal President, reminded the audience at the award ceremony that in 1980, when she received an honorary doctorate from Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Simone Veil said that the European Parliament was a symbol of peace and reconciliation and a protection against a repetition of the tragedy which so many had suffered.

### DR. MIA KELLMER PRINGLE

A refugee from Vienna, Dr. Mia Kellmer Pringle, has announced her retirement as Director of the National Children's Bureau which she has headed since the Bureau's foundation in 1963. Her work has been highly praised in educational circles.

### DR. LOTTE NEWMAN

Dr. Lotte Newman, daughter of the late Dr. Georg Newman of Edgware, has been appointed honorary secretary of the Medical Women's Federation. She is the only elected woman member of the council of the Royal College of General Practitioners, an examiner for the College and its representative on the International Society of General Practitioners.

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## NEWS FROM ABROAD

### WAR CRIMINALS IN USA

Andrija Artukovic, described as a retired book-keeper of 81, is to be deported to Yugoslavia by the US Immigration Board. He is accused of murdering many thousands of Jews and Serbs during the Nazi occupation of Yugoslavia.

Another man who faces deportation, John Demjanuk, was deprived of his US citizenship when it was proved that he had concealed his past as a notoriously cruel Treblinka guard. Still another alleged war criminal discovered in the US is Karl Linnaas. He is stated to have been an officer in Tartu prison camp, Estonia; one of his accusers is an Estonian who has already served a prison sentence in the USSR for his share in the running of Tartu.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mengele of Auschwitz is being pursued in Paraguay. Following representations from West Germany and other States, a warrant for his arrest has been issued.

### US TO RELEASE THIRD REICH PAINTINGS

Over 6,000 paintings and other artistic works produced in Nazi Germany are likely to be returned to the West German Government in the near future. The pictures were seized at the end of the Second World War by the United States army and transferred across the Atlantic. Some of them are said to be hanging in the Pentagon or in US Government offices.

Moves for a return began in 1978 when 10 paintings were restored to the German Navy. Mr. William Whitehurst, the Congressman who sponsored the Act releasing the pictures, has now introduced a Bill for the return of the remaining items.

An Army spokesman said that only about 200 pieces in the collection could be described as glorifying Nazism—the great majority simply depicted themes of Germans at war. The West German Embassy has confirmed that its government draws a distinction between praise of epic deeds and the display of Nazi emblems. Propagandist works would not be on show to the public.

Among the paintings seized were four water-colours painted by Hitler about 1914, showing scenes in Munich, Vienna and Belgium. At present they are kept under lock and key in a Defence Department building, but the German Embassy feel they are harmless and unimportant. The Bonn Government was not aware of the Hitler paintings when it first moved for the return of the collection.

### KU KLUX KLAN IN US AND GERMANY

Two months of police surveillance have ended in the arrest of four Ku Klux Klansmen in Nashville, Tennessee. Three of the gang were caught with a live bomb outside a synagogue in Nashville and police believe that a terror campaign against Jewish businesses and institutions has been nipped in the bud.

Meanwhile, links between German neo-Nazis and American servicemen stationed in West Germany have led to the setting up of a Ku Klux Klan branch in the country. Most members are US soldiers but the number of Germans is said to be increasing and the Public Prosecutor of Rhineland-Pfalz is making enquiries about the situation.

### GESTAPO HEAD OF BOLIVIAN GANG

Bolivian authorities state that Klaus Barbie, the "butcher of Lyons", has become the head of a 36-strong neo-Nazi paramilitary gang called "The Bridegrooms of Death". Seven members of a guerrilla band, engaged in drug trafficking and believed to be part of this group, have been arrested in Brazil. They were found to be carrying Nazi pamphlets, pictures of Hitler inscribed "I shall return" and over 6 lbs. of cocaine.

Barbie, a naturalised Bolivian living under the name of Klaus Altmann, was the wartime Gestapo chief of Lyons. Attempts by the French Government to extradite him in 1974 were unsuccessful.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

### PARIS COURT HEARS GERSTEIN CONTACT

Professor Robert Faurisson, well-known for his active part in denial of the Holocaust, is being sued for libel in Paris by Leon Poliakov, author of "The History of Antisemitism" and other historical works. The action is against a book by Professor Faurisson accusing Mr. Poliakov of fabricating and manipulating documents. Particularly at issue is the evidence of Kurt Gerstein, the SS-man who described the gassing of Jews at Auschwitz and other camps and who was later found dead. A key witness for the plaintiff was Baron Goran von Otter, Swedish Consul in Berlin during the Second World War. The Baron told of his chance meeting with Gerstein when the SS-man spoke of witnessing thousands of killings at Belzec and of his wish to alert humanitarian organisations and the Allies to these crimes.

Two further court actions are pending in connection with the writings of Professor Faurisson.

### NEW APPEAL BY DUTCH CRIMINAL

Pieter Menten, the millionaire Dutch war criminal who was sentenced last July to 10 years' imprisonment, is appealing to the European Court for Human Rights. Menten is seeking a re-trial on the charge of complicity in the mass murder of Jews in Poland.

### "ANNE FRANK" AS ITALIAN BALLET

Following many other stage representations of "Anne Frank's Diary", a Verona company has now produced it in the form of a ballet. The composer and creator of the work is Luciano Chailly, a pupil of Hindemith, who has already written 12 operas and four ballets.

### HUBERT DINING HALL AT BAR ILAN UNIVERSITY

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hubert and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hubert of St. Annes-on-Sea attended the dedication of the 700-seat Hubert dining hall and cafeteria at Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan. Mr. Arthur Hubert holds an honorary doctorate of philosophy from Bar-Ilan, and his son, Mr. Walter Hubert, is an honorary fellow.

### AUSTRIAN BLOOD BANK IN ISRAEL

The Jewish community of Austria has collected £225,000 for the purpose of renewing a blood bank and installing medical equipment at the Sheba Medical Centre near Tel Aviv.

### INNER TUBE HAUL

Hashish weighing 1,000 kilograms has been found washed up on Israel's northern beaches. The drugs, packed in small bags inside car inner tubes, are valued at nearly £200,000. Police are uncertain whether the hashish was to have been picked up on shore or whether a sea rendezvous failed to materialise.

### ALL CHANGE FOR EMBASSIES

In an ambassadorial change-round, Mayor Guido Brunner of West Berlin has been nominated to succeed the present German Ambassador to Israel, Klaus Schütz, while the Israeli Ambassador to West Germany, Yohanan Meroz, is to be succeeded by Itzhak Ben-Ari.

### ROWDY BRITISH FASCISTS AT DIXMUIDE

Twenty-three British fascists who had joined the annual neo-Nazi rally at Dixmuide were arrested by Belgian police after scuffles between rival neo-Nazi groups. Flemish nationalists had asked foreign groups not to attend, but 200 members of the British Movement, the National Front and other fascist movements had made the crossing. Others arrested for threatening behaviour and wearing military or Nazi uniforms included 51 of the West German "Viking Youth".

### BRUSSELS "DESK MURDERER"

Kurt Asche, 72, who was the Nazi head of the Jewish Office of the German security police in Brussels during the occupation, and who sent tens of thousands of Jews to their deaths at Auschwitz, was freed pending the confirmation of the seven year sentence imposed on him in Kiel. Since both defence and prosecution will appeal, Asche is not expected to go to gaol before the end of this year. There were strong protests at the lightness of the sentence on the man who has been called Belgium's Eichmann.

## OBITUARIES

### LOTTE REINIGER

Well-known for her characteristic art of silhouette, Lotte Reiniger died recently in London. She was the inventor of the animated silhouette and her "Adventures of Prince Achmet", produced in 1926, was the first full-length cartoon film. After leaving Germany in the thirties, she continued her work up to the very last years of her life and found it growing ever more popular.

### SHLOMO LOWENBERG

Judge Shlomo Lowenberg died recently in Tel Aviv at the age of 61. Born in Duisburg, he came to England from Palestine as a law student and practised as a barrister during the years of the Second World War. His was one of the first judicial appointments in the new State of Israel. His reputation continued undiminished and towards the end of his life he was recognised as the national expert in tax law.

### MARCEL BREUER

A major figure in the Bauhaus movement, Marcel Breuer died recently in America at the age of 79. Probably he will always be remembered as the first designer of tubular steel furniture, although he was active in a much wider field of architecture and design. Born in Hungary, Breuer trained and taught at the Bauhaus, but left Germany when Hitler came to power. He then joined Gropius in the United States, where he won much acclaim as an architect.

### DR. HANS KOSMALA

Breslau-born Dr. Hans Kosmala has died in Gloucestershire, aged 77. He studied modern languages, science and law. From 1926, he studied and taught at the Institutum Judaicum Delitzschianum in Leipzig until it was closed by the Nazis in 1935. He continued the work in Vienna under the auspices of the Swedish Mission to the Jews and came to Britain with his family via Sweden. Here he was helped by the "British Jews Society" to open a "Christian Institute for Jewish Studies" and was regarded by fellow-scholars as one of this century's greatest Christian experts in the study of Judaism. He had been baptised as a child, but as a student he read the 20 volumes of the Babylonian Talmud from cover to cover, and over here he instilled into his students and friends respect for the primary Jewish sources. One of his widely-read books is "Hebraer, Essener und Christen" which appeared in 1959.



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# JEWISH YOUTH IN TRANSITION

## Ludwig Tietz and his Time

It is one of the duties of our generation to preserve contemporary history for posterity. We therefore welcome a work recently published by the Council of Jews from Germany under the title "Juedische Jugend im Uebergang—Ludwig Tietz (1897-1933). Sein Leben und seine Zeit" (edited by Gustav Horn, Kibbuz Hazorea, Verlag Bitan, Tel Aviv). Copies (£5) may be obtained from the AJR, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London NW3 6LA.

The well-illustrated 240-page book testifies to the impact of Ludwig Tietz's personality on Jewish life and in particular on the Jewish youth movement during the twilight years of the late Twenties and early Thirties. His role during that period was unique, and the variety of people who were close to him and contributed to the book preserves the memory of a man whose name might otherwise have fallen into oblivion.

Ludwig Tietz was born into an upper-class Jewish family in Berlin, distantly related to the department store family of the same name, but descended from the branch which in 1813 founded the leading haberdashery firm of Gebrueder Tietz. He served in the medical corps during the First World War, and a sepsis contracted in the hospital made the amputation of part of his right thumb necessary. After the war, he had to interrupt his medical studies because he caught tuberculosis and spent one year in a sanatorium in Arosa; it may well be that his own illness later induced him to become a specialist in lung disease.

His knowledge of suffering made him not only an outstanding doctor, who felt passionately attached to his professional work, but may also partly explain his general understanding of and

compassion for his fellow-men. He always had time to discuss other people's problems, and there were certainly few like him, who enjoyed the trust and confidence of so many people during their formative years.

Yet there was no "holiness" in his conduct. His blend of Jewish and Berlinish humour came to the fore in all conversations and discussions. The distance arising from the fact that he came from a different milieu than most of his younger followers and that he did not live in the style of the youth movement, were no impediments but rather gave a special flavour to their relationship to him.

He began his Jewish activities at the university as a leading member of the CV Students' Association. This led to his election to the Board of the CV at the early age of 24. He quickly rose in the CV hierarchy and eventually became one of its Vice-Chairmen. His work for the Jewish youth movement started with the foundation of the "Deutsch-Juedische Jugend-Gemeinschaft (DJJG)". Yet he soon acquired a widely recognised reputation among all sections of the Jewish youth movement, and it was only natural that when the "Reichsausschuss der juedischen Jugendverbaende" was founded in 1927, he became its chairman (with Georg Lubinski as its first secretary).

The social enterprises sponsored by the Reichsausschuss or its Berlin section and established mainly for the socially underprivileged were personally cared for by Ludwig Tietz and his circle of fellow workers. A special position is to be attributed to the Home in Seesen, whose rallies and conferences were attended by members of all youth organisations, whatever their "ideological" position may have been. These meetings not only

created personal bonds between all participants but also initiated a new approach to Jewish social work. Several articles of the book carry detailed descriptions of the various organisations and their functions.

When the Nazis came to power, Ludwig Tietz conducted the negotiations with the newly created "Reichsjugendfuehrung", and it was on the last day before his death that the "Reichsausschuss" was recognised as the only representation of the Jewish youth organisations.

In the Jewish political sphere Ludwig Tietz was one of those who, in 1929, fought for the participation of the non-Zionists in the enlarged Jewish Agency. Whilst fully recognising the values he owed to German culture and thoroughly familiar with it, especially German literature, his deeply rooted Jewishness had made him aware of the importance of Palestine, not only for those who settled there but also for the Jews in the Diaspora. The problems involved are described by Robert Weltsch in his article "Die kritische Epoche der deutschen Judenheit". Ludwig Tietz's instinctive antagonism to the diluted Jewishness of wide sections of German Jewry resulted in the formation of a special party ("Positiv-Liberal Party"), on the occasion of the elections to the Berlin Jewish Community Board in 1930. The effort failed, but in the long run, the "Richtung Tietz" turned out to be right. Many of its followers took over responsible positions when the catastrophe set in.

### Impressed Anglo-Jewry

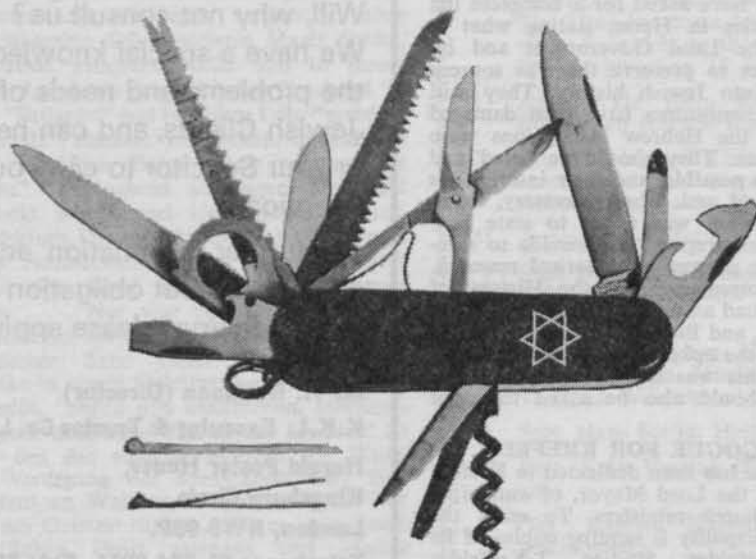
Ludwig Tietz himself had been aware of the dangers to German Jewry several years before the Nazis came to power. When the new situation called for unified action, he became co-founder and General Secretary of the "Zentralausschuss fuer Hilfe und Aufbau" which was also the nucleus of the "Reichsvertretung". His activities during the hectic months of 1933 included repeated journeys to London to make Anglo-Jewry aware of the situation and to enlist their constructive help. The impression he made on leading British Jews of those days, among them Lord Samuel and Norman Bentwich, was of greatest value in this life-saving effort.

The articles in the book include an understanding assessment of Ludwig Tietz's personality by Gustav Horn and a comprehensive description of his life story, written by his close friend Friedrich Brodnitz. Two contributions are of special interest because their authors were, or became, "outsiders". One of them is a radio broadcast by Robert Jungk, the well known writer, who was a member of the "Kameraden". The other article is of interest because its author, Peter Blachstein, some time leader of the Dresden DJJG group, later denied the need for specific Jewish activities, expecting that the problem of the Jews would be solved once a socialist society was established. After the war, which he spent in exile, Blachstein was one of the first three Jewish members of the Bundestag. He wrote his article shortly before his death and stresses the impact the relationship with Ludwig Tietz had made on him notwithstanding their ideological differences.

Altogether, the book contains 14 articles, letters by Ludwig Tietz, reports on organisations with which he was associated, quotations from writers who had influenced him and reprints of tributes paid to him at the time of his death by Leo Baeck and other leading personalities (among them Chaim Weizmann). The book is not only of greatest value for those who were close to Ludwig Tietz and for their families. It is also a mirror of the period through which our generation went and, last but not least, a documentary of German Jewry's history. It therefore belongs in the library of everybody to whom one or all of these aspects are important.

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## FROM THE GERMAN SCENE

### PROTESTS AT MAIDANEK VERDICTS

The leniency of the verdicts at the five-and-a-half-year Düsseldorf trial of Maidanek extermination camp officials and guards brought strong protests in the court and outside it. While Hermine Braunsteiner Ryan was given a life-sentence, the most severe possible under German law, Hildegard Laechert was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment, SS captain Hermann Hackman to 10 years, Emil Laurich to eight years, and three former SS NCOs, Heinz Villain, Fritz Petrick and Arnold Strippel, were given six, four and three-and-a-half years respectively. 250,000 people were murdered in Maidanek.

Ryan, who had emigrated to the US and married there and was hunted down by Simon Wiesenthal, and was described by the prosecutor as "the cruellest of the cruel", was noted for her personal savagery, had herded people to the gas chambers, and had organised the "Harvest Festival" of 3 November 1943, in which 17,000 inmates were shot before open graves. Laechert had had a direct hand in the murder of at least 100 Jewish children, set her dog on pregnant Jewish women to tear them to pieces. Hackman, deputy commander of the camp, was directly involved in the murder of 2,400 inmates, destroying people "like vermin". Laurich, known as the "angel of death", specialised in blinding people with his whip.

Heinz Galinski, chairman of the West Berlin Jewish community, protested in a statement that the sentences were a miscarriage of justice and an insult to all victims of the Nazis. "The great chance morally to overcome at least a part of the ghastly past, has, as so often, been squandered", he said.

In a letter to the Times on 3 July, Dr. Martin Kolinsky of Birmingham University observed:

"It is not merely criminal individuals who are on trial; what is fundamentally at stake is the way in which this past is integrated with the present in a nation's consciousness.

"Although common justice may be beyond reach, lassitude or indifference would represent injustice to the memory of the victims and their surviving relatives and friends. And beyond them, it would be unfair to those in the Federal Republic who have the moral courage to face the dreadfulness of their inheritance, and to those everywhere who try to comprehend the human devastation which the trials recall."

### LEO BAECK HONOURED

Rabbi Leo Baeck has been commemorated in a new synagogue named after him and recently consecrated in the Jewish Senior Citizens' Centre in West Berlin.

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### CENTENARY PROTEST

When the VVDSt (Verband der Vereine deutscher Studenten—Confederation of German Students Unions) recently had a hundredth anniversary celebration in Berlin—and in the Otto Braun Hall, no less, named after the Social Democratic Prussian Ministerpräsident—there were protests from prominent citizens, some of them Jews, and mostly from the academic world. They protested, in a leaflet distributed before the celebration, against the VVDSt's policy, since 1945, of silence about its long history of anti-semitism. "The centenary celebration", they wrote, "embraced more than 50 years of the confederation's militant official antisemitism."

### EMIGRATED ENGINEERS 1933-1945 A New Research Scheme

The "Verein Deutscher Ingenieure—VDI" has embarked upon research into the fate of former colleagues who were forced to emigrate under the Nazi regime, and with the intention of informing the general public about what happened to them and to their families. Under the chairmanship of Dr. Karl-Heinz Ludwig, Professor of History at the University of Bremen, a committee has been formed which also includes victims of Nazi persecution.

The first step will be to try to obtain the names and addresses of emigrated engineers, either directly from them or from others who can help locate them. Any information will be greatly appreciated. Then a questionnaire will be sent out to collect data and documentation about the conditions and effects of emigration. This will serve as the basis for an account of the lives of our colleagues during those dark days.

The ultimate result will be the publication of a scholarly assessment in which, however, no names will be mentioned without the engineer's permission. Readers are asked to address communications to: Dr. Koenig, Bereich Technik Geschichte, Verein Deutscher Ingenieure, Postfach 1139, 4000 Duesseldorf, West Germany.

### VIOLENCE CHARGE FAILS

A freelance Israeli photographer, Leon Schachman, has been acquitted by a Bad Hersfeld court following accusations of intimidation and breach of the peace against persons attending the German Right-Radicals' Meeting in Philippsthal last June. The six witnesses appearing against him became so involved in contradictory evidence that the official prosecutor had to admit there was no proof of intimidation. The case collapsed completely when a film of the meeting, made by the right-wing radicals themselves, failed to show any physical violence on the part of Schachman, and the bench dismissed the charges.

### CEMETERIES AS SOURCES OF HISTORY

Two members of the Free Democrats (Liberals) in the Hesse Land Parliament, Dr Sybille Engel and Ruth Wagner, have asked for a complete list of Jewish cemeteries in Hesse, stating what is being done by the Land Government and by Jewish communities to preserve them as sources for the research into Jewish history. They said that many of the tombstones have been damaged by pollution and the Hebrew inscriptions were difficult to decipher. They should be listed and preserved as far as possible, and their inscriptions should be transcribed and, where necessary, translated. The government was asked to state how much money it was prepared to provide to safeguard these unique sources of historical research. The Historical Commission for the History of the Jews in Hesse had an amount of about £17,000 p.a. at its disposal, and Bingo Clubs had provided another £4,000 for the upkeep of Jewish tombstone inscriptions, but this was not enough. City and district councils should also be asked to make contributions.

### NEW SYNAGOGUE FOR KREFELD

A new synagogue has been dedicated in Krefeld in the presence of the Lord Mayor, of municipal officials and of church ministers. To mark the occasion, the municipality is sending copies of its publication, "Krefelder Studien 2—Krefelder Juden" to all former Jewish citizens whose addresses are known.

### LEO LIPPMANN HALL

On the hundredth anniversary of the birth of the former Hamburg Finance Senator, a Leo Lippmann Hall was inaugurated in the Hamburg Senate House in the Gänsemarkt. Dr. Lippmann was dismissed from the government service in 1933 and committed suicide in 1943. The present Finance Senator described Dr. Lippmann's services to the community, and the Hamburg historian Prof. Werner Jochmann, who had published Lippmann's "Memoirs" in 1964, sketched his personality.

### "SPECIAL TRAINS TO AUSCHWITZ"

A German translation of Raul Hilberg's book "The Role of the German Railways in the Destruction of the Jews" has just been published in Germany as *Sonderzüge nach Auschwitz* (translated by Gisela Schleicher for Dumjahn Verlag, Mainz, 1981). In his Foreword to the book, Dr. Adalbert Rückerl, head of the Ludwigsburg Nazi Crimes Investigation Centre, points out how the book illuminates the extent to which an apparently neutral institution like the railways can be abused by a totalitarian regime for its own purposes. This is made vivid by the full bureaucratic panoply of railway timetables and itineraries, turn-around times, carriage-posting, transport reports, correspondence and invoices, in addition to the photographs gathered from German, Israeli and Polish sources. E.G.L.

### AUSTRIA

#### Dr. Kreisky's Palestinian Solution

In an interview given to "Arab Business Report", Dr. Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, has discussed the possibility of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "If Hitler and his regime had failed to become established in Central Europe", writes Dr. Kreisky, "we would not have had so many hundreds of thousands of European Jews going to Israel. But it is now a fact that they are there, that they have formed a state and want to keep it." His only solution to the problem would be the creation of a Palestinian State. Copies of the paper, which is published in Holland, will shortly be seen on British bookstalls.

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Friedrich Walter

## PAUL MUEHSAM'S TAGEBUECHER UND SEIN "AHASVER"

Die höchst bedeutsamen und bemerkenswerten Tagebücher des Schriftstellers und Philosophen Paul Mühsam sind jetzt im Rosgarten Verlag, Konstanz, erschienen (DM 24.00). Sie sind von seiner Tochter Else Levi-Mühsam klug und liebevoll ausgewählt und verständnisvoll kommentiert. Vor zehn Jahren gab sie schon einmal zwei seiner Gedichtbände heraus, über die ich seinerzeit an dieser Stelle berichtete. Aus seinen Tagebüchern erschliesst sich ein sehr typisches Bild vom inneren und äusseren Lebensgang, der Entwicklungsgeschichte eines deutsch-jüdischen Dichters und Denkers.

Paul Mühsam war von Hause aus ein Rechtsanwalt. Er wurde 1876 in Brandenburg geboren, besuchte die Gymnasien in Chemnitz und Zittau und studierte Jura in Freiburg, München, Leipzig und Berlin. Von 1905 an wirkte er in Görlitz als Anwalt und Notar. Nach dem ersten Weltkrieg, während dessen er beim Zentralkomitee des Roten Kreuzes in Berlin tätig war, begann er seine Lyrik und Prosa zu veröffentlichen, 1933 emigrierte er mit seiner Familie nach Israel, wo er 1960 im Alter von 83 Jahren gestorben ist.

In seinen Tagebuch-Aufzeichnungen begegnen wir einem Mann dessen lebenslänglicher Konflikt und Zwiespalt der zwischen seinem Deutschtum und Judentum war. Damit hat er leidend und zugleich geistig leidenschaftlich gerungen. Er war ein Gefühlsmensch und hatte zugleich einen klaren, durchdringenden Verstand, eine scharfe und treffende Urteilskraft. Beide entsprangen sowohl seiner Innwendigkeit wie seinem offenen, der Aussenwelt zugewandten Blick. Während seiner Berliner Jahre, die er, von seiner Familie getrennt, in den vielfachen Sorgen, Nöten und Entbehrungen des Ersten Weltkriegs verbrachte, wurde ihm das Glück und die innere Bereicherung zuteil, die erstaunliche, einzigartige, Blüte der deutschen Schauspielkunst in jenen Notjahren zu erleben. Er bewunderte Paul Wegener als Othello und als König Philip in Schillers "Don Karlos", Lucie Höflich in Ibsens "Nora", Helene Thimig als Hannele in Gerhart Hauptmanns "Hanneles Himmelfahrt", Alexander Moissi und Emil Jannings in den männlichen Hauptrollen des gleichen Stücks.

Es war auch die Zeit, in der man damals noch so umstrittene Dramatiker wie Wedekind und Strindberg in glänzenden Aufführungen spielte. Paul Mühsam sah die heute vergessene, aber damals hochbegabte Schauspielerin Maria Orska, eine in Odessa geborene Jüdin und in ihrem persönlichen Leben ein unglückliches Geschöpf, in Wedekinds "Erdgeist" und fand ihre Lulu "meisterhaft dargestellt". Seltsam zu denken, dass dieses Stück nun in Alban Bergs später entstandener Oper "Lulu" in England sozusagen jetzt erst wiederentdeckt wurde und viel diskutiert wird. Ueber Wedekinds Drama schrieb Paul Mühsam in einer seiner Aufzeichnungen aus dem Jahr 1917: "Es ist mit dem Kopf, nicht mit dem Herzen geschrieben. . . Nur was von Herzen kommt, kann zum Herzen sprechen." Ein für ihn äusserst charakteristischer Satz. Denn er suchte, wie Werner Volke in einem Geleitwort zu den Tagebüchern schreibt, "gegen den seelenlosen, mechanischen Zeitgeist eine neue 'Kultur des Herzens' zu setzen, für den das ethische Moment das Wichtigste im Werdegang der Menschheit war. Was Paul Mühsam an Walther Rathenaus Buch 'Zur Mechanik des Geistes' rühmte, dass es 'von einem hohen sittlichen Ernst getragen und idealer Gesinnung entsprungen' sei, das gilt auch für diese Aufzeichnungen.

Wer aber, wie Paul Mühsam, jene deutschen Schauspieler und ihre Kunst in den Aufführungen der Berliner Theater auch noch und besonders noch nach dem Ersten Weltkrieg miterlebt hat, dem gelten sie noch mehr: sie werden ihm in Mühsams Aufzeichnungen bis zu wehmütiger Ergriffenheit wieder lebendig.

### Ursprung der Familie

Und wem deutsch-jüdische Familiengeschichte am Herzen liegt, der wird Paul Mühsam dankbar sein, aus seinen Aufzeichnungen zu erfahren, dass die Familie Mühsam, auch die seiner Frau Irma, einer geborenen Kaufmann, teils rheinischen, teils westfälischen Ursprungs war. Nicht ohne Stolz, einen uns rührenden Stolz, erwähnt Paul Mühsam, dass seine Vorfahren ursprünglich Pappenheim hiessen, aus Worms stammten und dass einem seiner Ahnen, weil er sich in der Schlacht von Leuthen bewährt hatte, von Friedrich dem Grossen der Namen "Mühsam" verliehen wurde. Ein Vetter von Paul Mühsam Dr. Hans Mühsam, war ein bekannter Arzt und Naturwissenschaftler, ein Freund Einsteins, ein anderer seiner Vettern war der namhafte linkspolitische Schriftsteller Erich Mühsam, der in der kurzlebigen Münchener Räterepublik eine gewissen Rolle spielte; er ist 1934 in einem KZ elend zugrunde gegangen.

Es ist nicht ohne tragische Ironie, das Paul Mühsam noch im Jahr 1932 in einer Auseinandersetzung mit einem damals viel diskutierten Buch von Josef Kastein "Eine Geschichte der Juden" ein Bekenntnis zu seinem

Deutschtum ablegte. Aus den mehr als drei Seiten seiner Aufzeichnungen darüber will und kann ich hier nur einige wenige Stellen zitieren: "Die Judenheit jedoch ist kein Volk mehr, wie sie es einst war . . . Wie schon der sephardische Jude sich gegen den askenasischen abschloss . . . so steht auch dem deutschen Juden derjenige deutsche Christ, der sich auf gleicher kultureller Stufe mit ihm befindet, näher als der polnische und selbst der französische Jude . . . Der europäisch orientierte Jude, mag er noch so sehr an seiner Vergangenheit hängen, weiss garnicht, wie tief seine ganze Anschauungswelt in der Kultur des Staates, in die seine Vorfahren hineinwuchsen, verankert ist. (Selbst der Zionismus verdankt sein spontanes Entstehen der nationalistischen Welle des letzten Jahrhunderts in Europa.) Die Problemstellung von Kastein ist insofern eine unrichtige, als er nur Zionismus oder Assimilation zur Wahl stellt, in jenem die Konzentration, in dieser Auflösung sehend."

Statt von tragischer Ironie sollte man vielleicht besser von tragischer Verblendung sprechen. Sie ist umso tragischer, als Paul Mühsams Tagebücher und Dichtungen sonst nicht ohne einen gewissen prophetischen Geist, eine ungetrübte Eingebung gekennzeichnet sind. Ein Jahr nach der Niederschrift der obigen Sätze musste er seine Anwaltspraxis aufgeben, wurde mit vielen andern schlesisch-jüdischen Juristen für kurze Zeit verhaftet und entschloss sich dann noch im selben Jahr 1933 nach Palästina auszuwandern. Seine Frau, eine feinsinnige, zarte, gesundheitlich anfällige Frau gründete in Haifa, am Fuss des Karmel, ein Logierhaus, das sie bis zu ihrem frühen Tod mit grosser Tüchtigkeit und Tapferkeit leitete. Er selbst trug zum Lebensunterhalt der Familie bei, indem er sich, ohne viel Glück und Erfolg, als Reklamewerber für eine Schifffahrtsgesellschaft, als Hypothekenvermittler und Briefmarkenhändler betätigte. Eine seiner Aufzeichnungen aus dem Jahr 1935 lautet: "Ich muss die Lebenszeit, die mir noch bleibt, darauf verwenden, tätig zu bleiben und vorwärts zu kommen, statt sie vorwiegend auf Hebräisch zu verwenden, das ich nie so werde beherrschen können, dass ich noch den Zugang zu einer neuen Kultur zu finden vermöchte. Ich würde den Boden ganz unter den Füssen verlieren, wenn ich, statt die deutsche Sprache zu meistern, in einer fremden stümpfern würde." Ein andermal, fünf Jahre später, heisst es: "Ostersonntag und Purim-Anfang. Den Oster-spaziergang aus dem 'Faust' und das Buch Esther aus der Bibel gelesen." Noch viel später, im Jahr 1953, trug er einmal in sein Tagebuch ein: "Abends, in den Gärten von Haëm zur H-Moll-Messe, die ich seit Görlitz nicht mehr gehört hatte."

Allmählich fand er dennoch den Weg zu seiner neuen Umwelt; sie wurde ihm zu seiner zweiten Heimat. Er wurde ein hochgestimmter Zeuge des Befreiungskrieges von 1948 und der Gründung des Staates Israel. Seinem Tagebuch hat seine Tochter den Titel gegeben: "Mein Weg zu mir".

Das könnte auch der Titel seines dramatischen Gedichts "Der Ewige Jude" (Seekreis Verlag, Konstanz) sein, das er schon 1924 in Deutschland begonnen hatte und in seinen letzten Lebensjahren in Israel beendete. Es ist eine lockere Szenenfolge, in deren Ablauf Ahasver der Ewige Jude Zwiesprache mit Gott mit Christus und mit jungen Israelis hält. Sie ist in der Verssprache von Goethes "Faust" geschrieben und geht einen Weg, der über Paul Mühsams lebenslangen Konflikt und Zwiespalt zwischen seinem Deutschtum und Judentum zu seiner religiösen und geistigen Verinnerlichung, zu seinem Glauben an Gott und an die Veredlung des Menschengeschlechts führt. Sie schliesst mit den Versen:

"Denn all mein Hoffen und Begehren  
Ist einzig nur auf Gott gestellt . . .  
So führ mich, Herr, durch Sturm und Stille,  
Zum Lichte deiner Gnade hin."

### CLUB 1943

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- 3 August. Mitgliederversammlung. Berta Sterly: Ernstes und Heiteres aus meinem Leben.
- 10 August. J. David Pawson, MA, BSc: The Time has come for the Gentiles to repay their debt to the Jews. (Recorded Speech, given on 18 June in London.)
- 17 August. Dr. Ellen Kessel-Ruhemann: Bilder von meinen Reisen.
- 24 August. Manfred Klaber: Zwei Professoren aus Wien: Sigmund Freud und Alfred Adler.
- 31 August. Bank Holiday. Kein Vortrag.
- 7 Sept. Heinrich Hellmann: Entwicklungshilfe durch Deutsche Politische Stiftungen.
- 14 Sept. Hans Freyhan: Meister der Neuren Englischen Musik: Elgar, Delius, Vaughan Williams and Walton.
- 21 Sept. Hans Seelig: Heinrich Böll.
- 28 Sept. Kein Vortrag (Erev Rosh Hashana).
- 5 Okt. Hannah Karminski House ist geschlossen.

Egon Larsen

## WORLD HISTORY AND THE GERMAN P.E.N.

Earlier this year, the German Library in Frankfurt mounted an exhibition dealing with the German P.E.N. in exile 1933-1948, about which this journal reported briefly in its March issue. I have now received the catalogue of that exhibition, which, in 400 pages and with many illustrations, tells the dramatic—and often tragic—story of the German writers who had to leave their homeland when Hitler took over.

It is not just the story of the German P.E.N., it is a substantial chapter of world history and it conveys an idea of the frightful hiatus in German literature which is still noticeable today through its long-lasting effects. The mere list of exiled writers, Jews and non-Jews, is an indication of Nazi Germany's loss, not only because it is so enormously long but because hardly any well-known names are missing, except those of the writers who were murdered in the death camps.

In June 1933, one month after the burning of the books, the International P.E.N. held its 11th Congress in Dubrovnik. "It is ironical that a meeting of writers pledged to stand aside from politics should have been the occasion of one of the stormiest political demonstrations," reported the *Manchester Guardian*. The explosion came when H. G. Wells, who had succeeded John Galsworthy as President, allowed Ernst Toller to address the Congress on recent events in Germany. The German delegates, Nazis to a man, marched out in protest. In November, the Executive Committee of P.E.N. decided that the *gleichgeschaltete* German Centre was "incompatible with the general constitution of P.E.N."; but it was also

agreed that "a Centre composed of those writers who left Germany" would be a good idea. This was the end of the old German P.E.N. and the start of a new one.

Its first list of members—no more than a dozen—was submitted to the International P.E.N. secretary, Hermon Ould, in March 1934. Among them were Heinrich and Klaus Mann, Ernst Toller, Arnold Zweig, Lion Feuchtwanger, Bruno Frank, Emil Ludwig, Georg Bernhard, Max Herrmann-Neisse, and Rudolf Olden as its secretary. Within a few years, three of them were dead: Toller and Klaus Mann took their own lives; Olden, who lived in Oxford, was interned in 1940, but British friends succeeded in getting him released when the New School for Social Research in New York offered him the post of lecturer. Olden and his wife Ika embarked on the *City of Benares* in Liverpool during a German air-raid. There were nearly 100 children on board. In mid-Atlantic the ship was struck by a torpedo from a German U-boat, and sank. 73 children and 174 adult passengers died, among them Rudolf Olden and his wife.

### New London Centre

The group of German exiled writers seemed to have died with its first secretary, but Hermon Ould brought it to life again. In 1941 he asked Alfred Kerr and Friedrich Burschell, both in London, to organise a new German centre. A year later, with Richard Friedenthal as its new secretary, it already had three dozen members, including Gabriele Tergit, Monty Jacobs, Erich Eyck, Lehmann-Russbuehldt, Carl Roessler, Hans

Rehfishch and Irmgard Litten. After the war, re-named "P.E.N. Centre of German-speaking Writers Abroad", it began to be joined by exiled authors in the USA, Switzerland, Israel, Latin America and a few other countries, while 20 writers who had survived Hitler or returned to the Federal Republic founded Germany's new P.E.N. Centre in 1948, soon to be followed by a separate Centre in the G.D.R.

The London Centre celebrated Alfred Kerr's 80th birthday early in 1948; in the autumn of that year, he undertook the first flight of his life to Hamburg, where he suffered a stroke during a performance of "Romeo and Juliet". He died a few weeks later.

For its illustrations alone, its rare photographs and reproductions of documents (many supplied by archives in the G.D.R.), the catalogue has great historical value but also much nostalgic charm. There is, for instance, a unique photograph of Heinrich Mann and Max Liebermann in 1932 and Mann's diary of a year later with the laconic entry "abgereist"; a snapshot of Oskar Maria Graf in his native Bavarian *Lederhosen*; a series of portrait cartoons by Dolbin, Ossietzky photographed among a group of prisoners, guarded by an armed stormtrooper at the Sonnenburg concentration camp; Alfred Döblin in his East Berlin surgery; E. E. Kisch, with clenched fist, arriving in Australia; a letter from the *Preussische Geheime Staatspolizei* in 1936, depriving Rudolf Olden of his German nationality because of his *masslose Hetze* against the Third Reich; John Heartfield at the fair on Hampstead Heath; Kurt Grossmann's leaflet to the western world with a fervent appeal for help to get the endangered refugees out of Czechoslovakia; and a 50-year-old photo of a lovely young woman who has now, at 87, retired as the secretary of the P.E.N. Centre of German-speaking Writers Abroad: Gabriele Tergit, who took over that strenuous and responsible position a quarter of a century ago.

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H. W. Freyhan

## ASSESSMENT OF JEWISH PAST

## An East German publication on Synagogues in Germany

A few years ago Edition Peters, the well-known Leipzig Music publishers, issued a reprint of Aron Friedmann's book on Synagogue Music (reviewed in AJR Information, October 1979). Now another East German publishing firm, the VEB Verlag der Kunst, Dresden has brought out a large volume: *Die Synagoge in der deutschen Geschichte* (1980, n.p.). The author, Helmut Eschwege, survived the Nazi period in Estonia and Palestine. In 1946, he returned to Dresden, where he holds a post at the Technical University. He has previously published a book *Kennzeichen J* which deals with the fate of German Jewry under the Nazis.

The bulk of the present volume consists of illustrations which cover the history of synagogue architecture in Germany from the 11th century to the post-1945 period. The collection of this material was no easy task since the Nazis had destroyed even pictures of synagogues. Nevertheless, the 241 illustrations—which include cemeteries as well as some historical documents—amount to an ample survey which covers the main cities and some smaller congregations. For many former German Jews, they will be the book's chief attraction.

Eschwege's comments on the history of synagogue architecture are partly based on a dissertation by Harold Hammer-Schenk, *Untersuchungen zum Synagogenbau in Deutschland von der ersten Emanzipation bis zur gesetzlichen Gleichberechtigung der Juden (1800-1871)*. But he has quite rightly, not least for the benefit of non-Jewish readers, widened the scope by tracing also the development of synagogue ritual in connection with the general trends in the history of German Jewry.

His conclusions are not always above criticism. The historical narrative is somewhat casual, frequently losing sight of the larger issues by putting too much focus on minor events. One of the chapter headings is rather puzzling: it promises comments on *Die Synagogen in der Zeit der fruehbuengerlichen Revolution und des Absolutismus*. What follows refers to the pre-emanipation period in the 18th century, but the term *fruehbuengerliche Revolution* is nowhere explained, let alone its relevance to the reports on the congregations in Silesia, Frankfurt and Berlin which occupy most of this chapter. This is but one example of the book's methodological shortcomings. There is also the doubtful assertion that the Jews were expelled from Spain "durch die Pogrome der katholischen Kirche". The expulsion was the result of a Royal edict, issued in 1492, and even the Inquisition was concerned only with the Marranos, i.e. Jews who had been converted.

More fundamental problems arise from the author's commitment to a Marxist interpretation of history. There can be no quarrel, of course, with the attempt to emphasise the sociological aspects in Jewish history. But this approach leads the author to some controversial conclusions.

Discussing the Jewish situation in the Middle Ages, he states: "Da das eigene Recht, unter dem die juedischen Gemeinden standen die oekonomische Grundlage der Juden sicherte und von ihrem religioesen Bekenntnis praktisch nicht zu trennen war, widersetzten sich die Juden den Bekehrungsversuchen. Der Uebertritt zum Christentum haette fuer sie die Zerstoerung ihrer wirtschaftlichen Existenz gebracht."

On the other hand, conversions in the 19th century were "nicht ein 'Glaubenswechsel', sondern ein notwendiger sozialer Akt im Kapitalismus." It may have been ein sozialer Akt, but why should it be tied to capitalism?

Even less acceptable is a comment on the Reform movement in Hamburg. The town's Jewish citizens "dachten doch weniger an eine wirkliche Aenderung der Religion als an ihre Geschaefte, ihre Behaglichkeit und Ruhe."

To claim that during the Weimar Republic only a small minority of congregation members ("nur noch wenige Prozent") attended the Services seems another exaggeration.

It would be unfair to extend these necessary reservations to the whole of Eschwege's text. His description of synagogue ritual and its development presents detailed information which will be useful to Jewish as well as non-Jewish readers. The course of events after 1933 is appropriately treated and well documented. Most valuable is the inclusion of the secret Gestapo orders which unleashed the "Kristallnacht" and the subsequent mass arrests and transfers to concentration camps. Also included are excerpts of the minutes of the notorious meeting, chaired by Goering, which discussed the question of insurance for the damage, the collective fine and future anti-Jewish measures. At the end of this meeting, Goering predicted that, in case of war, there would be "eine grosse Abrechnung mit den Juden".

Both documents were used at the Nuernberg trial.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## WILFRID ISRAEL (1899-1943)

Sir,—I am engaged on research into the life of Wilfrid Israel (1899-1943) and should be glad to hear from any readers who knew him either in Germany or, during the last years of his life, in London. I can be reached until 19 August at the following address: c/o Brent, 35 Acacia Road, London NW8 6AS or, after that date, c/o Jones, 10 Waterside Place, Princess Road, London, N.W.1.

NAOMI SHEPHERD

## BERLIN JEWISH COMMUNITY

Sir,—In connection with some research work on the Berlin Jewish community during the years 1932-1939, I am looking for archive material which may be in private hands, as well as for addresses of persons active in the Berlin Jewish Community.

Kibbutz Hachotrim,  
Mobile Post Chof Hacarmel,  
Israel.

JEHOJAKIM KOCHAVI

## FORMER WUPPERTAL CITIZENS

Sir,—I should be grateful if any former Jewish citizens of Wuppertal would get in touch with me. Am Diek 69  
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Stadtverordneter

MIRIAM KOCHAN

## THE JERUSALEM PROBLEM

## Terence Prittie's Analysis

A picture of the Berlin Wall hangs prominently and significantly in the office of Teddy Kollek, Mayor of Jerusalem. It is, Terence Prittie tells us in his wide-ranging analysis, *Whose Jerusalem?*, a constant reminder of the evils of division and an affirmation of his belief that unity must be a basic factor in Jerusalem's future. The point is pressed home when, in the course of his account of the history of the City, which forms the first half of the book, Prittie reaches 1967. Then, division was an actuality and the position of West Jerusalem in some respects worse than that of West Berlin. The other principles guiding Kollek's policy on Jerusalem are equality of treatment and rights for all its citizens; that the Jerusalem question should be the last to be tackled in searching for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute and should be treated as an intrinsic and integral part of that dispute; and that the question is not insoluble.

## Author's Solution

Prittie, a great admirer of Kollek, has his own solution, and again turns to Berlin to demonstrate it. "Why, then, should Jerusalem not be given 'administrative sovereignty', with full control over its own affairs? West Berlin manages very well with this and, it might be added, a unified Berlin would manage much better". In contrast to the multitudinous solutions suggested (which Prittie outlines), it would enable Jerusalem to remain the capital of Israel and also possibly house the government of a Palestinian entity. Both Arabs and Jews could participate in the government of the City and thereby prove the viability of true co-existence. Arab pride, damaged by defeat, would be salvaged by taking an active part in the administration, and Israeli sovereignty would be safeguarded by the built-in Jewish majority.

The majority, Prittie says, would persist given an efficiently operated borough system, and here it is London that furnishes the model. Sir William Fitzgerald, Chief Justice in the Mandatory Administration, first drew on the administration of the LCC as a prototype for Jerusalem in his August 1945 report. In January 1980 Kollek sent a top-level delegation to study it at first hand.

Kollek, fair-minded, humanitarian, bold and imaginative is the real hero of this book. His election as Mayor in 1965 was, writes Prittie, "a turning-point in the affairs of West Jerusalem". Again, in October 1969, "The Arab vote was, according to analysts, almost solidly for Kollek, as a man who inspired trust and confidence".

The same can be said of Terence Prittie. Whether he is writing of the respective allegiance to the Holy Places felt by Jew, Moslem and Christian; of the internal problems of Jerusalem (sports stadium, Ramot Road); or of the international tensions which make Jerusalem a flash-point for world peace, he presents the Jewish case fairly and authoritatively. His is a voice that commands belief.

\*Terence Prittie: *Whose Jerusalem?* Frederick Muller Ltd., London, £9.95.

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# THE JEWISH PAST IN GERMAN TOWNS

## JEWIS IN STEINHEIM

### History and Extinction of their Community

It is gratifying that not only large and medium-sized cities but also quite a few small towns consider it their moral duty to publish records of their extinct Jewish communities. Among them, the book by Johannes Waldhoff, "Die Geschichte der Juden in Steinheim", published by the "Heimatverein" 3282 Steinheim I, Billerbecker Strasse 77, 300 pp. 35 photos, DM 28, deserves particular mention, because it not only meticulously describes the fate of the town's Jewry, but in a scholarly way also deals with the legal and economic position of the Jews in the district before their emancipation. The first Jew of the post-medieval period appeared in the records in 1600. In 1808, the Jews were emancipated and had to adopt family names, which are listed in the book. Their gradual integration manifested itself in their economic progress, and a photo of the Kaufhaus Carl Herzfeld is one of the numerous examples. The membership of local "Schuetzenvereine" also served as an indication of social acceptance and it is noted that, after initial difficulties, in 1891, 16 of the 207 members were Jews. The community had its school and its Synagogue (with organ) in the Marktstrasse. In 1855, it comprised 131 members. Their number gradually decreased due to emigration into larger cities. Among those who left was Herz Hirschland (born 1766), who was described in the town's records as a butcher but who, according to another reference in the book, was also the teacher of the community. He moved to Essen in 1810, followed by his sons in 1815. There, his fourth son, Simon, started his career as a tradesman in textiles as well as in coal and, to some extent, in steel. Like many other Jewish tradesmen, he also gave credit to customers and, gradually, this part of his business became predominant so that on 1 September 1841, he founded the famous banking firm of Simon Hirschland.

Of the 59 Jews who lived in Steinheim in 1933, 32 were murdered in concentration camps, five died a natural death and 22 emigrated. All their names are recorded by the author. The last Jew to be buried in Steinheim in 1959 was Carl Loewenstein who, as a partner of a mixed marriage, was deported to Theresienstadt towards the end of the war and later returned to Steinheim. W.R.

## GELNHAUSEN

One of the few synagogues not burned down in November 1938 was that of Gelnhausen, an old baroque building. It had already been sold a year earlier and was used for secular purposes. It has subsequently been allowed to fall into disrepair. A few years ago, a study group of the Department of History of Art at Frankfurt University started excavations in order to find a mediaeval mikvah mentioned in literature and discovered that the building had been erected, probably in 1734, on much earlier foundations. A preservation order was then made which in turn prevented the local chamber of commerce, which had bought the building from a greengrocer, from rebuilding it for its own purposes. A former Gelnhausen Jew, Richard Scheuer, now a US citizen, wrote to Rolf Müller, a CDU member of the Land Hesse Parliament, pointing out that there were religious reasons for not demolishing a Jewish place of worship, but the Gelnhausen Synagogue also had a unique baroque Thora shrine which had no equal anywhere else and should be preserved. After many deliberations, it has now been announced that the Land has managed to provide funds from its own resources for the restoration of the building. The synagogue will eventually be put at the disposal of Gelnhausen to be used for cultural events. E.G.L.

## THE LORD FROM ALTENSTADT

An offset reprint of Hermann Rose's "Geschichtliches der Israelitischen Kultusgemeinde Altenstadt" has made this book, which first appeared in 1931, available again (inquiries to the Landrat von Neu-Ulm, Postfach 1725). Rose (1870-1936) was a head teacher and the last Jewish communal official of Altenstadt. His privately printed work is dedicated "with deepest respect and gratitude to the faithful son and generous patron of this community, Sir Hugo Hirst, Bt., London." Later created Lord Hirst (1863-1943), he was for a long time managing director of the General Electric Corporation (GEC). Originally from Altenstadt, he emigrated in his youth from Munich to England. Rose's work was also the source of the last chapter, about the Jews, in the attractive and well-illustrated booklet "Illereichen-Altenstadt-Beiträge zur Geschichte der Marktgemeinde" (im Verlag und unter der Redaktion von Anton H. Konrad, D-7912 Weissenhorn).

## BAD NAUHEIM

The Bad Nauheim Synagogue is another one that was not destroyed in 1938, and it is being used again. It was recently visited by pupils of the Friedberg School for the Blind as part of their religious instruction. Rabbi Dr. Abrahamovits gave a talk on Jewish teaching and history and answered many questions. He told them that before 1933 many Jews had lived in Friedberg and Nauheim and that Bad Nauheim now has a Jewish community of 90. He also referred to the old mikvah in Friedberg, one of the few that had not been destroyed.

## WESSELING

In 1972, Klaus H. S. Schultes published his "Documentation of the History of Jews on the Left Bank of the Lower Rhine" which contained some information about the fate of the Jewish community of Wesseling, a small industrial town between Cologne and Bonn. It has now been followed by the more specialised "History of the Jews in Wesseling", written by the 37-year-old sociologist Christoph Ehmann. The booklet contains four interesting lists of names, dating back to 1860, 1864, 1904 and 1938 and shows that in 1932 there were 60 members of the congregation. Among the illustrations there is one showing the Jewish *hachsharah* training centre in nearby Urfeld, which still had 45 members in 1938. The building now houses the Swedish Embassy to the Federal Republic. E.G.L.

## KALEKO COLLECTION

In the autumn the only self-contained prose sketches of the poet Mascha Kaléko (1907-1975), "Der Gott der kleinen Webefehler", will appear in a new edition and new format, edited and introduced by Gisela Zoch-Westphal, with a contribution by Horst Krüger ("Days with Mascha Kaléko"). The pieces describe strolls through New York's Lower East Side and Greenwich Village. The book is published by Arani Verlag, Berlin, 1981, and has 30 pen-and-ink drawings by Horst Wolniak.

## JEWISH ROLE IN AUSTRIAN RESISTANCE

Lecturing at the London School of Economics, Professor Herbert Steiner of the Dokumentationsarchiv des Oesterreichischen Widerstandes pointed to the part played by Jews in the anti-Nazi resistance in Austria. In particular, he mentioned the Kampfgruppe Steiermark, a sabotage group in Styria with several hundred members.

## 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.

### Births

Reed:— Mr. L. R. and Mrs. Lici Reed, 97 Cairnfield Ave., N.W.2., are proud to announce the arrival of their first grandchild Lee Alexander, son of Ruth and David Reed and third grandchild for Gertie and the late Len Gilbert.

### Thanks to Well-Wishers

Robert Weltsch:— wants to thank the many readers of this journal who sent him messages of congratulations on the occasion of his nintieth birthday, since he is unable at the moment to answer them individually. This will be done as soon as possible.

### Deaths

Adler:— Max Adler of 36, Murray Crescent, Pinner, Middlesex, died suddenly on 10th June. He was much loved and will be greatly missed by his wife Lia, his children, his grandchildren, his relatives and his many friends.

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## INFORMATION REQUIRED

### Personal Enquiries

Loewengard:— Information required concerning the artist Kurt Loewengard, who died in London in 1940—and the whereabouts of any remaining pictures. Please reply Box 882.

Goldberg:— D. Goldberg, born in Plonsk, last known address 18, St. Kilda's Road, London, N.16, looked for by Abraham Fuchs' Schlesienstrasse 132, 8602 Memmelsdorf, West Germany.

IN CONNECTION with my research work about progressive health service under the Weimar Republic I should be grateful for any information about the following personalities: Kurt Semmel, born 21.2.1895 in Berlin, and his wife Louise Semmel; he was a dentist and she a dental technician; furthermore about Dr. phil Helene Simon (16.7.1895 Nordhausen—1948 London). Prof. Dr. Stephan Leibfried Universitaet Bremen, PO Box 33044 2800 Bremen.

Walter Schwab

# MAN OF THE LEFT

## Shinwell's Autobiography

Manny Shinwell, a colourful nonagenarian, has written a further book of reminiscences.\* His investigations into his early background reveal, to his surprise, that he was born in the East End of London. He has few recollections of those early years, for his formative period was spent in Glasgow where he grew up and lived for a long time. Unfortunately, he has not got much to tell us about his family. His father's family came to England from Poland about 1863 and, while some of them prospered in a minor way, his own father always seemed to be in difficulty. His mother's maiden name was Koeningswinter and, he claims, was a member of a family that emigrated from Germany to Holland and thence to England. Many of them were engaged in the diamond cutting and polishing business. Although Shinwell had some Jewish instruction in his youth, little seems to have stuck. The book contains a number of glaring errors of fact about Jewish matters, but

they are not significant. However, it is an undeniable fact that he is and acknowledges himself to be a Jew.

Indeed, he refers at some length to an incident in the House of Commons during a debate on Foreign Affairs, when he was suddenly interrupted in his speech by a member from the opposite benches who shouted out "Go back to Poland". In retaliation Shinwell hit the offending MP. The affair eventually blew over and, in the event, it turned out that the offending interjection was not intended in any way to be anti-semitic. As far as Israel itself is concerned, Shinwell says "I have a sense of pride in the State of Israel as an entity."

Those interested in political history will be fascinated by this book. Some of the inner discussions about measures to deal with the high level of unemployment in the 1930's are strikingly similar to discussions on the same theme being held at the present time. Although Shinwell was

in the inner core of government and familiar with what was going on, it is to be regretted that he makes no mention in this book about the discussions that must have taken place at the appropriate time about the future of Palestine and about the immigration policy followed by HM Government.

\*LEAD WITH THE LEFT. My first Ninety-Six Years. Manny Shinwell, Cassell Ltd., 202 pp. £6.95.

### SPECIAL HONOURS

Eric Mandell, 79, the musician, cantor and musicologist has been awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by Gratz College in Philadelphia in recognition of his great services to Jewish music. As Erich Mendel, he was, until 1939, the Oberkantor of the Bochum community. His collection of rare Jewish music (scores, manuscripts, books, etc.) was lost when he emigrated (at first to England), but he assembled a second collection in America, which he gave to the Music Library of Gratz College in 1970.

The Austrian writer Prof. Hilde Spiel was awarded the DM 10,000 Johann Heinrich Merck Prize for Literary Criticism in Darmstadt. She spent her refugee years from 1936 to 1963 in London.

E.G.L.

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# THEATRE AND CULTURE

Sweetheart of 50 years ago. Articles have recently appeared in German illustrated papers dealing with the charming actress who, as the "Blonder Traum" delighted cinema audiences in the Thirties. It seems that English-born *Lilian Harvey* had a short life, filled with highlights of triumph and followed by a steep fall into oblivion. Starting as a dancer in Berlin in 1922, she quickly made her way into films and, partnered by good-looking Willy Fritsch, conquered the hearts of the German public with such successes as "Liebeswalzer", "Drei von der Tankstelle" and "Der Kongress tanzt". However, tastes and times changed, and although *Lilian Harvey* attempted several come-backs after the war, results were disappointing and audiences cool. When critics were sharp and derisive, she sued them and lost, thereby ending her career in misery and poverty. She was a lonely shadow of her former self when she died in the Sixties, barely 60 years old.

Vienna. The "Burg" opened its third house "Probuehne am Schwarzenbergplatz" with a play by Peter Weiss, who is best remembered for his sensational "Marat-Sade", first seen in 1964. Called "Die Ermittlung", it deals with the gloomy background of the Auschwitz concentration camp, the pitiless SS guards and the tragedy of their innocent victims.

**Birthdays.** *Adrienne Gessner*, the Austrian

actress, member of the original Reinhardt ensemble in Vienna's "Josefstadt", later the wife of Ernst Lothar, the author and theatre director (who died in 1974), and still occasionally on the stage of Vienna's Burgtheater, is celebrating her 85th birthday—*Fritz Becker*, actor and comedian, well-known as an all round entertainer in London's "Blue Danube" Club, now retired, is 80 years old. Actor *Frederick Schiller*, who was trained in Vienna's Reinhardt Seminar as a pupil of Otto Preminger and came to this country in 1938, will be 80 years old on 25 August. He is one of those actors who has had an unbroken career in plays, cabaret, film and television and has been seen in numerous larger and smaller roles, on several occasions with *Ingrid Bergmann*, *Michael Redgrave* and other stars. In December 1980 he played the leading part in J. B. Priestley's "I have been here before" for the BBC World Service. Two months ago, he was heard on ITV in the documentary "The History of the SS". *Frederick Schiller* has also contributed to the entertainment in various Homes and Clubs, including the AJR Club, where he has always received thanks and appreciation. We hope he will long continue his tireless activity.

**Obituary.** The death at 74, of *Zarah Leander*, the Swedish Diva, singer and actress brings back the memory of a beautiful woman who

entered the limelight in 1936 when her first German-language film "Première" coincided with her personal appearance in Benatzky's musical "Axel an der Himmelstür." Her deep voice, contrasting sublimely with the hitherto-used female soprano tones, scored triumphs and made her name. *Leander's* characteristic mannerism (emphasis on the letter "n" in "wind" and "wunderbar") added to her unique popularity. She remained a Swedish citizen and returned to her native country where, partly paralysed, she spent her last years in quiet retirement. S.B.

## A GERMAN-JEWISH PUBLISHER

### Erich Reiss Remembered

The achievements of the *Erich Reiss Verlag* are recalled in a lively and affectionate essay by Dr. Hans A. Halbey, Director of the Gutenberg Museum in Mainz, which has just appeared in the "Archiv für Geschichte des Buchwesens" (Band XXI, Lieferung 5/6, Frankfurt/M., 1981). In almost three decades of publishing, *Erich Reiss's* firm published some 400 titles, and among them *Gerson Stern's* novel "Weg ohne Ende", *Rabbi Joachim Prinz's* "Wir Juden" and "Die Reiche Israel und Juda", *Abraham Heschel's* Maimonides biography and *Soma Morgenstern's* novel "Der Sohn des Verlorenen Sohnes". *Reiss* had published in many fields, but from 1933 was confined to the "Jewish sector" alone. Founded in 1908, the firm had to close down in 1936. After a spell in a concentration camp, *Reiss* emigrated to New York, where he died in 1951. His widow is the famous portrait photographer *Lotte Jacobi-Reiss*. E.G.L.

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