

Werner Rosenstock

## A COURAGEOUS ENTERPRISE

## Biographies of Emigrants

Throughout the past years, research workers in various countries have published books and monographs which, in general terms or under special aspects, describe the history of the emigration of Jews and political anti-Nazis from German language countries, their initial difficulties and the gradual adjustment to their places of resettlement. Though these works often include references to individual refugees, their main object is to give an overall picture of one of the most revolutionary events of our time. Others lay stress on those emigrants, who have attained fame by their outstanding achievements in their particular fields. Yet what was missing was a kind of Who's Who of those emigrants who did not reach the apex in the course of their activities but whose names should all the same be saved from oblivion.

To fill this gap is the object of an enterprise started seven years ago under the auspices of the "Institut fuer Zeitgeschichte" (Muenchen) and the "Research Institute for Jewish Immigration" (New York) under the guidance of Werner Roeder (Muenchen) and Herbert Strauss (New York). They began their work by collecting the life stories of about 25,000 emigrants. Their collection in itself will be of the greatest documentary value for future historians. Out of these 25,000 documents they selected the names of 8,000 personalities for publication of their data, family background, activities and writings. The first volume, comprising 4,000 names in a tome of 900 pages has now been published ("Biographisches Handbuch der deutschsprachigen Emigration nach 1933, Band I: Politik, Wirtschaft, Oeffentliches Leben", K. G. Saur 1980, DM 298). It is to be followed by a second volume covering Science, Arts and Literature. Whereas the first volume appeared in German, the second volume, for reasons not explained, will be published in English. The difficult and often arbitrary decision of eligibility for the first or second volume could have been avoided, if all the names of personalities had been published in alphabetical order in one single work of two volumes. As things are now, there are quite a lot of names in the first volume which might have fitted more legitimately into the second volume, and the completeness of the whole work will only be assessable when the second volume becomes available. However, these methodical shortcomings are of minor importance compared with the outstanding value which the work represents.

The volume opens with prefaces, written by Professor Martin Broszat (Director of the Institut fuer Zeitgeschichte) and Dr. Curt C. Silberman (Chairman of the Research Foundation for Jewish Immigration), who is also Joint Chairman of the Council of Jews from Germany. There follows a 50 page Introduction by the two editors, Werner Roeder and Herbert Strauss, which in itself is already a masterpiece of historiography. It describes the historical background of the Jewish

people, especially after their—limited—emancipation, the demographical, economic and political situation before the Nazis came to power and the various stages of emigration from 1933 onwards. Altogether, the number of emigrants is estimated at 500,000, including about 30,000 active anti-Nazis (many of whom were also of Jewish origin). Whilst after the war quite a few political emigrants returned to West and East Germany and Austria, where some of them attained high positions, the number of Jewish returnees is estimated at not more than four per cent, including, according to the authors, very few from England.

Like all encyclopaedic works, the volume is not free from mistakes. In some cases, lack of background knowledge has led to rather curious results. Thus, in the otherwise correct biography, a rabbi is described as having officiated in the liberal *Zionist* (my italics) Oranienburger Strasse Synagogue in Berlin. In another case, a communal worker, whose offices also included Board membership of the AJR is stated to have died in 1915 and to have been active in Jewish affairs since 1917. Mistakes of this kind are so obvious that they should have been noticed by the proof reader. There is also at least one case, in which biographies of two different personalities seem to have been rolled into one.

One of the more serious aspects with which the editors were faced was the decision of eligibility of persons who, at one time or another, had held positions in the NSDAP, from which they later defected. It may nevertheless have been legitimate to accord a long and detailed entry to Otto Strasser, who joined the NSDAP in 1925 but who, as the protagonist of the Socialist faction of the Party, had many conflicts with Hitler and founded a counter organisation. To save his life, he fled to Vienna in May 1933. After an odyssey during the subsequent years, which were full of political activities, he returned to Germany in 1955, where he died in 1974. Yet what in this reviewer's opinion definitely went too far, was the inclusion of "Putzi" Hanfstaengl, who had participated in the Hitler Putsch, joined the Party in 1931 and became Foreign Press Relations Officer and personal friend of Hitler. After political disagreements, he left Germany for England in 1937, where he was interned in 1939. Allegedly, he was Roosevelt's adviser on questions of political and psychological warfare from 1942 to 1944. In 1945, however, he was again interned, first in England and then in Germany. He was released in 1946 and lived again in Munich up to the time of his death in 1975.

Whilst there are—rightly—quite a few references to conservative anti-Nazis, the majority of the political refugees consisted, apart from a number of Liberals, of Socialists and Communists of various shades. Many of them passed through the labyrinth of political groups and cliques,

which were founded, dissolved, amalgamated and again divided into new splinter groups. Fratricide was the order of the day, last but not least due to the attitude of the Russian Communist Party to their emigrated comrades from Germany. The wellknown experience of Margarete Buber-Neumann, recorded in her book "Als Gefangene bei Stalin and Hitler" is one of the tragic examples. The two daughters from her first marriage to Martin Buber's son Rafael now live in Israel. As Martin Buber's wife was a Jewess by conversion, they are in the Nazi terminology "quarter-Jews" and, under the Nürnberg Laws, Martin Buber's grandchildren would not have been permitted to marry "Jews", but only "pure Aryans". (The reader is asked to forgive the reviewer that he cannot suppress this remark about the absurd effects of the "racial" laws under the Nazis.)

The handbook also follows up the life stories of leading politicians during the Weimar era. The democratic politician, Erich Koch-Weser, had to close his lawyer's practice in 1933, because his mother (née Lewenstein) was of Jewish origin. He became the co-founder of the coffee plantation Rolandia in Brazil. The former Berlin President of Police and Prussian Minister of the Interior, Grzesinski, who fled to Switzerland and ultimately to the US, where he died in 1947, had to earn his living as a metal worker, a craft in which he had worked before he embarked on his political career. He was already deprived of his German citizenship in 1933, because he was blamed for having facilitated the admission of Eastern Jews to Germany.

To an unexpectedly high degree it is possible to detect the Jewish origin also of those Jewish politicians who had left the fold. In most cases, they had become "Dissidents" like their Christian-born comrades. Yet often, the entry reads "Jewish, later Dissident", in other cases, the parents are expressly described as Jews. There are also cases in which, under the impact of the Nazi happenings, "Dissidents" became Jewish again. Yet perhaps the most extraordinary itinerary was that of the historian Arthur Rosenberg, who taught at the University of Berlin. From 1924-28, he was a Communist member of the Reichstag. Later, he left the Party. After his emigration, he returned to Judaism and, before his re-emigration to the US, was Deputy Chairman of the Jewish Students' Federation of Great Britain. His denominational changes are described as follows: Jewish, Protestant, Dissident, Jewish. There are also opposite developments in which Jewish refugees converted to Christianity after their emigration.

Two cases of special interest are those of David Frankfurter and Herschel Grynszpan. Frankfurter, who in 1936 killed the leader of the Swiss group of the NSDAP, was born in Slavonia in 1909, the son of a rabbi. He had to break off his medical studies for reasons of health and went to Switzerland in 1933. Sentenced to 18 years imprisonment, he was discharged in 1946 and went to Palestine/Israel, where he is now an official of the Ministry of Defence. 17-year-old Grynszpan, whose family lived in Hanover, emigrated to France in 1936.

Continued at column 1 page 2

Continued from page 1

## A COURAGEOUS ENTERPRISE

When, like all Polish Jews, his parents were deported in 1938, he took revenge by shooting the German Embassy official vom Rath. This action became the pretext for the November pogroms in Germany and Austria. Grynspan was arrested by the French authorities and later handed over to Germany by the Vichy government. The German proceedings against him were continually postponed and it is assumed that he now lives under an adopted name in France. On the other hand it is also considered possible that he was killed by the Germans while under arrest.

Of course most of the entries refer to emigrants who had left their homelands on account of their Jewish origin. The book includes many lawyers, industrialists, Jewish lay leaders, rabbis and communal workers. The reference to Georg Kareski does not condone his collaboration with the Nazis. When he went to Palestine, the organisation of Jews from Germany publicly accused him of bribery, denunciation and incitement to murder. Kareski put his case before the Supreme Rabbinical Court, which rejected his defence and thus confirmed the correctness of the accusations raised against him.

Quite a few families are represented by several members. Among them are the Vienna Rothschilds (Alphonse, Eugene, Louis Nathaniel), who had to emigrate. Another prominent, though no longer Jewish, family, which met the same fate, are the Ullsteins (Franz, Friedrich, Hermann, Karl, Leopold and Rudolf). The Feuchtwangers, all of whom had remained loyal to their religion, are represented by seven members (not including Lion, who, as a prominent author, will in all likelihood appear in the second volume).

The book also includes former and present British Members of Parliament, among them Clement Freud and the late John Jakob Mendelson, who was born in Poland but spent several years in Berlin before he came to this country. Mention is made as well of Robert Maxwell, Labour MP until 1974; he was born in Czechoslovakia and his original name was Hoch. It is, however, less known and therefore not recorded in the book, that the Conservative MP Peter Rost also came to this country as a refugee; his father, to whom a special entry is accorded, was the economist and journalist Dr. Fritz Rosenstiel, who emigrated first to this country and later to the US, where he died in 1971.

Nearer home, the book includes the four past chairmen of the AJR, Adolf Schoyer, Hans Reichmann, Alfred Dresel and Werner M. Behr, as well as the founder members Walter Breslauer, Adolf Michaelis, Abraham Horowitz, Wilfrid Israel, Salomon Adler-Rudel and Kurt Alexander. There are also many other personalities who make a point of stressing that they were or are office holders or active members of the AJR. Others mention among their writings their contributions to "AJR Information", and quite a few biographies quote this journal as a source of information.

When the idea of the Handbook was first ventilated, there were various doubts about its advisability. Some considered it as sacrilege to mention the biographies of survivors of the holocaust together with several non-Jews who, at one stage or another, had been Nazis or antisemites. Others were against the venture because, considering the upheavals of the period to be covered, it was bound to be limited by omissions. All these doubts were certainly understandable; yet, as the result shows, they were not of decisive relevance. A cross section of individual life stories gives a vivid picture of the emigration as a whole, with all its diversity, vicissitudes and achievements. It also testifies to the fact that the German language countries have sustained as the result of the Nazi régime.

# FROM THE GERMAN SCENE

## POLL SHOWS CONTRADICTION FINDINGS

A poll undertaken for Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's advisers but not so far published is reported by "Der Spiegel" to show that 18 per cent of West Germans believe that Germany was better off under Hitler than now. Government departments are studying the findings to see whether action should be taken.

The magazine "Stern" reports that 50 per cent of West Germans show "negative" views on Jews, and one-third of those questioned admitted strong anti-semitic prejudices. On the other hand, the survey says that 68 per cent strongly agreed that Jews in general were just as moral as most other people, well over 50 per cent believing that Jews were generally "decent people".

Another West German poll carried out by the Allensbacher Institute showed that, of 2,000 people questioned, 59 per cent still thought the word "Vaterland" had a good ring to it. However, nearly two-thirds of the younger age-group between 16 and 29 felt that the word had no relevance today.

## CRACKDOWN ON NEO-NAZIS

Over 500 homes of neo-Nazis were raided by West German Police in their biggest ever action against right-wing extremists. Quantities of banned antisemitic and neo-Nazi books and pamphlets, as well as 16 unauthorised guns, were seized and several hundred prosecutions are expected to follow. One of those accused of having prohibited material in his possession is the Police Chief of Recklinghausen, Ernst-Albrecht Lohmüller. The pamphlets, bearing such titles as "The Auschwitz Swindle" and "Nazi Call to Battle", had been imported from North America.

The raids arose out of inquiries in Stuttgart into the activities of two German-Americans, Garry Lauck and Georg Dietz, and a German-Canadian, Ernst Zündel. Four years ago, Lauck was sentenced by a West German court for spreading neo-Nazi propaganda. Despite expulsion from Germany, he was allowed to testify in another trial in 1979, when he said he was "fighting for the restitution of the Nazi party".

## GUILTY LAWYERS

The West Berlin Public Prosecutor has started investigations of 16 members of the legal profession who were involved in death sentences passed by Nazi special courts. Thirteen of them were judges, another three public prosecutors. They were involved in the passing of 141 death sentences on enemies of the régime. These 16 are the only survivors. Another 19 judges who have since died, were responsible for 158 more death sentences. Investigations about a further 47 judges and 21 public prosecutors are pending. So far, no former judge has been brought to justice in the Federal Republic. In 1968, the Federal Court of Justice decided that Nazi judges had acted according to the laws of the time and were therefore exempt from prosecution.

## NEO-NAZIS ON TRIAL

Criminal assault and antisemitic propaganda were some of the charges made against six young men at a trial in Frankfurt a.M. They are all members of a militant neo-Nazi group, the Volkssozialistische Bewegung Deutschlands.

## EVERYDAY LIFE UNDER THE NAZIS

More than 12,000 schoolchildren contributed 2,172 essays on the subject of everyday life under National Socialism in a competition among schools. The winner will receive the prize donated by the Federal president. These competitions have been held since 1974, but none of the previous ones attracted so much interest. The winner will be announced in June.

## TASTELESS JOKES AT CARNIVAL MEETING

At a carnival meeting, Heinz Schultze, 35, the president of a Düsseldorf carnival club, told two "jokes" about Jews and gas ovens. The resulting storm of protest by city councils and members of the public forced him to resign his post. Anti-Jewish jokes have been circulating lately in West Germany, undoubtedly spread by neo-Nazi propagandists among young people. Schoolchildren in particular pick up and retail such stories.

## FORMER BERLINERS ON RETURN VISIT

150 former Jewish citizens of Berlin visited their home town for a week at the invitation of the West Berlin Senate. Most of them came from the USA and Australia. Reigning Lord Mayor Dr. Vogel welcomed them and thanked them for their readiness to visit the new Berlin. He said that another 13,000 former Berlin citizens still waited for an invitation. Rainer Papenfus, head of the Senate Chancellery, said that three hundred years of Jewish history in Berlin had been important for the city as a whole. Pre-war Berlin would have been much the poorer but for many contributions of its Jewish citizens to its cultural and economic development. He himself, though born in 1941, felt that he shared a duty to atone for the terrible wrongs done to the Jewish community under the Nazi régime.

## THE SLOW WHEELS OF JUSTICE

According to the Hesse Minister of Justice, Mr. Herbert Günther, 31 new investigations were started last year against people suspected of having committed or abetted Nazi crimes against humanity. Altogether there are 615 investigations under active consideration in Hesse at present. In Frankfurt, there are at the moment four trials in progress. Elsewhere alleged Nazi criminals are in court procedures in Düsseldorf, Hildesheim, Bochum, Hanover, Hamburg, Kiel, Stade, and Dortmund. In Düsseldorf the trial against former SS sergeant Heinz-Günther Wiesner is about to begin. Wiesner is accused of having killed at least 24 Jewish prisoners and assisted in the murder of another seven, when he was a medical orderly in Riga-Kaiserwald concentration camp. Forty survivors are expected to appear as witnesses.

## ACCUSED MAN DISAPPEARS

In Düsseldorf, a former SS man at Maidanek death camp was found to be absent during the trial, in which he is accused with eight other guards. After several days, however, Herman Karl Villain reappeared to face the court. It was stated that he had been driving round in a state of shock at the prospect of being found guilty in the five-year-long trial.

## ANOTHER UNSUNG HEROINE

77-year old Eva Schenk received the Federal Order of Merit for the humanity she showed in giving shelter to her employer Mrs Erna Rothschild from December 1942 to the end of the war. Erna Rothschild, 91, was present when Mrs Schenk was given the Order by West Berlin Senator of the Interior Peter Ulrich and told about her experiences and of the many courageous men and women who had helped Eva Schenk to move her about, hide her, and provide food for her.

## NO HEINRICH-HEINE SCHOOL?

The Board of Governors of the district *Gymnasium* in Heikendorf near Kiel decided last year, to give the school the name of "Heinrich Heine Schule". The Minister of Education of Land Schleswig Holstein gave his consent, but the civic authorities refused theirs. They pleaded that there was neither a local nor an ideological relationship to Heine. In their report they added that Heine's writings had been banned in 1835, and that both as a Jew and as a political critic, Heine had been drawn into political controversies and had remained a controversial figure to this day. Wolf Rüdiger von Bismarck, head of the district school commission, added that he did not consider Heine a model for German youth.

For three months, the Düsseldorf Heinrich-Heine Institute has shown a special exhibition "Heine in Paris 1831-1856" which attracted many visitors.

## CONSUL FOR EILAT

The West German Government has decided to appoint an honorary consul for the Red Sea resort of Eilat because of the large number of German holiday-makers who visit the town every year.

# HOME NEWS

## A TRIBUTE TO WALLENBERG

A plaque to the memory of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who disappeared into Russian hands after saving thousands of Hungarian Jews, was recently unveiled at Mamlack House, Manchester, before a distinguished audience led by the Duke of Devonshire. The BBC TV film "Missing Hero" was also shown and introduced by its producer, Alan Patient. Praising the diplomat, the Israeli Ambassador said "Had there been 600 more Wallenbergs, there would have been no Holocaust". In reply, the Swedish Ambassador pledged that the Swedish Government would not relinquish its efforts to clarify the mystery surrounding Wallenberg's disappearance.

## HOSPICE FOUNDED ON SURVIVOR'S GRATITUDE

The gratitude of a survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto has borne fruit which will continue to benefit hundreds of people unknown to him. In 1947, David Tasma, a cancer sufferer who had survived the Ghetto, met Cicely Saunders, then a social worker at St. Thomas's Hospital. She continued to help him until his death in 1948 and he left her £500 in his will. With this money, she studied medicine and was able to develop her interest in hospice care; she founded the St. Christopher's Hospice in London, where she is now medical director. Dr. Saunders has been awarded the 1981 Templeton Prize for "progress in religion"—she is an active member of the Church of England. This prize, worth £100,000 will be presented to her by Prince Philip in May and she intends to donate it for a day centre at the hospice. Dr. Saunders, speaking in New York, acknowledged that her work had been motivated by her meeting with David Tasma.

## ZEALOT PROTESTS IN LONDON

Riots in Jerusalem by the anti-Zionist ultra-Orthodox zealots were echoed in London when a group of demonstrators near the Israeli Embassy protested against the "brutal behaviour of the Israeli police" in dealing with the Mea Shearim disturbances. Inflammatory banners accused "Zionist murderers" and demanded "Stop malicious brutal pogroms". In New York, too, thousands of anti-Israel demonstrators equated Nazis and Zionists in a protest meeting outside the Israeli Consulate-General.

## CZECH PAST AND BRITISH PRESENT

A Synagogue at Kingston on Thames will link the vanished Jewish community of Czechoslovakia with the present when it acquires a Sefer Torah rescued from that country after the Second World War. The damaged scroll will be housed within the synagogue foyer as a reminder of the Holocaust and a memorial to a former Czech-born warden, Jack Landa.

## OPERATION WHEELCHAIRS

At the reception of the Operation Wheelchairs Committee which looks after Israeli war invalids, the sum of £9,500 was raised. Amongst those attending the reception at the home of Mrs. Lily Perry, the committee's founder, was Dr. Dennis Guttman, son of the founder patron, the late Professor Sir Ludwig Guttman.

## "THE STORMER" IN DUNDEE

The name of Robert Relf has cropped up in connection with antisemitism in Dundee following the controversial town-twinning with Nablus, the flying of the PLO flag and the council's Arab League-financed visit to the Middle East.

Both in Dundee and Glasgow, attempts were made to distribute "The Stormer", a racist and antisemitic comic—as its name implies—outside school playgrounds. Relf, who has been imprisoned more than once for his racist acts, claims responsibility for this virulent publication.

The Director of Public Prosecutions is considering the paper with a view to prosecution under the Race Relations Act.

## COMMEMORATION MEETING

Address by Mr. Simon Wiesenthal

Readers are reminded that the Meeting in commemoration of the Holocaust victims will take place on Sunday, 10 May, at 3 p.m., at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Leicester Square, W.1. The speaker will be Mr. Simon Wiesenthal. We repeat our urgent request to our friends to attend this highly important function.

## RECOVERY OF CANTERBURY SYNAGOGUE?

After 50 years' ownership of the former synagogue in Canterbury, the Church Commissioners wish to convert it into a private dwelling-house. Built in the Egyptian style of the early 19th century, the synagogue was opened by Sir Moses Montefiore, and efforts are being made to reinstate it for the use of the local Jewish community and Jewish students and academics at the University of Kent. Organisers of the "Save the Synagogue" campaign point to the historic value of the building and to the fact that there is no proper place of worship for the revived local community. A petition has been presented to Canterbury Planning Committee and appeals are being made for financial assistance with the project.

## A SETBACK FOR JEWISH SOCCER

Our member, the well-known St. Annes philanthropist Walter Hubert, has severed his connections with the Manchester Jewish Soccer League of which he was president. He was also the sponsor of the Walter Hubert Cup competition run by the league. He stated that so far he had spent £2,000 p.a. for the competition, and this year it would have been £2,800, but he thought it could have been run more economically. He objected to having to pay £800 for players to travel from London to Glasgow for a match. The money would now go to benefit other causes.

## LEGACY

Mr. G. L. Tietz, for many years an interested member of the AJR Board, left a legacy of £2,200 to the AJR Charitable Trust.

The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain

invites members and friends to the

## GENERAL MEETING

on Tuesday, 16 June, at 7.45 p.m.

at Hannah Karminski House

9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3  
(Side Entrance)

### I

Report on AJR Activities  
Treasurer's Report  
Discussion  
Election of Executive and Board

The list of candidates submitted by the Executive will be published in the next issue. Members who wish to propose candidates for the Board should write to the General Secretary by the end of May.

### II

MR. HERBERT LOEBL, OBE, M.Phil, BSc  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
will speak on

## A VIEW FROM THE NORTH

Mr. Loebel, an industrialist, has written a thesis on the establishment of industries by Refugees

Non-members are not entitled to vote but are welcome as guests at the meeting

Space donated by Patra Ltd., Basildon

## THANK YOU BRITAIN FUND LECTURE

A special Thank You Britain Fund Lecture was given at the Royal Academy by Professor G. H. N. Seton-Watson, FBA on "Language and National Consciousness" in memory of the late Professor Robert Auty who helped to save the lives of a great number of refugees from Germany and Czechoslovakia. Professor Auty was Professor of Slavonic Languages at Oxford. He travelled widely in Central Europe and studied as a young man at Münster University where he received an additional degree. During his travels, he met many scholars and others who subsequently suffered Nazi persecution and whom he helped to settle in this country. During the war, he was attached to the Foreign Office and worked closely with the Czechoslovakian authorities in this country.

Professor Seton-Watson's erudite lecture was well attended both by fellow-scholars and by members of the AJR. In a wide-ranging survey, he showed that in many countries, especially in those of the old Austro-Hungarian monarchy after the First World War, the awakening of national consciousness was closely connected with the re-emergence of the old native languages, but that this was not invariably the case. In many cases social developments or a strong feeling of religious coherence played a greater part than language.

The lecture proved to be an event of which all supporters of the Thank You Britain Fund can be proud. It also showed once again that single lectures attract much wider audiences than series of three which very few people seem to be able to attend in their entirety.

## MUSIC LIBRARY EXHIBITION

An exhibition of the Paul Hirsch Music Library and the Olga Hirsch Collection of Decorated Papers has been mounted at the British Library and can be seen until 14 June.

The event marks the centenary of Paul Hirsch, the founder of the music library. He was far from being a professional musician—he worked in his father's iron foundry in Frankfurt until 1936, when the family was forced to emigrate and moved to Cambridge. His collection of 20,000 musical publications was shown at the University Library before it was bought for the nation in 1946 and housed in the British Museum. The price of £120,000 could easily have been out-matched, but Hirsch wished the library to stay intact in his country of refuge. He continued to interest himself in the collection and even to add to it until his death five years later.

## POPE RECEIVES LEO BAECK LODGE DELEGATES

Members of the B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck Lodges, who recently visited Rome, were received by the Pope in general audience. They were the only one among the large number of groups who were addressed in English. Later, the President of the Lodge, Mr. Richard Fisher, and the Group Leader, Dr. Arnold Horwell, had the honour of being received in special audience. The Pope proved well informed on the background of the Leo Baeck Lodge, which was founded by refugees from Germany and Austria. He graciously accepted a silver medallion commemorating the 50th anniversary of B'nai B'rith in Britain.

The party was also entertained by the President of the Rome Lodge, Professor Roland Ganem, and had an opportunity to discuss affairs of Italian Jewry with members of the Rome B'nai B'rith.

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# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## UNITED STATES

### Deportation for Treblinka Guard

Feodor Fedorenko, a former guard at Treblinka concentration camp, now aged 74, faces deportation from the United States. When he arrived in 1949 as a displaced person, he confessed, he concealed his connection with the camp. The Justice Department in Washington accuses Fedorenko of aiding the Nazi regime "in the persecution of civilians".

### Jewish TV in California

Los Angeles now has its own Jewish Television Network, which transmits for four hours daily. Its wide range covers children's programmes, Yiddish and Russian language transmissions and university courses. Other programmes to be seen in the area include a weekly "Tel Aviv TV" in English and Hebrew, and "The American-Jewish TV Hour". The sudden flowering of such specialised subjects is due to the increase in cable television, which is not limited to mass audience appeal.

### Claim against a "Learned Institution"

The Institute for Historical Review, which in 1979 declared that it would pay over £20,000 for proof of Nazi mass murders in Auschwitz, is being sued by Mel Mermenstein, a Czech survivor of the death camp. Besides the sum of money promised, Mr. Mermenstein is claiming nearly £8 million damages from the Institute, whose high-sounding name conceals the fact that its main interest is the denial of the Holocaust.

## CANADA

### Arsonist Sent to Gaol

Damage to the amount of £450,000 was suffered in a fire at Beth Shalom Synagogue in Edmonton, Alberta. In a Canadian court recently, Daniel Kautz confessed to setting the building on fire and to scrawling a swastika there. Similar crimes had been committed in Protestant and Catholic churches and in a mausoleum. Kautz received a sentence of four years' imprisonment.

### Assistance to Yiddish Paper

Montreal's Yiddish weekly "Kanada Adler", has received a grant from the Quebec Government, as part of a programme to help ethnic groups maintain their own press and culture. It is the second year that this aid has been given.

### Traditional Marriages for Immigrants

Each year, Rabbi Morton Green holds group weddings when Soviet-Jewish immigrants to Canada are remarried in a religious ceremony. Eighty couples have now shared in this experience over a period of four years.

## SOUTH AMERICA

### Promises and Action against Antisemites

The new President of Argentina, Roberto Viola, has declared his intention of putting a stop to anti-Jewish bombings and incitement to hatred.

In Uruguay, three arrests have been made following a firebomb in a synagogue, swastika-daubing and other attacks.

### GREEKS ATTACK ELECTRICITY CHIEF

Members of the Opposition Greek Socialist Party have presented a written report to Parliament attacking the head of the Greek Public Power Corporation, Dr. Raphael Moissis. Their statement includes such remarks as "The Jewish descent of Dr. Moissis makes him unfit for such a position" and asks "What are the dark forces which have established Dr. Moissis . . . what measures does the Government intend to take to save the PPC?". Their move follows rises in electricity charges which have in turn led to the Greek press filling its columns with antisemitic slanders on the electricity chief, who was formerly a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was appointed by the Government to solve some of Greece's energy problems.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

## ROMANIA

### Pamphlets cause Indignation

The Romanian Ambassador in London did his best to reassure a Board of Deputies delegation concerning the antisemitic pamphlets recently circulating in Romania. Declaring that they must have been smuggled into the country, he firmly denied that the pamphlets expressed Government thinking.

Later Dr. Moses Rosen, the Chief Rabbi of Romania, expressed the community's astonishment and indignation at what he called "the most disgraceful pamphlet I have seen for 30 years". He had referred the matter to the Government and confirmed that an apology had been made and an investigation was under way. Dr. Rosen, himself a target of the pamphlet's attack, disclosed that some of the perpetrators had been identified and that they included prominent press administrators.

### RECORDS OF THE BULGARIAN RESCUE

The documentary film "The Death Transports did not leave from here" was recently shown to the British-Bulgarian Friendship Society. The director, Chaim Oliver, has also written a book on the same theme, "We are Saved". The film was introduced by Ivor Montagu, and Dr. Josif Astrukov of the Organisation of Jews in the Bulgarian National Assembly was present to answer questions and give the background to the rescue of Bulgarian Jews, which was the result of a successful struggle by their fellow-citizens.

### LIBYAN THREAT TO GREECE

Unconfirmed reports in Greek newspapers say that Libya will no longer supply Greece with oil, a consequence, they imply, of a few days spent by the Greek Agriculture Minister as the guest of Ariel Sharon, his opposite number in Israel. This was the first ever visit to Israel by a Greek minister.

### NEO-NAZIS IN THE NORWEGIAN ARMY

Following reports of infiltration of the Norwegian Home Guard by a neo-Nazi organisation, a Norwegian sergeant in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon was ordered back to Norway, where he was put under arrest by the police in connection with their enquiries.

Sergeant Tore Blumquist is the leader of an organisation called "Vigilante". Also under investigation is the "Norges German Armé", which is alleged to have connections with the West German "Wehrsportgruppe Hoffmann". It was a Hoffmann-group member who was killed by the bomb he planted at the Munich Oktoberfest of 1980.

Two men are charged with a double murder committed while the police were actually in pursuit: ten people in all are in custody, mostly accused of thefts of weapons and explosives.

Blumquist's girlfriend has also been arrested: she was employed by the Norwegian army and had access to confidential material and military identity cards. Spanish fascists are rumoured to have been among her contacts.

Traditionally democratic Norway has been shaken by the revelations of neo-Nazi penetration in the defence establishment and the evidence of growing right-wing extremism in Northern Europe.

### TOKYO INVITATION TO THE PLO

The Japanese Ambassador in London has denied that the PLO office in Tokyo has received diplomatic status. Concerning the proposed visit of Yasir Arafat to Tokyo, he said that there was no official Government invitation but that the PLO leader had been invited by an all-party Japan-Palestine friendship group. Although he would probably meet the Japanese Prime Minister, this did not mean Japanese support for the PLO's "terrorist element".

### CONFERENCE OF JEWS, CHRISTIANS AND MOSLEMS

A conference of Jews, Christians and Moslem students has been held annually for the last six years at Redwig Dransfeld Haus, Bendorf. This year's conference was well attended by students, teachers and youth leaders from a number of countries who discussed "the influence of religious education on our relationship to the use and misuse of power or violence".

## SOVIET RUSSIA

### The Battle for Higher Education

After a year's harassment and the arrest of Victor Brailovsky, the Soviet authorities are once again permitting refusenik seminars to be held. Brailovsky, a cybernetics expert, had organised these meetings in his flat; he is still imprisoned. Following his arrest, another professor allowed his flat to be used for the same purpose and continued despite official warnings and a fire started by petrol thrown at his door. At a recent seminar two American physicists attended, together with 15 to 20 Russian scientists, to hear a talk on crystal physics. They report that the people they met were in good spirits. The seminars are valuable for scientists who have lost their jobs after applying for exit visas, as they have difficulty otherwise in keeping up with current research.

Another means of maintaining cultural self-respect is shown by a group in Kharkov who have established an unofficial university where they teach the children of refuseniks, who are excluded from higher education. Courses in chemistry, physics, mathematics, Hebrew and English are given in private flats by academics who have been dismissed from their official posts.

### Emigrants' Difficulties Increased

The Manchester Council for Soviet Jewry states that, although the Soviet Union is apparently allowing a greater number of Jews to leave for Israel, these are almost all people who have applied for their visas within the past year. Those who have already waited over three years are still unable to cross the borders.

Over 1,400 Jews arrived in Vienna in February, compared with 850 in January, but only 16% (222) opted for Israel. Almost all provincial Soviet passport offices are strictly limiting visas to people who wish to be reunited with a member of their immediate family. Other relations are called on to guarantee that they will not seek to emigrate and in some cases the authorities are refusing to accept applications from anyone with relatives remaining in the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile Soviet immigrants in the Haifa area are protesting against rent rises affecting their temporary homes. Although the absorption officials, charged with finding the immigrants permanent homes and jobs, say that the rent increases apply only to people with steady work, the immigrants have refused to attend Hebrew classes or to co-operate with the officials.

### PALESTINIAN COMPLICITY IN FRENCH OUTRAGE

The "tourist from Cyprus" who perpetrated the Paris Liberal Synagogue bombing last October, when four people were killed, is now thought to have been a Palestinian. A weekly news magazine, "Le Point", has revealed that police no longer believe the outrage in the Rue Copernic to have been the work of neo-Nazis.



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# CRITICAL IDENTIFICATION

## Collection of Ernst Simon's Essays

"We Jews sit learning, in an infinite conversation, originating from Moses and never and nowhere since totally discontinued. The melody of the prayer is synchronized by the melody of learning; that is why it is so loud in the *Judenschule* as the not quite friendly saying will have it."

Ernst Simon's conversation with the principles and contents of Judaism is neither loud nor discordant.\* It is eminently harmonious and tuneful while touching upon the most manifold variety of themes. This collection of his essays and lectures, covering 15 years of his literary production, is as instructive as it is readable, as informative as entertaining. Only part of them, the ones he chose as the introductory chapters, deal directly with his "Decision for Judaism," but intrinsically they all belong to the "infinite conversation". Whether he deals with Hofmannsthal, Schnitzler, Fontane or Freud—what attracts Ernst Simon's attention and interpretation is their conscious and sub-conscious attitude to things Jewish, the Jewish problem as such or marginal encounters with Judaism suggesting wider implications.

His decision for Judaism happened at an early age. When still a child his father, deeply involved in the great values of Western civilisation, forbade him to write a story about the Jewish State. Yet, unwillingly and unwittingly, he also made him a Zionist. When years later, the son had taken the decision which made him part ways from his father's assimilationist conviction, his father asked him and his similarly inclined brother who and what had been their decisive motives. He replied: "You yourself. You taught us decency, and that meant Zionism". It was the age of virulent anti-Semitism in Germany when radical about-turns suggested themselves by the turbulent events.

But Ernst Simon remained a Zionist of particular intellectual coinage. He is an observant Jew, not an orthodox one as he likes to point out,

but a liberal one who adheres to many more commandments than the usual liberal Jew. On the first Seder night of his life, in 1918, he decided to follow in vital seriousness the vow: "Next year in Jerusalem". Ten years later he went on *Aliyah*. Since then he has lived, worked, thought and written in Palestine/Israel, first as a teacher, later as university professor of pedagogy, always as a Zionist individualist, in "critical identification". He only interrupted his stay in the country from 1933 to 1934, when he went to the aid of German Jewry and, together with Martin Buber, built up the organisation for Jewish adult education.

In one of the fundamental articles in the collection under review, "Totality and Anti-Totalitarianism as Features of Traditional Judaism", Ernst Simon invokes the prophets, the Talmud teachers, philosophers and poets in justification of his basic stance: they all identified themselves ardently with their people, but their identification was critical. "They criticised it severely, but their criticism came from within, from their identification. Only in critical identification can the belief in Israel's Chosenness be justified and maintained. Here does Martin Buber's lasting realisation retain its validity: if we are not more than any other nation on this earth, we shall not even be a nation like the other nations on this earth. Chosenness has its price. He who talks of his belief in it, but falsifies it from a special obligation into a privilege is an impostor in history."

Criticism from within, towards oneself, one's brethren, and above all towards what is meant with the creation of the State of Israel—these are the ever recurring demands which Simon puts to his fellow-Jews. By showing in numerous examples the relationship between modern and traditional Jewish literature he makes the Bible our contemporary and present-day writers witnesses of age-old tradition. His religious allegiance in unison with

his moral principles led him from the start towards the quest for peaceful co-existence with the Arabs. He was a member of the *B'rith Shalom* and when with changing times he had to change his political adherence he did so unhesitatingly in favour of other groups that stood for Jewish-Arab peace. Today he is a member of the political group "*O's we Shalom*" ("Strength and Peace") whose co-founder and leader is his son Uriel Simon. It stands within the framework of Jewish tradition for harmony between the nations and against chauvinism. No generation gap in the Simon family! To teach young people Arabic, to work for the integration of the Arab minority, to promote the Arab educational system by maintaining its linguistic-cultural autonomy—these are only some examples of Simon's peace-programme. He was deeply shocked by signs of nationalist complacency after the Six-Day-War. Could it happen, does he ask in anguish, that a people wounded by irremediable suffering gets into the danger of hubris and over-estimation of its own power?

Ernst Simon asks even the most precarious questions, even those that touch upon the very essence of his being, in sympathy and kindness. It is only in his settling accounts with Hannah Arendt's articles on the Eichmann Trial in Jerusalem that an ardent anger gets the better of his charity. His criticism of her way of presenting the proceedings becomes the most comprehensive chapter of his book. It amounts to a passionate condemnation both in sorrow and in anger. Her injudicious and cynical report first appeared in the *New Yorker*, later as a book. It met with so much adverse publicity in the Jewish communities everywhere, that the criticism need not be renewed in this context. Just because Ernst Simon knows and appreciates Hannah Arendt's scholarly achievements in other fields he is hurt more deeply by this manifest intellectual aberration. He detects its underlying causes in certain traces of self-hatred of her own past. "Do not dissociate yourself from your community; do not trust yourself until the day of your death, and do not judge your companions before you have been in their situation"—with this quotation from the "Words of Our Fathers" he rebukes her fallacy.

In his criticisms as well as in his identification Ernst Simon proves his educational mastership. Being himself a man of wide learning, equally at home in many worlds of thought and a specialist in comparison and differentiation, his wisdom shines most brightly when he can show up and examine encounters of different spheres of civilisation, mutually enriching each other.

A previous publication of a collection of Ernst Simon's essays was suitably entitled "Bridges" (Brücken, Heidelberg 1965). He is a builder of bridges on our strife-ridden earth.

\*Ernst Simon: *Entscheidung zum Judentum*, Essays und Vorträge. Frankfurt 1979.

### "BRITAIN'S NEW CITIZENS"

#### Request for Copies

In 1951, the AJR published a brochure "Britain's New Citizens", which described the story of the Refugees from Germany and Austria. We no longer have copies in stock. On the other hand, we are frequently asked by research workers to let them have material on the subject. It would be greatly appreciated if any readers who still have copies of the brochure but do not want to keep them for themselves or their families kindly send them to the AJR Office, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London NW3 6LA.

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## A NEW HEINE BIOGRAPHY IN ENGLISH

Jeffrey L. Sammons, Professor of German at Yale University, describes his new Heine biography<sup>1</sup> as a "first attempt in many years at a comprehensive biography and the first fully documented one in more than a century". This appears to be a rather exaggerated claim as quite a few Heine biographies have been published in German during the last two decades some of which were reviewed in this journal; but it is certainly correct to say that Professor Sammons's work is, as far as this reviewer is aware, the first comprehensive Heine biography which has appeared in the English language for quite some time.

The book appears to be the first Heine biography which benefits from the two separate Heine editions which are in the process of being published in Düsseldorf and Weimar and in particular the eight volumes of letters to and from Heine compiled and edited by the late London Heine expert Fritz Eisner under the auspices of the Weimar edition.

The fact that Sammons is writing from America, at some distance from the age-old controversies, distortions and apologies around Heine in Germany, has enabled him to write a well-documented and generally balanced story of Heine's life and works. Stating this, however, does not necessarily mean that the book does not contain some errors of fact and judgment. In the description of Heine's youth Sammons states (p. 33) that Heine "seems to have had no experience of Jewish oppression in his youth" although he mentions a few pages later (p. 38) the incident described in Heine's Memoirs when Heine was caned by his teacher after he had referred in class to his grandfather as "a little Jew with a long beard" and caused an uproar amongst his classmates. Anti-Jewish rioting started in some parts of Germany earlier than 1819, the year when Heine entered University, as alleged by Sammons. Heine's great uncle Simon van Geldern did not live the last decade of his life in Hesse-Darmstadt

(p. 19), but in Bouxviller in Alsace where he made the acquaintance of the Abbé Gregoire whom as Sammons rightly states he helped to prepare the ground for the emancipation of the Jews in the French revolution.

The book contains some strange criticism of some of Heine's most famous poems. Thus Sammons describes the Pilgrimage to Kevelaer as "a long overestimated Catholicising poem" evidently not noticing its deep irony which is anything but "Catholicising". He calls Heine's poem on the Israelitic Hospital in Hamburg where Heine refers to Jewish orthodoxy as the "old Egyptian and unhealthy faith" "a rather odd poem" and dismisses "Nachtgedanken" as an "utterance of longing for his mother the bulk of it has been forgotten by most people; but its opening is often recited 'Denk ich an Deutschland in der Nacht' ". The author evidently fails to understand this grand poem full of the irony and grief of the exile!

### Mother's "Judendeutsch"

Similar misinterpretation may be discovered in the observations by Professor Sammons on Heine's mother whose learning Heine is said to have overestimated. The evidence for this statement given by Sammons are "some preserved letters from her younger days written in Hebrew characters not in Yiddish but in somewhat faulty German" (p. 14). He overlooks the fact that Heine's mother like the majority of German Jews of her generation used "Judendeutsch", not Yiddish as her daily means of communication, and wrote her letters to her son in the same idiom in Hebrew script. This was not a "faulty German", but a language in its own right which German Jews of later generations in their eagerness to assimilate to their German environment were only too anxious to discard and forget. It proves nothing about the degree of education of Heine's mother.

Students of Heine have often been impressed by some of his outstanding prophecies. Professor

Sammons who rightly sees the Moors in Heine's early tragedy "Almansor" as an "allegorical figuration of oppressed Jewry" describes the words appearing in this tragedy "Where books are burned in the end people are burned as well" as "most stunningly prophetic lines". However, he takes a different view of other prophecies by Heine. Thus the famous words of "Thor with the giant hammer" at the end of the "History of Religion and Philosophy in Germany" have often—and in the opinion of this reviewer rightly—been interpreted as a prophecy of what happened in Germany between 1933 and 1945. Sammons thinks that "this interpretation, as more recent commentators have seen, is quite wrong". He does, however, not state who these "more recent commentators" are.

Professor Sammons finds some difficulty in properly assessing Heine's role as a political poet and, connected with this, the relationship between Heine and Marx. Heine, says Sammons, was not a "poet of the people", but a "poet against the people's enemies", an argument somewhat difficult to follow when one bears in mind the Winter's Tale promising a new song and a better song, the Silesian Weavers and other poems of the same period. One should rather ask the question whether the fact that Heine's political poems did not become as popular in Germany as his lyrical poetry might not have something to do with the general misery of the German political scene in the 100 years preceding 1933.

### Relationship with Marx

Sammons agrees that it will not do to underestimate the relationship between Heine and Marx, but again this generally excellently documented book does not produce the slightest piece of evidence for the Professor's proposition that Heine "never grasped Marx's historical vision or his profoundly revolutionary transfiguration of Hegel's philosophy" (p. 263) or that "it is certain their (Marx's and Engels') ultimate judgment was

*continued on page 7*

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## HEINE BIOGRAPHY IN ENGLISH (cont.)

not that Heine had been their ally and forerunner" when the second paragraph in Engels' "Ludwig Feuerbach" proves exactly the opposite! Heine is great enough to stand on his own feet, but on the evidence Sammons himself quotes it is obvious that quite a few of Heine's ideas were taken up by Marx and further developed, and that they were close friends and allies in the years before the 1848 Revolution.

Pious souls have believed the story that in his last years, the "Mattress Grave", Heine returned to the belief in a personal god. Against strong evidence which he admits exists Sammons contends that the "transformation was a genuine one". Is it not more likely that, in the enforced loneliness of his "Mattress Grave", Heine searched for an imagined partner in his monologues and chose "somebody to whom I can describe in tears the liturgy of my suffering?" In a letter to Georg Weerth dated the 5th November, 1851, written after more than three years of the "Mattress Grave", Heine stated quite clearly: "I die as a poet who needs neither religion nor philosophy and who has nothing to do with either of them". Sammons, otherwise such a thorough research worker, neither quotes nor mentions this unambiguous piece of evidence.

In a final Chapter "Aftermath" Sammons summarises the continuous effect of Heine's work all over the world. Unfortunately he repeats the story of Heine's alleged "persistent disdain for England" without mentioning his admiration for the liberal and democratic institutions of the country which he visited in 1827 and which he described in Shakespeare's *Girls and Women* and years later in the *State of Affairs in France*.

Professor Sammons recognises the dilemma facing students of Heine which he wrongly limits to "Marxist literary critics": "The most radical features of contemporary Heine scholarship retain the most traditional habits of seeing literature as a secular scripture . . . This German habit has deeply permeated Marxist literary criticism and is one of its most vulnerable weaknesses. If the message embodied in the literary phenomenon cannot be made consonant with our current ideas of what is right and good, the work must be expelled from the canon; if however it is too strong, incapable of being dislodged from the heights of human achievement, the means must be found for making the message serviceable to our own aspirations, even if this means wrenching reinterpretations, suppression of intractable parts of the oeuvre, or abstruse decoding of a secret message transcending the author's own consciousness".

Professor Sammons, though not a Marxist, has fallen into the same trap—as have many contemporary writers on Heine, East and West, on the Left and on the Right. It is a pity as Sammons' book is a tremendously interesting work, and if the author had steered clear of this dilemma it would have been a first class biography of Heinrich Heine whom Sammons recognises as "one of the cultural heroes of human freedom".

Sammons mentions a "current Heine industry which generates some two hundred books and articles annually". Almost at the same time as Professor Sammons' book was published in the USA and in Great Britain a paperback edition of a so-called Heine biography by the literary editor of the West German weekly "Die Zeit", Fritz Raddatz was published in West Germany<sup>2</sup>. The only thing which is correct about this book is its title "Heine, a German Fairy Tale". It is a pity that a book which repeats some of the most atrocious nonsense about Heine should have found its way to the paperback market. The book is a fairy tale, but not a biography.

However two other Heine paperbacks ought to be welcomed. In "Heine in Deutschland"<sup>3</sup>, the Deutsche Taschenbuchverlag has published some of the appreciations and vituperations of the poet written between 1834 and 1956, beginning with a letter by Ludwig Börne and ending with statements made on the 100th anniversary of Heine's death in 1956 by the East and West German Governments and containing *inter alia* antisemitic comments by Treitschke, Rosegger and Adolf Bartels and positive appreciations by Hebbel, Franz Mehring, Wilhelm Bölsche, Alfred Kerr and Heinrich Mann. It is good that this material is now available to anybody studying the Heine reception in Germany in the last 150 years. After all the writing on Heine it is also gratifying that the Deutsche Taschenbuch-Verlag has published the *Book of Songs* in a paperback edition<sup>4</sup>. Another paperback<sup>5</sup> gives a selection of the most important political writings by Heine. Whilst the author has endeavoured to give a reasonable extract from such writing, such selections will to some extent always be dependent on the taste of the person selecting. Thus there is not one poem dealing with a Jewish theme and apart from a little extract from the dialogue between Hirsch-Hyazinth and Gumpelino in the Baths of Lucca nothing on that theme appears in prose! Nevertheless this paperback whets our appetite to read Heine once more in the original and not in extracts.

D.P. Meier-Lenz, one of the editors of the lively literary magazine "Die Horen", tries to compare two Winter Tales, the famous one by Heine and a less famous one by Wolf Biermann<sup>6</sup>. Comparing these two works it becomes obvious that Biermann's verses full of crude and dirty platitudes, just will not measure up to Heine's famous ballade. Meier-Lenz's serious and studious attempt of a comparison just cannot succeed. The most interesting part of this study is an historical investigation by the author tracing the theme of the Winter's Tale to Shakespeare's play of the same title. Unfortunately this investigation limps in the end as Biermann is neither a Shakespeare nor a Heine!

<sup>1</sup> Jeffrey L. Sammons, *Heinrich Heine, a Modern Biography*. Carcanet New Press, Manchester and Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, USA.

<sup>2</sup> Fritz J. Raddatz, "Heine, ein deutsches Märchen", Fischer-Taschenbuch, Frankfurt a.M.

<sup>3</sup> *Heine in Deutschland—Dokumente seiner Rezeption 1834-1956*. Mit einer Einleitung herausgegeben von Karl Theodor Kleinknecht. Deutscher Taschenbuch-Verlag Max Niemeyer Verlag, Tübingen.

<sup>4</sup> *Heinrich Heine, Buch der Lieder—Nachlese zu den Gedichten 1812-1827*. Herausgegeben und kommentiert von Klaus Briegleb. Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag, München.

<sup>5</sup> *Heinrich Heine, Die Wahl-Esel, Ein satirisches Lesebuch*. Zusammengestellt von Lutz Görner, Satire Verlag, Köln.

<sup>6</sup> D. P. Meier-Lenz, *Heinrich Heine-Wolf Biermann, Deutschland, ZWEI Wintermärchen*. ein Werkvergleich Bouvier Verlag Herbert Grundmann, Bonn.

#### RIGHTEOUS GENTILE MEDALS FOR ITALIANS

The Righteous Gentile medal of Yad Vashem has been awarded to six Italians, three of them posthumously. All had risked their lives to save Jews from the Nazis and Fascists during the Second World War and one of them, Torquato Straccone of Vicenza, died in Mauthausen concentration camp with his 18-year-old son because of the help he had given to Jews. A former partisan commander, Dr. Giacinto Lazzarini, had rescued thousands of people, among them 1,550 Jews. Others honoured were the late mayor of a Piedmontese town and his widow, while another couple from Milan had enabled Jews to cross the Swiss border. The presentation was made by Dr. Avner Arazi, the Israeli Consul in Milan, at a ceremony attended by many high officials of the region.

Egon Larsen

## THE MONEY-FORGERS OF BLOCK 19

The most surprising thing about Peter Edel's autobiography, "Wenn es ans Leben geht", is that it was published at all and in such extraordinary length—two volumes with a total of 950 pages—by the leading publishing house of the German Democratic Republic, the *Verlag der Nation* in East Berlin. For this Peter Edel, born in 1921 as the son of a Jewish business man in Berlin, grew up in the bourgeois cultural climate of the Weimar era, strongly influenced by his famous grandfather, the artist and writer Edmund Edel, a "regular" of the *Romanische Café*. Today, Peter Edel is a busy, respected, even prominent member of the GDR cultural élite. We may draw our own conclusions about the status and treatment of the Jews, or at least some of them, in East Germany from his case.

The highlight of his childhood memories was a visit, with his grandfather, to Max Liebermann in 1934, a year before the grand old man's death. The visit encouraged the boy to train as an artist; Käthe Kollwitz, whom he met a year later in the Jewish cemetery when his grandfather was buried, became his first mentor. The teenager was introduced to Bruno and Paul Cassirer (and Paul's wife, Tilla Durieux); then there was Isaiah Granach, fresh from his Galician *Shtetl*, whom Peter's father had met over a plate of frankfurters and potato salad at Aschinger's, years before he changed his first name to Alexander and made his way on the stage under Reinhardt.

The Edels did not think of emigrating—after all, Peter's mother was "Aryan"—until the shock of the *Kristallnacht* shattered their fatalism. Father was taken to a KZ, mother tried to earn a living by dress-making. Peter had been forced to leave the *Gymnasium*. Early in 1939, Frau Edel started on the desperate path to get visas and money for a journey to England—and a permit for herself and her husband as a "married couple" of domestic servants, taking Peter with them. She got to England, got the jobs—and then the war broke out. The Home Office, suspicious because she was "Aryan", told her to return as soon as possible to Germany, or she would be interned as an enemy alien. She took the last boat from Southampton.

Back in Berlin, some Nazi official told her to get divorced from her Jewish husband. Both discussed the matter seriously: was it not, after all, a mere formality? They decided to do it, and the ex-husband left the home to move in with a friend. Peter found a Jewish girl friend, a violinist; she killed herself with an overdose of drugs when life seemed to become unbearable.

#### From forced labour to KZ

Peter had stayed with his mother. Early in 1941, he was told to come to the labour exchange, where he was ordered to join the Jewish work force at Siemens. It was on that visit to the exchange that he met again Esther, a childhood friend; soon they became engaged, married . . . and got baptized, complying with the urgent advice of a Catholic *Pater*. Together with the marriage certificate they got a copy of the new law requiring them to wear the yellow star, no matter what their religion might be.

At the factory, Peter Edel made friends with an older worker who entreated him to join yet another fellowship: that of the Communist resistance. We hear little about his underground activities, apart from pasting leaflets on walls and listening to Radio Moscow. At night, nothing could be done except rushing down to the cellar when the sirens sounded. Even there, non-Aryans

continued on page 8

## THE MONEY-FORGERS (cont.)

were separated from the pure-blooded Berliners. Behind a wooden partition Peter and Esther heard those outside praying between explosions.

Edel gives no date of the morning when the Jewish forced-labourers were rounded up at Siemensstadt and other factories around Berlin to "make the capital *judenrein*". Yet after a few days at the "Clou" in the Mauerstrasse, a place of entertainment that had been taken over by the SS, the "descendants of one Aryan parent" were released and ordered to return to their place of work. Edel looked in vain for Esther; she had been taken away, and so had his father. He decided not to return to the factory, but to go "underground" with false papers and without the yellow star. Within a few days, the Gestapo caught him in his mother's flat.

For a month they kept and questioned him at the *Polizeipraesidium*. In the autumn of 1943 he landed in the Grossbeeren KZ, where he got the "usual" treatment: sadistic, brutal beating. That was only the beginning. The next stop on his nightmarish Odyssey was Auschwitz. But there, almost at the door of the gas chamber, things changed for him so grotesquely that he could hardly believe it.

He and a few other prisoners were taken to Sachsenhausen with its mysterious, windowless Block 19. There, among strange pieces of equipment, the group were addressed, almost politely, by the commanding SS officer: "This will be your noblest job. Here we print English pound notes of the highest accuracy, also passports, postal stamps and so on. The operation is already in full swing. You, who have been trained in the graphic profession, will now be able to show what you can do. Stand at ease, men."

The grand scheme, said to have been devised by Himmler, was to flood Britain and other non-occupied countries with pound-notes in all denominations, thus undermining the British economy, bankrupting the Bank of England, and creating abroad funds for Nazi spies and agents. "It was a satanical idea," writes Edel, "to force Jewish

prisoners into aiding and abetting the murderers of their relatives as accomplices with an international crime." It was also suicidal, for the "polite" officer made it clear that anyone who breathed a word about the operation to an outsider would be eliminated, and "if necessary, the whole team would be shot". But the prisoners learnt that the equipment and material they were using had been supplied by many sectors of the German industry, and that the technical organization was in the hands of *Obersturmbannfuhrer* Otto Skorzeny.

Early in 1945, as the Russians were approaching, everything in Block 19 was dismantled, packed up, and loaded into lorries while the team of counterfeiters was sent by rail to Mauthausen in Austria, a KZ dubbed "Mordhausen" because of the supreme efficiency of the murderers who operated here, vying with their Auschwitz colleagues. But as the Allies came nearer, the SS had only one worry: how to get rid of the evidence, the many crates full of forged banknotes. Rumours were speaking of plans to throw them into a deep Austrian lake. The Block 19 team were sure they, too, would now be eliminated. But they were taken to the lovely *Salzkammergut* in the first days of May, to the KZ Ebensee, not far from the operetta setting of the *Weisses Roessl*. As it later turned out, the idea was to send all the 20,000 prisoners of the KZ down the nearest salt mine: allegedly to protect them from American bombs, but in fact to blow them all up. The mine was laid. There was a revolt of the prisoners; they refused to leave the camp. Now the SS themselves got the wind up and ran or drove away. The prisoners hoisted white flags. The first American jeep arrived.

Peter Edel stayed in Austria; only his mother had survived. He started a new career as a writer and artist. He helped the US prosecution as a witness at the last trial of war criminals at Nuremberg. Then he moved to East Berlin and settled in the GDR. His autobiography begins, and ends 950 pages later, with the question that had been put to him: "Why did you come to us from 'over there'?" Those two volumes, he claims, are the answer. A rather wordy one, full of fictitious monologues and dialogues (often in some badly imitated dialect, from that of the *olle ehrliche Prolet* to Yiddish), with confusing time jumps, and all interspersed with obtrusive eulogies on the GDR, its bigwigs and its ideology. Yet Edel's story, if reduced to facts and a quarter of its length, could have been a valuable document of that traumatic period, instead of an "answer" to an absurd question, so loaded with doubt and insecurity that one could not imagine it being asked today in any other European country: "Why did you come to us?"

### THE THIRD REICH ON BERLIN STAGES

Two theatres in West Berlin are currently staging works concerned with Nazism. "Fallada Revue" in the Schiller Theatre, presents a spectacular view of the NSDAP's rise—also the theme of "Cabaret" which has recently been seen on stage here. "Bent", which had a critical and controversial success in London, has also opened recently. Set in a concentration camp, the play deals with the persecution of homosexuals.

Films seen at the Berlin Film Festival included Dieter Hildebrandt's "The Yellow Star". Using original footage, some of it propaganda showing a "model camp" in contrast to real-life scenes of persecution and murder, the film condemns all those who in any way abetted the Nazis whether by acts of commission or of omission. It has been nominated for an Oscar in the documentary class.

Another prizewinning film at the festival was "Lifeboat full", directed by Markus Imhoof. A Swiss production, it told of the vain attempts to obtain sanctuary in Switzerland by a party of refugees and of the bureaucratic formality which sent them back to death.

### KOLLEK INVITES BERLIN'S LORD MAYOR

The former West German Minister of Justice, Dr. Vogel, who is now Reigning Lord Mayor of West Berlin, received congratulations on his appointment from the Mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek and an invitation to visit Jerusalem as soon as possible. Dr. Kollek added that he was extremely glad and grateful to have a faithful and well-meaning friend like Dr. Vogel as Berlin's Lord Mayor.

### THE OLD CITY RENOVATIONS

Following the collapse of part of the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem last year, it is being restored and rebuilt. New public services have been laid in the area and the road, the traditional path of Jesus to the Crucifixion, has been repaved. Some stones dating from the days of King Herod, which lay 13 feet below the present level, have been raised and included in the renovation.

### AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL TO EGYPT

In an atmosphere of warmth and friendship, Dr. Eliahu Ben-Elissar, the first Israeli Ambassador to Egypt, had a farewell meeting with President Sadat before leaving for Israel, where he is to stand in the forthcoming elections. His historic appointment had lasted just over a year.

### SEA-TO-SEA CANAL

Construction of a 60-mile canal to link the Dead Sea with the Mediterranean may soon begin. Mr. Isaac Modai, the Israeli Energy Minister, said that funds raised by the sale of Israeli government bonds in America would be used for the work.

### SETBACKS FOR KREISKY'S MEDIATION

Dr. Bruno Kreisky, the Chancellor of Austria, has again attempted to show that the Palestine Liberation Organisation has become more moderate, by stating that he had "definite indications" that the PLO was prepared to amend its charter by removing the call for Israel's destruction. This remark was made before his meeting with PLO representative Farouk Kaddoumi. After the meeting, however, Kaddoumi told reporters that the matter had not even been discussed.

The Israeli Ambassador in Vienna has warned that the decision to sell tanks to Saudi Arabia would disqualify Austria from her proposed role as Middle East mediator.

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## TRIBUTE TO A GREAT JEWISH LADY

Lola Hahn-Warburg, whose 80th birthday on 19 May 1981 will be celebrated with good reason throughout the Jewish world, occupies a unique position in the Jewish movement of the last half century, owing to her personality, her activities in various spheres of Jewish life, and, first of all, her passionate involvement in all that concerns the Jewish problems of the epoch and especially the Zionist idea and its realisation in the complicated and partly adverse circumstances of the epoch. She emerged as one of the leading and influential personalities in this situation, owing to her grasp of the relevant issues and her passionate involvement.

I remember the momentous journey by boat in 1929 from Palestine to attend the meeting in Zürich, where the extension of the Jewish Agency was to be officially proclaimed. I was a passenger on that boat, and the whole Warburg family—the European and American members—were on board. It was one of the steps to the realisation of Weizmann's idea of attracting the powerful and solvent elements of the Jewish social top class for cooperation in the task which the Zionist Organization, as it then was, was unable to fulfil without mighty assistance.

After 1920, the Zionist Organization, resp. Jewish Agency, was confronted with obligations in all spheres of public activity, and the President himself had to exert himself in order to obtain the required financial means. He transformed himself into a collector of money—a situation incompatible with the dignity of his office, and also little effective, because he could not reach the circles able to raise the necessary sums, unless Baron Edmond Rothschild occasionally came to his rescue. This predicament of shortage of finance had already been foreseen in the text of the Mandate, when the Zionist Organization, a financially not very powerful body, was temporarily accepted as partner until better equipped strata could be mobilized.

Thus, Weizmann concentrated his efforts towards this goal, which became the issue dominating Zionist policy for many years. It caused controversy, but finally came to a triumphal conclusion at the Zionist Congress in Zürich in 1929, when the extended Jewish Agency, which included leading Non-Zionists, was established. This was a moment of solemn, festive atmosphere, in which also the former adversaries of the project joined. It was Weizmann's greatest triumph after the Balfour Declaration.

A Convention was launched which had no precedent in Jewish history. All those present were overwhelmed when Weizmann got onto the platform flanked by the most distinguished Jews of Western countries, men like Einstein, Herbert Samuel, Leon Blum, Oskar Wassermann (the German banker), Lord Melchett (joint chairman of the Council with Louis Marshall), and, most important of all, the nucleus of the formerly anti-Zionist American Jewish Committee led by Marshall, Warburg, Cyrus Adler and the others. The whole assembled crowd gave Weizmann a tremendous, spontaneous ovation. There were no opponents of the scheme any longer. In an intimate

conversation, Marshall and Warburg (the leading men of the American team) assured Weizmann that his financial worries were over.

But alas! It was not to be as simple as that. The new formation was born under an unlucky star. A few days after the great occasion, one of its principal promoters, Louis Marshall, died. Moreover, a Wall Street crash signalled the start of the great depression which was to hold the American economy in its grip for a long time.\* Other disasters followed, culminating in the murderous Palestine riots of August 1929. In the course of a few weeks the whole situation had changed fundamentally.

Yet, during the festive days of Zürich, nobody foresaw the menacing future. The main purpose of the event had been achieved. The movement for anchoring what at that time was somewhat imprecisely called "the upbuilding of Palestine" had assumed a new face and another status in the political and in the Jewish world. A connection between different camps had been created which persisted for the next period—all that was not to disappear again. New loyalties to the cause had been created.

One of the features of this situation was also the closer involvement of the leading families concerned. One of the most conspicuous cases in point was the one of Lola Hahn to whose praise the present lines are dedicated.

### The Warburg Family

Lola is the eldest of the four daughters of the late Hamburg banker Max Warburg. The ramification of the Warburg family and the contribution of the single members to public life and philanthropy is rather complicated, but speaking of Lola, it is essential to appreciate the family milieu from which she stems. On the journey on the "Gerusalemme" in 1929, one could observe that she was attached to "Uncle Felix" who had links with Palestinian institutions and enterprises for many years. Originally, Felix Warburg had been reluctant; the chapter of his conversion under the impact of Weizmann's persuasion is one of the most remarkable and dramatic stories in Weizmann's autobiography "Trial and Error". After several trips to Palestine which were arranged by Weizmann, Felix became one of the most zealous supporters of the Palestine cause. His wife Frieda, daughter of the multi-millionaire and philanthropist Jacob Schiff (Chief of the banking firm Kuhn, Loeb and Co), took an enthusiastic and active interest in this development. Felix Warburg contributed huge sums to many Palestine enterprises; he gave \$500,000 for the Hebrew University, and later, within the enlarged Jewish Agency, identified himself with its purpose in an exemplary way.

Yet, already on that boat trip in 1929, the emanation of Weizmann's overpowering personality was obvious to all present and did not fail to make a profound impression on his conversation partners. Also Felix's niece Lola fell under his spell, which was to become for her a dominant force for a life time. Lola became a frequent visitor at Zionist Congresses, though in an un-

official capacity, and gradually was attracted to the inner circle of the leadership. From that time onwards, she was an ardent supporter of Weizmann's policy and kept this faithful affection also after Weizmann's death. Today she is unhappy—as are others too—because of the changes in Zionist reality, which she regards as a betrayal of Weizmann's legacy and of those who were close to him, like Shmarya Levin and others. (This she expresses even in her letters during recent months.)

One of the main Zionist or Palestine-linked activities in which Lola participated was Youth Aliya. Only recently—in February 1981—an institution in Israel was given her name, though owing to illness she could not be present at the dedication ceremony. Thus, "Lola House"—Beit Lola—had to be inaugurated (in the first week of this March) without her presence: Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark. The magnificent building is situated in Moshav Beth Uziel, near Ramla, and is a special school for children of broken families. The children live now with the families of the settlers and there they have also their school, learning handicrafts for two years, according to the system of the psychologist Feuerstein, a strictly orthodox man. Lola was linked with this kind of work in its various forms from 1933 onward; so Beit Lola is an appropriate monument to this endeavour. A large crowd of sympathizers was assembled on the spot to celebrate Lola's forthcoming birthday while remembering with gratitude her work and her fervent dedication. Among those attached to Lola for years in affectionate friendship and warm love, the writer of these lines, in all personal modesty, does not want to be missing at this occasion.

\*John Kenneth Galbraith, in his book "The Great Crash 1929" (Penguin Books 1954) describes in detail this disastrous event which made 1929 (the year of the brilliant prospects for the newly created Jewish Agency—my addition, R.W.) a "year to remember" for Americans, as a year of disaster. The book explains the impact and the full consequences of the crash for the American economy and by implication, also for the financial possibilities of the Jewish Agency.

### JERUSALEM BOOK FAIR

Second only to the Frankfurt Book Fair, the Jerusalem International Book Fair has attracted official entries from 47 countries and the attendance of 350 leading publishers from all over the world. Australia and Iceland have never before participated and three other newcomers are Togo, Senegal and the Ivory Coast. Although Israel set up a stand at the Cairo Book Fair in January, the Egyptian authorities have decided against sending representatives to Jerusalem.

### SUPPORT FOR ISRAELI RESEARCH

For the first time this year, Israeli scholars will benefit from a generous Foundation set up in 1975 by Dr. Ernest M. Foulkes CBE who came to this country as a refugee in 1936. The company he set up developed into a world leader in the field of centrifuges and other laboratory equipment for medical research, exporting to most countries in the world, including the USSR and China.

After he sold his firm to Fisons Ltd on his retirement, Dr. Foulkes proceeded to set up a foundation for the training of post-graduates in science and medicine who were likely to make a contribution to research in their fields. It had stupendous results: in the first nine months of 1980, 67 reports on their work were published by Fellows of the Foundation in addition to the 184 published in earlier years. It is obvious that such far-ranging support will be most welcome to researchers at Israeli universities.

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## JEWISH PAST IN GERMAN TOWNS

### NUREMBERG

The Germanische Nationalmuseum has just closed a special exhibition of all the Jewish ritual and everyday objects in its collection. They are normally distributed over its various departments, i.e. the Shofars are in the collection of historical musical instruments, and the documents and mediaeval scripts in its library and in the collections of etchings. In 1912/13 Jewish citizens of Nuremberg, together with the religious congregation under Rabbi Freudenthal had provided a vast amount of objects connected with German-Jewish culture, for the Museum. There were also four mediaeval tombstones which had been used for ordinary buildings after the destruction of Jewish cemeteries in Nuremberg in 1349 and 1498/99. The oldest of them dates back to 1282. They were later secured for the museum.

### MAINZ AND WORMS

In the Medical Journal for Rhineland-Palatinate, the Mainz Professor Dr. Otto Böcher, a Protestant theologian and art historian, has just published an essay on the old Worms Synagogue. He is a specialist on Jewish history in the old Land Hesse. Not very long ago, he published a very instructive survey of the history of Jews in Mainz in a learned journal "Mainzer Komparatistische Hefte" in which he described in detail the work of many eminent Jewish scholars in the early middle ages, the ensuing acts of persecution from the 14th to the 17th century and the memorable period of peaceful coexistence between 1800 and 1933. E.G.L.

### ILLINGEN

The Saarland group of the Council of Christians and Jews has just published the first history of a once important Jewish community in the Saar region, written by Otto Nauhauser "The Jewish Community of Illingen". It gives a comprehensive history of this community, starting in 1717 and ending with the deportation of the last local Jews in October 1940. It contains records of all births, marriages and deaths since 1801, based on the local *Standesamt* records, lists of inhabitants in various key periods and a survey of the social and professional life of local Jews, their religious and social organisations and the increasing wave of emigrations between 1934 and 1939. In 1939, those remaining were deported to Vichy France, in most cases to be re-deported to the East. The book also contains a number of illustrations showing the old synagogue and the cemetery.

### FRANCONIA

Dr. Herbert Schultheis received his degree in theology from the Catholic-Theological faculty of Würzburg university for his thesis on "Jews in Lower Franconia 1933-1945." It has now been published as the first volume of the "Bad Neustädter Beiträge zur Geschichte und Heimatkunde Frankens". It relies on a vast amount of thorough research, hampered, as the author states, by the loss of many documents, particularly for the Schweinfurt region, during the war, by the refusal of the authorities to allow access to denazification files and by the lack of any source material for the Jewish students' union "Salia" of Würzburg university. Even so, the thesis with its 650 pages of text, its extensive and interesting appendix and its 130 hitherto unpublished photos of differing quality, is an invaluable source of information. It describes many political events: isolated attacks on individuals, general anti-Jewish measures such as exclusion from professions and organisations, boycott and enforced sale of businesses, arrests and ill-treatment of individuals and groups, and desecrations of cemeteries. It gives details of Jewish experience in 21 towns in Lower Franconia among which Aschaffenburg and Würzburg are the most important. In 1933, there were some 125 Jewish communities in the region. They all had a synagogue or at least a prayer hall, and the book lists them all, giving the date when they were built and short details of their eventual fate. Several synagogues were built in the early 18th century.

### BORGENTREICH

The small town of Borgentreich in Westphalia recently published a symposium to celebrate its 700 years of existence. It contains a most interesting essay by Rudolf Muhs, a young historian of Freiburg university on the history of the Jewish community in Borgentreich between 1646 and 1941. The town which is in the neighbourhood of Paderborn, had at least until the end of the 19th century more Jewish than Protestant inhabitants—the majority of its citizens being Roman Catholics. In 1840, there were 104 Jews living there, but, owing to the movement to larger towns, their number fell to 74 in 1861, and 23 in 1905. The book gives some interesting details on the social and professional life of the inhabitants and also contains a few reproductions of documents and photos of graves. One of the documents refers to the re-establishment of the congregation in 1929.

### NONNENWEIER

Jewish life in a small Jewish rural community was investigated by Elsie Labsch-Benz in her thesis for a master's degree at Strasbourg university. It has now been translated into German and published by the Baden-Wuerttemberg Centre for Political Education under the title "The Jewish Community in Nonnenweier. Jewish life and customs in a Baden rural community at the beginning of the 20th century." The author interviewed in depth five Jewish former inhabitants and four Christians still living in Nonnenweier. The small village in the Rhine plain near Lahr in Baden had 244 Jewish citizens in 1855, when the entire citizenship numbered 1300. Jews had lived in the village since the early 18th century, at first immigrating from nearby French Alsace. By 1933, their numbers had fallen to 65—many villagers, both Christian and Jewish, had by then moved into larger towns. At present there are no Jews living there.

### JEWISH SENIOR RAMBLING GROUP

We have been asked to draw our readers' attention to the Jewish Senior Rambling Group, which arranges weekly outings and other functions. Founded 53 years ago, the Club has a high proportion of members of Continental origin. Details may be obtained from Miss I. E. Gunston (after 9 pm) 229 8373 or Mr. Peter Johnson (after 8 pm) 286 8825.

## OBITUARY

### HUGH HARRIS

For 15 years editor of the Jewish Year Book, Hugh Harris died in March at the age of 83. A Liverpool man, he became a teacher and as headmaster of the West Hampstead Jewish Day School taught both Keith Joseph and Edmund de Rothschild. Later, he lectured at Jews' College on Classics and English. He had long been associated with the Jewish Chronicle and in 1938 became literary editor, a post he held until 1968. Mr. Harris supported, or held office in, many groups such as the International PEN Club, B'nai B'rith and the Jewish Peace Society.

### WOLFGANG DAVID GORDON

A founder of British Hashomer Hatzair, Wolfgang David Gordon recently died in Hampstead. Born in Germany in 1920, he was baptised as a child in an attempt to protect him from anti-semitism. However, he returned to his Jewish traditions through his interest in the "Werkleute", which later merged with Hashomer-Hatzair. Emigrating to Britain in the late thirties, in 1945 he organised a school at Windermere for child survivors of the Holocaust and cared for another group in Hackney.

In addition to this communal work Mr. Gordon took the opportunity to obtain a joint degree in philosophy and psychology.

### 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.

#### Birth

**Fabian:**—A lovely boy, Darren James, arrived on March 3rd. Fifth great-grandchild of Mrs. Freda Fabian.

#### Birthdays

**Lehmann:**—Henry Louis Lehmann, formerly of Middleton, Manchester, celebrated his 70th birthday on 31st December 1980. He and Lore R. Lehmann, née Borg, have recently moved to Hove, Sussex.

**Liebert:**—Mrs. Eveline E. Liebert, now residing at Osmond House, and for many years associated with Children and Youth Aliyah, celebrated her 90th birthday on 16th April 1981.

**Reichold:**—Mr. J. Reichold of 32, King's Court, Wembley, will celebrate his 88th birthday during May. Congratulations from his relations and friends.

#### Golden Wedding

**Kenley:**—Erna and Willy Kenley (formerly Katzky) of 3, King's Drive, Wembley Park, Middlesex, will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on May 21.

#### Deaths

**Pringle-Wilson:**—Ruth Pringle-Wilson, died 23rd March 1981 (17th Adar Sheni 5741) after many years of serious ill-health bravely borne. Elder daughter of Kurt and Ella Graetz of Glogau who, with her younger sister Ilsa, were murdered in Teriesenstadt 1945. Deeply mourned by her relations, friends, and by her husband.

**Schemel:**—Hans Schemel died in his sleep on the 19th March 1981. Deeply mourned by his devoted wife and missed by so many.

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### INFORMATION REQUIRED

#### Personal Enquiries

**Weiss:**—Particulars about Dr. med. Fritz A. Weiss, born 4 July, 1898, in Berlin (parents Dr. Berthold Weiss and Elisabeth née Rathenue), come to England via Czechoslovakia, would be greatly appreciated for research.

**Hirsch:**—Elsa Hirsch, born 1912, lived in Sprottau/Schlesien. Information required by former schoolfriend RUTH Brueninghaus, née MATZGE Kornweg 25d, 8400 Regensburg, Germany.

# NINETY-NINE

## MRS. MARGARET JACOBY'S BIRTHDAY

Nowadays, the official retirement age is 65. Some carry on for a further number of years. Yet there will be few who start a new job when they are 74, and those of them who remain in harness with undiminished vigour for another 25 years are certainly very rare exceptions. One of these miracles is Mrs. Margaret Jacoby. Her 99th birthday on May 22 coincides with this year's Silver Jubilee of the AJR Club, of which she was a co-founder and whose chairman she has been ever since. Yet beyond her work for the Club, which is nearest to her heart, she has retained many other interests. She attends opera and theatre performances, and if a morning happens to be sunny, she snatches the opportunity to drive to Golders Hill Park and enjoy the blossoming crocuses. A senior citizen, as far as the population census goes, she is younger than many who are her juniors in age. The AJR has every reason to thank her for all she has done and is still doing for us. Heartfelt congratulations!

W.R.

## Greetings from the AJR Club

Nine years ago, in a birthday tribute, somebody wrote that "there are not many people who at the ripe age of 90 evoke so much love, admiration and reverence as Margaret Jacoby." How true this is; only "ripe age" does not ring right even today when the figure is not 90 but

99. What impresses everybody who sees Mrs. Jacoby is her youthfulness, her vivacity, her ever ready smile. Behind this smile, however, is the caring for others, and the members of the AJR CLUB, her "children", have ample opportunity to experience this over and over again.

An example to us all, we wish her on this 99th birthday that she may continue her active life in good health for many, many years to come. We wish her happiness in the love she gives and which finds an echo in our love and affection for her.

D.S.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### LUDENDORFF AND THE JEWS

Sir,—In your February issue, Mr. Jack Barnett described in his interesting article how Napoleon wooed the Jewish population of Poland and Russia.

It might be of interest to recall that General Ludendorff had the same idea during the invasion of Poland and Russia in the First World War.

I remember distinctly seeing pamphlets headed "An meine lieben Jidden in Polen", promising full civil rights and protection by the occupying power.

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C. H. ROTHSCCHILD.

## BERLIN'S "SCHEUNENVIERTTEL"

Sir,—Today hardly anybody remembers the fact that in Berlin there existed in the middle of the city a quarter inhabited by poor Jews. Being almost a ghetto, this quarter was ignored then and, after the destruction of the Jews and the demolition of the city, its history is now forgotten. The so-called "Scheunenviertel" behind the Alexanderplatz was one of the bustling places of the city, inhabited by Jews who had fled from Eastern Europe.

Readers who are in possession of pictures (showing professions, shops, conditions of housing, families, religious celebrations and institutions or any remarkable events) are kindly requested to help me by sending originals, which will be carefully treated, or copies. Expenses will be refunded.

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EIKE GEISEL.

## THE LATE DR. ITALIENER

Sir,—The appreciation of Dr. Italiener published in your March issue prompts me to add a small tribute.

Having grown up under his wing, as it were, I have fond recollections of his lessons at school in Hamburg, also of the religion classes at the Temple, not to forget the Chanukah celebrations, which we shared with his family and other school children in the early thirties.

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# THEATRE AND CULTURE

**Viennese Music.** It has been generally deplored that the typical music of Vienna, played all over the world and universally acclaimed, is sadly neglected in Vienna itself. To disclaim that reputation, Café Schwarzenberg has introduced live music every afternoon, a gesture that seems to be highly appreciated by Austrians and visitors alike. Café Schwarzenberg is one of the three remaining "Ring" Cafés, the others being the "Landtmann" and Café Prückl.

**Weill and Brecht.** Ever since the war, better—and lesser known works of Brecht and Weill (whose collaboration in "Dreigroschenoper" brought them world fame) have appeared on German and Austrian stages. Last month, "Mother Courage" was revived at the Schauspielhaus, Nuernberg, and the ballet "Seven Deadly Sins" (music by Weill) in Wiesbaden. Vienna's Raimundtheater performed "Die Dame im Dunkel" with Nadja Tiller in the main part. This work was written by Kurt Weill during his exile (words by Moss Hart and Ira Gershwin) and had its New York premiere 40 years ago.

**Ladies in the Limelight.** Johanna Hofer (Fritz Kortner's widow) can be seen in Büchner's "Woyzeck" at Berlin's "Schaubuehne." Ursula Lingen, daughter of the late comedian Theo Lingen, plays the title part in Schiller's "Maria Stuart" in Munich; also in Munich, Luise Ullrich has made a welcome stage come-back after a number of years.

**Tit-Bits.** The composer Béla Bartok, although not Jewish himself, often sponsored Jewish causes; on the occasion of his centenary (he would have been 100 years old in March), Israel Radio broadcast a great many of his compositions together with discussions about his contributions to the musical scene. London's Royal Shakespeare Company at the Aldwych Theatre plans a production of Arthur Schnitzler's "Reigen" during this autumn to mark the 50th anniversary of the author's death.

**Birthdays.** Clemens Holzmeister, Tyrol-born architect, designer of many buildings in various parts of the world, best-known as creator of the new Festspielhaus, Salzburg, has reached the great age of 95. Attila Hoerbiger, the Austrian actor, married to Paula Wessely since 1935, celebrated his 85th birthday. Boleslaw Barlog, former Intendant of the Schillertheater, Berlin, still active as a stage director, is 75 years old. S.B.

## THE CHANTREY BEQUEST Exhibition at Royal Academy

Those of us who come from the Continent had little opportunity before settling in this country of knowing much about British art. We probably knew of Gainsborough, Romney, Turner and Blake, but very little else. A reading of present-day German catalogues does not seem to indicate that the situation has much changed, except perhaps for the addition of Hockney, Henry

Moore and Francis Bacon. How fortunate that we are now able to enjoy the wealth of artistic talent available in this country.

The present exhibition "Some Chantrey Favourites" at the Royal Academy of Arts (until 24 May) derives from the magnificent bequest of Sir Francis Chantrey, RA (1781-1841) who left the whole of his considerable fortune for the purchase of fine works of art executed within the shores of Great Britain. The whole collection comprises some 550 pieces; the selection on show includes fine works by Sargent, Lucien Pissarro, Augustus John, Lowry, Stanley Spencer, Ben Nicholson, etc. It also includes a number of works by Victorian artists, long neglected but now coming back into favour.

On quite another level, it is worth noting that the Ben Uri Art Gallery is holding its annual Picture Fair on Sunday, 10 May. A notable collection of pictures has already been assembled and those who care to purchase a ticket (price £30 from the Secretary, Ben Uri Art Society, 21 Dean Street, London, W.1), will have a chance of securing a real bargain. ALICE SCHWAB.

## STEVEN ISSERLIS

The cellist Steven Isserlis, grandson of the famous pianist who died at Osmond House, gave a successful concert at the Purcell Room. On many occasions, he and his gifted brothers played for the residents of our Old Age Homes.

## LEO BAECK BIOGRAPHY

Leonard Baker's Biography of Leo Baeck, "Days of Sorrow and Pain", which was reviewed in our November 1980 issue, has now been published in England by Oxford University Press (£4.50).

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