

Peter Pulzer

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## Probing the Jewish Conundrum

It is no longer fashionable to talk of the Jewish Question, let alone write books about it. There is, to present-day ears, something tactless about suggesting that the very existence of a particular group is the cause of a problem; and those who tried, between 1933 and 1945, to solve it in a "final" way, made sure that the expression remained discredited for ever after. Yet, for something like a century, from Bruno Bauer's *Die Judenfrage* of 1842 onwards, books, pamphlets and articles poured from the presses, bearing similar or identical titles. Nor did this literature necessarily have a hostile or antisemitic implication: the phrase was as often used by Jews or their apologists as by their detractors. Theodor Herzl subtitled his *Der Judenstaat* "an attempt at a modern solution of the Jewish Question." It is no doubt a sign of changed fashions that the *Encyclopaedia Judaica* of 1971 contains no entry under that heading.

Why did the expression arise just then, and why in Germany? (It had actually surfaced, in a slightly different form, earlier in France and Britain: 'la question sur les juifs' at the time of the French Revolution and 'the Jew Question' at the time of the Naturalization Bill controversy in England in 1753. But it had never caught on.) The Jewish Question, as Jacob Toury has argued, deals not with the rights of the individual but with the corporate status of Jewry.

In 'the West' — in America, Britain, Holland and post-revolutionary France — the question was not asked in those terms. Society in those countries was, by the middle of the nineteenth century, sufficiently secular, sufficiently dedicated to the career open to talents, to be uninterested in policies of systematic segregation. Prejudice and individual discrimination might continue, but ghetto walls, once down, stayed down. In 'the East' — the Tsarist Empire and much of the Habsburg Monarchy — the question was not yet ripe. The ghetto walls still rested on firm foundations in the early nineteenth century. But in between, in German-speaking central Europe, it was a question whose time had come. On the one hand the old, patriarchal order, in which the second-class status of Jews was taken

for granted on both sides, was under attack. On the other hand, the notion that the Jew was just another — though slightly peculiar — individual, had not taken root. Jews were still a *Stand*, though one whose status might be in need of amending. That, in the eyes of those who launched 'the Jewish Question' is what its agenda consisted of.

The most recent attempt, if not to resolve then at least to recount and elucidate the Jewish Question is that of Alex Bein, already well-known as the biographer of Herzl and editor of his writings. He has now distilled a life-time's reading and reflection into his two-volume history.\* For him too, the beginning and middle of the nineteenth century were decisive in the formulation of challenges to Jewish existence. Both with the start of the emancipation movement and with the beginnings of organised anti-semitism the terms of the co-existence between Jews and non-Jews became controversial: 'were the Jews now ready to subject themselves to the rules of the game governing the lives of nations and to abandon their identity as the members of a people, scattered throughout the world?' (I, 271).

## WHERE THE JEWS LIVED

Bein places the question in time rather than differentiating — as suggested earlier — between one location and another. In one way that is a pity: it could be argued that to the modern Jew it mattered quite a lot whether he was living in France or Russia, Germany or America rather than, as Bein sometimes implies, simply "in exile" or out of it. On the other hand, this method is central to Bein's plan, which is to trace the Jewish Question from its beginnings, and the beginnings for him lie with the conquest of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D., for it is then that the nation lost its state (I, 14). True, even before the destruction of the Temple, plenty of Jews lived outside Palestine, scattered throughout the Roman Empire; true, even after the destruction of the Temple, plenty of Jews went on living in Palestine, as other rulers' subjects, at least until the Arab conquest of the seventh century. But it was the destruction of the Temple that created the outstanding peculiarity of Jewish

existence: the survival of an ethnic group, defined by religion and without a territorial home.

With the coming of Christianity the Jewish Question continued. Though the Church Fathers and later theologians had widely differing views on the proper treatment of the Jews, all were agreed on their principal characteristic: their denial of Christ as the messiah. Whether persecuted or 'protected', Jews were 'excluded from the life of "legalised"', and the only legally-based society' (I, 443). As outcasts they performed the tasks of outcasts. And since, in the middle ages, the religious and economic spheres were not separate, the Jew's usury became added evidence for his perfidy, and his perfidy an excuse for excluding him from civilised commercial intercourse.

Bein's treatment of both these episodes of the Jewish Question is relatively uncontroversial, though he is not always certain of his figures. No present-day classical historian would accept the assertion that 8-10 per cent of the population of the Roman Empire were Jewish (I, 17), any more than a modern historian would accept the estimate that 'hundreds of thousands' perished in the Russian pogroms (I, 246).

## CONTROVERSIAL APPROACH

But the treatment becomes more controversial as we enter the modern era, from the beginnings of emancipation onwards. For emancipation is an attempt to solve the Jewish Question, as the first quotation showed. It is an attempt to emancipate the individual Jew at the expense, if necessary of Judaism. Whatever else the persecutions of the ancient world and the Middle Ages did, they ensured the survival of the Jews as a nation. Equal rights, however, posed a threat. Whether that threat was final and deliberate is more open to doubt. Bein assumes that it was: 'the emancipation of the Jews was in fact a last, decisive blow against the Jewish people's existence as a collective identity . . . Only now was their dispersion completed' (I, 198, 252). This view is understandable in the light of Bein's Zionism, which he generally wears lightly and undogmatically, but the assertion that there was no future for the Jews as a people outside the ghetto cannot go unchallenged.

It rests on the assumption that emancipation was based on a set of illusions and an underestimate of the emancipators' demands. True, undoubted Liberals like Theodor Mommsen declared, 'There is a price to be paid for entry into a great nation' and this sentiment was echoed by

\*Alex Bein, *Die Judenfrage. Biographie eines Weltproblems*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, 1980, xvi + 464 + 429 pp.

Continued from page 1

## THE JEWISH QUESTION

others. True, there were Jews who entered the new, liberal world with dangerous complacency: 'They thought that they were entering an environment that would unite harmoniously with them and receive them with good will — and they faced in reality an environment that looked at them with critical eyes and encountered them with extreme suspicion.' (I, 254).

To which one can only say: yes and no, for it is here that Bein's lack of geographical discrimination becomes an obstacle to his argument. In 'the East' as we have defined it, including post-revolutionary Russia, Bein's negative assessment undoubtedly applies. To German-speaking Central Europe too, as we all know: though whether necessarily and inevitably so is another, and now unanswerable, part of the Jewish Question. But in 'the West'? It is not as if antisemitism has exactly disappeared. But is it really impossible to lead an emancipated, integrated, even assimilated existence in Paris, or Amsterdam, or London, or Great Neck, Long Island, and yet retain a significant Jewish identity? If one can, Bein would reply, it is because of the existence of Israel, and this one would not wish to deny. But whether *that* is an essential condition of emancipation-with-identity is another part of the Question, also unanswerable.

An uncontroversial book on the Jewish Question would not be worth writing. Bein has produced a valuable compendium of what Jews and non-Jews have thought about the terms of co-existence. He makes his own views clear, but that is a merit. Much of what he records is depressing, some of it plain lunatic, a little of it mildly encouraging. Not the least of the conclusions that the reader will draw is that the Jewish scholarly tradition is alive and well.

*Peter Pulzer is Tutor in Politics at Christ Church, Oxford. He is the author, among other works, of The Rise of Political Anti-Semitism in Germany and Austria and of 'Die jüdische Beteiligung an der Politik' in Mosse and Paucker, Juden im Wilhelminischen Deutschland.*

## MENDELSSOHN PRIZE FOR EVA REICHMANN

We are pleased to learn that this year's biennial Mendelssohn Prize of the Senate of Berlin will be awarded to Dr. Eva G. Reichmann (London). The prize was endowed in 1979 on the 250th anniversary of the birth of Moses Mendelssohn "to promote tolerance towards people of different opinions and between people, races and religions". It is meant to keep alive the memory of the philosopher whose work had its origin in Berlin. The prize was awarded for the first time in 1980. The Jury consists of two personalities nominated by the Senate and of representatives of the religious communities, the freethinker organisation and the Mendelssohn-Gesellschaft. Altogether it had to choose between 18 proposals.

Eva Reichman is well known to our readers by her stimulating articles in this journal and has very many personal friends within our community. We extend our sincerest congratulations to her on this well deserved recognition of her constructive spiritual contributions to the assessment of the destiny of German Jewry, past and present.

Egon Larsen

## ALL ABOUT MUNICH'S JEWS

Nearly a quarter of a century ago, Hans Lamm, a Jewish journalist from Munich who had returned from his exile in America, published an anthology under the title *Von Juden in München*, with contributions by an impressive array of writers, Jewish and non-Jewish, historians and novelists, sociologists and humorists, living and dead. The book's greatest asset was the comprehensive picture it offered of a relatively small Jewish community — never more than 13,000 people — which had for eight centuries been an integral and important part of the life of the town, of its society and culture, its commerce and history. There had been much more than what mass murder and deportation, expulsion and arson by Nazi barbarism could destroy. The well-illustrated book was received with universal interest and appreciation all over Germany, and soon it was out of print. Its publisher, Ner-Tamid, went out of existence, and there were no reprints. But now, the old-established publishers Langen Müller in Munich have revived it, and Hans Lamm re-edited it with many new contributions and additional pictures under the title of *Vergangene Tage: Jüdische Kultur in München*, as a formidable volume of 550 pages (price DM 48.—).

It tells the story of the town's Jewish citizens from the first to be mentioned in an official document, Abraham der Municher in 1229, to the tragedy of the *Endlösung* forty years ago; a condensed account has been contributed by the late Leo Baerwald, rabbi of the Munich congregation from 1918 to 1940. The longest contribution, new in the present edition, is by the late Werner J. Cahnmann, professor of sociology, and deals on 40 pages with Munich's Jewry from 1918 to 1943. There are also two new contributions about antisemitism by Albert Einstein, who lived with his parents in Munich until the age of 15, and by the famous economist Lujo Brentano, who was professor at the Munich university from 1891 to 1917. Einstein wrote in 1938 that in his view antisemitism was a constantly recurring phenomenon in the life of individuals and whole nations as a "diversion of the uneasiness and hatred against one person or group towards a third who is unable to defend himself effectively": true, but not a very original analysis worked out by a scientific genius like Einstein.

Brentano, on the other hand, traces the hatred of the Jews as money-lenders back to the Old Testament, Deuteronomy 23, 19-20: "Thou shalt not lend upon usury to thy brother . . . Unto a foreigner thou mayest lend upon usury." At the end of his essay, written in 1923, he arrived at this astonishing conclusion: "The complete absorption of the Jews by the German population is the only possible solution of the Jewish problem; but the pre-condition would be the cessation of antisemitism." How this should be brought about the professor did not explain.

Among the contributions taken over from the

first edition of the anthology are quite a number of eyewitness accounts of Bavaria's most dramatic days from the 1918 revolution to the tragicomic *Räterepublik* of 1919, with many Jews involved — none of them, however, a native of Munich: Kurt Eisner, the first revolutionary prime minister, and Gustav Landauer, the anarchist, both assassinated within a few months; Erich Mühsam, the poet, murdered in a KZ fifteen years later; Ernst Toller, the expressionist dramatist and "general" of Munich's Red Army, who took his own life after the sad ending of the Spanish Civil War in 1938. Several contributors describe the rise of the artificially-fostered antisemitism in Munich where, perhaps more than in most other German cities, the Jews had been part and parcel of most sectors of society. Thomas Mann, Munich's outstanding literary figure, is represented by some unkind observations about the town — it would have been better to reprint part of his short-story *Gladius Dei* of 1902, beginning with the famous words *München leuchtete*. Kurt Grossmann recalls some incidents of personal heroism under Hitler, Chaim Weizmann and Martin Buber write about their visits to the town in the days of the Weimar Republic, Hans Lamm himself and Schalom Ben-Chorin about the main synagogue and its destruction after the *Kristallnacht*.

## LIGHT RELIEF

There is also some light relief in this anthology: Karl Ettlinger, the Frankfurt humorist who had settled in Munich, contributes a satire about the Munich *Fasching*, and three Jewish writers — Polgar, Tucholsky and Kerr — try to analyse the essence of the town's greatest comic, Karl Valentin. Schwabing, the artists' quarter, comes to life in a number of contributions; Lion Feuchtwanger and his family, Bert Brecht and his Munich days are recalled by several writers, and Prince Constantin of Wittelsbach tells the story of Nanette Kaula, the lovely Jewess whom his ancestor, King Ludwig I, had painted by Stieler for his Gallery of Beauties. When the King met her again years later, she asked "Doesn't Your Majesty recognize me? You graciously had my portrait painted," and Ludwig looked at her and answered, with typically Bavarian gruffness, "*Tät's nimmer! Tät's nimmer!*"

Thomas Wimmer, Munich's post-war mayor, wrote about his many personal friends among the Jews of pre-Hitler days, but he admitted that he found it difficult to identify them as such in his memory "because one was hardly aware of the fact that one's neighbour or friend was Jewish". This was, indeed, the most striking aspect of the integration — as opposed to assimilation — of the Jews in old Munich. But one probably has to be, like your reviewer, a native of that town to be able to appreciate fully that essential message of Hans Lamm's anthology.

## HOME NEWS

### REMEMBERING JEWISH VICTIMS

Throughout Britain, Holocaust Day was marked by meetings and services of remembrance for the victims. In Glasgow, a special documentary film was shown with video-tape recordings by concentration camp survivors living locally. The commentator explained that the programme was designed to help young people who lacked knowledge and understanding of the past. Congregants in Sheffield saw six candles of remembrance each lit by a former refugee from Nazi Europe — Dorothy Fleming, Helga Welland, Eva Frankel, Steve Mendelsson, Zwi Blumenfeld and the Rev. Abraham Brysh.

The Polish-Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Association, the Board of Deputies and AJEX, together with the AJR and other bodies, organised the London meeting, which was addressed by Dr. Samuel Pizar, at 52 believed to be the youngest survivor of Auschwitz. The Belsize Square Synagogue youth choir were heard in Israeli songs and songs of the Holocaust era.

### WORRYING VANDALISM IN LONDON

Two youths have appeared in court following a serious fire at Rainham Cemetery at the beginning of May. The administrative offices, a small prayer hall and part of a roof were destroyed. The two, aged 17 and 18, had attempted to start a fire at the cemetery the previous week, but the arresting officer said he could not account for their motive. He was certain that the attack was not fundamentally antisemitic, although he mentioned that there had been many attacks on the cemetery in recent years.

In addition to this, vandalism has occurred in the last few weeks at Kenton Synagogue and Finsbury Park Synagogue, both in North London, windows and doors being smashed. In each case, the secretary of the synagogue has said that he does not believe that the attacks were racially motivated and that they were probably carried out by children. However, Dr. Jacob Gewirtz of the Board of Deputies believes that anyone vandalising a synagogue must be anti-semitic and that the very fact that children and youths are often involved is particularly worrying. He is calling for the race relations laws to be strengthened.

### GENERAL ENQUIRY DESK

With reference to our announcement in the March issue we should like to draw the attention of our readers once again to the Central Enquiry Desk, which is under the auspices of the Board of Deputies. It gives factual information on all aspects of the Jewish home and communal life. People should telephone 01-387 4044, where trained volunteers are on duty to answer queries and, if advice is needed, to put enquirers in touch with the appropriate expert authorities. All calls are treated in the strictest confidence.

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### VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY WANTED

This is an urgent appeal to our members and friends for more volunteers to visit old and lonely people in their homes. We have a number of cases who are desperately in need of an occasional visit. It is essential that volunteers be prepared to travel by bus or tube if necessary.

Please contact me on a Friday morning between 10-12 a.m. at the AJR Office. Tel.: 624 9096/7.

RUTH ANDERMAN  
Organiser for Voluntary Services

### REPAIRS NEEDED AT ST. JOHN'S WOOD

The 60-year-old Liberal synagogue in St. John's Wood is threatened by structural defects which a recent survey has disclosed. Repairs may cost more than £100,000 and would be spread over four years. Some members of the synagogue council feel that the building should be preserved if at all possible, while others consider that it is too large for present-day needs.

### SUCCESSFUL SCRIPT WRITER

"Growing up in Northern Ireland" was Radio 1's first ever feature not specifically related to music. It was written by the prize-winning student, Simon Garfield, the son of our friends, the late Herbert and Hella Garfield.

With acknowledgement to the news service  
of the Jewish Chronicle.

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### HISTORIAN FACES HOSTILE AUDIENCE

The revisionist historian David Irving faced a hostile atmosphere when he spoke to the Corpus Christi History Society in Cambridge some time ago. The previous week his invitation to address the Oxford Union had been rescinded, but the Cambridge society had refused to follow suit. Mr. Irving's theme was that Hitler had protected the Jews from the rest of the Nazi Party during the 1930s, a view which he has promulgated elsewhere. It may be noted that recent issues of "Focal Point", the magazine of his Focus Policy Group, have contained advertisements and articles about extreme right-wing groups and several letters to the editor are from current or former National Front members.

In contrast to his rough passage at Cambridge, David Irving has lately been honoured by the neo-Nazi "Deutsche National-Zeitung", which has presented him with its "Europäischer Freiheitspreis".

### BLINDNESS CAN'T STOP HIM

A 58-year-old physiotherapist who edits a magazine, organises a chess association and has just obtained an Open University degree would seem to be leading a full life — but when the presence of his guide dog shows that he is blind, his energy can only be a matter for wonder. Hans Cohn was blinded as a schoolboy in Berlin and came to Britain in 1938. Although classed as an enemy alien, he acted as interpreter for Earl Baldwin on one occasion, and in return the former prime minister helped him to obtain naturalisation and qualifications for becoming a physiotherapist. Mr. Cohn is vice-president of the International Braille Chess Association and edits "Viewpoint", the magazine for the National Federation of the Blind. He is an active member of the Jewish Blind Society and sits on the council of the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

### A GENEROUS LEGACY

Mrs Liselotte (Lilo) Howitt née Lewis, who died last December, left a valuable bequest to the Jewish Museum. She came to this country in the late thirties from her native Dortmund and, after years of hard work, married a former Mayor of Richmond who had been a long-time collector of Judaica. Some pieces he had sold earlier and they are supposed to form the basis of the Jewish Museum's own collection. He died some ten years ago, and in her flat in St. John's Wood Mrs. Howitt kept much of the remainder which now goes to the museum, including an eighteenth century Shabbat lamp from Amsterdam, a silver spice box, a number of menorot and prints of synagogues. There was also a hand-written letter from Queen Mary thanking Mr. Howitt for the gift of a miniature Bible for her dolls house. Mrs. Howitt also left money to Youth Aliyah for which she had worked since it started. Her many friends remember the active part she played in collecting for and selling from the cake stall at its annual bazaar.

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## NEWS FROM ABROAD

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### UNITED STATES

#### Nazis Recruited by US State Department?

Sensational charges were made in a recent television programme that the US State Department recruited Nazi collaborators from Byelorussia at the end of the Second World War. Mr. John Loftus, formerly of the Justice Department, said that hundreds of such men had been brought to America and that some were parachuted back into Byelorussia to assassinate key officials and foment civil war. The operation, he declared, was a total failure, because Russian intelligence already knew of the plot.

Mr. Loftus was appointed as prosecutor in the Office of Special Investigations set up in 1979 to investigate alleged Nazi war criminals in the United States. In the course of his work, he alleges, he discovered that over 300 Byelorussian Nazis — leaders of an SS division and of the Nazi puppet government, among others — were living and working in America today. In some cases, according to Mr. Loftus, these men were still working for the Government.

Meanwhile, the current director of the Office of Special Investigations has stated that deportation of war criminals will begin in the coming months. He warns, however, that the deportations will amount to "a trickle, not a torrent".

#### US Film of Speer's Memoirs

Following world-wide appreciation of his television film "Holocaust", Marvin Chomsky has directed a new TV series entitled "Inside the Third Reich", based largely on the memoirs of Hitler's munitions minister, Albert Speer. The programme has, however, met with a mixed reception. Speer himself, played by Rutger Hauer, emerges with some apparent credit and his wife is even allowed to display a form of resistance to the regime — a role not borne out by the facts of history. Other prominent members of the Third Reich make an appearance but chiefly lend an air of creditability to the film, while Derek Jacobi, who plays Hitler, is accused of overacting his part.

### Holocaust Memorial in New York

The many years of effort to set up a Holocaust Memorial on the streets of New York have at last been crowned with success. A high wall into which have been set seven bronze reliefs depicting the themes of the Holocaust in the context of Jewish history has been erected in Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, before the entrance to the UN building on First Avenue. The reliefs were made by the sculptor Ardit Blatas, of Lithuanian origin, on the initiative of the B'nai Brith Anti-Defamation League, which financed the project. The Mayor of New York, Edward Koch, and the Israeli Ambassador to the UN, Yehuda Blum, were present at the consecration ceremony.

### NORWEGIAN MEMORIAL DAUBED

A memorial to the merchant seamen of Norway who were lost during the Second World War was recently desecrated. The stone, sited in Oslo and dedicated to the thousands of men who died, bore a daub "They died for World Zionism", whilst nearby graffiti called for "Norway for the Norwegians" and "Pakistanis out".

### INTER-FAITH DISCUSSION IN IRELAND

Following the establishment of a branch of the Council of Christians and Jews in Ireland, Radio Telefis Eireann presented a discussion programme including Jewish, Roman Catholic and Protestant clerics. Sister Carmel maintained that the accusation of deicide against the Jews was due to a misreading of the New Testament, whilst Rabbi Rosen, the Chief Rabbi of Ireland, believed that it would take a long time for bias and prejudice to be eliminated from the Christian religion. He also called for mutual respect and mutual co-operation between the members of different faiths.



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### DR. OTTO NEUBAUER

Sir, — I am seeking biographical information on Dr. Otto Neubauer, who was born in Karlsbad in 1874, educated in Prague, and spent most of his academic life in Munich. He was dismissed from his post in 1933, emigrated to England in 1939 and died at Oxford in 1957. I am familiar with Neubauer's scientific publications, but can locate little information on his personal life (for the purpose of writing a biographical paper). I should appreciate any information which readers could provide and any leads to family survivors.

BERNARD SCHEPARTZ, Ph.D.

7607 Brou Avenue, (Emeritus Professor  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19152, of Biochemistry,  
U.S.A. Thomas Jefferson University)

### ANATOL GOLDBERG OBITUARY

Sir, — You state in your May issue that Anatol Goldberg was educated in Berlin at "a French school". Although founded in 1685 by and for Protestant Huguenot refugees driven from France by a pogrom, the "Französische Gymnasium" was by 1920 an entirely German school, distinct only by its special syllabus and by a tolerant spirit at least partly preserved through the Nazi era. It owes its survival to the efforts of a Jewish teacher, Professor Levinstein. I knew Anatol Goldberg as a classmate and am sorry I lost contact and did not know he was in London.

89 Allyn Road  
London SE21 8AD

M. L. MEYER

### INFORMATION REQUIRED

In connection with his research work, Professor Dr. S. Leibfried, Universitaet Bremen, Postfach 330440, 2800 Bremen 33, would be grateful for information about the following deceased immigrants to England: Dr. med. Barbara Lantos (née Ripper, married to Alexander Rakos), born in Hungary 1 January 1896 and died in London 10 September 1962, also about the whereabouts of her son (born in 1934) and of Dr. Hilde Maas, her attorney. Mathilde Wurm (née Adler), born in Frankfurt a.M., 30 September 1874 and died in London 30.3/1.4. 1935; SPD Reichstag member 1920-1933, emigrated to England 1933. Biographical details and photos particularly appreciated. Dr. Dora Fabian, died in London 1935 (suicide).

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## GREAT BIRTHDAY PARTY

More than 270 guests were assembled in the Restaurant of the Zoological Society on May 23 to celebrate the hundredth birthday of Margaret Jacoby. Apart from members of the family and close friends of the youthful centenarian the party mainly comprised members of the AJR Club, of which Mrs. Jacoby had been chairman since its foundation. In keeping with the spirit of the birthday child, the function was opened by a group of young boys and girls, the pupils of the Yehudi Menuhin School, who rendered masterly instrumental recitals. The telegrams, read out by Dr. Arnold Horwell, the "Master of Ceremonies", included messages from The Queen, the President of the German Federal Republic and the Prime Minister of Israel. There were also congratulations from the Governing Mayor, von Weizsaecker, and the Senator of the Interior of Berlin gratefully remembering the services rendered by Mrs. Jacoby until she had to leave Germany.

### NOTABLES PRESENT

The function was honoured by the presence of the Mayor of Hampstead, Cllr. Maureen Robinson, and Hampstead's Member of Parliament, Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg, both of whom expressed their admiration for Mrs. Jacoby. Mr. C. T. Marx, Chairman of the AJR, in his address reflected on the general and personal changes Mrs. Jacoby had experienced in the course of her long life. Mrs. Dora Segall, Chairman of the AJR Club, announced that, together with the AJR Executive, the AJR Club had raised donations to the tune of £2,000, the major part of which had been used for the planting of 350 trees in the Mountbatten Forest in Israel and the balance for the welfare of the Club. The celebration was enhanced by beautiful song recitals rendered by the Rev. Dollinger, the retired Cantor of Belsize Square Synagogue.

These were the bare proceedings, interrupted by the serving of refreshments. Yet the climax was the expression of thanks by the Chairman, with her usual strong voice and clear, off the cuff, English.

It is due particularly to the elaborate preparatory work of Dr. Arnold and Susanne Horwell and Mrs. Dora Segall, that the function became an unforgettable event.

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## EVALUATING THE PAST

### HERITAGE OF THE JEWISH PAST

A large audience attended the last event of Jewish Book Week, a spirited lecture by Mr. George Clare on "Our European Past — Nostalgia or Heritage?". It was sponsored by the B'nai B'rith (London) Lodge and chaired by Mr. Richard Crown, the president of the Men's Lodge. Last year, Mr. Clare, at the age of 60, published his first book, "Last Waltz in Vienna", the history of his family in pre-war Vienna. It became an immediate best-seller and won him the W. H. Smith Literary Award for 1982. He explained that it had taken him ten years to write. He had started the book as a family record to show his four children "that they were not quite as English as they thought" and that they were linked to a long European Jewish line stretching back into history. The story widened to reflect a whole chapter of Austrian Jewish history.

The Clare family had prospered in an age of enlightenment which saw Jews rise to distinction and wealth and play an active part in the intellectual and cultural life of Vienna. This was one of the reasons why Hitler hated Vienna, the "most ungermanic" of German cities. The author realised that the first seventeen years spent there formed an ineradicable part of his life. When he revisited it after the war and more recently after his book had been published in German, he felt that he was visiting an "uncannily familiar strange city". Its houses were familiar, but moved him no more. People were strangers. He felt himself part of British life now, but he realised that those refugees who tried to be hyper-British, were deluding themselves: "The past cannot be washed away by all the waters of the Thames". Its heritage exists, but there can be no nostalgia, because, even if it may have seemed so at the time, the good old days were never a golden age.

He warned against the danger of misrepresenting the past to future generations by applying terms like "Holocaust" and "war crimes" to the mass murder of the Jews. "Holocaust" meant "burnt offering" and the Jews had never offered themselves for sacrifice. There had been no war between Jews and Germans.

Mr. Clare also mentioned that he had recently visited Vienna in connexion with a BBC documentary which is to be based on his book. M.P.

### "BERLIN-AMSTERDAM 1920-1940"

This was the title of an exhibition, combined with lectures and discussions, which was organised by the Goethe Institute in Amsterdam. The idea was to present the experiences of those who had fled to Holland. Some 60,000 did. Many hoped to find a permanent refuge, like the family of Anne Frank whose fate of course occupies a prominent part of the exhibition. Those interested in cultural life were shown to have kept up the tradition of "the other Germany". Two publishing firms, Querido and de Lange, printed the burnt books and their successors, Leopold Jessner staged *Wilhelm Tell*, and nostalgic support was given to cabaretists like Rudolf Nelson and Willy Rosen.

On the whole, however, the basis of this kind of activity proved too narrow and would have been the case even if there had been no resentment at "Amsterdam being turned into a German city". This of course — voiced in a liberal magazine! — was absurd but just part of the xenophobia which infected even the gallant Dutch, and of which the German Institute produced some all too melancholy examples. The result was that a good many seemed to be in a No Man's Land, like that painter, Max Beckmann, whose five triptychs remained forgotten in his attic. Amsterdam had offered him a refuge, but it never became his artistic home. Incidentally, one Berlin-Amsterdam link that seemed to have escaped the organisers' attention is Dr. Alfred Wiener, who founded the Jewish Central Information Office here, the forerunner of the Wiener Library.

The exhibition was well received in the Dutch press, which gave it considerable attention. The story it told could not exactly flatter the national ego but it was seen as one of those classic experiences which (should) serve to purge the human heart. C.C.A.

### JEWISH BOOK AWARD

In future, one award of £2,000 (instead of two awards of £1,000 each) will be made annually for the best fiction or non-fiction book of Jewish interest published in English in the U.K. Five copies of each book to be considered for the award should be sent to the National Book League, Book House, 45 East Hill, London SW18 2QZ by July 9.

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### WALLENBERG AWARDS FOR LONDONERS

Two London medical students, Anthony Heyman and Jean-Marc Weinstein, will be able to spend six weeks at the Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba, as a result of winning Raoul Wallenberg Scholarships. They are the first to receive the awards established by the university and named after the Swedish diplomat who disappeared after saving thousands of Hungarian Jews during the Second World War. The students were presented with cheques for £250 after submitting prize-winning essays.

An American film producer has revealed in Jerusalem that he intends to make a film of the life of Raoul Wallenberg.

## BIRTHDAYS

### JAMES WALTERS 75

On July 29, Mr. James Walters (formerly Julius Warschauer) will celebrate his 75th birthday. He is the son of the late Rabbi Dr. M. Warschauer, and his filial reverence was reflected in a biographical article published in last year's Leo Baeck Institute Year Book. He also gave an elaborate and moving talk about Rabbi Warschauer's personality in the Club 1943 at a gathering which, at the same time, served as a reunion of many old standing friends of the family from the Berlin days.

Yet James Walters is at the same time a personality in his own right. The fact that after his arrival in this country he settled in the Guildford district determined his public activities. From 1938 to 1946, he was Chairman of the Mayor of Guildford's Refugee Committee, and in 1960 he arranged a concert for the World Refugee Year raising an appreciable amount for the Mayor's Appeal Fund. By that time the number of British born and naturalised Jews in the district had dwindled, and James Walters has become a devoted servant to social causes of the wider community. At the request of the local authorities he has done voluntary work in the new Royal Surrey Hospital, where he takes a special interest in the mentally and physically handicapped children. Known for his activities in this sphere, he has been appointed Fund Raising Organiser for the local Disabled Playground and Sports Centre to be established on the lines of the Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

These and other activities have brought James Walters in close contact with the civic and religious dignitaries whose respect for him has been enhanced by his unreserved Jewish loyalties. We extend our sincerest congratulations to our friend James Walters and wish him and his wife many more years of undiminished health and activity.

### DR. HANS FELD 80

Dr. Hans Feld celebrates his eightieth birthday on July 15th. Born in Berlin, he started his pioneering career in film journalism as the editor of 'Film Kurier'. When the Nazis came to power he emigrated with his family first to Prague, where he became founder-editor of 'Die Kritik', and thence to England, where he founded and edited 'World Film News'. Though eventually his professional path led him to be director of a food importing concern, he has continued his lifelong interest in film and theatre as a critic and scenario writer. A man of great personal charm, sympathy and youthfulness, these qualities have endeared him in particular to young people — and his considerable expertise especially to those who, like him, are "film buffs". Only last month he was awarded the "Filmband in Gold" by the Bundesministerium des Innern in recognition of his services to the German film industry prior to 1933. One of the founders of the Leo Baeck Institute in England, Hans Feld has been a member of its Executive Committee and Honorary Treasurer for many years. Volume XXVII of the Institute's Year Book, to be published in August, features his 'Recollections of a Berlin Film Critic', which many of us are looking forward to reading.

### MAC GOLDSMITH 80

On July 3, our friend Mr. Mac Goldsmith, Hon LL.D.(Leicester), will be an octogenarian. He is one of those members of our community who combine signal services to British industry with a strong sense of responsibility for general and Jewish causes. His expertise in the bonding of rubber to metal for shock absorption created revolutionary improvements in the Midlands car industry. He is a benefactor to his city of residence and, in recognition of his numerous endowments and honorary offices, was made a Freeman of Leicester, whose University conferred on him the title of honorary doctor of law. Four years ago, he was elected trustee of the University's medical school and the Leicestershire teaching hospitals' joint trust. His offices in the Jewish sphere include the treasurership of the Leicester Hebrew Congregation. He is also a Life Governor of Hillel House (London), a Life President of Leicester University Jewish Students' Association and a member of the Board of Governors of the Jerusalem College of Technology. Mr. Goldsmith's interests also include the work of the AJR. Throughout the years, he has maintained personal contacts with members of its headquarters and has given generous support to our cause. We wish him health and happiness for many years to come.

### BERTHA KAHN'S BIRTHDAY

Mrs. Bertha Kahn will be celebrating her 86th birthday on July 15th and her relatives and friends will want to wish her many more happy years of active life. Among them will be those who were pupils in Bunce Court School many years ago.

Berthl Kahn left Germany in 1933 to live in France, and it was there that her husband died in a tragic car accident. Soon after she joined her sister Anna Essinger in Bunce Court School, Kent, where Anna had already re-established her well known progressive and co-educational boarding school after a courageous and far-sighted decision to leave Ulm, Germany, having taken with her many of the Jewish pupils as well as several members of staff. Berthl became the school's matron and she proved to be a pillar of strength to her sister in that department until the school closed in the early fifties, its main task of providing a home for Jewish refugee children having been completed.

Berthl now lives in a Nursing Home at 50 The Drive, London NW11 but it should be stressed that despite the arthritis that has been plaguing her for many years she still leads an active and busy life, with regular visits to and from her son and daughters and her many friends and relatives. We all wish her a very happy and contented birthday.

LESLIE BRENT

### WOLFGANG FROMMEL 80

The co-founder of the German language periodical in Amsterdam "Castrum Peregrini", Wolfgang Frommel, will be 80 on July 8. He voluntarily left Nazi Germany as an adherent of Stefan George and out of solidarity with his numerous Jewish friends.

### FRITZ WALTER IS 80

It sounds quite absurd to call Dr. Friedrich Walter an octogenarian — but it is true. On July 19 this native of Elberfeld, and resident of Hampstead for half his life, will be eighty. There are now few men of letters left among this generation, steeped — like Fritz Walter — in the intellectual atmosphere of the pre-war continent.

One has to piece together the facts about his life and work, for he has never liked to talk much about himself. But we know that after studying at Bonn, Munich, Berlin, and Münster, where he graduated with a thesis on Theodore Fontane in 1924, Dr. Walter worked as a literary editor on the *Berliner Börsen-Courier*, a paper more renowned for its cultural standards than for its informations on the stock exchange, and as a *Dramaturg* for the Barnowsky theatres until Hitler came to power.

Walter emigrated to France like so many German intellectual refugees before him, and taught German language and literature at the University of Nancy until the Nazi invasion of 1940. There were months of hazardous and bitter experiences before he managed to escape to England where he enrolled with the Pioneer Corps, serving for two years. After another period of teaching in Somerset and Yorkshire he started work on the excellent digest *Neue Auslese*, sponsored by the Allies as a cultural bridge between the Western world and the German public which had been cut off from foreign countries during the Hitler era. In 1952 the *Südwestfunk* made him its London correspondent for cultural and artistic affairs, and ever since he has been reviewing Britain's new developments in these spheres for German listeners.

Fritz Walter's own literary work began during the first stage of his exile with two books, *Nächte mit Cassandra* and *Tobias*, originally published in Holland in 1939 and 1940 and reprinted in the early 1950s (though his German publisher vanished into thin air with the copies and the royalties). In 1948, he edited *Selections from Thomas Mann* for Macmillan in London, and ten years later he translated Siegfried Kracauer's famous book on German films, *Von Caligari bis Hitler*, for German readers. He has also been a most welcome contributor to "AJR Information", especially as a book reviewer.

He has now more or less retired from literary life, but being a Francophile, he is also a gastronome and the Hampstead saga says that he still likes to do a spot of cooking himself when his charming wife, Illa, vacates the kitchen for him. We, his friends, wish this gentle, cultured man with his great knowledge of European art and literature, and — last not least — his sense of humour, a good spell of many more happy and healthy years. Our sincere felicitations. E.L.

### ERNEST FRANKEL 80

Mr. Ernest S. Frankel, a longstanding devoted worker for the Zionist cause, will celebrate his 80th birthday on June 28. Born in Frankfurt, he came to this country with his British-born wife in 1933. He is an Hon. Vice-President of the Zionist Federation and of the Joint Israel Appeal. Particularly interested in education, he is also a Trustee and Hon. Treasurer of the Zionist Federation Education Trust and a Joint Chairman of the Zionist Federation Day Schools Committee. Last, but not least, he was made an Hon. Fellow of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Mr. Frankel has been a member of the AJR for many years. We extend our heartiest congratulations.

F. Thorn

## NEW KAFKA BIOGRAPHY

*An innocent child, yes,  
that you were indeed, but  
even more so have you  
been a devilish man.*

Kafka, "The Judgment"

This sentence is spoken by Georg's Father and the verdict is death by drowning. "The Judgment" was written in 1912 and is considered by many as one of the key stories which introduced the concept of *Angst* into the everyday language of lay-psychologists. Apart from many other merits of Ronald Hayman's book the outstanding one is the clarity in analysing a much more complex pattern of intellectual and psychological development than other biographers and friends of Kafka ever attempted—and the latter include the admirable Max Brod.

The most astonishing facts concerning Kafka the man are physical and mundane, and certain aspects are profane—albeit enhancing the mystique surrounding his life rather than diminishing it. Kafka was a tall man, nearly six foot in height, with strong hands and broad palms, and he was a good swimmer. He was popular with women and led a normal sex life, not spurning the pleasures of the brothel. He acquired his law degree without enthusiasm, and there were no dramatic incidents at school or university. He became a successful official with the *Arbeiter-Unfallversicherungs-Anstalt für das Königreich Böhmen in Prag*, where he spent most of his adult life, held in high esteem by his superiors and colleagues. He was often entrusted with delicate missions of arbitration and fact-finding about accident claims. And it was this man whose self-torture and microscopic analysis of psychological phenomena produced some of the most haunting and mysterious books of our time.

Ronald Hayman's story\* of the writer's life is told thoroughly without fear of the depths and abysses, and is most remarkable for avoiding 'easy solutions'—linking Kafka's obsession with sharp implements, knives and blades with a facile castration complex, for instance—but emphasizing and exploring his constant irrational fear of his father, a brutish and stupid man if ever there was one, who even on his son's fairly late success and recognition as a major writer could only comment 'Kauf dir was dafür' . . .

It is difficult to find a formula for a life so 'normal' in many respects and so utterly, inaccessibly extraordinary in its essence. Ronald Hayman has gained access to this 'Trial', where Kafka was his own prosecutor and executioner. His eternal flight from normality into the two alternatives open to him, writing and—ultimately—death, his longing to free himself of guilt, and the self-destruction he carried out in the process—this is the content of a large volume, where each of the many quotations is in its proper place, reinforcing the biographer's interpretations. The footnotes and references are painstakingly presented and provide a framework of period information—even including a glossary of German and Czech town and street names, plus a comprehensive bibliography. The book succeeds, where many other critical interpretations have failed, in creating more than a 'picture', rather a three-dimensional structure with the unique German-Jewish symbiosis of Prague as its foundation. Hayman's book is, for this reviewer, more revealing than Brod's essays on Kafka. There, Brod's love and friendship, even his intimate knowledge of comparatively unimportant circumstances, leave the outlines blurred, the borders dark. (For his loving 'breach of faith' of course, for publishing instead of destroying Kafka's unpublished work after his death, Brod will for ever remain our great benefactor . . .)

At first sight Hayman seems to have resisted the all too obvious temptation of the neo-Freudian dimension in order to extend the four available ones. The above-mentioned obsession of Kafka's with sharp instruments slicing into living flesh is rather connected to his horror of ritual slaughtering—his grandfather was a *shochet*. In some of the most revealing chapters, aptly titled with the names of women in Kafka's life, Hayman includes Freud in an unobtrusive, objective manner which is entirely convincing. In the 'Dora' chapter, for instance, Hayman quotes Dora (Dymant's) story about the children's holiday camp at Müritz: 'In the evening we were all sitting on benches at long tables. A little boy got up and, as he went away, was so embarrassed that he fell down. Kafka said to him, his eyes shining with admiration: What a clever way to fall, and what a clever way to get up again . . .' One marvels at this delicate perception, both of Dora's and Kafka's, and incidentally Hayman's . . . (Kafka said: "Wie geschickt du gefallen bist und wie geschickt . . .")

Hayman's 'layout' of this complicated life story in 25 chapters (apart from a meticulously compiled Chronological Table with curious sidelights, e.g. '1910, April—Giggles during formal meeting with the President') is orthodox with captivating violations of the rules. So the book begins with 'The Turning Point: 1912', the night when Kafka, who was 29 by then, sat down in the evening of the 22nd of September and wrote "Das Urteil". 'When he finished it at six in the morning, his legs so stiff he could hardly pull them from under the desk, he knew he had used his talent as never before. He had discovered 'how everything can be said, how for everything, for the strangest fancies, a great fire is ready.' (Quoted from his diaries.) One is irresistibly drawn into the life of the subject before being given mundane details.

'The Ladder in Mid-Air' explains Kafka's way of creative thinking. 'The Yiddish Actors' tells about an important series of meetings. 'The Modern Kabbalist' and 'Haemorrhage' are self-explanatory headings and there are five deep and marvellous chapters about the women, Felice, Grete Bloch, Julie, Milena and Dora. The last chapter about Kafka's death ('The Hunger Artist') is unspeakably sad, in spite or rather because of its deceptive detachment. On his deathbed Kafka corrected the galley proofs of "Der Hungerkünstler", published by *Die Schmiede*.

A few minor mistakes should be corrected in later editions, e.g. the Jewish hero's name was Bar Kochba (and not Bar Kochbar), the pedlars or *Pinkeljuden* at the turn of the century were generally still on the lowest rung of the social ladder, buying and selling old clothes and still far from 'forming a complex network linking production of raw material to manufacture' (p.6), the Emperor Franz Joseph I. was born not on the 17th, but the 18th August—*Kaisers Geburtstag* being nearly a sacred day, not only a holiday for everybody in the old Monarchy, and the plural of *Grab* is *Gräber*, not 'Graben' (p.3), admittedly a minor mistake by somebody with Hayman's sensitivity for language—he mostly quotes from his own translations. His biography of Kafka is a loving and valuable book.

### BIBLIOGRAPHICA JUDAICA

A 'Bibliographica Judaica' compiled by Dr. Renate Heuer of Frankfurt-am-Main has just been published by Campus Verlag, Frankfurt, at DM96. It is a listing of Jewish authors who wrote in German from the late 18th century to the 'thirties of this century, and this first volume, covering the letters A-K, comprises some 5,000 names. The L-Z volume, now in active preparation, is expected to comprise an equal number of German-Jewish writers.

### BOOKS UNDER BAN

At one time a judge in West Germany, Wilhelm Stäglich is the author of "Die Auschwitz-Mythos — Legende oder Wirklichkeit?", which was issued by Wigbert Grabert, a well-known neo-Nazi publisher, in 1979. The book has now been banned by a Stuttgart court on the grounds that Stäglich had so distorted history and ignored proven facts that he had lost the right of free expression. Neither author nor publisher could be prosecuted because proceedings in such a case must begin within six months of publication, but all existing copies of the work are to be destroyed by order of the court.

Another book which has run into trouble is "The Dream of Steel", a science fiction story which has been declared a danger to young people. The government agency which assesses the likelihood of a book to corrupt the young has taken this action because the novel describes Hitler as the "Lord of the Swastika" and the plot depends on the supposition that the dictator did not commit suicide and, what is more, survived an atomic attack.

### "BURNT BOOK WEEK" FOR OSNABRUECK

Fifty years after the National Socialist book burnings of May 1933, the city of Osnabrück is planning a "Week of Burnt Books". A conference on the theme "Exile" will be held in conjunction with the city's University, to discuss the loss to culture and the sciences brought about by the Nazi regime. Exhibitions, concerts, films, plays and lectures will recall the artists, writers and scholars who were persecuted or who left Germany at that time. The week will open with a speech by former Chancellor Willy Brandt.

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\*"K: A Biography of Kafka" by Ronald Hayman, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 349 p., Hardback £16.50, Paperback £8.50. III.

E.G.L.

## NEWS FROM ISRAEL

### EGYPTIAN GROUPS AT TEL AVIV FESTIVAL

In the course of this year's Tel Aviv Festival groups from Britain, France, Italy, Brazil, the United States and, perhaps the most welcome, from Egypt, were to be seen. Three evenings were devoted to the Arabian Music Ensemble and the National Folkdance Group, both from Cairo, who presented programmes of typically oriental music. After the opening performance, the 180 Egyptian visitors invited many of the Israeli audience to a party and dance at their hotel.

As part of the Festival, the Groupe Vocal de France gave Arnold Schoenberg's last complete work, the psalm MiMa'amakim (De Profundis) sung in Hebrew. The Brigham Young University Choir from America also sang a choral work in Hebrew for their Israeli hosts.

### "PEACE ROUTE" SPEEDS UP

Buses now run between Cairo and Tel Aviv daily. The journey is scheduled to take seven hours, but passengers are finding that the length of time is nearer ten hours. Those who ventured on the inaugural trip found that, due to lack of organisation at the border crossing, their journey lengthened into an 18-hour ordeal. However, matters have greatly improved on the new "peace route".

### HERBERT WEHNER

Leader of the West German Social Democrats, Herbert Wehner has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. The Israeli Ambassador in Bonn in his telegram of congratulation described the honour as "a symbol of the relationships between our peoples".

### BARON de HIRSCH COMMEMORATED

The 150th anniversary of the birth of Baron Maurice de Hirsch was marked by the opening of an exhibition in the Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Diaspora in Tel Aviv. At the same time, the event coincided with the ninetieth year of the Baron's greatest work, the Jewish Colonization Association.

Born in Munich, Baron de Hirsch became a wealthy banker in Brussels and his business interests extended to the great Turkish railway scheme and beyond. From his great fortune, he offered £2 million to the Russian government in order to help Russian Jews by providing them with a modern educational system, but when his project was rebuffed he established the JCA to help in the mass emigration from Russia. For many years the most important Jewish relief organisation, the JCA established many settlements, mostly in South and North America, and as time went on it widened its scope to include aid to emigrant Jews from all over the world, including Germany and Austria, and more recently from the Arab countries.

### HEIDELBERG ISRAELIS MEET MAYOR

Visiting Israel, the Mayor of Heidelberg, Reinhold Zundel, found himself faced by almost too many invitations from former Heidelbergers now living in Israel — some 30 families. All his former fellow-citizens were invited to a reunion in Tel Aviv.

Mayor Zundel was particularly anxious to visit the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot to gain ideas for the proposed Technology Park which is to be built near the new University in Neuenheimer Feld. As well as sporting and educational links with Israel, Heidelberg has long enjoyed a close relationship between its Max Planck Institute for Atomic Physics and the Weizmann Institute.

### WILHELM II'S DESCENDANTS IN HAIFA

Grandson and great-grandson of Kaiser Wilhelm II, Prince Louis Ferdinand and Prince Christian Sigismund were recently guests of the University of Haifa. In the course of their visit they dedicated a restored obelisk which had originally been erected in 1910 on Mount Carmel to mark the spot where the Kaiser had gazed on Haifa and the surrounding countryside.

### ARTISTIC EXCHANGE WITH FRANKFURT

Works by 80 Israeli artists have been on display at the Paulskirche in Frankfurt a.M., following an agreement for artistic exchanges between Israel and West Germany. A reciprocal exhibition of works by Frankfurt painters and sculptors will be seen in November in Tel Aviv.

### OIL FOUND NEAR DEAD SEA

Israeli oil exploration companies have found small quantities of this valuable commodity near the Dead Sea. Although the experts are so far unwilling to make any definite forecast, it appears possible that oil may be present in commercial amounts, and drilling on the site is in progress.

### BERLIN APPOINTMENT FOR HERBERT STRAUSS

#### Research Centre on Antisemitism

Dr. Herbert A. Strauss, Professor of History at New York's City College, has been appointed Director of the newly created Research Centre on Antisemitism of the Technical University in Berlin. For many years, Herbert Strauss has been closely associated with our work as Executive Vice President of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe, the sister organisation of the AJR, and as a member of the Presidium of the Council of Jews from Germany. He also takes a leading part in the efforts at recording the history of the Jewish immigration and established the Research Foundation for Jewish Immigration in New York. One of the achievements of the Foundation (jointly with the Institute for Contemporary History in Munich) is the publication of a biographical dictionary of emigrants from German-language countries. Herbert Strauss will retain his contacts with the U.S. and intends to stay there during the vacations of the Berlin Technical University. He will thus also continue his activities with the organisations of former German Jews. We congratulate Herbert Strauss on his appointment, which testifies to his qualities as a diligent and constructive historian.

### POET GREETED BY MINISTER

The poet Rose Ausländer has received the congratulations of Ministerpräsident Johannes Rau of North-Rhine Westphalia, on her 75th birthday. Barely escaping death in a concentration camp, Rose Ausländer emigrated to New York in 1946, but returned to Düsseldorf in 1965. Her writings often reflect her life of oppression under the Third Reich. A volume of her "Selected Poems", translated by Ewald Osers, was published by London Magazine Editions.

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## NEWS FROM GERMANY

### OFF-AND-ON TRIAL FOR NS COMMISSAR

Twenty years after the original accusation, a trial has just re-opened of 73-year-old Wilhelm Westerheide and his wartime secretary Johanna Zelle. Founder in 1929 of a local NSDAP group in Borgholzhausen near Bielefeld, Westerheide became the local commissar of occupied Vladimir-Volynsk in the Soviet Ukraine. In the years 1942/43, it is alleged, he personally murdered or had a hand in murdering 9,000 Jews. After the war, he lived with relatives, passing himself off as a farm labourer. In 1961, the Vereinigung der Verfolgten des Naziregimes laid information against him, but it was not until 1973 that the Bielefeld court sought the help of Soviet legal authorities in preparing the case for the prosecution. The Russians co-operated by providing names of eye-witnesses, documents and photographs, all testifying to the appalling cruelties carried out in Vladimir-Volynsk.

### Further Delays

Further delays meant that the opening of the trial was put back to 1979: after more than a year of hearings the court decided that the evidence was insufficient to convict the former NS-Gebietskommissar, basing its findings on such points as a witness failing to remember the colour of Westerheide's uniform at a moment when people were being shot. An appeal to the Federal Court has resulted in the trial being re-opened in Bielefeld, some months before the date originally announced.

### "FINEST SYNAGOGUE" TO BE REBUILT

Once considered Germany's finest synagogue, Berlin's New Synagogue in Oranienburgerstrasse was built by August Knoblauch and August Stüler between 1859 and 1866 in a striking oriental style. Seventy-two years later the building was burnt down in the outrages of November 1938 and its destruction was completed by wartime bombing. Although fewer than 400 Jews live in East Berlin today, the city council has decided to rebuild the New Synagogue, which was an important landmark in architectural history.

### LEAVE WANTED AFTER MURDERS

Witnesses at the trial of Wilhelm Westerheide and Johanna Zelle, now taking place in Dortmund, have told how German soldiers reacted to the murder of thousands of Jews at Vladimir-Volynsk, where Westerheide was District Commissar under the German occupation. Johanna Zelle was his secretary at the time. A pastor from Hamburg, then an 18-year-old soldier, told how men detailed by the Sicherheitsdienst for the firing squads demanded special leave in return for carrying out the action. Another witness disclosed that the soldiers were threatened with death if they revealed anything of what was happening. He himself, a recruit training officer, declared that he would never to his dying day forget the horror of the mass graves. Many soldiers were deeply upset by the murders and demanded that their officers should put an end to "all this shooting". But when the officers protested to the divisional commander they too were threatened with the death penalty if they complained further.

### RACIAL CO-OPERATION GAINS HONOURS

In Germany, three well-known men have been honoured for their work on behalf of the public good, particularly in furthering inter-racial co-operation.

Presenting Axel Springer, the well-known publisher, with the Ernst Reuter Medal, Mayor Richard Weizsäcker praised his personal contribution towards the reconciliation of Germans and Jews. The medal, Berlin's highest award, was given to mark Mr. Springer's 70th birthday.

At a ceremony in Hamburg, the violinist Yehudi Menuhin received the cultural prize for 1982 awarded by the West German Freemasons. The prize marked his contribution to understanding between individuals and peoples.

For his work in promoting athletics and sport among young people, the secretary-general of the West German Maccabi organisation, Mr. Isaak Behar, has been honoured by the Deutsche Sportsjugend with the award of its "Aegina-Diskus" medal.

### GOETHE GYMNASIUM OLD BOYS MEET

Of the 19 Jewish members of the 39-strong class of 1932 of the Goethe Gymnasium in Frankfurt, 18, coming from all over the world, attended the 50th anniversary reunion from 25 April to 1 May. One, the official report stated, could not bring himself to set foot in the city because of his experiences in the Nazi period.

E.G.L.

### VISITING FRANKFURT

In mid-May a third group of former Jewish residents of Frankfurt, comprising 110 emigrants from the U.S., South America and Israel, visited the city for a fortnight as guests of the city. The oldest former refugee was 88, the youngest 75. There are 4,000 people on the waiting list, not a great number when one recalls that there were some 30,000 Jews in the city before 1932. The municipality gives priority for these visits according to the candidate's age and years of former residence in the city.

E.G.L.

### DEDICATION TO MURDERED CHILDREN

In Hamburg, a room at the Janusz Korczak School in Bullenhauser Damm has been set aside in memory of twenty Jewish children murdered by the Nazis in April 1945 to cover up the criminal "medical experiments" which they had undergone. Under the Third Reich, the school was used as a branch of Neuengamme concentration camp, but after the war it was re-named in honour of the Polish-Jewish educationalist who went to his death in Treblinka rather than abandon the orphans of the Warsaw Ghetto in his care.

Suspected of complicity in the murder of the children in Hamburg is Arnold Strippel, sentenced at Düsseldorf last year to 3½ years' imprisonment. Relatives of French deportees are calling for a re-trial in connection with Strippel's activities at Hamburg and Buchenwald.

### NEO-NAZI "NOT GUILTY OF INCITEMENT"

Edgar Geiss, a tireless neo-Nazi propagandist, has once again escaped a prison sentence. Last September, a State court found him guilty on charges of inciting hatred against Jews by distributing pamphlets denying the Holocaust. However, the Celle High Court has annulled the sentence of 10 months' gaol (itself reduced from 15 months — AJR Information November 1981) on the grounds that Geiss could only have been inciting hatred against Jews if his pamphlets had asserted that it was the Jews who had invented the reports of mass murders.

### POST RESTORED TO NEO-NAZI TEACHER

Almost four years ago, Karl-Heinz Kausch, a senior teacher in a Hannoversch-Münden *Gymnasium*, was suspended from his position by the Lower Saxony Minister of Culture. Kausch had written the foreword to a book praising Hitler, had talked to his pupils about other pseudo-historical books and had spoken at a meeting of an ex-Waffen-SS organisation. He has now been reinstated by the Ministry, following a Brunswick tribunal's judgement that Kausch had not offended against the free democratic order enjoined by the Basic Law. The judgement and the swift return of the teacher to his post has caused a good deal of angry comment.

### JERUSALEM — FRANKFURT

The large square in front of the main entrance to the Shaare-Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem has been named Frankfurt Plaza in recognition of the long association of the 80-year-old hospital with the city on the Main. It was rebuilt as a modern medical centre in 1979. A Frankfurt Society of Supporters of Shaare Zedek Hospital has set itself a target of DM500,000 to help cover the costs of the new building.

E.G.L.

### MUNICH OLD AGE HOME REPLACED

In Munich, the cornerstone of a new Jewish home for elderly people has been laid at a site in Kaulbachstrasse. An act of arson, whose perpetrators were never found, destroyed the former old age home in Reichenbachstrasse in 1970.

### CAMPS

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## MISCELLANEOUS

### THANKSGIVING BY MARGARET JACOBY

Dear Dr. Rosenstock,

What a joy it was for me to read the Margaret Jacoby Saga. A hundred thanks to you and the others who contributed so warmly to it.

Dear AJR,

A hundred thanks go out to you for honouring me by giving me such a marvellous Reception.

Dear Arnold and Susi Horwell, dear Dora Segall,

A hundred thanks to you for arranging this party so successfully. It is an unforgettable event for me due to the love in which it was presented to me. The setting in the presence of our charming Mayor of Camden with her husband, and Mr. Finsberg, our MP, and his wife; the programme with the musical entertainment by the children of the Menuhin School; the touching recital by Mr. Dollinger — all this was not only enjoyed by me but also by my family and friends from all over the world, who had been kindly invited, too, and by the members of the AJR Club.

Dear Executive of the AJR, dear Club,

dear Hampstead Women's Liberal Association,

A hundred thanks go out to you for planting 350 trees in my name at the Lord Mountbatten Memorial Forest in Israel.

Dear Donors,

A hundred thanks to you for planting an additional one hundred and seventy-six trees in Israel and for the most generous donations to my Jacoby-Orger Fund, for your lovely presents and for the hundreds and hundreds of greeting cards.

Dear Dora Segall,

My heart is full of gratitude to you. You have made this day, my Hundredth, such a unique and enjoyable one that even an immense bunch of thanks can never be big enough for you.

MARGARET JACOBY

### MRS. ILSE GRIMBLY 70

Mrs. Ilse Grimbly, who has been a staff member of the United Restitution Office for almost 30 years, recently celebrated her 70th birthday. Having been associated with the office almost since its inception, she experienced the growth of URO and has remained associated with it ever since. Now, as the staff is reduced, much responsible work falls on her and the other few assistants to the chief legal adviser. Like her colleagues she has been helpful in dealing with the applications, now mainly concerned with questions of social insurance. She also was greatly appreciated by the late Dr. Leo Baeck to whom she rendered her services in her spare time. We convey our sincerest congratulations to Mrs. Grimbly and wish her many more years of undiminished health and happiness.

### RETIREMENT OF RABBI KATZ

Rabbi Dr. Arthur Katz, Minister of the Hendon Reform Synagogue, has retired after more than 30 years of devoted service. Born in Czechoslovakia, he came to this country as a refugee and was the first rabbi of his congregation. He is a long-standing member of the AJR. He will be succeeded by his son, Rabbi Stephen Katz.

### HAMBURG

The former private villa of Albert Ballin at 58 Feldbrunnenstrasse in Hamburg has become a listed building because of its outstanding architectural merit. It was built in 1908-9 by the well-known architects Lund and Kallmorgen. After 1945 it was the office of Hamburg's cultural administration, and then a UNESCO pedagogical institute.

E.G.L.

### AUSTRIAN "BLACKLIST" CIRCULATED

Newly established in Austria, a neo-Nazi group "NSDAP/Oesterreich" already publishes the "Oesterreichischer Beobachter" circulating in right-wing circles in Germany and Austria. Recently the paper has put out a blacklist of almost 100 Jews and Jewish institutions, including the name and address of Chief Rabbi Akiba Eisenberg.

### LEGACIES

The AJR Charitable Trust has received the following legacies: £3,760 from the estate of the late Mrs. F. Faulkner (interim payment); £6,000 from the estate of the late Mrs. Vera Rose Gans (interim payment); £2,500 from the estate of Mrs. Margaret Frank (interim payment), and £500 from the estate of the late Dr. Ada Philippon.

### 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.

#### Birthday

Israel:— On the 10 July our beloved Mutti, Else Israel (formerly Meyer, née Rothenberg) will celebrate her 90th birthday. With love from her children, grandchildren and great-grandson.

#### Engagement

Elting:— John and Inge Elting, of 3, Arden Close, Harrow-on-the-Hill, are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter Judith to Stephen Standing, son of Charles and Jean Standing, of 43, Platt Lane, Dobcross, Greater Manchester.

#### Deaths

Gans:— Chane Gans, née Neumann, wife of the late beloved Frederic Ruben, passed away 23 May 1982, Rosh Chodesh Sivan, aged 71. Deeply mourned by her sister Gina Grinberg, Paris; her brother Shlomo Neumann and family, Kibbutz Lavi, Israel; family Gilroy, Ramat Gan, Israel; family Kirshner, Raanana, Israel; and friends.

Heinemann:— Dr. Ada Heinemann, Heinrich Stahl House, formerly Oxford, passed away after a short illness on 30 May, a few days before her 92nd birthday. Sadly mourned by her son and daughter-in-law, grandchildren, relatives and friends. 40, Gresham Gardens, London, NW11.

Jackson:— My dear wife and our good friend Paula died on the 6 May 1982. After months of suffering, it was a happy release. 9 Parkfields Avenue, London, NW9.

Lustig:— Rose Lustig, née Philippon, of Greenford, Middlesex, died 10 February 1982, shortly after her 98th birthday, following a brief illness.

Rathem:— Elly Rathem died peacefully on 16 June in her 89th year. Loved and now sadly missed by her family and all who knew her.

Steinberg:— William Steinberg died very suddenly on the 7 June. Most sadly missed by his wife and friends.

Stern:— Robert Stern, formerly Bad Kreuznach, passed away suddenly on 21 May. Deeply mourned by his wife Herta, relatives and friends.

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#### Miscellaneous

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### INFORMATION REQUIRED

#### AJR Enquiries

Collins:— Mr. John A. Collins, last known address 11, Cruickshank House, Townsend Estate, London NW8 6JY.

Lawton:— Mrs. H. Lawton, last known address 6, Dorset Drive, Edgware, HA8 7NT.

# OBITUARY

## BARONESS ALIX de ROTHSCCHILD

Baroness Alix de Rothschild, the former wife of Baron Guy de Rothschild, has died in Normandy aged 70. Devoted to the cause of Youth Aliyah, she was world patron of the organisation and the founder-president of Youth Aliyah for France. Coming from an aristocratic Jewish Austro-Hungarian family (her father was Baron Philippe de Schey), she and her little daughter were forced to escape from Nazi Germany with nothing but the clothes they stood up in. She managed to reach Argentina but, disregarding her own safety, returned to France in 1940 to warn her husband of the forthcoming Holocaust. The pair were able to get to Morocco and thence to the US, Guy de Rothschild eventually joining General de Gaulle's Free French. At the end of the war, Baroness de Rothschild again went to France where she dedicated her life to assisting children and young people.

## IRMGARD KEUN

The writer Irmgard Keun who has died in Cologne, aged 72, was hailed as a major discovery when her novel "Gilgi, eine von uns" appeared in 1931. This novel and its successor "Das kunstseidene Mädchen" became unprecedented best-sellers, not only among young women whose growing awareness of their role in society she expressed. She was the protagonist of a new realistic style in writing, the "Neue Sachlichkeit" movement. In 1933, her books were burnt by the Nazis and blacklisted as "literature of the asphalt". She spent the war in emigration and continued to publish novels, but none of them achieved the success of her early ones. After the war she returned to her native Cologne, but remained largely unknown among the post-war generation until, in 1979, the Düsseldorf Claassenverlag brought out new printings of her books. Suddenly her early success repeated itself, and once again received wide acclaim.

## PETER WEISS

Author of the controversial play "Marat/Sade", German-born Peter Weiss has died in Stockholm at the age of 65. A half-Jewish journalist and documentary film-maker, he left Germany in 1934, settling in Sweden just before the Second World War. His name was scarcely known until "The Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat . . .", allegorically likening Europe to the asylum housing the Marquis de Sade, was produced in 1964 in Berlin. Later, Peter Weiss wrote "The Investigation", a play dealing with the Auschwitz war crimes trial.

Only a few days before his death, the author had learned that the Deutsche Akademie für Sprache und Dichtung had awarded him its Georg-Büchner-Preis in recognition of his life's work.

## WALTER H. RAPP

One of the prosecutors in the Nuremberg Trials, 68-year-old Walter H. Rapp, died recently in California. Originally from Frankfurt a.M., he emigrated in 1938 and settled in the United States, where he joined the armed forces. He was particularly active in the prosecution of the German generals for their war crimes.

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# THEATRE AND CULTURE

**German Stage Statistics.** Compiling stage "Bestsellers" has resulted in quite interesting figures, taking into account all major theatres of the German Federal Republic. According to these, Shakespeare still leads the list of authors whose works meet universal acclamation, with Goethe second and Brecht third; the musical sector (opera and operetta, including the modern musical) puts Mozart in first place, followed by Verdi and Franz Lehar.

**Bochum.** The two theatres of this art-minded industrial town rank high with their very varied productions, some being real avant-garde theatre. The recent visit of Bochum Schauspielhaus to the Berlin theatre festival included "The Cherry Orchard", Lessing's "Nathan" and a feature programme with the title "Bin ich froh, ein Jud zu sein."

**Films of 50 years ago.** With UFA at the height of its fame, 1932 audiences greeted Hans Albers in "Quick" and "Der Sieger" (with the much-whistled song "Hoppla, jetzt komm' ich"), Lilian Harvey in "Ein blonder Traum" and the Hungarian soprano Gitta Alpar in "Das Lied der Puszt", her first film appearance.

**Birthdays.** Leopold Lindtberg, stage director whose field of productions embraces successes in Vienna, Salzburg, Zürich and many German

theatres, is celebrating his 80th birthday. *Heinrich Schnitzler*, son of the Austrian dramatist, and stage director in his own right, is also 80.

"Das war's" says *Heinz Rühmann*, making this the title of an autobiography published by Ullstein, Berlin. In this book we meet the shrewd and cunning-looking German comedian from his beginnings in the Twenties, his glowing enthusiasm for flying, and preoccupied with his two greatest rôles ("Hauptmann von Köpenick" and "Schweijk") as well as his encounters with personalities as varied as Goebbels, Udet, Admiral Canaris and Fritz Kortner. Praised by reviewers, most of them remark: "Typical Rühmann."

S.B.

## LEONARD FRANK HONOURED

The writer Leonard Frank who died in America in 1961, will be honoured by his native city Würzburg in September to commemorate the centenary of his birth. For this purpose a Leonard Frank Society was recently formed. In his writings, he dealt with many subjects which are still at the centre of interest: the generation gap, the dangers of unemployment, the peace movement and many others. It is to be hoped that some of his books will be reprinted.

## HEINE STATUE IN HAMBURG

Uncle Salomon will probably shrug his shoulders when he hears that a statue has been set up for that "incorrigible fool of a nephew", even in Hamburg and in the City Hall Square at that, and Harry himself, one hopes, will for once think less severely of the place which he always detested. Understandably perhaps, the city was in no hurry to honour the harsh critic, and though 50-odd years after Heine's death Alfred Kerr and his committee urged the Senate to take at last a more detached view, it was not until 1926, in the teeth of strong nationalist and antisemitic opposition, that a statue was eventually placed in the city park. The 12ft tall bronze figure on a 6ft base, the work of Hugo Lederer, did not last long, however. In 1933 the Nazis took it away and destroyed it. It was not entirely lost, though. Some of Lederer's original drawings and designs were preserved, enabling the statue to be reconstructed. This was done by a younger sculptor, Waldemar Otto. He created a new base which now bears two characteristic inscriptions — one: "Remember the cause of man which was what he fought for all his life"; the other the famous words from the *Reisebilder*: "A sword you shall lay on my coffin, for I was a gallant soldier in the struggle for the freedom of man".

C.C.A.

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