

AJR INFORMATION

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Egon Larsen

GERMANY'S JEWS BETWEEN WEIMAR AND THE HOLOCAUST

In 1977 and 1979, I reviewed in this journal the first two volumes of a major work on Jewish life in Germany since the end of the eighteenth century: *Jüdisches Leben in Deutschland—Selbstzeugnisse zur Sozialgeschichte* (Deutsche Verlagsanstalt, Stuttgart), edited by the social historian Monika Richarz. Now the third volume has been published, covering the period from 1918 to 1945, with another set of 37 excerpts from the unpublished memoirs in the archives of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York. Again these first-hand reports offer a moving and magnificent insight into the dramatic and tragic fates of Germany's Jews, which no academic research by the historians has been able to provide.

This final volume of nearly 500 pages, introduced and meticulously annotated by Ms Richarz, may be the most important of the three, for it is a human document of the last period of German-Jewish life from its superb climax in the Weimar Republic to its extermination in the Holocaust.

The illustrations tell their own significant story: from one of Erich Mendelsohn's ultra-modern buildings to the Yiddish lending library in Berlin's *Scheunenviertel*; from the April 1933 issue of the *Jüdische Rundschau*, with the banner headline "Tragt ihn mit Stolz, den gelben Fleck!", to the shop windows defaced by slogans like "Talmud-Gauner" and "Dreckjude"; from a synagogue concert of the *Jüdischer Kulturbund* to another such place of worship completely smashed up in November, 1938; and from a large group of old Jews, each with a piece of cardboard pinned to his chest with his name scrawled on it, to the forged identity card of a Jewish doctor living "underground", but protected by a circle of Niemöller Protestants.

The variety of the stories, and the people who tell them, is truly amazing. There is the Munich lawyer Philipp Löwenfeld who met and worked with the leading men during the 1918 revolution and the *Räterepublik* that followed: Kurt Eisner the idealist (murdered by an aristocratic assassin), Gustav Landauer the literary historian (murdered by the "liberators" of Munich), Erich Mühsam the anarchist poet (murdered fifteen years later in a KZ). There is the Berliner Wolfgang Roth, one of the few Jewish

proletarians, the son of a waiter, who made his way to become a prominent stage designer for Brecht and Piscator. In 1933 he dived into the underground resistance, producing anti-Nazi literature; he was arrested but rescued by a Social Democrat policeman.

From a rather different environment came Liselotte Stern née Wolfshaimer, the daughter of a small-town Jewish horsedealer. In Colmar, France, where they sought refuge in 1933, the local horsedealers gave him a job. After the German invasion they were interned at Gurs, but succeeded in emigrating further, via Lisbon to America.

It was a similar milieu in which Arnold Bernstein grew up in Breslau, where his father was a corn merchant; but the young man settled in Hamburg and built up a large shipping company, the first to transport motor-cars across the Atlantic in special ships. As late as 1935 he was able to found the "Palestine Shipping Company", mainly for emigrants. It ran the first ship with an all-Jewish crew. His description of a lunch party early in 1937 is worth quoting:

"I was in Berlin with my wife, and as always we were staying at the Hotel Esplanade. We had guests for lunch: the President of the Deutsche Orient-Bank and the German Ambassador in Afghanistan. We had just been served our caviar and vodka when a hotel page called me out to a gentleman who wanted to see me on an urgent matter. The man showed me his Gestapo badge and told me he had to take me back to Hamburg. My knees gave way. 'May we finish our lunch?' I asked. 'By all means', he said, but he came back to the table with me. I raised my glass: 'Prosit! This may be my last vodka for a long time...' Their faces went pale."

Few German Jews may have been taken away from their vodka and caviar by the Gestapo, but we all know that a good many shared Herr Bernstein's false feeling of security: "Mir kann nichts passieren—with all my wealth, my influence, my contacts in high places!" At the end of his story he confessed: "What a fool I was to ignore the many warnings by my friends!" Still, he had a proper trial, got two years in jail for currency offences, and emigrated in 1939 to New York where he started another shipping company, though without much success.

Max Reiner from Czernowitz became political editor of Ullstein's *Vossische Zeitung* and struck up an intimate friendship with Gustav Stresemann. He discussed political matters with him almost every day until Stresemann's premature death in 1929. Reiner admired Franz Ullstein as a superb publisher "who regarded his newspapers not just as a means to make money but as instruments for political and social progress". In 1934, Ullstein was forced to sell out to the Eher-Verlag, the central publishing firm of the NSDAP. Reiner was compelled to resign and had a mental breakdown which made him unable to work. As a very sick man he emigrated to Palestine, although throughout his narration he never even mentioned his Jewishness.

By way of contrast, the life of Emil Schorsch was determined by his Jewish upbringing in a small town in Baden. He fought, still a teenager, in the First World War, and his experiences at the front made him decide to become a rabbi. He served the congregation of Hanover from 1927 to 1938, and what he wrote about his impressions in those years is of special interest. Hanover's Jewish community numbered 5,500 members, one third of them Eastern Jews whom he found most helpful, with their "living religiousness", in countering the "religious indifference" of the native Hanoverian Jews. "On the less sophisticated level of the Eastern Jews", wrote Schorsch, "you don't find as much self-complacency and vanity as on the allegedly higher cultural level of the German Jews".

Early Emigrant

Bruno Ostrovsky, from a prosperous, assimilated Berlin family, turned Zionist as a teenager since he "did not feel himself rooted in Germany". He married an East European Jewish girl and emigrated to Palestine as early as 1926, but had a disappointingly hard struggle, although he was a fully-trained pediatrician, before getting a position at the Rothschild Hospital for children in Haifa. Another Berliner, Kurt Baumann, studied theatrical history and joined the Rotter theatres as a *Dramaturg* in 1932. But already a year later, when the wholesale dismissal of "non-Aryan" cultural workers began, he worked out a plan for the creation of a Jewish Kulturbund. It was approved by the Nazi authorities, and he ran its opera department until his emigration to America just before the war, where he found a modest job as a librarian.

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One of the most dramatic lives was that of Hans Winterfeldt from Lippehne, east of the Oder, where his father had a textile and hardware shop. Business was so bad after 1933 that the family moved to Berlin. Hans became an apprentice cook in a Jewish old people's home in 1940, but soon he was sent as a forced labourer to a housepainter. In 1943, the family went into an underground existence—with the father dealing in forged identity documents and black-market goods. Then comes, in Monika Richarz's editorial notes, a most harrowing sentence: "In June, 1944, Hans was arrested by Jewish Gestapo spies (*sic*) and tortured until he disclosed his parents' whereabouts". All three were deported to Auschwitz, but they survived. Hans emigrated to the USA, served in Korea as an army cook—and is now a college professor in New York, teaching German and Spanish.

Käte Mugdan, née Rosenthal from Magdeburg, was an 83-year old widow when she received the notice of deportation in August 1942. She persuaded her grandson, who had studied chemistry, to help her kill herself; with him she spent her last hours, reading Schiller and praying. She died in calm resignation beside a flickering candle.

PRESIDENT CARSTENS VISITS NEW YORK L.B.I.

At the end of his stay in the United States on the occasion of the tercentenary celebrations of the German immigration to that country, Federal President Dr. Karl Carstens paid a visit to the Leo Baeck Institute in New York. He was welcomed by the Institute's President, Rabbi Dr. Max Gruenewald. In his reply, President Carstens stressed that he was conscious of the tragic chapter of the history of the German Jews. All the more, it was gratifying that after the war, there had been emigrants who worked for the promotion of understanding between Jews and post-war Germany. Some of them had helped to rebuild the country, and a shining example was the late Herbert Weichmann. Dr. Carstens also paid tribute to the achievements of German Jews before the catastrophe. In this connection he mentioned that, when preparing his doctoral thesis, he had had some correspondence on certain legal points with Professor Martin Wolff, who then lived in London. The function was attended by 40 guests.

EICHMANN INTERROGATION PUBLISHED

A meeting held by the Anglo-Jewish Association and the Bodley Head heard Major Avner Less describe his interrogation of Adolf Eichmann before the latter's trial in 1961. Major Less said, although he had at first expected Eichmann to be a monster, he turned out a very ordinary, normal-looking man. The most striking fact of the interrogation was the former SS-man's failure to express guilt or remorse, maintaining his belief in the supreme importance of obedience to orders and efficiency in their execution.

The Bodley Head has recently published "Eichmann Interrogated—Transcripts from the Archives of the Israeli Police". Major Less hoped that the publication would serve as a warning of the dangers of a totalitarian regime, whether of the Right or the Left.

FIFTY YEARS "FIFTH ALIYAH"

German Jews in Israel

To render an account of the Central European immigration to Israel since 1933, the weekly "Mitteilungsblatt" of the Irgun Oley Merkaz Europa, the AJR's opposite number, published a remarkable 36-page special issue. Of the 255,000 persons, who left Germany between 1933 and 1939, 52,000 (i.e. 20 per cent) went to Israel, writes Hans Capell in his introductory article. To these about 9,000 from Austria, Czechoslovakia and Danzig have to be added. In the political sphere of the country, which is analysed by Kurt Kanowitz, most of them supported the friendly co-operation with the Arabs. Their conception of Zionism was based on humane-cosmopolitical ideas as reflected in the Brith Shalom and later in the political party "Aliyah Chadasha". Describing the situation of German language authors in Israel, Shalom Ben-Chorin comes to the conclusion that for most of them "the mother tongue has remained their spiritual home, which did, however, not impair their ties with the Land of Israel". There follow special articles about the contributions to the country by immigrants from Germany in the fields of medicine, architecture, law and music. Altogether, more than 125 names are mentioned including some, who had already done pioneer work in the country before 1933. By far the largest group consists of members of the medical profession (about 75). One of their specific features is the high proportion of specialists. The architects of the Fifth Aliyah, the paper says, "changed the face of the country". The number of former German jurists who, after having acquired the knowledge and qualifications of the legal system, resumed their work as lawyers is understandably smaller than that of the doctors. Yet there are some who attained high office in the judiciary or excelled as experts in special spheres.

A Settlement of "Yekkes"

An interesting article deals with the history of Naharyiah, which underwent more fundamental changes than any other settlement. The first inhabitants, mainly from Germany, came there in 1934. In 1948, the number of residents amounted to 1,200 persons. In 1961, Naharyiah became a town, but, as the author said, it has paid a high price for this status. Little is left of the idyllic place with its beautiful gardens. Now, it has 35,000 citizens, of whom only one per cent are "Yekkes".

It is gratifying that the Irgun Oley Merkaz Europa marked the fiftieth year of Central European immigration by taking stock. The elder generation has remained a more identifiable community than in countries of resettlement in the Diaspora. It is easier to trace prominent individuals of the same background, because the country is small and many newcomers already had the same ideological background before their immigration. To produce a similar list of successful immigrants is therefore easier than in this country. Yet as part of a general assessment of the history of the Nazi victims from Central Europe in Britain a fairly comprehensive enumeration of the "success stories" is a task which has still to be accomplished.

W. R.

THE HOLOCAUST ON STAMPS

Stamp collecting is an absorbing and instructive hobby counting innumerable devotees, young and old, throughout the world. Such vast numbers of new stamps now make their appearance annually in every country that it is no longer possible to form a universal collection. Philatelists—such is the formal description of stamp collectors—thus tend to confine themselves to assembling in their albums specimens of issues of particular countries or periods of time or they collect by subjects associated with stamps: animals, flowers, paintings, buildings, technology, heraldry—the list of possible subjects is infinite. Such collections are known as 'thematic' collections and their assembly, often at a relatively little cost, closely reflects the interests of the individual collector and frequently tells much about him.

As already briefly reported in an earlier issue one such thematic collection was the subject of a gathering of some sixty or seventy people on 25 October at the Wiener Library, when the collection of the late Eric Colebeck was presented to the library on permanent loan, its theme: the Holocaust, depicted on stamps and other postal items dealing with victims of the Nazi period, resistance heroes, concentration camps, ghettos and with cities, countries and events connected with that most tragic and horrifying happening of our century.

Rabbi Hugo Gryn speaking at the handing over ceremony, movingly recalled some of his own concentration camp experiences. Stamps are the very embodiment of human communication which contrasted sharply with the utter desolation felt by the inmates of the camps, the sense of being forgotten by an uncaring world, of knowing of no one outside the barbed wire fence interested in their deprivation, their sufferings, their fate.

One of the most interesting of the nearly 500 items comprising the collection, is an official postcard sent from Theresienstadt. The drab grey card is a printed acknowledgement of a food parcel which recipients had to sign. This specimen additionally includes a manuscript message and actually reached the donor in Vienna through the post. The greater part of the collection is made up of post-war commemorative stamps issued by eastern block countries, the two Germanies, the Netherlands and France, recalling personalities who suffered under the Nazi regime and events connected therewith.

Yet the sole item with a connexion with the country that originated postage stamps in 1840, is a wartime Nazi forgery based on a 1937 stamp issued for the coronation of King George VI. The irony of this vicarious British representative is that neither the forgers, nor their masters, would have known that the designer of the original stamp was Barnett Freedman, a Jew.

Mr. Colebeck who was a non-Jewish Englishman, took immense trouble to write up and illustrate each item of his collection. Now, thanks to the generosity of his widow, Mrs. Hazel Colebeck, it has found a fitting repository in the Wiener Library where it will form a splendid addition to its archives of books and documents on an important aspect of the history of our times.

The Wiener Library is open to the public and well worth a visit to see this stamp collection and the large stock of their books and other documents in the beautiful surroundings of Devonshire Street.

C. T. M.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

BARBIE AS DEFENCE WITNESS?

Joachim Fiebelkorn, currently on trial in Frankfurt for cocaine-trafficking and torturing a Bolivian girl, has asked for Klaus Barbie to appear as a witness in his defence. Fiebelkorn faces more than the current charges against him—the Italian government is seeking to extradite him on charges of complicity in the Bologna railway station bombing and the Frankfurt authorities are also investigating this accusation. 85 people were killed in Bologna and 185 others injured in the bomb blast of August 1980.

Another startling development in the present case is the disclosure that Fiebelkorn was employed as a secret agent in Bolivia by the West German Bundeskriminalamt, and actually informed the German police about the criminal activities of one of his own gang, Rudolf Grob, at present serving a German jail term for possessing cocaine. In his turn, Grob has given evidence in Frankfurt against Fiebelkorn.

The evidence of Klaus Barbie, the former Gestapo chief of Lyons, would according to defence lawyers show that Fiebelkorn was acting under orders from the State of Bolivia. But it is doubtful whether the French authorities would allow him into West Germany, where he is a wanted man, and the validity of any safe conduct pass appears doubtful in the extreme.

SS MAN FROM CANADA DIES IN JAIL

Albert Helmut Rauca, the SS guard who became a Canadian citizen and was extradited to West Germany earlier this year, has died of natural causes in Kassel prison hospital. He had been formally charged with the murders of 11,000 Jews in the Kovno area. Other accusations related to the killing of nearly 2,400 people in the autumn of 1941, and also the shooting of one concentration camp prisoner—for concealing a fork. Over 50 prosecution witnesses were expected to be called at his trial.

In another case of revocation of citizenship, a judge in Newark, N.J., has rejected a call by the US Justice Department to annul the 1954 naturalisation of Juozas Kungyas. The Justice Department said the Kungyas had covered up his part in the murder of 2,000 Lithuanian Jews.

DRUNKEN YOUTHS' NAZI SONGS

Nearly two years ago, the centre of Idar-Oberstein near Coblenz echoed to the Horst Wessel song and shouts of "Heil Hitler". A juvenile court in Bad Kreuznach has recently sentenced two young men to fines of 500 DM for their drunken "frolic".

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MURDER CHARGE DROPPED

Charges of murder against Karl-Heinz Hoffmann, leader of the right-wing extremist "Wehrsportgruppe", were not proceeded with at a hearing in Nuremberg. Hoffmann had been accused of the killing of Shlomo Lewin and Frida Poeschke in 1980, but the prosecutor decided that there was insufficient evidence for a conviction, even though the circumstances were highly suspicious. It is understood unofficially that the actual murder has been traced to a student member of the group, Uwe Behrendt, who has since committed suicide in the Lebanon.

Hoffmann is still in prison for offences against public order, including the wearing of illegal uniform and possession of weapons, but his present sentence is only for 18 months.

"UNFORGETTABLE" VISIT TO DÜSSELDORF

When the Mayor of Düsseldorf visited Israel earlier this year for the ceremonial opening of the Heinrich Heine Building in Haifa (built at the cost of the Rhineland city), he invited all former Düsseldorfers to spend a holiday in their former home. Thirty-four Israelis took him at his word to form the first group of ex-citizen guests. The seven days spent in the city were filled with visits to the Nelly Sachs House, the Heinrich Heine Institute, the regional museum and many other places of interest. Some of the invitees hardly recognised their erstwhile home: "Düsseldorf was always elegant, but it is so much altered! My old street used to be only half as wide!". Other renewed their youth: "When I was 14 I used to walk under these same trees...". All the guests agreed that it was an unforgettable experience and the city of Düsseldorf is making plans for more such visits in the future.

MARBURG'S GUESTS

For the fifth time, the city of Marburg has welcomed former Jewish fellow-citizens. Some of the guests, who came from Britain, Israel, the USA, Belgium and France, had not seen their former home for fifty years.

BONN INVITATION ACCEPTED

Over a hundred former Jewish citizens of Bonn accepted the invitation of President Carstens to a conversazione during the 1983 Beethoven Festival. The guests spent a week of reunion in the city.

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MORINGEN COUNCIL RETREATS

As reported in our September issue, the town of Moringen in Lower Saxony caused outrage by its publication of a local history pamphlet blaming the Jews for their own persecution. At first the municipal authorities were unwilling to withdraw such statements as "the German people would not put up with this sort of pogrom" (applied to the alleged breaking of shop windows in America by Jews). However, wiser counsels have now prevailed. The author of the booklet has been dismissed from his post as archivist and a reputable historian will be asked to write a new and accurate version. At the same time, the Moringen council has adopted a resolution condemning the distortions and falsification contained in its town history. The councillors have also apologised to the Jewish people in particular and to everyone else who feels insulted or defamed by the publication.

NEW OLD PEOPLE'S HOME IN MUNICH

With the support of the authorities, a new Old Citizens' Home was opened in Munich by the Chairman of the Jewish Community, Dr. Hans Lamm. The ceremony was attended by representatives of the City, the Church and the welfare organisations. Dr. Lamm also stressed the assistance rendered by members of the Jewish community, especially by the Eisenberg family, after which the Home has been named.

DONATION FOR HESSE RESEARCH

The Volkswagen Foundation has donated £100,000 to the Hesse State Archives. The grant is to be used for a three-year project undertaken by a special commission for the history of Jews in Hesse. The result will be the registration of historic Jewish burial places in the region.

EXTENSIVE HISTORY OF FRANKFURT'S JEWS

A three-volume history of the Jews of Frankfurt a. M. since the French Revolution, by Paul Arnsberg, has just been published by Roether Verlag in Darmstadt. The historian did not live to see the publication of his life-work, which ends with the development of the Israelitische Gemeinde and the Israelitische Religionsgesellschaft up to 1918, followed by a short epilogue on the Weimar period.

An important part of the history deals with the philanthropic activities of the Jewish community in Frankfurt and the part played by the leading bankers.

IDA EHRE HONOURED

The actress and producer Ida Ehre has been awarded the Federal Republic's Grand Cross of Merit for her services to cultural life in West Germany. The presentation was made by the Mayor of Hamburg.

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NEW HOME NEWS ROAD

JRU REUNION IN LONDON

Over 80 former Jewish Relief Unit members met in London at the beginning of October in a reunion marking the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Unit by the Central British Fund. The job of JRU members was to help the survivors of European Jewry and they worked with the Joint, Quakers, UNRRA and other relief organisations when the time came for them to go into the liberated camps. They were a uniformed service and often had already had months of training before they were able to help the displaced persons of Europe. Language was an important point—the volunteers in many cases came from Germany, but there was also need of Yiddish-speakers and at least one non-Jew—Hallam Tennyson—was caught up in the Unit in the first instance because he spoke Serbian and Italian.

The gathering, organised by Charles Spencer and Abram Games, was attended by former JRU members from America, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark and Israel, as well as from Britain. An exhibition of photographs, dating from the years just after the war, added to the interest and enjoyment at the meeting of so many old friends.

LECTURER'S HELP FOR "THIRD AGE"

Mrs. Stella Rosenak, a senior lecturer at Middlesex Polytechnic, has recently helped to found the "University of the Third Age". The idea of incorporating over-55's in a university of their own began in France, with the aim of promoting an active and useful retirement.

Mrs. Rosenak was born in Berlin and her life has been spent in education, with particular interest in the needs of women. Among a number of researches in which she has been engaged is a study of the part played by British and German Jewish feminists in the struggle for women's emancipation.

NF MARCH IN BELFAST

The National Front is continuing its activities in Ireland. Recently it held a march with banners through one of the Unionist areas of Belfast. The parade coincided with a CND rally in the city and apparently under 500 people, fifty of whom came from the mainland, joined in. However, Martin Webster of the NF expressed pleasure at the local interest shown and confirmed that the Front was running a calculated campaign of organisation in Northern Ireland.

"ST. LOUIS" SURVIVORS SOUGHT

Anyone who sailed in the "St. Louis" in her fruitless voyage of 1939 to Havana is asked to contact Hans Kupsch, v.d. Tannstr. 33, 6900 Heidelberg. Herr Kupsch, an 18-year-old electrician on that voyage, is hoping to organise a reunion of passengers and crew.

SELF AID CONCERT

A review of the Self Aid Concert, which was a great success, will be published in our next issue.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle

HARDSHIP FUND

Applications for Sheltered Accommodation

Organisations which provide shelter to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution may apply for grants from a Hardship Fund established with German Federal Government appropriations. In principle, the Claims Conference will only consider applications from organisations which have been established for the purpose of providing shelter to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution, or from such organisations where substantial numbers of their beneficiaries are Jewish victims of Nazi persecution.

In 1983, the Claims Conference will have at its disposal for allocations the sum of DM 5 million. Interested organisations may file applications with the Claims Conference by *December 31, 1983*. Applications should be addressed, *in five copies*, to: Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, 15 East 26th Street, Room 1901 New York, New York 10010.

CANTERBURY VENUE FOR MEETINGS

Although the former Canterbury Synagogue is now used as a music room by the King's School, it has not quite been lost to the local community. The school has made the room available for meetings and other Jewish activities.

THE LUNCHEON CLUB

Last lunch before the Christmas Holidays will be on 21 December. We will re-open on 4 January, 1984.

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A LAWYER'S ACHIEVEMENTS

One of those lawyers from Germany who, after their enforced emigration, resumed their legal career in this country and used their knowledge of two different legal systems for constructive research in the field of comparative law is the London barrister Clive M. Schmitthoff, a member of the AJR. On the occasion of his 80th birthday, the German "Juristenzeitung" published a tribute to him by Professor Hans Leser of the University of Marburg. His numerous books and treatises include a work on Export Trade, in which he laid the foundations of his theory on international commercial law. His works were also instrumental for the deliberations of a special commission of the United Nations which resulted in the acceptance by the countries concerned of co-ordinated legislation. Dr. Schmitthoff also founded and edits the Journal of Business Law.

A practising barrister, Dr. Schmitthoff is at the same time Gresham Professor of Law, Professor of the City of London University and of the University of Kent, as well as Honorary Professor of Bochum University. He holds honorary doctor degrees of Marburg, Bern, Heriot-West, Canterbury and Bielefeld. Of special benefit have been his London holiday courses in English and International Law, attended by jurists from Germany and also from other countries. In 1974, Professor Schmitthoff was awarded the Grand Cross of Merit by the Federal Republic of Germany.

ALICE KING 80

Mrs. Alice King, well known to many of our members and to clients of her late husband "Lutz" King, will celebrate her eightieth birthday later this month. She is a personality in the great tradition of determined women of German Jewish origin who combine social responsibility towards our community with warm friendship for those who enjoyed the privilege of being near to her and her husband—a matter-of-fact appearance and modest life style, abhorring all fuss, often shielding deep concern with people and matters. Thus she continues in spirit her husband's work who pursued restitution claims, often "hopeless" cases, conscientiously to a minute detail; hundreds of our fellow refugees owe "the Kings" a comfortable and relaxed old age. The debt which our Association owes them is indeed great; they even transferred their own sense of responsibility to their clients whom they persuaded to remember the AJR's Charitable Trust in their wills by substantial legacies—thus each good deed bears the seed of another.

Our warm wishes accompany her on the next decade of a rich life, to be enjoyed by her with son and family and her large circle of devoted friends.

ARH

AWARD FOR DR. F. A. MANN

The London solicitor Dr. F. A. Mann, CBE, FBA, was one of the recipients of this year's research prize of the Alexander-von-Humboldt-Stiftung (Bonn). Dr. Mann is an authority on international economic law and Hon. Professor at the University of Bonn. As Trustee of the Leo Baeck Charitable Trust (under the auspices of the Council of Jews from Germany) and Board Member of the United Restitution Organisation he also takes an active interest in our community and has personal connections with many of its members.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

US DOCTOR REJECTED PATIENT

When John Brickell went to a Californian hospital suffering from appendicitis, the first doctor to deal with his case was Dr. Jason Balaban, who noticed a swastika and skull tattooed on his patient's arm. The doctor refused to continue treatment, saying that he found it difficult "to appropriately evaluate patients with swastika tattoos". Mr. Brickell was referred to another doctor in the same hospital, but Dr. Balaban may face legal proceedings in connection with his action.

Mr. Brickell's attitude is that the tattoo had nothing to do with Hitler: "I'm not into any of that Nazi Germany stuff. I tried to explain to him. The tattoo is a symbol of white power . . .".

US DETENTION CENTRE ATTACKS

Conditions in the American Immigration and Naturalisation Service centre in Brooklyn have led to antisemitic attacks on two Iranian Jews, twins who arrived in the US on false passports. Whilst awaiting a decision on their appeal for political asylum, one brother has had his nose broken by an Iranian inmate and other assaults have taken place. 36 people are living together in one room, and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has appealed to the INS to let the twins out on parole.

AUSTRALO-CROATIANS HONOUR CRIMINAL

Ante Pavelic, the head of the puppet Croatian state in Occupied Yugoslavia, was so unashamedly bloodthirsty in his co-operation with the "Final Solution", coupled with massacres of the Serbian minority, that the Wehrmacht representative in Croatia made a protest. Escaping to Argentina, where he lived for many years, the German-appointed ex-head of state was assassinated in Madrid in 1959.

Despite his crimes, Pavelic is still admired by some of the 50,000 Croats who have emigrated to Australia since 1945, although the community is deeply divided between old-style nationalists and the newer, more left-wing generation. Recently a Croatian community centre in Melbourne was given the name of "Pavelic", a fact which has distressed Australian Jewry. The Executive Council have complained to the Attorney-General and Minister for Ethnic Affairs. Although it is believed that the Government is broadly sympathetic to the protests, little can be done in the matter, since there is no law in Australia which provides for the banning of dedications to any individual.

ROMAN DEPORTATIONS RECALLED

Memorial services and a mass meeting were held in Rome to mark the 40th anniversary of the mass deportation of the city's Jews. A commemorative exhibition held in the Palazzo Venezia, Mussolini's former home, was marred by a swastika daub at the entrance with the words "Long live Nazism".

A LETTER FROM CHISTOPOL

A public meeting in Jerusalem supporting "Prisoners of Zion" heard a letter recently received from Anatoly Shcharansky by his wife through the ordinary post. The Moscow mathematician, who has now served five years of his 13-year sentence for espionage, declared in his letter that he would resist pressure to confess his guilt in exchange for his freedom. He has always declared that the charge was absurd. Shcharansky also gave his reasons for refusing to confess or "to ask the Russians for anything". The British historian Martin Gilbert also addressed the rally, which called on the Soviet authorities to release all "Prisoners of Zion".

USSR SEIZES JEWISH BOOKS

A number of books were seized by the authorities immediately before the 1983 Moscow Book Fair. Out of 1,000 titles brought for display by the US Association of Jewish Book Publishers, 50 were banned, including former President Carter's memoirs (presumably because of a description of the Camp David negotiations), "Tsar Nikolai and the Jews" and "The Many Faces of Antisemitism".

AMSTERDAM HOME CLOSED

Not only Britain suffers in the grip of economic necessity. In Amsterdam, Bethenoe (Our Home), the only Jewish children's home left in Holland, has been closed down as part of the Dutch effort to reduce expenditure. Bethenoe was founded in 1739.

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IRISH NAZI GETS LIFE

An Irish soldier who murdered three of his comrades in the Lebanon has been sentenced to life imprisonment at a courtmartial held in the Curragh camp. Michael McAleavey, who comes from the Falls Road area of Belfast, was notorious for his neo-Nazi views in the troubled city. Like many of his neighbours, he was anti-British, but his emotions were expressed in trying to start neo-Nazi groups among his schoolmates and later in working for the National Socialist Irish Workers' Party. McAleavey joined the Irish Army in 1979 and was sent to the Lebanon with the Irish peace-keeping force. He welcomed the chance to serve against the PLO, against the "spread of international Communism".

One of McAleavey's first acts in the Lebanon was to scratch out a Star of David graffiti and replace it with a shamrock. But the events leading up to the murder of his comrades began with insults to two Israeli soldiers. When he started to call them "Jew boy" and "Yids", his corporal stopped the argument and a row then developed which ended with the NCO and two other men shot dead.

VENICE JEWRY GAINS AWARD

Each year Venice presents the Pietro Torta award to an individual or group for exceptional achievements in preserving the city's artistic heritage. The prize is called after an engineer who specialised in restorations. This year the honour has gone to the Jewish community as a whole for the renovation of the ancient Jewish ghetto in Venice. Their work began in 1960 and two seventeenth-century synagogues have been restored and a museum opened to the public. Another achievement is the re-opening of the old library to show Hebrew texts dating from the Renaissance.

BELGIAN DEPORTATION BARRACKS

Belgian Jews make a pilgrimage each year to the site of Dossin Barracks near Malines, which was a focus for the deportation of Jews to the East during the Occupation. One speaker at the 1983 gathering was the country's Deputy Prime Minister, M. Jean Gol, whose grandparents were among the 25,000 deported from Dossin. He himself was born in exile in Britain during the war years. Another speaker, Mrs. Migus, who had been a Resistance worker and an escapee from Ravensbrück, called for an alert and unified stance in the fight against antisemitism.

"NEO-NAZIS WITHIN BELGIAN POLICE"

Following the theft and publication of secret NATO documents, the Belgian authorities are making enquiries into a new neo-Nazi group, Westland New Post. It is thought that members of the group may have infiltrated Belgium's security police. Three WNP leaders have been arrested, one of them holding a military liaison post at NATO headquarters. Another is the editor of "Althing", the right-wing extremist paper which published the stolen documents.

LIVE LONG IN AUSTRALIA

Life in Australia evidently encourages longevity. Max Freilich, the Zionist leader there, has just reached the age of 90, whilst three Jewish women have recently attained their century.

OBITUARIES

MEMORIES OF AN ARRIVAL

I have read Mr. Aronsfeld's account of his arrival in London with very great interest and enjoyment. I think that this type of 'oral history' is of some importance, since the participants are getting fewer in number and will soon be extinct. I was induced by these considerations to attempt to record my memories of setting foot in this country. That event was also brought to my mind in very vivid fashion by a recent chance encounter with Mr Phineas May, the curator of the Jewish Museum at Woburn House, the brother of the late Captain Jonas May, with whom he administered the Kitchener Camp, my first home in this country. I was glad to be able to express my thanks in person for his and his brother's work on our behalf in those terrible days.

If memory serves me right I left Vienna at the end of March 1939, with a special transport of refugees, to go to the Kitchener Camp, at Richborough in Kent. Our luggage, one small suitcase, was searched by the SS on the premises of the Kultusgemeinde, and anything of value removed from it. I was left with my passport, stamped with the large 'J' and my 'Wehrpass', which showed that I was allocated to 'Ersatzreserve II'. The latter document I threw overboard during the crossing from Ostend to Dover. Two incidents during the journey have remained fixed in my mind with almost total recall.

All of us, 120 in number, were conveyed by bus to the Westbahnhof, where we boarded the train which was to take us to Ostend. The train remained standing just outside the station for some time, during which relatives tried to get near to say what was to be for many a last fare-well to us, my mother among them. The last time I saw her in this life was when she and the others were chased away, over the railway tracks, by railway police swinging rifle butts.

Crossing the Frontier

Before we crossed into Belgium there was a further search of our belongings. Two SS-men entered our compartment, looked around, and then requested - if that is the right word - to see the suitcase of an elderly gentleman. It was taken down from the rack and when opened revealed right on top of its contents an elongated jewel case. The SS-men appeared to be pleased by this discovery and ordered it to be opened. It revealed an Iron Cross, with some kind of embellishment attached, and a black and white silk ribbon. We all, including the SS, were taken aback and the owner was asked very brusquely to explain his possession of this high decoration. He pointed out an old photograph in the case which showed him being invested with this sacred object by none other than Field-marschall Mackensen, attired in his famous Death-Head Hussar's Chako, who had been the Commander-in-Chief of the armies on the Eastern Front in, I believe, 1915. The gentlemen in black turned on their heels and left without comment.

The crossing of the Channel was a great adventure for me. I had never seen the sea before and

remained on deck throughout the journey, in spite of what seemed a heavy sea and rain. It was what happened when we disembarked at Dover that made us realise that we had entered a totally different world. As we walked down the gang plank, some of us a bit white around the gills, I noticed a police officer standing there, wearing his dark blue uniform and, what seemed to me, a remarkable hat, but I was struck by the total absence of the usual armaments I had grown up to associate with the police. There he stood, facing the world, with no pistol hanging on a heavy leather belt, no sabre, no 'Gummikneppel', totally defenceless. This made an immense impression on me. What followed was even more bewildering; we all entered the customs hall and immigration control. A difficulty arose over a number of musical instruments in their cases which were among the possessions of some of our number, who had been professional musicians, some with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. There seemed to be some doubt among some of the customs officers that they might have brought these things into the country in order to dispose of them, or something of the sort. The owners of the instruments consulted with each other and then proposed to the officials that they would play some music, to show that their credentials were indeed *bona fide*. So they sat down together and treated the entire establishment to possibly some of the best music they had ever heard. The incident established an abiding faith in me that we had arrived in a truly civilised country. Hands were shaken all round and we were permitted to proceed to the special train which was waiting on the platform to take us to the Kitchener Camp.

That train was another great surprise: the coaches consisted of individual compartments, as all my readers will remember, and, what do you know, they had upholstered seats. We were amazed; did the ordinary plebs in this country travel soft? Well, as you will remember, they did. By the time we arrived in Sandwich, near Richborough, it was dark and we were taken by coach to the camp. The arrival there was a bit disconcerting as the electric lighting was not fully operational. We alighted from the coaches and could make out the dim shapes of the barrack-huts, arranged in long rows, with one or two larger buildings standing apart. To illuminate the scene, and to allow us to find our luggage, the coaches in which we had come had been drawn up into a semi-circle and their headlights turned on. Well, this arrangement revived memories in some of our number of camps of a different kind they had experienced quite recently. But, it did not take long for us to be allocated our quarters and to get settled down. The huts contained accommodation, on double bunks, for 120 persons, with a small extra room at one end for baggage. Those of us who were young, I was 21 at the time, managed to adjust pretty quickly; we organised ourselves so that the lower bunks were occupied by the older men, who were of course much more bewildered and disturbed by the abrupt changes. We read the notice board, announcements about getting-up

time, meal times and registration procedures, and fell into our beds, or climbed up into them, and I seem to remember that in spite of the momentous experiences of that day, or perhaps because of them, I fell asleep immediately.

The following morning's breakfast confirmed me in my first favourable impressions of this country: porridge with cold milk and lashings of Golden Syrup, bangers and mash, with unlimited quantities of Daddy's Sauce to squirt over them, toast and marmalade. Only the sweet milky tea was not to my taste. And I was soon to become acquainted with one of the major contributions this country has made to human happiness: 'bubble and squeak'. During the morning we had to report to the camp office for registration. While waiting for the officials to arrive we stood around, lounging against the wall of the hut or sitting on the ground. When the official arrived, accompanied by a police officer, we all jumped up, stood up straight and probably looked apprehensive. The memory of those nights and days standing outside the Rothschild Palais, trying to get exit permits, while the SS amused themselves by kicking and hitting us with their rifle butts was still green.

The Registrar seemed somewhat taken aback by all that respectful attention shown; another bewildering experience. I remember, that just then, a flight of three Blenheim bombers was moving across the sky, with the Union Jack on the camp flag pole outlined against them, I felt an upsurge of emotion: "I am safe, good Lord, I am safe!" It was so difficult to feel truly that one had left the antechamber of Hell. Of course, the worry and the acute anxiety over the fate of those left behind was soon to become an obsession, but for those first few days the feelings of relief and gratitude was overwhelming.

MORE ESCAPE STORIES FOR AUTHOR

Last year's Booker Prizewinner, Thomas Keneally, the Australian author of "Schindler's Ark", has told how the worldwide success of his book about the saving of Jews by a raffish Sudeten German industrialist has been followed by a stream of information from people telling him their personal stories of escape during the Holocaust. One man, living with relatives behind a false wall in a barn, was almost forced to kill his own day-old baby yet managed to get the child to a nearby village where it was accepted as a foundling. The baby is now a Sydney business-man. In another case, a young nun had sheltered Jewish orphans, telling the boys that if a German asked what they wanted to be when they grew up, they must say that they were going to be priests.

It has been suggested that the various tales should be collected into an anthology, but Mr. Keneally is reluctant to become typecast as a "Holocaust writer". At present he is working on the Steven Spielberg film of "Schindler's Ark" and writing a novel about the early days of Australia.

BOOKSELLERS' PRIZE FOR SPERBER

Manès Sperber, author of "... than a tear in the sea" and "Die vergebliche Warnung", has been awarded the West German Booksellers' Union Peace Prize. The Galician-born writer has lived in Paris for many years and was unable to be present to receive his honour.

OBITUARIES

HERTHA GELHAR

The AJR CLUB mourns the death of its Vice-Chairman Hertha Gelhar. The Club played a very important part in her life and with selfless devotion she gave much of her time to it. She was an outstanding organiser and thanks to that the Club's annual Bring-and-Buy-Sales were always a great success and benefited the Margaret Jacoby-Orgler Fund, the Gertrud Schachne Fund and the Ahavah Children's Home in Israel. In spite of failing health, Hertha Gelhar carried on with her varied tasks. A strong sense of duty brought her to the Club twice a week almost up to the very end. Her conscientiousness and efficiency is also remembered by those who knew her, when she was working for more than seven years for the United Restitution Office.

We have lost a very dear personal friend whom we shall sorely miss.

As a sign of gratitude and appreciation the members of the Club will plant trees in Israel in Hertha Gelhar's name.

MARGARET JACOBY, DORA SEGALL

JAAK NUTKEWITZ

President of the Antwerp Diamond Stock Exchange and Chairman of the World Federation of Diamond Stock Exchanges, Senator Jaak Nutkewitz has died at the age of 69. He was born in London, but studied in Brussels. After escaping from German captivity during the war, he returned to Britain and joined the Free Belgian forces.

HERBERT WEICHMANN

Dr. Herbert Weichmann, who died in Hamburg at the age of 87, was one of the leading politicians and statesmen in post-war Germany. At the same time, he was a conscious Jew who unreservedly identified himself with the community, whose fate he had to share under the Nazis.

The son of a doctor, he was born in Landsberg (Upper Silesia) from where the family later moved to Liegnitz. After the completion of his legal studies, he first served as a judge. In 1927, he became an official of the Prussian Ministry of State and, with the ultimate rank as a "Ministerialrat", one of the closest aides to Prime Minister Otto Braun. When the Nazis came to power, he and his wife fled to France and, in 1940, found refuge in the United States. There he worked as a financial consultant, after having obtained the necessary American qualification for this profession.

In 1948, he was invited by Mayor Brauer, who had also spent the years of the Nazi regime in the U.S., to return to Germany and to join the City administration of Hamburg. He first became Head of the State Controller's office and later Senator of Finances. In 1965, he was elected Mayor of the Free City of Hamburg. He held this office until he retired in 1971, when he was 75 years old. He also lectured at the Hamburg University and represented the City at the Upper House, the "Bundesrat". In this capacity he was Acting Bundespraesident after the resignation of President Luebke.

On his death, his coffin was laid in state in the Hamburg Town Hall, where thousands of citizens paid their last tribute to him; Hamburg's flags were at half-mast. At the memorial ceremony, addresses were delivered by Federal President Carstens, who called Weichmann "a man of the first guard of the great personalities of our country", former Chancellor Schmidt, and Hamburg's Mayor von Dohnanyi. At the express wish, laid down in Dr. Weichmann's Will, Rabbi N. P. Levinson recalled the deceased's mother and sister, who had been murdered in Auschwitz.

The speeches at the ceremony as well as the detailed obituaries in the press testified to the outstanding reputation this statesman, thinker and fighter for democracy had established for himself. One of the expressions of his Jewish bonds was a visit, together with his son, to the graves of his ancestors in now Polish Upper Silesia. His interest in Israel was, among other things, reflected in his report on a visit to the country, published under the heading "Das Werden eines neuen Staates". Dr. Weichmann was also a member of the Board of the Wiener Library.

The Council of Jews from Germany has sent a message of condolence to the Hamburg Senate.

CHAYELE LUXEMBERG-ROTSTEIN

Involved in Yiddish theatre from her childhood, Chayele Luxemburg-Rotstein died recently in Toronto. She was 69. Polish by birth, she fled to Bialystok before the advancing German armies in 1939. She became a member of a 40-strong Yiddish theatre group which toured the Soviet Union throughout the Second World War. After the war, she gave entertainments in Displaced Persons' camps in the American Zone of Germany before emigrating to Canada.

RAYMOND ARON

One of France's foremost intellectuals, Professor Raymond Aron died recently. He was 78. A philosopher and sociologist, Professor Aron abandoned his religious faith at an early age, but always identified himself with the Jewish people. It was he who rebuked de Gaulle for the remark, "The Jews are a proud people, domineering and sure of themselves". Although an old associate of the General from the wartime years, Raymond Aron wrote "De Gaulle, Israël et les Juifs", pointing out that this was the kind of statement which fomented antisemitism.

Among his many honours, Professor Aron was awarded the Goethe Prize in 1979 for his work in the field of Franco-German understanding. In recent years, too, he had been a joint recipient of the Erasmus Prize for promotion of European culture.

JIRI LEDERER

Czech human rights activist Jiri Lederer has died in Bad Reichenhall at the age of 61. He lost both his parents in the Holocaust and was himself a concentration camp survivor. As a journalist who did not hesitate to speak out for the rights of man, he was imprisoned by the Czech authorities on the charge of "subverting the republic". After his release in 1980, Jiri Lederer was allowed to emigrate to West Germany.

SAM GOLDBERG

"The King of Lampedusa" has died. Famous in that role, the veteran Yiddish actor and singer Sam Goldberg has died aged 86. He had often appeared in London, New York and Israel.

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RAPHAEL AND PRINCE ALBERT

The Raphael exhibition at the British Museum (until 15 January 1984) commemorates the five hundredth anniversary of Raphael's birth and provides an unique opportunity to study the work of this pre-eminent artist. Almost a third of his surviving drawings are housed in English collections (the British Museum itself, the Ashmolean in Oxford, the Devonshire collection at Chatsworth, the Royal Library at Windsor and a few elsewhere). With one or two exceptions, all have been gathered together for this exhibition. An erudite and fully illustrated catalogue by J. A. Gere and Nicholas Turner (price £8.95) has been published to accompany the exhibition.

It is fortuitous but nevertheless relevant that an exhibition devoted to the life of Francis Charles Augustus Albert Emmanuel of Saxe-Coburg, otherwise known as Prince Albert, Consort of Queen Victoria, should be held simultaneously (until 22 January 1984) at the Royal College of Art. This German princeling who found himself in the invidious position of husband of a strong-minded woman, ruler of a mighty empire, had to establish his own position in an office which had no rules, protocol or prescribed duties. He succeeded in great measure and in his short life left an indelible mark on English culture and behaviour. It was he who decided to re-arrange on scientific lines the drawings and prints in the Royal collection and, of these, the drawings of Raphael took pride of place, since both he and Queen Victoria adored this artist's work.

The cramped quarters of the Royal College are not conducive to the holding of major exhibitions, but the organisers have managed to pack a great deal (including some trivia) into the space

available, including a reconstruction of Albert's writing-room as a centrepiece. A biography-catalogue by Hermione Hobhouse (price £10.95) is available. Outside the Royal College is the Albert Memorial and this is as good an opportunity as any to have another look at this much abused but imposing monument to the cultural tastes of his time.

German Drawings

The exhibition of 20th century German drawings at the Goethe Institut is one of a series of planned exhibitions to be held at the Institut covering the whole field of drawing in Germany over the centuries. The present exhibition covers the period from 1945 to the present day and comprises 10 drawings each by six artists, Nay, Schultze, Beuys, Störer, Höckelmann and Kürschner. The exhibition remains open until 13 December 1983. An excellent illustrated catalogue is available at the exhibition for the extremely low price of £1.

ALICE SCHWAB

NEW BUBER PUBLICATION

An unknown work by Martin Buber has been found by a researcher at the University of Duisburg. Written in 1905, the text is a free rendering of a Hassidic tale by Rabbi Nachman von Braslav, but was not included in Buber's published "Die Geschichten des Rabbi Nachman" in 1906. Michael Brocke has edited the story "Die Geschichte von der fahrenden Prinzessin" and issued it with another newly-discovered work—the German original of Rabbi Nachman's "Von

Kaiser und König"—under the title "Kreativität" (H. G. Heimbrock, Neukirchen-Vluyn, 1983).

AUSTRIAN NEO-NAZIS IN COURT

A major trial has opened in Austria with the appearance of Ekkehard Weil and Attila Bajtsi, accused of planting bombs at the homes of Rabbi Eisenberg, the Chief Rabbi of Austria, and Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Jewish Documentation Centre. Other charges relate to further bombings of private houses and shops. No personal injury was inflicted by the explosions.

At the same trial, eight neo-Nazis are charged with para-military activities and infiltrating football fan groups. Part of the defence argument is to present the accused as an offshoot group of the environmental movement: one outcome of this is that the legitimate movement is enquiring into the antecedents of its members, in a bid to weed out extremist infiltrators.

In another case, four men have been sentenced in Graz for neo-Nazi activities and defacing of anti-fascist memorials. Sentences ranged up to 5 years' imprisonment, the shortest term being 20 months. This represents something of an about-face for Graz courts, which have been notoriously lenient towards neo-Nazis.

VIENNA SCHOOL REVIVED

The Zwi Peretz Chajes secondary school in Vienna is to be brought back to life. Its former building has been rented to various organisations since 1945, but will soon house the Jewish primary school. This is the first step towards renewing the establishment.

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CEREMONY JEWIS IN AUSTRIA A 1983 SURVEY

The Jewish community in Austria, before 1938—considerable in numbers and representing many aspects of Austria's scientific, literary and musical life, has been reduced to an almost negligible total of around 8000. The great majority of the former Jewish inhabitants of Salzburg, Innsbruck and the Burgenland province suffered their well-known fate, and most of the remaining ones either emigrated or have died from natural causes. Today's figure is restricted to Vienna and comprises, according to "Kultusgemeinde Vienna" about 1000 immigrants of the last decades and a number of people who returned from countries where they could not strike roots. Whilst there are some (very few) young Jews (children and grandchildren of Viennese residents), the overwhelming majority consists of old people, and the proportion of over 60's is around 60%, compared with the Austrian average of 20%. The Jewish community is therefore faced with a number of problems.

To alleviate at least some of the consequences of these harsh realities, the Kultusgemeinde has established an "Elternheim" (a slightly euphemistic name for an old people's home) and indeed it does not only contain the very old; the home houses at present 110 persons of whom 35 require continual treatment, many with geriatric conditions. Practically, all the pensioners inhabiting the home have survived persecution and concentration camps, and the Viennese authorities are assisting with subsidies, when a person is unable to pay for his or her keep. There is also a state contribution for the home of around 2.8 Million Austrian Schillings (around £100,000) annually. The small apartments consist of a room-cum-bath-and WC-unit, and the price for full board is Austrian Schilling 12,500 (£450) per month. The price rises to S16,000.—(£580) if permanent care is required. (Figures based on a report October 1983.)

S.B.

A NEW REFERENCE BOOK

Brief biographies of 2,000 important German Jews of the 20th century are compiled in a 375 page book by Walter Tetzlaff (2000 *Kurzbiographien bedeutender deutscher Juden des 20. Jahrhunderts*, Askania Verlag, 3067 Lindhorst, FRG, DM 36,00). The work complements various other publications which, in one way or another, deal with

the same subject, and which the author used as source material. As opposed to the comprehensive *Handbuch der deutschsprachigen Emigration* it deals not only with emigrated personalities but also includes those who died, before emigration became imperative or who perished in the holocaust. Altogether, half of the persons listed emigrated and a further 300 became victims of the Nazi extermination policy. These figures mirror the fate of German Jewry and the loss inflicted by the terror regime on Germany.

The book, rightly, also includes those Jews, who were no longer members of the Jewish community. In the "Anhang" half-Jews, e.g. Carl Zuckmayer, are listed. It is interesting to note that among the emigrated University professors, more than usually assumed returned to their University towns, either to resume their activities or to spend the evenings of their lives there.

On the whole, it can be said that there are hardly any omissions of really eminent Jews. Where the author falls short is in the selection of Jewish communal workers. The choice appears to be based mainly on the work "Bewahrung im Untergang" by E. G. Lowenthal (published by the Council of Jews from Germany) and the "Handbook of Emigration". As an outsider the author could hardly be expected to distinguish between people of higher and lower standing.

In the entry about Walther Rathenau, also quoted on the cover, it is claimed, that his essay "Hoere Israel" was directed against the "Ostjuden"; in fact it was to castigate "assimilated" *nouveau riche* sections of German Jewry. Yet errors of this kind and misprints are rather limited, and thus the book serves a useful purpose, especially for the German readers, for whom it is meant in the first place.

W. R.

FEWER ESSAYS ON THIRD REICH

The annual essay and research competition for young people, "Alltag im Nationalsozialismus—Die Kriegsjahre in Deutschland", which encourages research into the Third Reich, had fewer entries this year. Six thousand school pupils were involved this year as against 13,000 in 1982—but it is still a respectable number. More than half the participants were aged between 15 and 17 and most of the entries came from *Gymnasien* and *Realschulen*; comprehensive schools were represented by the disappointingly low proportion of 3 per cent.

The competition offers several prizes, amounting to 250,000 DM in money prizes together with free trips to Paris and Leningrad. These are provided by the Körber Foundation. About one-quarter of this year's entries dealt with the question of prisoners of war and foreign workers, an interest probably inspired by West Germany's growing xenophobia, centred on "guest-workers". Another favourite theme was wartime bombing, linked to modern anti-war movements.

The history of Jews in Germany was not forgotten and a prizewinning team from a Bonn school presented the history of a Jewish girl under the title "Juden ist der Besuch deutscher Schulen nicht gestattet". Helped by the discovery of a file of 1941/42 correspondence between the education authorities and the girl's grandmother, the youngsters traced the story from her birth, just before Hitler's accession to power, to her re-emergence in 1945 from years of hiding. But their researches

went further. They traced the girl's history and her intense difficulties after 1945. Now reunited in Bonn with her grandmother, she had to attend school for the first time, though well into her teens. Her words were quoted: "Then came the time when I had to go to school. I had never been in school before, there were enormous gaps to be filled . . . That was the worst. At the beginning, too, there was the great problem that I had an irrational fear of persecution . . . For long years I was afraid to go amongst people".

SHE TAUGHT KAFKA

Dr. Pua Menczel-Bentovim, who for a time taught Hebrew to Franz Kafka, is now over 80 and living in Jerusalem. Her memories of the writer are clear: he was anxious to learn more of everyday life in Palestine and saw himself as a farmworker on a kibbutz. He even took a horticultural course and encouraged his sister to learn about farming, with a view to their emigration.

CHRISTIAN GROUP AIDS HOSPITAL

A Christian group, "Prayer for Israel", is providing not merely good wishes or mission-linked endeavours to further links with Israel. Volunteers are sent to work on kibbutzim or in hospitals, financial help has been given to the Jerusalem Mental Health Centre and the sale of Israeli goods is promoted in this country. Founded in 1969, "Prayer for Israel" has some 6,000 members in Britain.

MUNICH HOSTEL IN T.A.

Munich is to provide 2 million DM for the building of an international youth centre in Tel Aviv. Only one condition has been made: that the project should be clearly linked to the Bavarian capital and this proviso will be fulfilled by opening the hostel primarily to groups and individual youngsters coming from Munich. The money will be provided over a term of three years.

MILLION-DOLLAR GIFT TO TEL AVIV

The formal endowment of research at the Universities of Tel Aviv and Frankfurt a.M was recently affirmed by a signing ceremony at a Frankfurt hotel. The generosity of Josef Buchmann has made a sum of \$1 million available for doctoral candidates and the donor was present to receive the heartfelt thanks of Tel Aviv's vice-president, Y. Ben Zvi. The Josef Buchmann Fund represents one of the most important contributions to Israeli learning in recent years.

LIBERATION PICTURES WANTED

The Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Diaspora (Beth Hatefutot) is hoping to mount an exhibition in 1985 which will mark the 40th anniversary of Europe's liberation from Nazi domination. A worldwide appeal has been made for photographs and films showing survivors of the Holocaust and their circumstances.

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CEREMONY AT DUESSELDORF SYNAGOGUE

To mark the 25th anniversary of the erection of the post-war synagogue, a special ceremony was held at Sukkot in the presence of City and State representatives, who described the re-establishment of the Jewish community as an indication of confidence of Jews in post-war Germany. This, Rabbi Abraham Hochfeld stated, was also symbolised by the fact that the building was not hidden behind walls but widely visible at the crossing of two roads.

"PRESERVE NEUENGAMME" CALL

More than ten thousand signatures have been appended to a petition calling for the preservation of the buildings remaining on the site of Neuengamme concentration camp. People from 18 countries have asked the Mayor of Hamburg to prevent the demolition of the remaining brick huts, erected by thousands of prisoners who died in the course of the work.

VETERAN WAFFEN-SS "NOT EXTREMIST"

HIAG, the organisation of former members of the Waffen-SS, is no longer regarded by the Bonn Government as a right-wing extremist, anti-constitutional group. The Ministry of the Interior informed a German veterans' association that there was no evidence that HIAG was acting against the West German Basic Law and it will no longer be included in the annual report on extremist activities.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in this column are free of charge, but voluntary donations would be appreciated. Texts should reach us by the 15th of the preceding month.

Birthday

Flink:—Congratulations to Mrs. J. Flink, of 8, Heming Road, Edgware, who will be celebrating her 80th birthday on 28 December. R. M. Flink.

Deaths

Aron:—Frieda Aron, widow of the late Bernhard Aron, of 90, Forset Court, Edgware Road, London, W2, left us suddenly on 31 October. Deeply mourned by her children and grandchildren.

Grossmann:—Erich Grossmann, our beloved husband and father passed away suddenly on Friday, 4 November, 1983. Deeply mourned by his wife Charlotte (Sári) and daughter Vivien.

Heinemann:—Mr. Paul Heinemann, of Heinrich Stahl House, died peacefully at the age of 92. He will be sadly missed by true friends.

Schieren:—Mrs. Beate Schieren died peacefully at Otto Schiff House in her 95th year on 13 October. She will always be remembered by her family and many friends.

Weiss:—Mr. Otto Weiss, formerly Teplitz/Prague, passed away on 2 November 1983 at the age of 79. Deeply mourned by his friends.

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WE WOULD WELCOME hearing from more ladies who would be willing to shop and cook for an elderly person in their neighbourhood on a temporary or permanent basis. Current rate of pay £2.40 per hour. Please ring Mrs. Matus 01-624 4449, AJR Employment for appointment.

Miscellaneous

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Personal

FUN-LOVING LADY, 56 Years, living in Gloucestershire, is looking for a sincere gentleman with view to possible marriage. Box 1010.

INTELLIGENT LADY, just 50, working and living abroad for the last ten years, tired of being a career woman and living for work only, intends to move back to London in the near future, into her own place. Would like to meet gentleman for social contact. Box No. 1009.

NW LONDON WIDOW, 59, nice-looking, easy to get on with, looking for gentleman friend. Box 1012.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Personal Enquiry

BOECKSTIEGEL, Peter August Böckstiegel (1889-1951). Information on the whereabouts of his paintings, watercolours and graphical work, letters, articles, etc., is urgently required for the monography of the painter. Vita v. Wedel, Mittelweg 91, D-2000 Hamburg 13.

FOR RESEARCH. Would former residents of the Jewish community of Ritzbüttel, now Cuxhaven, please contact Mrs. Frauke Dettmer, Jess-Str. 14, 23 Kiel, who is writing a dissertation on this subject.

GLANZ, Henni Glanz, born 21/1/1914, sister of Clara Glanz, formerly Berlin, Meineckestrasse 10, arrived in London around 1938/9 and was at Bloomsbury House, may have married since and emigrated (Israel, USA, etc.) Would she or anyone knowing her whereabouts or having any information please contact Rudi Friedmann, Casella postale 199, CH 6902 Paradiso (Switzerland) or Gerhard Kube, Kolonnenstrasse 29, D-1000 Berlin 62.

HAHN. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Laura Hahn, formerly of Frankfurt/Main, address in 1952, 2 Milton Road, London, N.6., please contact Kurt Hahn, 57, Serra Way, San Rafael, CA, 94903, USA.

KRONFELD. Wanted for a scientific biography: Information about life and work, relatives, friends, etc., of the former Berlin psychotherapist Prof. Arthur Kronfeld. Please contact I. Kittel, Voss Strasse 4, D-6900 Heidelberg, West Germany.

MANNHEIM. Alice Sisel, Mittelstrasse, geb. 1924/25 bitte melden wegen Schülertreffen Hildaschule. Kuni Schrandt, geb. Meisezahl. Box 1011.

STEIN. American relative seeking whereabouts of family member, born Gertrude (Gerti) Stein, in Vienna—age approximately 75 at present. Is reported to have left Vienna for London 18 March, 1939. She was the daughter of Julius and Sidonie Stein, and sister of Martha Stein Schwarz, who died in March 1927. It would be appreciated if anyone, who knows the whereabouts of Gerti Stein, or members of her family, would contact Arnold Stein, Mishmar Hagvul 17/23, Afeka, Tel Aviv 69697, Israel, up to 25 December 1983. After 1 January 1984, send mail to 1554 Watersedge, Bayside, NY 11360, USA.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OLGA HALLE

Sir,—May I add a few words to your obituary on Olga Halle in your October issue. When I visited my relatives at the Jewish OAP home in the Baselerstrasse, Berlin-Lichterfelde West, I stayed at the house of Olga Halle's. It was a well-known landmark, built as a castle by her father, and in the hall one was surprised by a stuffed albatross suspended in midair. It was the home of her father's who, with his brother Otto, were the famous Lilienthal brothers, the flying pioneers. Olga gained a name in these circles for her work on their papers. She told me how she and her husband spent many sleepless nights, waiting with bated breath for the knock at the door, as her husband had made himself thoroughly hated by the Nazis for his sympathy in Court, speaking for their victims.

When after the war witnesses for the prosecution of Nazis were needed, Jews from Israel came to Berlin but they were not welcomed by the

Germans and nothing was done for their reception, housing, feeding and guiding to and from Court. It should be known that it was Olga and her Quakers who voluntarily organised and did all this themselves, when the bewildered witnesses arrived in a hostile country.

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E. MITCHELL

CHRONICLE OF THE REICHSTAG FIRE

Sir,—A great deal of circumstantial evidence other than what was intended by Goebbels emerged during the show trial. These details were published and analysed objectively at the time in Leopold Schwarzschild's (sub-editor Lion Feuchtwanger) periodical *Das Tagebuch* printed in Frankfurt till 1933 and, under the name *Das Neue Tagebuch*, in Paris from 1933 on. It reported among other things, the fire brigade superintendent's

witness account who listed the various locations in the building where arson was laid simultaneously. This proved that neither van der Lubbe or anybody else could have committed it single-handedly. The records also included a doctor's diagnosis that indicated that van der Lubbe was kept drugged under Scopolamine during the proceedings.

By the way, there are two surviving ladies who must be relatives of Hanussen; they were born in the same hamlet and with his original surname. Harrow on the Hill RUDOLF J. JARAY

STOMMELN SYNAGOGUE RECONSECRATED

The Synagogue of Stommeln in the Rhineland had been spared by the destruction of the November 1938 pogroms, because its owner had converted the building into a pig sty. In 1979, the house was acquired by the town of Pulheim and restored. The re-consecration ceremony was attended by representatives of the town and by former members of the Jewish community. The house is to be used both as a Synagogue and as a Cultural Centre.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

Solti-Biography. Sir Georg Solti, together with Leonard Bernstein and Herbert von Karajan, one of the "Big Three" conductors, is the subject of a book by Paul Robinson which originally appeared in Canada in 1979 but has now been re-issued in a somewhat modified version (Verlag Albert Mueller, Zurich). It is less personal than one is led to expect; reporting on the steep career of this Hungarian-born musical personality, the book deals with Solti's war years in Switzerland and his meteoric rise to chief conductor in Munich, Frankfurt and Covent Garden where he dominated the scene between 1961 and 1971. After a period in Paris, Sir Georg is now in charge of the Chicago Symphony orchestra apart from his work with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. The book is really a report on Solti's achievements but says little about the man himself.

Tit-Bits. *Hilde Krahl* who was first discovered by Willy Forst for the film "Serenade" in the late Thirties and is still a prominent actress at the Vienna Burgtheater, received the Kainz medal of the city of Vienna. On the occasion of a performance of the "Rosenkavalier" film at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, there will be a personal appearance of *Elisabeth Schwarzkopf* during the interval.

Birthdays. *Professor Max Schönherr*, composer, conductor and author who for many years conducted Vienna's "Rundfunkorchester", celebrated his 80th birthday. A festive atmosphere prevailed at the Schillertheater, Berlin where *Martin Held*,

one of its long-standing members was the subject of 75th birthday celebrations. Held is considered one of the outstanding German language stage and screen actors of the day. Although German films are not often shown in Britain, he may be remembered for the film "Rosen für den Staatsanwalt", much discussed in London in 1960. *Tito Gobbi* was 70 in October. An opera singer since 1937, and led by the great Tullio Serafin, he became one of the most celebrated Baritones of our time, in particular for his *Iago*, *Falstaff* and—above all—his *Scarpia* in Puccini's "Tosca." To continue and perpetuate Gobbi's great achievements as singer and actor, many talented and promising young singers are now attending his inimitable "Master Classes."

UNIQUE ESCAPE TO BE FILMED

Pfanz are on foot to produce a film on the life of Salomon Perel, a German Jew who was feted by the Nazis as a hero. The well-known director Arthur Brauner is in charge of the production.

Born in Hanover in 1925, the boy Salomon was taken by his parents to Lodz in 1935. Foreseeing an attack by Germany on Poland within a few years, the family decided that their young son would have the best chance to survive, but must leave Poland. Salomon spent some time in a Soviet orphanage, but realised his danger when the Soviet Union was attacked in its turn in June 1941. He passed himself off as a "Volksdeutsch". Conscript-

ed into the Wehrmacht, he was wounded at the Eastern front, sent back to a Reich hospital and while there was given a hero's welcome and hailed as a perfect "East Baltic type". He lives today in Tel Aviv.

WILLY TRENK-TREBITSCH

A major figure in the German-speaking theatre, Willy Trenk-Treibtsch died recently in Berlin at the age of 81. His first successes were in the Brecht-Weill "Mahagonny" and "Dreigroschenoper" in Prague and he sang Mack the Knife on the first recording of the latter work. During Trenk-Treibtsch's Berlin career, he was directed by Leopold Jessner, Max Reinhardt and Agnes Straub and appeared in revues, operettas and films. In 1935 he returned to his birth-place of Vienna and thence emigrated to the USA. Returning to Germany in 1952, he played a number of important roles and then turned to direction, both on the stage and in radio and television. He also edited the prose works of Arthur Schnitzler, whose "Der Weg ins Freie" he presented on radio.

BERLIN HONOURS ELISABETH BERGNER

The highest distinction of the City of Berlin, the Ernst-Reuter-Plakette, was awarded to Elisabeth Bergner at a ceremony in the presence of the great actress in the Charlottenburg Castle. In his address, Governing Mayor Richard von Weizsäcker recalled the impact of her artistic achievements in pre-Nazi Germany. He also thanked her that, in spite of the bitter experience of the past, she had resumed her contacts with Germany.

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