

Egon Larsen

“NEW WEIMAR” IN HOLLYWOOD

A Cast of Thousands in the Film Metropolis

We who were living and working in pre-Hitler Germany never realised that we were witnessing the birth and rise of a new cultural era, now post-humously called “Weimar”. Thus it sounds rather absurd when a publisher proclaims, on the flap of a new book about the emigration of “the cream of the German intelligentsia”, that all they were looking for was “a rallying-point to build a New Weimar and preserve German culture from the holocaust”.

Fortunately, the book itself—“Strangers in Paradise: The Hollywood Film Emigrés 1933-1950” (Faber & Faber, £8.25)—never makes such a silly claim. “Naturally”, the author writes, “most of those who left aimed first of all at just getting across the border”, and we refugees can confirm that this was the harsh truth. That author, the Londoner John Russell Taylor—art critic of “The Times”, biographer of Hitchcock, Professor of Film History at the University of Southern California—has painted such an enormous canvas, with so many well-researched factual as well as anecdotal details, of the emigration from Hitler-dominated Central Europe to Hollywood that one gets the impression of a vast transfer of a whole culture; thus the mistake in the publishers’ claim seems understandable. It was a drama, sometimes turning to tragedy, with a “cast of thousands”, as they used to say in Hollywood jargon; and to the present generation all those famous or at least familiar names may indeed look like a planned invasion of the movie metropolis.

In fact, records Taylor, a constant trickle of European Jewish immigrants to Hollywood had already begun soon after that place had been established as America’s film centre early in the century: Louis B. Mayer and Samuel Goldwyn (formerly Goldfish) had come from Poland, Adolph Zukor and William Fox from Hungary, Carl Laemmle from Laupheim near Ulm, Stroheim (was he really “von”?) from Austria, Chaplin from England and later Ernst Lubitsch from Berlin; the latter, who arrived in 1922, “rapidly became the model of the emigré who assimilated completely into the Hollywood community”, says Taylor.

Still later, Marlene Dietrich left Berlin straight after her phenomenal success in the “Blue Angel” in 1930, together with her director, Josef von Sternberg, and continued her star career in Hollywood without a break. Taylor also mentions Dolly Haas, but he

could not be expected to know that we, the left-behinds in Berlin, sang “Jetzt geht’s der Dolly gut, / sie sitzt in Hollywood . . .”

When Hitler had usurped power and the Reichstag went up in flames, the trickle of immigrants grew to a flood of prominent refugees: Thomas and Heinrich Mann, Bert Brecht and Lion Feuchtwanger, Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya, Peter Lorre and Albert Bassermann, Alfred Döblin and Hanns Eisler. Some, like Feuchtwanger, had to make their escape during the war, from Nazi-occupied France and through Fascist Italy or Spain.

If the majority of Jewish newcomers had hoped to be helped and welcomed with open arms by their fellow-Jews amongst the old-established film moguls, they were disappointed. The Mayers and Goldwyns did not seem to feel any obligation to employ them, and some went so far as to point out that they were, first and foremost, Americans, and proud of it. So the newcomers found it, more often than not, rather hard to keep body and soul together. Taylor speaks of the great American tradition that if you are somebody you have to live like a bigwig, “in regulation mansions complete with swimming pool”.

WILDER JUMPS IN POOL

Erich Pommer (the producer of “The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari”) was one of the first to achieve this, and threw the required extravagant parties. At one of them, Billy Wilder—still jobless and poor—got 80 dollars for jumping into the pool, fully clothed. “It was the rough underside of Los Angeles that Wilder first encountered”, writes Taylor. “He could speak almost no English . . . He scraped what sort of a living he could from doing odd jobs like walking on the wing of an aeroplane flying over the coast. Wilder starved, sharing for a while a room with Peter Lorre and living on a can of soup a day”. Only after four hard years, Wilder succeeded in getting a contract with Paramount, “and his career really took off”.

A number of refugees got their first parts as “sneering Nazis”: Conrad Veidt, Walter Slezak, Otto Preminger. But on the whole, they had to fight a good deal of anti-German prejudice, to which they often added by criticizing American life with the remark that “bei uns” everything had been better; so they were called the “bei-unskis”.

On the other hand, some prominent Jewish film people tried to stay on under Hitler and see how things would develop. They were banking on their fame, believing themselves irreplaceable in Germany’s movie industry. Robert Siodmak for instance, renowned since his silent “Menschen am Sonntag”

Continued on page 2

The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain

reminds members and friends that it will hold its

GENERAL MEETING

on Thursday, 30 June, at 7.45 p.m.
at Hannah Karminski House
9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3
(Side Entrance)

- I
- Report on AJR Activities
- Treasurer’s Report
- Discussion
- Election of Executive and Board

The list of candidates submitted by the Executive is published on page 2.

II

We are very pleased to announce that
Mr. PETER FRAENKEL
Controller of BBC European Services
has kindly agreed to speak on
**FROM THE AFRICAN BUSH TO
BBC BUSH HOUSE**

Details about the speaker and the subject are published on page 2.

Space donated by an anonymous contributor.

Continued from page 1

WEIMAR IN HOLLYWOOD

which had been shot on a shoestring with a non-professional cast in 1928, waited until Goebbels himself attacked him in the "Völkischer Beobachter" as a "corrupter of the German family" with a film based on a Stefan Zweig story.

Fritz Lang, even more famous ("Die Nibelungen", "Dr. Mabuse", "Metropolis"), had already been in trouble with a film he had called "Mörder Unter Uns", which the Nazis took as referring to themselves; so the UFA had to re-title it "M". It established the reputation of Peter Lorre (as the child murderer). But with a sequel to "Dr. Mabuse", to be premiered in 1933, Lang's German career was finished when the new Nazi censorship banned it. He took the next train to Paris, where he found his friends Erich Pommer, G. W. Pabst ("Die Freudlose Gasse" with Asta Nielsen and Greta Garbo, "Westfront 1918", "Kameradschaft") and his fellow-Austrian Billy Wilder. Arnold Schoenberg, the creator of the twelve-tone system, had also emigrated first to Vienna and then to Paris when the Nazi bosses proclaimed that they would wipe out all Jewish influence in German music. But France was not too helpful to the German refugees, most of them penniless, and the final emigration across the Atlantic began.

Admittedly, some newcomers were lucky enough to find sympathy among immigrants from earlier generations. Carl Laemmle, boss of Universal, gave them as many jobs as possible; Schoenberg struck up a fruitful musical friendship with George Gershwin, whom he admired; Luise Rainer from Vienna teamed up with Paul Muni, formerly an actor in the New York Yiddish theatre.

Max Reinhardt, who may have relied too much on his European fame, mounted a giant stage production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream", but when Warner Brothers commissioned him to transfer it to film, just about everything went wrong, probably due to Reinhardt's inexperience in film production, and his seven-picture contract was cancelled. Otto Preminger, too, had his initial failures before he rose to the status of star director. The composers Erich Wolfgang Korngold, Friedrich Hollaender and Franz Waxmann, however, soon succeeded with their film scores, perhaps the best Hollywood had ever got.

Leslie Howard (parents' surname: Stainer), that image of the English gentleman (remember his superb Professor Higgins in the pre-war "Pygmalion" film?), was in fact an orthodox Jew who never worked on Saturdays. He had gone to Hollywood in the late 1930s but returned to Britain to help with the war effort. The aircraft bringing him back from a lecture tour for the British Council in Spain in 1943 was shot down in mid-Channel by a German plane, and he died, aged only 53. Another Briton, the Hungarian-born film magnate Alexander Korda, seems to have worked in California as a secret agent for his personal friend Churchill, crossing the Atlantic several times during the war at the risk of his life.

VW TO FINANCE RESEARCH

Otto Kulka of the Hebrew University has been chosen to lead a project whose aim is to document the position of Jews in the Third Reich. A large sum, amounting to several hundred thousand Deutschmarks, has been donated by the Volkswagen organisation to help in financing the work.

What strikes the reader of Taylor's book is that none of the refugee writers who had settled around Los Angeles contributed anything to the so-called "exile literature", now such a favourite topic. Feuchtwanger was the exception, but his "Oppermanns" had already been written in Europe in 1933. In California, Thomas Mann worked on many projects, from "Lotte in Weimar" to "Dr. Faustus" and "Felix Krull"; Franz Werfel (converted to Catholicism) on his "Song of Bernadette" and "Jacobowsky and the Colonel"; Heinrich Mann, Alfred Döblin and others on commissioned film scripts which, however, hardly ever reached the screen. Bert Brecht left his "Schweik in the Second World War", intended for Peter Lorre, unfinished, and the long-drawn-out project of staging "Galileo" in English, with Charles Laughton in the lead, materialized only after the war; so did his rather un-Brechtian adaptation of the "Duchess of Malfi", performed in 1946 with Elisabeth Bergner. When he eventually returned to East Germany he brought with him the "Caucasian Chalk Circle". Altogether, not much "exile literature", was there?

PROBLEMS OF EXILE

Yet there was a good deal of public speaking and lecturing by prominent refugee writers about the problems of exile. Taylor points out that during the war they still ranked as enemy aliens, with curfew, travel restrictions and other "silly little annoyances", as Feuchtwanger called them. However, it was he who made his exile the most profitable period of his life, and he lived in great style in California until his death in 1958.

At that time, the refugee colony was already decimated. Reinhardt had died in 1943 soon after his 70th birthday celebration attended by Zuckmayer, Molnar and Kurt Weill; Bruno Frank and Franz Werfel died in 1945, Heinrich Mann and Kurt Weill in 1950. Thomas Mann, "disturbed by the changing American political climate" (Taylor), had moved to Switzerland where he spent his last years. Some, like Alfred Döblin, returned to Germany as soon as they could, their departure being speeded up by the threat of having to appear before the Un-American Activities Committee of Senator McCarthy. Brecht already had his ticket to Germany in his pocket when he had his hearing at which he tried to get, rather ingloriously, around the inevitable question: "Are you, or have you ever been, a member of the Communist Party?"

So ended the "New Weimar" that had never existed. A few refugee film directors—notably Fritz Lang, Billy Wilder and Robert Siodmak—had merged completely in the upper echelons of Hollywood society. The movie metropolis, says Taylor at the end of his splendid book, "had not radically changed things for the 'Strangers', or been radically changed by them. But it had changed, and they had changed and they had been, for at least a brief moment, an important part of one another".

MEDAL FOR RIGHTEOUS GENTILE

Righteous Gentile Helene Jacobs, who was sentenced to 30 months' imprisonment for helping Jews in Nazi Germany, has been awarded the Buber-Rosenzweig medal by the Co-Ordinating Council of Associations for Christian-Jewish Co-Operation. Aged 77, Mrs. Jacobs lives in Berlin.

AJR GENERAL MEETING

Speaker's Unusual Background

As readers will have seen from announcements published in our previous and current issues, this year's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 30 June, at 7.45 p.m., at Hannah Karminski House, 9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, NW3.

We are very pleased that Mr. Peter Fraenkel, Controller of the European Services of the BBC, has kindly agreed to give a talk, which he calls "From the African Bush to BBC Bush House". Mr. Fraenkel has an unusually interesting background. Born in Breslau, he emigrated as a boy with his family to what was then Northern Rhodesia, so he grew up in Central Africa and was a great innovator in broadcasting to the Africans. As Controller of BBC European Services, he knows Central and Eastern Europe well and can tell us much of recent developments there in the Jewish and other contexts. Very little is understood by the general public about BBC broadcasts to Central and Eastern Europe, a service of immense importance to the listeners, and Mr. Fraenkel is uniquely able to take us behind the scenes. Peter Fraenkel's unusually varied background will provide a fascinating insight into several worlds.

Mr. Fraenkel's talk will be preceded by reports on the activities of and finances of the AJR and the election of Executive and Board members. The following election proposals are submitted by the Executive.

Executive Candidates

Committee of Management (Executive): The members of the present Executive standing for re-election are: Mr. A. S. Dresel (Life President), Mr. C. T. Marx (Chairman), Dr. F. E. Falk (Vice-Chairman), Mr. L. Spiro (Treasurer), Mrs. R. Anderman, Mr. C. F. Flesch, Mr. O. E. Franklyn (Trustee), Dr. A. R. Horwell (Trustee), Mrs. B. Kanter, Mr. M. Kochmann, JP (Trustee), Dr. W. Rosenstock, Dr. Laura Stein.

It is proposed to elect to the Executive Mr. Frank Odell and Mr. Helmut Rothenberg.

Board Members

Board: It is proposed to re-elect the following members of the present Board: Mrs. O. Albrecht, Dr. Alice Apt, Mrs. A. Berent, Dr. J. Bondi, Rabbi I. Broch, Rabbi C. E. Cassell, Mrs. M. Casson, Mr. F. Dannen, Mr. F. Durst, Dr. W. Dux, Dr. R. Elton, Dr. H. Feld, Mrs. Hannah Finburgh, Mr. R. Fischer, Dr. A. Fleiss, Mrs. A. Fleiss, Dr. H. G. Francken, Dr. H. Freund, Mr. R. J. Friedmann, Mrs. Elisabeth Goldschmidt, Mr. R. Graupner, Mr. S. F. Hallgarten, Dr. J. J. Halpern, Mrs. G. Hamburg, Mrs. Susanne Horwell, Mrs. M. Jacoby, Mr. E. C. Kent, Mrs. F. Kochmann, Miss J. Lee, Dr. Rita Lehmann, Mrs. H. Lieser, Dr. G. Leon, Dr. F. Levy, Mr. A. Lieberman, Mrs. Ilse Loewenthal, Dr. E. G. Lowenthal, Dr. E. Magnus, Mrs. M. Mautner, Mr. H. C. Mayer, Mrs. Gabriele Meyer, Mrs. L. Meyer, Dr. L. Nelken, Mrs. M. Pottlitzer, Mr. W. R. Powell, Dr. Eva Reichmann, Mrs. M. Richmond, Mr. P. Rosenfeld, MBE, Mr. J. Sachs, Mr. W. Salinger, Mrs. Charlotte Salzberger, Mr. F. Samson, Mrs. Ruth Schneider, Mrs. A. Schwab, Mrs. D. Segall, Mr. P. E. Shields, OBE, Mr. Julius Strauss, Mrs. Eva Trent, Mrs. H. Ury, Mr. H. Wetzler, Dr. Valerie Wills, Dr. Charlotte Wittelshoefer, Mr. F. S. Worms, Mr. H. Wreschner.

It is proposed to elect as a new member Mr. Herbert Loebel, OBE (Newcastle).

The Board also includes representatives of the Provincial Groups.

Eva G. Reichmann

HOME NEWS

RABBI GEORG SALZBERGER

"German Jewry went into the dark night and no longer exists". These words we read in the Introduction by Rabbi Albert H. Friedlander to a precious gift he has given us, a book on late Rabbi Georg Salzberger (*Leben und Lehre*, Waldemar Kramer, Frankfurt a.M. 1982 DM19.80). It is a precious gift because in it there is survival, survival of a worthy remnant of the tragic legacy. Georg Salzberger was one of the most dignified representatives of the proud circle of German rabbis, distinguished both by their scholarship and human care of their congregations. "He was a blessed man" says Albert Friedlander. One of his blessings was indeed that he survived the Holocaust while so many of his companions became its victims.

The book is honoured not only by the introductory chapter of its editor, Rabbi Friedlander, but also by a foreword from Rabbi Salzberger's friend, the German author Albrecht Goes. It is a foreword so full of affection that it is apt to make any further preamble unnecessary. What could possibly surpass Goes' characterisation of Salzberger's vocation: "He did not proclaim any communication; he *lived* the community. To him it was just as natural as breathing to help reproduce at every moment Israel's contribution to the elucidation of the world".

But let us listen to Georg Salzberger himself. In the first seven chapters he describes his childhood, his university studies and the first years of his rabbinate in Frankfurt a.M. We learn from him how he grew from his academic beginnings into what he would not have claimed himself, but what we gratefully appreciate as a mature teacher of the old religious wisdom. He became, above all, a master of the great venture to reconcile authentic Judaism with the essentials of modern times. "I always tried to apply old religious truths and the wisdom of biblical scriptures to our own time and its problems". The story of his life and his achievements proves beyond doubt how well he succeeded.

Ample details of his way to eminence deserve to be set down for special remembrance. They cannot all be specified. Of great significance is his record of his service as an army chaplain. It is quite enchanting. It makes its readers comrades-in-arms, sharing all his problems and his happiness at overcoming them. This chapter belongs to the history of German Jewry.

There is another episode which must be singled out for special emphasis. Georg Salzberger was for all intents and purposes the originator of an institution that deserves pride of place in any account of German-Jewish history. By inaugurating in 1919 the "*Gesellschaft für jüdische Volksbildung in Frankfurt a.M.*", and by calling Franz Rosenzweig in 1920 to Frankfurt to take up the leadership of this academy, he became the founder of what was later known as the exemplary organisation of Jewish adult educa-

tion, the "*Freie Jüdische Lehrhaus*". The *Lehrhaus* was closely associated with Martin Buber, Rabbi Nehemia Nobel, Ernst Simon and other men of renown and became so much a symbol of the renewed zeal for Jewish education that it is important to record its proud and humble origin in Salzberger's "*Gesellschaft*".

A life lived under the threat and later under the brute force of Nazism could not remain safe from its dire power. Georg Salzberger was not spared its horror. With most members of his congregation he was taken to the concentration camp of Dachau after the November pogrom in 1938. He had to suffer the most terrible tribulations. He describes it truthfully and effectively, so effectively indeed that in the light of his later efforts towards reconciliation between Jews and Germans his moral stature is greatly enhanced.

STRENGTH TO FORGIVE

But that was Georg Salzberger. To pass over his ordeal would have betrayed his veracity. However, being a "blessed man" who really loved his fellow-men as his religion demands he found the strength to forgive. To forgive not the actual perpetrators of the hideous crimes he had witnessed, but to forgive the more or less passive bystanders whose weaknesses he regarded with indulgence. Not a little help towards the magnanimous faculty of forgiving he may have found in his gratitude for the exemplary endeavours of his brave wife in achieving his rescue.

After the horror of Dachau, Salzberger's life in the "fatherland" he had loved so much came to an end. He and his family found refuge in England. The difficult time of adjustment to entirely new circumstances began. But there again his unique gift of appreciating what comfort was to be found within bitter necessity made itself felt. He mentions with gratitude his encounter with an unknown gentleman while trying to find his way to St. Paul's Cathedral. After directing him the gentleman asked: "Are you a Protestant?" On the negative reply he asked: "Catholic?" "No", replied Rabbi Salzberger: "I am a Jew". Whereupon the gentleman took off his hat with a gesture of deference: he had met a son of the Chosen People.

Two great tasks emerged for Dr. Salzberger during his London years. True to his conviction that man was "both creature and creator", he felt called upon to create. Undeterred by the existing variety of Jewish life in London, he created the New Liberal Congregation in the heart of the London suburb of

Hampstead. It was affiliated to the Liberal Synagogue in St. John's Wood whose leading representatives, Rabbi Mattuck and especially the Honorary Lily H. Montague had been instrumental in its establishment. But right from its beginning it differed from customary British Liberalism by its outspoken leaning towards the German-Jewish tradition.

After various preparations the first German-Liberal service took place in March 1939—still in the mother synagogue of St. John's Wood—with Chazan, choir and organ. Many a worshipper was moved to tears when listening to the traditional Lewandowsky melodies he had loved since childhood days and to the sermon in his mother tongue. When after these antecedents the independent congregation was eventually founded, Dr. Salzberger was elected its pre-ordained rabbi. He served the high office with happy devotion for 17 years. Under him the New Liberal Jewish Congregation—later renamed Belsize Square Synagogue—grew in membership and reputation. It became a highly esteemed part of British Jewry.

The second task which appealed to Rabbi Salzberger was the collaboration with the Societies for Jewish-Christian cooperation in Germany. They had emerged there out of the guilt-laden consciousness of the holocaust. The men and women of good-will who gathered in these organisations were most anxious to find Jewish helpers. The depleted Jewish communities in Germany could hardly provide them. Rabbi Salzberger, true to his German-Jewish origin and deeply conscious of the need to help build bridges over the abyss that had opened up between German Christians and Jews, was eager to serve. Six of his lectures delivered at so-called "Brotherhood Weeks", the main annual programmes of the societies, are reprinted in the memorial volume. It proves Dr. Salzberger an artist of eloquence.

As subjects of his speeches he chose some of the fundamental, and also most frequently misunderstood, themes of Judaism: love of the neighbour (mistakenly monopolised by Christianity), the Pharisees, the concept of the Chosen People, messianism, and the erroneous reproach that, unlike the Christian God of love, the Jewish God was a God of revenge. Salzberger's arguments are impressive. Out of the abundance of his knowledge and the profundity of his wisdom he manages to speak plainly and unaffectedly. "Even though Israel's history seems to evolve like the history of other nations" he teaches, "it is different. It is the prophets, not the military leaders and the kings who are at the centre of biblical history".

Even for those not fortunate enough to have listened to Rabbi Salzberger's lectures and sermons personally this book echoes his voice. He was a "blessed man". In handing down the story of his life and teachings to posterity the editors have helped his readers share in his blessing.

CARTOONIST WINS FRENCH PRIZE

The cartoonist Louis Mittelberg ("Tim") of the French weekly "L'Express" is the third recipient of the French Judaism Foundation Prize, worth nearly £10,000. Previous winners have been the veteran writer on antisemitism Léon Poliakov and the poet Edmond Jabès. "Tim" cartoons have also appeared in the London "Sunday Times".

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HOME NEWS

"TRACK OF TYRANNY" EXHIBITION

The Wiener Library Exhibition "On the Track of Tyranny" was opened on 19 April in the presence of a distinguished gathering of public figures and academics. Lord Annan spoke of the Jewish contribution to Western civilisation and how it had been threatened by the Nazi phenomenon, the subject of the exhibition. Sir Claus Moser stressed the valuable function performed by the Wiener Library in documenting totalitarianism and antisemitism these last fifty years, and the importance of the Library's Endowment Appeal reaching its target so that it could continue its work. The Federal Republic of Germany's Ambassador, Dr. Jürgen Ruhfus, emphasised the importance of learning from the past, and alluding to his country's support of the Library's work, hoped it would continue, since it was needed as much as ever in a forgetful world. Professor Walter Laqueur spoke of the history of the Wiener Library and its plans for the future to broaden its services to the public, to scholars and to the media in its various specialised fields, and the need for financial resources to fulfill its aims.

The exhibition itself was laid out very effectively and in excellent expository order. It displayed items of considerable rarity and great interest from its collections covering the last fifty years of totalitarian and antisemitic movements and their impact on the world, as well as the past and continuing efforts to combat them.

HITLER DIARIES

After a short-lived media sensation that ran round the world, the so-called "Hitler Diaries" have been proved by official West German and private British forensic scientists to be a crude forgery. Acquired by the mass weekly "Stern" of Hamburg for enormous sums, who sold the rights to "The Sunday Times" and "Paris Match", "Stern" admitted that they had been deceived, and two of its editors resigned. The "Stern" journalist who had acquired the "Diaries", Gerd Heidemann, was dismissed and was being sued by the magazine. The West German government and some of the newspapers involved were actively trying to discover the original sources of the forgeries, which were not only crudely executed with post-war materials, but were of no intrinsic interest whatever. Heidemann admitted having obtained the documents from a Stuttgart dealer in Nazi memorabilia called Konrad Kujau (alias Fischer).

SHEFFIELD PAPER FOR ARCHIVES

For 35 years, from February 1945 onward, the "Sheffield Jewish Journal" served its local community. It began as an 8-page leaflet during the latter part of the Second World War, but with the relaxation of paper restrictions it blossomed into a 32-page magazine carrying profiles of prominent members in the community, news stories, religious debates and other material. Its last issue in 1980 was bound in gold paper. Now a complete set of the "Sheffield Jewish Journal" has been donated by one of its earliest editors to the Sheffield City Libraries as part of the local archives.

NEW STUDY CENTRE AT SELLY OAK

A meeting of the Council of Christians and Jews has heard details from Rabbi Norman Solomon of Hampstead concerning a new centre to be established at Selly Oak Colleges near Birmingham. The Centre will be devoted to the study of Judaism and Jewish-Christian relations, including antisemitism. Professor John Ferguson, President of the Colleges, said that the centre was guaranteed support for the next five years.

FIRE DAMAGE AT AINTREE

The prayer house at a Jewish cemetery in Aintree near Liverpool has been seriously damaged by fire, apparently following a break-in. There was no damage to tombstones in the cemetery.

MUSIC AT AJR CLUB

The AJR Club will present a Musical Entertainment on Sunday, 5 June at 3.30 p.m. at the Hannah Karminski House. Paul Blumenfeld will play the cello, Paul Lichtenstern the piano, and Hans Freund, bass-baritone will lead the participants in well-loved songs. The entrance fee is 35p, which includes tea.

We are now open!

Luncheon Club - Wednesdays only

As from 25th May we shall be serving lunch from 12-2 p.m. at a cost of £1 per meal at: Hannah Karminski House, 9 Adamson Road, London NW3 (side entrance)

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LETTER TRICKED NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

Another letter in the campaign of indirect denigration of Jews has been printed in the "Daily Telegraph". Using the name "Abraham Rosenberg", the unknown correspondent asserted that Jews who fought for the British during the Second World War were fighting "however symbolically... the evil trying to destroy Judaism, rather than actually fighting for Britain herself. Once a Jew, always a Jew". The writer claimed that he himself had been a British Jewish combatant. The letter also quoted Jacob Klatzkin to the effect: "The boundaries of a country like England or Germany are not the concern of the Jewish people living in those countries, for far above those frontiers there stands their Jewish unity and their allegiance to the Land of Israel".

A reply from Dr. Gewirtz, defence director of the Board of Deputies, appeared in the "Telegraph" the following day, pointing out that this was one of the series of "hoax letters" which have been sent to a number of publications in recent years. The letters are usually signed with a vaguely Jewish-sounding name, although in one case the name of the notorious antisemitic revisionist "A. R. Butz" was used. The invariable theme is a "reasoned defence" of some allegedly Jewish attitude, designed to create a backlash of anti-Jewish feeling among unsophisticated readers. Some editors realise that they are dealing with mere propaganda and Dr. Gewirtz expressed surprise that the "Daily Telegraph" had not recognised the "Rosenberg" letter for what it was. A very similar letter, apparently sent by "Mrs. S. Feinstein", had appeared in the "Hackney Gazette" in March 1976, and the quotations had appeared in National Front publications, as well as in a number of other "hoax letters".

Another series of letters signed by "Joel Kosminsky" and "David Rosenberg" have appeared in the "East London Advertiser" and the "Tottenham Herald". These refer to "Jack the Ripper", saying that the murder victims bore wounds similar to those resulting from Schechita, or alternatively that the murderer was a Jewish immigrant.

"RICHARD HARWOOD": NO MORE DOUBT

After years of denying that he was "Richard Harwood", the author of the notorious pamphlet "Did Six Million Really Die?", Richard Verrall has issued a High Court writ claiming royalties from the publishers. Verrall, deputy chairman of the National Front, is suing Alan Hancock, trading as the "Historical Review Press", for royalties on "all copies sold by the defendant between 1974 and 1982 of a work entitled 'Did Six Million Really Die?', later published as 'Six Million Lost and Found', of which the plaintiff is the author and the defendant is the publisher". Facsimiles of the writ have been published in the anti-fascist magazine "Searchlight" and show that the pamphlet has been distributed in Britain, the USA, Ireland, Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and South America. It was also available for a time in South Africa, but was banned there following action by the SA Board of Deputies.

"PROTOCOLS" TAKEN OFF SALE

During Islamic Week at Birmingham University, a vigilant member of the Jewish Society noticed that copies of the "Protocols of Zion" were on sale in the Students' Union. Islamic Society members attempted to maintain that the "Protocols" were authentic, but the Guild Council—the governing body of the Students' Union—unanimously resolved that the book should be barred from campus and that an apology should be made to the Jewish Society.

LEGACIES

The AJR Charitable Trust has received legacies of £4000 from the estate of the late Mr. Max Sondheimer and £1000 from the estate of the late Mrs. E. Reifenberg (Gabriele Tergit).

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Dossier of US Neo-Nazism

In the Rehavia district of Jerusalem is to be found a unique museum. It is the "Museum of the Potential Holocaust", devoted to exposure of extreme right-wing and neo-Nazi groups in America. Handbills, pamphlets, newspapers and cartoons take the visitor back to the days of Streicher's "Stuermer". Blood spurts from the body of a naked blonde girl, while rabbis with long knives gloatingly catch her blood in great pails. A faceless man is depicted: "Who is this man? He looks like an American, dresses like an American, speaks like an American. But he is no American, he is a Jew. Beware of him!". Other leaflets have a more modern slant: "Oil or Israel? We need Arab oil". Others again are millenary: "Hitler is not dead: he will return!".

The museum collects material from such parties and groups as the American Right Party, the Ku Klux Klan, Christian Defence Lobby, Liberty Lobby and the National Socialist White People's Party. Most of these organisations play on people's patriotism with chauvinist and racist slogans; sometimes they can even report minor electoral successes. The museum seeks to alert Americans and others to the dangers inherent in the right-wing lunatic fringe bodies.

Jewish Sportsmen on Display

In conjunction with the forthcoming Olympic Games, an important exhibition on "Jews in Olympics" is to be mounted by the Southern California Jewish Historical Society. Honorary chairman of the project is Mark Spitz, seven times gold medallist for his swimming at the 1972 games.

HOLLAND

KLM Drops "Israel"

The Dutch airline KLM will drop the words "Israel" and "Tel Aviv" from the list of destinations served which is printed on the back of their air tickets. This, says KLM, is to avoid the possibility of passengers' papers being confiscated on arrival at Arab airports. At the same time, the airline's advertising will no longer mention Israel and the name will also be omitted from flight plans intended for Arab countries.

Queen Beatrix Opens Camp Memorial

Westerbork, the transit camp through which so many Dutch and other Jews passed on their way to the death camps of the East, now has a memorial centre, officially opened by Queen Beatrix in April. The building houses an exhibition based on material displayed at the Auschwitz memorial site by the Dutch authorities. The Government has contributed £250,000 towards setting up the new centre.

Ironically, Westerbork was first established before the Second World War as a camp for refugees from Germany, but under the Nazi occupation of Holland regular weekly trainloads of doomed Jews left for Auschwitz, Sobibor and other extermination camps. The new building has been erected on the site of the former railway line.

MORE GREEK ANTISEMITISM

Despite support against antisemitism promised by the wife of the Greek Prime Minister, a virulent book, "Hellenism—Judeo-Zionism—Jews. Forgers of Greek History", has recently been published in Athens. The author refers to Jews as "men, or rather bloodthirsty and carnivorous creatures, who suffered and are still suffering from serious hereditary and incurable psychiatric, bodily and neurotic diseases".

ITALY

Temple Menorah Sought in Rome

Legends about the Golden Menorah supposed to have been taken by the Romans under Titus from the Temple in Jerusalem have been revived by new archaeological researches along the banks and bed of the River Tiber. The Arch of Titus in the Roman Forum shows captive Jews carrying the Menorah and for centuries many Jews avoided passing under the arch—it was felt that to do so would re-enact the sufferings of their forefathers. A persistent tradition, however, has it that the Golden Menorah was re-possessed by the Jews and thrown into the Tiber to prevent it from being housed in a pagan temple. So far, although many medieval relics and classical ruins have been brought to light, no trace has been found of the legendary Golden Menorah.

Kafka Conference in Italy

The first of many celebrations of the centenary of Franz Kafka took place recently in the Italian town of Bari. Among the speakers was Professor Eduard Goldstuecker, whose renowned Kafka Conference in Libnice some fifteen years ago marked the first stirrings of the "Prague Spring". Professor Goldstuecker is now at Sussex University.

Another paper was given by Michael Mueller, putting forward the theory that Kafka's "The Trial" has as one source Casanova's flight over the leaden roofs of Venice.

MORE ECHOES OF FRENCH OCCUPATION

After his success in bringing Klaus Barbie to face French law, Serge Klarsfeld has been named as the complainant against four former SS-men who are to stand trial in West Germany. One of the accused, Rolf Bilharz, has admitted that he knew that Jews deported from France were going to their deaths. The other men maintain that they believed deportees were being sent to labour camps. The trial is expected to open in Bonn before the end of this year.

Still another ex-Gestapo man, Fritz Merdsche, is living somewhere in the Black Forest district. In an interview on French television, Merdsche denied that during his time as head of the Gestapo in Orleans he had tortured anyone or committed any other crime against humanity. However, like Barbie, he was twice tried in absentia by French courts after the war and sentenced to death.

NEW STAMPS FOR ARGENTINA

The daughter of a Jewish refugee has been chosen as the artist for a new Argentine postage stamp. Tana Sachs has produced a batik design which has already been approved.

PROTESTS AT WARSAW COMMEMORATION

Despite protests from Lord Beloff and others, an Israeli delegation numbering about 300 attended the official Polish commemoration ceremonies marking the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Lord Beloff, Professors Leopold Labedz, Peter Wiles and Elie Kedourie, together with Melvin Lasky, David Pryce-Jones, David Floyd, Peter Reddaway and Lionel Bloch, wrote to Mr. Begin pointing out that the presence of an Israeli delegation might be taken to confer approval on the current Polish regime. About 20 members of the Anglo-Jewish community also went to Warsaw, but the Polish Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Association declined to be represented.

In Poland itself, Arab ambassadors protested that the ceremonies might be used as pro-Zionist propaganda.

The week of commemoration began with a service conducted by Cardinal Glemp and included readings by Jewish representatives. One Catholic priest taking part spoke of "the sin of antisemitism". An international conference on genocide was held, as well as a seminar discussing the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. A restored synagogue in Warsaw was re-opened at this time, while visits to the Auschwitz Museum and the site of Treblinka concentration camp were arranged for participants in the ceremonies.

Following the laying of a wreath by the PLO at the memorial to Nazi victims, coupled with references on Polish television to the Beirut massacres, four Israeli government representatives left Poland earlier than intended. Subsequently the World Jewish Congress also withdrew its delegation, complaining of "a week of provocation and manipulation".

"WORLD CONSPIRACY" BOOK FOR

A group of solicitors' articled clerks in Ireland who are organising a holiday in the USSR were the unwilling targets of antisemitic material emanating from the so-called Legal Consultative Council of the Christian Community Centre. One pamphlet sent to them was supposed to be the record of an interview given by a former US senatorial aide. Entitled "The Hidden Tyranny", it tells how Jews are seeking to dominate the world and speaks of a secret Jewish cabal at the heart of the Russian government. Extracts from the "Protocols of Zion" were also enclosed.

NEW LIFE FOR RUSSO-YIDDISH PROJECT

In 1946, the Committee for Yiddish Language and Culture of the Ukrainian Academy of Science in Kiev began preparations for a Russian-Yiddish dictionary, with a prospective publishing date of 1949. But Stalinism could not tolerate such a project: the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee in Moscow, which had been closely associated with the dictionary, was liquidated in 1948; there followed total suppression of Yiddish culture in the Soviet Union; the Kiev committee was liquidated; and Eli Spivak, the compiler of the dictionary, was murdered in 1952 along with other leading Yiddishists and Jewish intellectuals.

However, after Stalin's death, some of those who had worked on the Russian-Yiddish dictionary were among the returnees from prisons and labour camps and work on the project could begin once more. In 1966, the leading Soviet publishers of reference works, "Sovetskaya Entsiklopedia", announced a contract for completion of the work with a projected publication date in 1967.

Silence ensued until a short time ago, when an official announcement appeared, stating that the Russian-Yiddish dictionary would at last be published at the end of 1984, nearly 40 years and an infinity of suffering since the Kiev committee first contemplated its task.

EXILE LITERATURE STUDIES IN US

The German Language Faculty of the University of California has recently held a symposium on "The Aesthetics of Exile Literature". Participants from Germany, Austria and Holland, as well as from all over the US, were present at the discussions.

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BIRTHDAYS

DR. ERWIN SELIGMANN 90

The Chairman of Club 1943, Dr. Erwin Seligmann, will celebrate his 90th birthday on 11 June. Born in Hamburg as the eldest son of Dr. Caesar Seligmann, Prediger of the Liberal Temple, his ancestors, all rabbis, can be traced back to the early 14th century.

In 1902 his father was appointed Liberal Rabbi of the congregation at Frankfurt/Main. Here Erwin was educated at the Goethe-Reform-Gymnasium and later, breaking with the family tradition, studied Law at Freiburg, Paris and Marburg. His studies were interrupted when, on the outbreak of the First World War, he volunteered immediately for military service and as early as December 1914 was awarded the Iron Cross. For two years Erwin served in the Field Artillery until, in 1916, he was seriously wounded by a grenade. After prolonged medical treatment Erwin was able to resume his studies at Frankfurt, where he rejoined the K.C. student Organisation and, passed his final examinations in 1920.

In the same year he married Lydia Mayer-Alapin. Their happy marriage, during which they had three daughters, lasted until Lydia died in 1980.

For several years Erwin worked as a judge in Frankfurt, but due to growing family needs and inflation, he took over the private practice of a late colleague. He joined the Hermann Cohen Bnai Brith Lodge and was active on its cultural committee. He assisted his father in editing the monthly "Liberal Judentum" and founded the first branch of the Jewish Liberal Youth Organisation of which he was President.

Under the Nazi regime, Erwin, because of his war record, was allowed to work as a Law Consultant; but he foresaw coming events and trained as a kitchen chef so as to be able to earn a living abroad. In Spring 1939 the family emigrated to England. During the war Erwin served for two years in the Pioneer Corps. He then worked as a chef in various restaurants, including one year as manager of the Anglo-Palestinian Club in Soho. Later he had his own restaurant at Zion House and eventually opened a boarding house for students. The "Commission zur Erforschung" of the history of the Jewish Community of Frankfurt/Main commissioned Erwin to compile a volume on the religious development of the Frankfurt Community since Emancipation. However, the finished work was never published because the Committee lacked the funds to have it printed.

In the sixties Dr. Seligmann met his old friend from Frankfurt days, Hans Jaeger, then Chairman of Club 1943, who immediately asked him to join. Soon Erwin began to give his many excellent lectures to the Club, of which he now is the Chairman. Club 1943 is grateful to have such an able and active Chairman and extends to him its warmest congratulations.
B.St.

DR. HANS LAMM 70

Dr. Hans Lamm (Munich), who will be 70 on 8 June, is one of those leading Jewish communal workers in Germany who have always kept contact with the emigrated German Jews. He was born in Munich and, after the interruption of his University studies in 1933 for some time became a student of the Hochschule fuer die Wissenschaft des Judentums. At the same time he did some voluntary social work for the Jewish community. In 1938 he emigrated to

the United States, where he obtained an M.A. degree. From 1942-43 he was research director of the Jewish Fund and the Jewish Community Council in Kansas City. Later he was appointed Assistant Director of the American Zionist Emergency Council.

He went to post-war Germany in 1945 as representative of the American Jewish Conference. It was during this stay in Germany that he wrote his doctoral thesis on the internal and external development of German Jewry during the Third Reich (1951), the first methodical work on this subject. After some time in the U.S. during subsequent years he finally returned to Germany in 1955 and settled in Munich. He became Department Head of the Munich school for adult education and President of the Jewish community, an office he still holds.

Hans Lamm is a prolific writer. In 1958 he edited a symposium "Von Juden in Muenchen", a new augmented edition of which was published in 1982 under the heading "Juedische Kultur in Muenchen". His articles in the Jewish press on historical and literary subjects are based on profound knowledge and excel by their clarity of style. Not long ago, he visited London to arrange a TV interview with Dr. Eva Reichmann, which was broadcast in Germany and met a wide response among the viewers, making them aware of the destiny of German Jewry.

Conveying our birthday congratulations to Hans Lamm, we look forward to his further communal and literary activities and the continuation of his happy meetings with his friends in this country.

DR. WALTER ZANDER 85

On 8 June, Dr. Walter Zander will celebrate his 85th birthday. He was Secretary of the Friends of the Hebrew University from 1944 to 1971. Yet he has remained active during his years of retirement. One of the subjects to which he devotes his scholarly research is the position of the Christian Churches in Israel and only a short while ago a legal journal in Israel published a learned article by him on this very topical question. Though his eyesight is now impaired, his vigour is undiminished and he still travels abroad. All those who know Walter Zander are bound to be impressed by his widespread knowledge and, above all, by his human kindness. We extend our sincerest congratulations to him.
W.R.

HERBERT STRAUSS 65

Professor Dr. Herbert Strauss, who will be 65 on 1 June, is a man of many parts. When he celebrated his 60th birthday, we paid tribute to him as Professor of History at the City College, New York, and as Executive Vice-President of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe. Meanwhile, his professional duties have been considerably extended by his appointment as head of the newly established "Zentrum fuer Antisemitismusforschung" of the Technische Universitaet Berlin. His inaugural lecture as well as his contribution to the Colloquium on the 50th anniversary of the Nazis' ascent to power bear witness to his proficiency as a scholar and his power of expression in German, to which he must have become unaccustomed after many years of lecturing in English. He is also co-editor of the International Biographical Dictionary of Central European Emigrés, the first volume of which appeared in 1981. As head of the Research Foundation for Jewish Immigration to the United States, which was founded by the American Federation, he has initiated and supervised the publication of several volumes of source material. Last, but not least, he has become a member of the Presidium of the Council of Jews from Germany, with which he had already been associated for many years. His work for the Council has resulted in close personal relations with his fellow-workers in other countries, including the representatives of the AJR on the Council. We wish our friend Herbert Strauss very many years to come of undiminished vigour and creative activities.
W.R.

GERDA LUFT AT 85

The journalist Gerda Luft recently celebrated her 85th birthday. As Palestine correspondent of the "Juedische Rundschau", she won the esteem of the late Dr. Robert Weltsch, who praised her in one of his last essays. Born in Koenigsberg, East Prussia, Gerda Luft married Chaim Arlosoroff and emigrated to Palestine in 1924. Her husband was murdered in 1933 but she continued and expanded her journalistic work, becoming the Israeli correspondent of "Neue Zuercher Zeitung" and "Rheinischer Merkur", as well as writing for the "Jerusalem Post" and other Israeli publications. A few years ago Gerda Luft published her "Heimkehr ins Unbekannte" (Wuppertal, Hammer, 1977), a description of German-Jewish immigration into Palestine.

DUTCH BOY'S WARTIME DIARY FOUND

The wartime diary of a Dutch Jewish boy who hid from the Nazis has just been discovered in Amsterdam by a workman renovating the house. The boy, Henry Robinski, was 13, the same age as Anne Frank, when he wrote the diary. After the publication of passages from the diary in the Dutch paper "Het Parool", the author of the diary, who had been believed deported to Sobibor and killed, turned out to have survived the war and to be living at the age of 55, at Wassenaar, near the Hague, having changed his name to Henry Lemij, and is working in a high position for Royal Dutch Shell. Another boy who had also been with him in the attic, Harry Swaab, had also survived, each believing the other to have perished. Henry Robinski-Lemij had hidden in a folding bed when the Nazis raided the house, and Harry Swaab had hidden in a cupboard. Robinski's mother also survived, and is still alive. Entries in the diary show that the boy knew exactly what fate awaited the Jews deported from Holland, and his grandparents had perished in the Westerbork camp.

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OBITUARIES

NEWS FROM GERMANY

RECONCILIATION MEETINGS IN GERMANY

Numerous reunions and conferences have recently been held throughout Germany on the theme of anti-racism and reconciliation. Many of them were connected with the annual "Week of Brotherhood" organised by the Christian-Jewish Associations in Germany.

The Theodor Heuss prize for contributions to the struggle against xenophobia and racialism has been shared this year among three organisations and one private person, a Turkish joiner from Berlin. One of the three groups honoured was Siegen's Association for Christian-Jewish Co-operation. The awards were made public following a seminar on xenophobia.

West German student bodies sent representatives to a seminar in Sobernheim, called to discuss "a programme of German-Israeli encounters—History and its Sequel—Jews and Germans Today". The meeting was organised by the Bundesverband Juedischer Studenten in Deutschland and the papers given ranged from the political position in Israel today to the historical roots of Nazi antisemitism.

In Hamburg, Professor Werner Nachmann spoke on the theme of Israel and the Jewish Community in Germany, while Aachen's Christian-Jewish Association held discussions on "The proper occasion for resistance, yesterday and today". One of the Aachen speakers was Bishop Buchkremer, who had himself been sent to Dachau for attempting to warn youngsters against joining the SS. Still another conference was called by the Evangelical Academy of Arnoldshain in collaboration with the Christian-Jewish association in Taunus. Professor H. G. Adler and Dr. Albert Friedlander of London joined delegates from Israel and Germany to honour the life and work of Leo Baeck.

The Week of Brotherhood in Charlottenburg was celebrated by a recital of poetry and songs from the Jewish Resistance, much of the material coming from Poland and Lithuania.

JUDAISM IN GENTILE TEACHING

At a recent conference held by the International Council of Christians and Jews in the Buber House at Heppenheim, a close study was made regarding the place of Jewry and Judaism in school and university teaching. Discussions took place on the theme of Jews in German history textbooks, the inadequacy of teaching about Judaism in theological faculties, and anti-Jewish elements in primary school books on religion. The majority of delegates, coming from a dozen or more countries, were Christians who stressed the need for linking religious teaching with historical events. Dr. B. Resnikoff of Jerusalem gave a different point of view when he told of the difficulties involved in telling Israeli students about Christianity, a task in which he is particularly interested.

DUESSELDORF ENDOWS HEINE HOUSE

Donations to the tune of 1 Million DM were raised in Duesseldorf for the erection in Kiryat Chaim of a Community Centre, which is to bear the name of Heinrich Heine, Duesseldorf's illustrious son. The opening ceremony took place in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Duesseldorf, Josef Kuerten, and a number of Duesseldorf residents, including a school class. The Lord Mayor also stated that during the past ten years, 15 emigrated former Duesseldorf citizens had visited their city of origin each year as guests of the town and that further visitors would be welcomed. The first exhibition in the new Centre includes works by the painter Franz Monjau, who perished in Buchenwald.

BELATED PREMIERE FOR TOLLER

The German premiere of a 47-year-old play took place in Memmingen when the City Theatre presented Ernst Toller's satirical allegory "Nie Wieder Friede". Written during the author's exile in Britain, the piece is variously set in the village of Dunkelstein and the Elysian Fields, from the small-time barber's metamorphosis into a power-crazed dictator to a bet on mankind's capacity for peace struck between Napoleon and St. Francis.

FRANKFURT REPLANS BOERNEPLATZ

Although a memorial stone marks the place of the former synagogue in Frankfurt am Main's Boerneplatz, which was destroyed in the November Pogrom of 1938, there have for many years been complaints about its siting. It is so obscurely placed, say the critics, that no one who did not already know about it would ever notice the stone or its inscription. Now, however, the city intends to redevelop the Boerneplatz and has agreed to a plan created by a former Frankfurt architect now living in Jerusalem. The project includes a much more prominent place for the setting of the memorial stone.

FORBIDDEN ART ON SHOW

Among the many exhibitions mounted throughout Germany to mark the half-century which has passed since Hitler's seizure of power is "Verboten—Verfolgt" at the Duisburg Lehmbruck Art Gallery. This incorporates many of the pictures castigated during the Third Reich as *entartete*, degenerate art, while documents, letters and newspaper cuttings indicate the fate of numerous other works of art. The catalogue points out that suppression of artists, far from beginning with the well-known exhibition "Entartete Kunst" in 1937, was an immediate consequence of the *Machtergreifung*. For example, in 1933 Duesseldorf Art Academy had to dismiss its artist-lecturers Heinrich Camperdonk and Paul Klee. In 1935 the "Koelner Illustrierte Zeitung" reported under the title "Chamber of Horrors" on an exhibition designed to prove the "evil legacy" which "the rulers of the System Government" (that is, the Weimar Republic) had left behind them in the sphere of art.

The "Verboten—Verfolgt" display will be seen later this year in Hanover from early June to mid-August and then at Wilhelmshaven in September-October.

Another artist who was forbidden to paint by the Nazis was Otto Pankok. His series of charcoal drawings on the "Passion of Jesus of Nazareth" was lately to be seen in the Old Synagogue of Essen. One reason for his disgrace was a "Schwarzes Korps" description of his painting as the "worst kind of philo-semitic art". Particular offence was given by the artist's representation of Jesus as a Jew. Otto Pankok died in 1966.

The Berlin Hochschule der Kuenste, too, is planning a series of exhibitions on the theme of Nazism and culture. The general title is "Kunst—Hochschule—Faschismus" and the first event in the series is a display on "The SA attack on the art school". This will be followed by summer lectures on "Antisemitism and the Jew within us", film censorship, music and advertising in the Third Reich and other related subjects. The lectures provide a forerunner to a symposium to be held in November on the far-reaching effects of National Socialist ideology concerning art.

VISIT BY ANTIPODEAN BERLINERS

A group of former Berliners now living in Australia and New Zealand have recently visited their home city. They were greeted by the Speaker of the Senate of Berlin, Dr. Meinhard Ade, and Heinz Galinski, the head of West Berlin's Jewish community.

LAW DOCTORATE WITHDRAWN

The Council of Goettingen University has withdrawn the doctorate of laws conferred on Wilhelm Staeglich in 1951. Their action stems from Staeglich's authorship and publication in the Grabert-Verlag of a book entitled "Der Auschwitz-Mythos". The book has been banned by a Stuttgart court and all copies, together with printing plates, are to be destroyed by official order. Among the contentions Staeglich put forward is a statement that the Holocaust is merely a piece of "Zionist atrocity propaganda".

In giving his decision, Professor Kamp, president of the university, declared that by using his title of "doctor" Staeglich had lent the book a veneer of scholarship, although in truth it was an offence against scientific integrity. Earlier this year, the Professor had said, "That incorrigible old Nazi still existed, that I knew. But what shattered me most were the letters from all over the world, sent by people of the same mind as Staeglich, praising him as a 'valiant champion against the lies put out by Allied propaganda'".

"ASSASSINATED PLO-MAN WAS MURDERER"

Munich's law department has confirmed that Issam Sartawi, the PLO representative murdered in Portugal some weeks ago, was on their wanted list for murder and attempted murder. At the time of his death, Sartawi was generally described as "moderate". However, the Munich authorities say that he had been identified beyond any doubt as the man behind an armed attack on an airport bus in 1970. The bus was transporting El Al passengers to Munich airport when it was attacked, with the result that one passenger died and thirteen others were injured.

HISTORIC COMMUNITY RECALLED

Forchheim has recently seen the unveiling of a stone set up as a memorial to its former Jewish community. Until the coming of Hitler, Jews had lived in this south-eastern German town since the 13th century.

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OBITUARIES

DR. WALTER PAGEL

Acclaimed throughout the world, pathologist and writer Dr. Walter Pagel died recently. He was 84. Born in Berlin as the son of a medical historian, Dr. Pagel became a specialist in tuberculosis and emigrated to Britain during the days of the Third Reich. Pathology appointments at the Appleworth Village Settlement and at Central Middlesex Hospital led to his election as a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists. Dr. Pagel's books on the history of medicine, in particular on the life of William Harvey, brought him Fellowship of the British Academy and innumerable awards and honorary degrees from universities in Germany, Switzerland, America, as well as Britain and other countries.

H. H. BEHRENDT

The death of Mr. Hans Herman Behrendt, aged 80, should not go unrecorded. Mr. Behrendt was known to many and he was especially dear to those who owed their lives to him. He was originally instrumental in setting up the Berlin ORT organisation and was its Head until its emigration to England. Mr. Behrendt arrived at Harwich in August 1939 along with over 100 ORT students, members of Staff and their families, whom he personally brought out of Nazi Germany.

In England, he remained in the field of technical education, eventually becoming Acting Principal and Head of the Engineering Department of Cannock Technical College. His many friends remember him particularly as a great lover of animals and of nature in general. He is survived in England by his widow, his sister, two daughters and grandchildren.

F.R.

HILLEL STORCH

Hillel Storch has died in Stockholm at the age of 80. Mr. Storch will be remembered for his many attempts to rescue Jews during the Second World War. In his capacity as head of the World Jewish Congress in Sweden and political representative of the Jewish Agency, he was actively involved in the desperate efforts towards releasing Jews or alleviating their misery. It was to Hillel Storch that Himmler wrote early in 1945, saying that he had "taken steps to deal with the outbreak of typhus at Bergen-Belsen".

DR. ERNEST KLEIN

Rabbi, scholar and lexicographer, with three doctorates to his credit before he was 30, Dr. Ernest Klein died in Toronto at the age of 83. Born in Transylvania, he studied at the University of Vienna before his appointment in 1931 as the rabbi of Nove Zamky in Czechoslovakia. Dr. Klein lost his family at the hands of the Nazis and he himself was imprisoned in Auschwitz and Dachau. He emigrated to Canada after the Second World War, where he published a memorable work, a two-volume "Comprehensive History of the English Language".

RABBI WOLF GOTTLIEB

The former minister at Queen's Park Synagogue, Glasgow, and later Av Beth Din of the city, Rabbi Wolf Gottlieb died recently in Jerusalem at the age of 73. Polish-born Dr. Gottlieb studied in Vienna, where he became a leader of the Mizrahi movement. He left Austria in 1939 and after the war was appointed to Queen's Park Synagogue, where he served until his retirement to Israel seven years ago.

DR. OTTO M. ARIE

The death of Dr. Otto M. Arie, a prominent member of Reading's Jewish community, was recently announced. The son of a Czechoslovakian rabbi, Dr. Arie became a lawyer and chairman of the Czech Zionist Federation. Forced to go into hiding when the Germans occupied the country, he and his wife and son managed to escape to Britain within days of the outbreak of war. Although the family had originally planned to go on to Palestine, wartime difficulties prevented the move and Dr. Arie joined the BBC's foreign language department. In 1969 he left the BBC and went to the Institute of Jewish Affairs. Later he became the British correspondent of the "Schweizerische politische Korrespondenz".

DOLF RIESER

The death of the artist Dolf Rieser was announced recently. He was 84. A South African by birth, but of German-Jewish origin, Dolf Rieser came to Europe for his studies. He gained a doctorate in plant genetics but soon turned to painting, in which he was much influenced by his knowledge of Bushman cave art and other elements of African culture. During his artistic career, he enjoyed over 20 one-man exhibitions and his works have been seen worldwide.

Dolf Rieser demonstrated his opposition to Fascism in the Munich of the 20s and later in Paris. Managing to board the last boat from Boulogne to England at the time of the French surrender, he offered his services to the Special Operations Executive of the British Intelligence Service.

MRS. LILY PINNER

Mrs. Lily Pinner, who has died at the age of 89, came to this country with her husband and two sons in 1936. Settling in the Birmingham area, she was a fervent Zionist and a leading WIZO member. In the late thirties she joined the Birmingham Jewish Refugee Committee and was assiduous in helping those who, like herself, had escaped from Nazi Germany.

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BERLIN SYNAGOGUES

Synagogen in Berlin. Zur Geschichte einer zerstörten Architektur. Published by the Berlin Museum in the series: Stadtgeschichtliche Publikationen, 2 volumes, Willmuth Arenhövel, 1983. pp. 224 and 152.

The present two sumptuous volumes are a significant reminder of the Berlin Jewish community, its pride and its social aspirations. They are also an historical document, revealing in an intellectual sphere the German interest in history and a desire for reconciliation. The work grew out of an exhibition, and this explains its strength and weaknesses. The photos and drawings, some coloured, afford convincing evidence of the full extent of synagogue building in Berlin, whilst parallel developments in other parts of Germany are ignored. Although a great deal of material about individual synagogues is included, the books read not so much like a narrative as a gazetteer. One would have wished for a discussion of the place of the Jewish architect in the evolution of the Berlin synagogue.

PLANS AND DRAWINGS

Having given some idea of the limitations of the work, let us now concentrate on what it offers. In volume I is found a moving preliminary statement by Hans Hirschberg, followed by an historical Introduction by the well-known historian of synagogues, Harold Hammer-Schenk. This is followed by perhaps the most important part of the study, the catalogue of visual materials, plans, drawings, photos and written documents, by Rolf Bothe and Hans Hirschberg regarding the *Gemeindesyndagogen*. The plans and designs range from the Moorish and Neo-Classical to the modern, as well exemplified by the competition of 1929 for a synagogue in the Klopstockstrasse. The volume concludes with a survey of ritual objects, some of high quality, presented by Veronica Bendt.

Volume II includes a survey of the *Vereinsynagogen* by Michael Engel, contrasted with the *Gemeindesyndagogen* discussed in volume I. (This division no doubt makes administrative sense, but seems to have no particular relevance to architectural form, especially as all synagogues were united in a central organisation, the *Einheitsgemeinde*, an admirable arrangement, also found e.g. in Sweden at the present time). The most appalling and disturbing is naturally the last chapter, contributed by Veronica Bendt on

the destruction in the Nazi period. Here the mind boggles: so much destruction wrought in such a short time, or in other words, what takes decades to build can collapse almost instantaneously.

We now revert again to volume I, where an enlightening coda to the study is found, the discussion of the organ in synagogues. This marginal subject is of general significance, as it illuminates the contrasts between modernism and tradition, a problem basic to Jewish survival. Hans Hirschfeld gives an impartial account of the controversy, and concludes convincingly that the organ and organ music never had the same importance in the synagogue as in the church.

A number of important Christian architects' names are mentioned, and their influence on synagogue building is assessed, especially among them Schinkel and Semper. The latter was a pioneer of synagogue architecture, particularly in Dresden and in his plans for Paris. (See the present reviewer in the *Leo Baeck Yearbook*, XXII, 1977, pp. 237ff). No coherent evolution emerges, except that the preponderance of domed buildings with cupolas expresses self-conscious pride.

To sum up: the books under review afford valuable documentation for historians and art lovers. They are also a poignant reminder of the past for the descendants of Berlin Jewry, and illustrate the unpredictability of Jewish history and perhaps also of human history in general. HELEN ROSENAU

50th ANNIVERSARY OF "FIFTH ALIYAH" Reception at President Navon's Residence

To mark the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the large-scale immigration from Central Europe in 1933, 250 representatives of this group of immigrants were invited by Israeli President Navon to a reception. On behalf of the central organisation of the immigrants from Central Europe, the Irgun Oley Merkaz Europa, Mr. Heinz Gerling described the special position of the "Fifth Aliyah". The financial assets, the expertise and the sense of enterprise enabled the newcomers to settle and, at the same time, to contribute to the development of the country. More than any other group of immigrants they also built up constructive organisations of mutual support. Particularly effective was the creation of the "Solidaritaetswerk", the Israeli equivalent of Self-Aid. Mr. Gerling also referred to the work of the Leo Baeck Institute, founded to preserve the cultural heritage of Central European Jewry. On the other hand, Mr. Gerling did not deny the initial difficulties arising from the attitude of earlier residents to the newcomers.

The specific forms of agricultural work of the Fifth Aliyah were described by Emanuel Friedlaender (of Beit Yitzchak), and the poet and author Yehuda Amichai, the leading Israeli poet, who was born in Wuerzburg, read his Hebrew translation of Else Lasker-Schueler's poem "Eli, Eli...". In his reply, President Navon stated that there was no field of the country's activities on which the Fifth Aliyah had not left its mark. "However, you were too few: whereas only 55,000 Jews from Germany immigrated to Erez Israel, many more went to the U.S., England and other countries". Jokingly, the President referred to the sense of order and punctuality of the "Yeckes", qualities which were not characteristic of the Orient. Anti-Levantinism was the basic feature in which the Fifth Alyah excelled.

The Reception is to be followed by a number of other functions prepared by the Irgun Oley Merkaz Europa during the Jubilee Year.

PAMINA LIEBERT-MAHRENHOLZ

A retrospective exhibition (including some more recent productions) of the work of Pamina Liebert-Mahrenholz is to be held at the galleries of the Hampstead Arts Council, Arkwright Road, NW3 from 3-24 July. Pamina Mahrenholz was born and studied in Berlin, later winning the Prix de Rome which she was unable to receive because of the political situation. She emigrated to England in 1939 and has exhibited widely, including the Royal Academy and in the London Artists from Germany Exhibition in October 1978.



Dolbin by Dolbin.

Drawings of Prominent Personalities, 1926-1933, including Brecht, Buber, Marlene Dietrich, Thomas Mann, Max Reinhardt and many others, by Fred Dolbin (1883 Vienna—1971 New York) were shown at the Goethe Institute, London, 50 Princes Gate SW7 from 6-19 May.

The British Museum has recently acquired the magnificent and most important collection of Islamic Pottery formed by the late Frederic du Cane Goodman. The whole collection will be catalogued and exhibited in due course, but an extensive selection is now on view at the museum. ALICE SCHWAB

DECORATION FOR HAIFA ACADEMIC

Professor of History at Haifa University, Alex Carmel has received the West German Order of Merit. Professor Carmel, who was born in Berlin, is the author of a number of books and the award was given specifically in recognition of his researches into nineteenth century German activities in Palestine. He has also helped to cement relations between Haifa University and the West German academic establishment.

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POLITICAL FOG OVER SONG CONTEST

"We was robbed!" is a common enough phrase for defeated football teams, but some Israelis have apparently adopted the slogan after the Eurovision song contest. Only vote-rigging, they say, could have prevented Ofra Haza from taking first place. After coming second to Luxembourg, the singer's own verdict was: "If it hadn't been for politics, we'd have won".

When the Austrian jury allotted Israel top marks, anxious viewers exclaimed, "Even Kreisky gives us 12 points!"; when the West German jury failed to follow suit, it came as a betrayal by a trusted friend. Cyprus and Turkey passed over "Am Yisrael hai" altogether, a fact interpreted as a sign of "innate animosity". Israel has won the contest twice in recent years and gained high voting places at other times: but the suspicion of tactical anti-Jewish voting could not be dispelled by pointing out the facts. In an effort to damp down the conspiracy theory, the director of the Israeli broadcasting unit covering the event gave a detailed account of the mechanics of the vote in each country. But this too failed to reassure the many enthusiastic fans who see the song contest as a measure of their country's pride and international standing.

Perhaps an old story is not quite out of place: two football fans meet—one has been at the match, the other not. Says the optimistic non-attender, "Did we win?". Dejected answer: "No". "Did we draw?". Even more dejected: "No". "Are we protesting?" ...

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.



Fritz Kortner as Shylock, one of his greatest roles. Drawing by Dolbin.

DUESSELDORF GIFT TO HAIFA

In token of international friendship, the city of Düsseldorf has presented Haifa with a community centre, to be called after the poet Heine. During his visit for the official presentation, the Mayor of Düsseldorf visited former fellow-citizens now living in Israel and announced that the city was for the first time proposing to invite exiled Düsseldorfers to visit their old home. The first such group is likely to consist of 30 Israelis.

GERMAN CULTURE WELCOMED IN ISRAEL

Throughout last year, Israel saw a flowering of books, drama and films stemming from Germany. Books by Guenter Grass, Heinrich Boell, Siegfried Lenz and others have appeared in translation, as well as reprints of plays by Georg Buechner and Bertolt Brecht. Buechner's "Woyzeck" was presented both in its original dramatic form and as Alban Berg's opera, Wozzeck. Other plays seen in translation were Schiller's "Maria Stuart", Oedon von Horvath's "Tales from the Vienna Woods" and several Brecht productions. Among German films on Israel's screens, Werner Rainer Fassbinder's work was particularly successful, and "The Marriage of Maria Braun", "Marlene" and "Lola" enjoyed public and critical acclaim. "Nosferatu the Vampire" and "Christine F.", the story of a drug addict, were also well received.

BOTANIC TRIP TO ISRAEL

The hundred-strong Jerusalem Botanical Gardens Group recently organised a ten-day visit to Israel for British members, with special emphasis on the country's wild flowers and experimental botanic stations. The group is affiliated to the Hebrew University.

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.

Birthdays

Jacoby:—Margaret Jacoby, 101 years young! May she continue to give happiness to all who know her for many years to come. With heartiest good wishes, gratitude and love, from the Members of the AJR Club.

Simson:—Emmi Simson of 52 Vicarage Road, Harborne, Birmingham 17, celebrates her 76th year on 11 June. With much love from her daughter Eva, son-in-law David, and four granddaughters.

Acknowledgement

Mrs. Ida Heimer, of the Heinrich Stahl House, would like to thank all her friends for the birthday wishes and presents on her 90th birthday on 6 April 1983. There were so many that she cannot deal with them all individually and therefore thanks you all collectively.

Deaths

Dachinger:—Meta (née Gutmann) died peacefully in hospital on 9 May aged 67. Sadly missed by her husband, family and friends. She will be forever remembered with love.

Lipschitz:—Gertrude née Neumann, died on 17 April aged 98 at Morris Feinmann House, Manchester.

Moos:—Ella Moos died peacefully on 3 May, aged 98. Sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Turner:—Mr. Harold Turner (Hans Zoellner), husband of Mrs. Elfriede Turner, brother of Mrs. Ruth Landwirth and Mrs. Charlotte Chaim passed away peacefully on 7 April.

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AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT

There has been almost general agreement among those interested in Austrian politics about the personality and the merits of Dr. Adolf Schaerf, a rare phenomenon in a country where polarisation of views is common. No trace of demagoguery was noticeable in the behaviour of the moderate social democrat who already cultivated a rather dry, ironical style as secretary of the parliamentary faction of his party in the period of the First Republic. He was a practising lawyer and contact man for underground activities during the Austro-fascist and Nazi eras.

Finally, in the years of the reconstruction of Austria after her liberation, he was the party leader and a member of the government. Even when he had risen to the position of Federal President, he remained the cautious and circumspect bureaucrat. Schaerf died in 1965 at the age of 75.

It is not easy to depict such an unshowy man. Karl A. Stadler, professor at Linz University, who also heads the Institute of Labour History there, has written the biography: "Adolf Schaerf—Mensch, Politiker, Staatsmann" (582 pages, 1982, Europa Verlag, Vienna/Munich).

It is of some Jewish concern that Schaerf, who was born in the small Moravian town of Nikolsburg and went to the primary school in its former "Israelite" district, was able in his student days to give private lessons in Hebrew and the elements of Judaism. His acquaintance with Jewish matters, to which he occasionally alluded, caused otherwise unfounded rumours of his at least partly Jewish extraction.

In the Nazi period Schaerf tried to obtain the release of the Socialist politician Robert Danneberg, but the authorities were determined to subject this prominent opponent to particularly debasing treatment in a concentration camp where he perished like so many victims of a brutal and vindictive regime. In his recollections Adolf Schaerf recounts that he happened to deputise for a colleague in divorce proceedings, initiated by an "Aryan", who maintained that he could no longer uphold his marriage because of his wife's "racial impurity". The judge, who according to Schaerf had the reputation of being a fanatical National Socialist, asked the plaintiff whether he was aware of the fate in store for his wife in case of divorce—an unequivocal reference to deportation and liquidation. When the husband insisted on a decision in his favour, the judge declared that further

hearings in the case would be postponed until the end of the war. This courageous and decent decision moved the allegedly unemotional lawyer Schaerf to tears.

Personal likes and dislikes played little part in Schaerf's public activities. This also applied to his attitude to Jews and to Jewish concerns, including the demand for a measure of indemnification on account of the sufferings and losses of victims of Nazi persecution. Consequently, but unfairly, he was sometimes accused of antisemitic leanings.

Adolf Schaerf deserved an objective and competent biography within the context of Austrian contemporary history. Professor Stadler has performed this task ably and sympathetically, but by no means uncritically.

FRITZ L. BRASSLOFF

KIEL RECALLS BOOK-BURNING

Some weeks ago, an exhibition "Verboten und Verbrannt" was held at Kiel Library. On display were books which had been publicly burnt in May 1933 and others forbidden under the Nazi regime, together with press reports of the time.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

Called "Evelyn the Evergreen", she is the 60-year-old daughter of German composer Eduard Künnecke (Evelyn Künnecke), her father still well remembered for his operetta "Der Vetter aus Dingsda". Evelyn, a dancer at the age of 14, married at Gretna Green at 15, was thrice married and thrice divorced. A top recording star, she was arrested by the Nazis for alleged "Atrocity Propaganda", taken to the death cell, and freed at the last moment. Now living in her father's old flat in Giesebrechtstrasse, Berlin, her memoirs have appeared under the title "Sing, Evelyn, Sing". She reviews a rich past, enumerates all the ups and downs of a liberal-minded artist's career, and hopes for a comeback as a result of this book which is published by Hoffmann & Campe.

Tit-Bits. German Television provided some British fare, entitled the "Fine English Ways", based on a story by P. G. Wodehouse, with Marianne Hoppe and Curt Bois in the main parts. *Peter Stein's* six-hour "Hamlet" at Berlin's "Schaubuehne" had a mixed reception, the only praise from reviewers being reserved for Bernhard Minetti in the part of first gravedigger.

Birthdays. Munich-born *Rudolf Fernau*, the German character actor whose career started as "Dr.

Crippen", received a special medal from the Burgomaster of his home town on the occasion of his 85th birthday. It would have been the 80th birthday of the irrepressible German comedienne Grethe Weiser, and a programme in her memory was featured by ZDF reminding her many fans with great sorrow that the actress suffered fatal injuries in a 1970 car accident.

Obituary. It is reported that *Walter Slezak*, son of world-famous tenor Leo Slezak, ended his own life at his home in Flower Hill in the US state of New York. He was 80 and had been known as a film actor and novelist. *Walter Reisch*, the librettist of many German (and later, American) films, sadly, did not live to see the stage version of his popular "Maskerade", performed in Vienna's "Josefstadt" as a musical last month. Reisch, whose lyrics included "Zwei Herzen im 3/4 Takt" and "Ade, mein kleiner Gardeoffizier", and who received an "Oscar" for writing the "Titanic" dialogues in the fifties, has died in Los Angeles at the age of 80. His scripts included original stories for films in which Clark Gable, Charles Boyer and Marilyn Monroe starred, thus continuing the successes which began with lyrics he wrote during the thirties in Germany for Martha Eggerth, Paula Wessely and Gustaf Gruendgens.

S.B.

EAST GERMAN AUTHOR'S CAREER

The prolific author Stefan Heym recently celebrated his 70th birthday at his home in East Berlin. Born in Chemnitz (now Karl-Marx-Stadt) as Helmut Flieg, he was writing satirical verse and material for the "Weltbuehne" even before he had finished his studies. In 1933 he was nearly arrested, but fled to Prague and thence to the USA where, as a journalist, he exposed the Nazi movement in America. His first full-length novel was "Bitter Laurel", based on his experiences in the American army in Europe. Heym lived for a time in Munich, then returned to the USA, but in 1953 threw in his lot with the DDR. He was not always at one with the regime, however, as shown by his book "Five Days in June" and his dispute with Walter Ulbricht in 1956. Later works include "The King David Report", a warning against reliance on legends, and "Ahasver", in which the Wandering Jew is seen as a revolutionary.

WEST GERMAN AWARD

The West German Federal Cross of Merit was recently conferred on Anny Kreddig of Charlottenburg who, between 1938 and 1943, managed to hide Horst Wienskowski while he was being sought by the Gestapo. He was caught and sent to Auschwitz but Frau Kreddig despatched food parcels to him and to his brother in Buchenwald. She also gave their parents food and clothing. Horst Wienskowski survived and emigrated to America; it was he who nominated Frau Kreddig for the honour she has now received.

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