

AJR INFORMATION

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Richard Grunberger

A NAZI ON THE LEFT

Nazism was the ideology of the double bluff. It delegitimized the modern world—and used high technology. It dubbed all Jews capitalists—and communists. It took power through the ballot—and the bullet.

The very term *Nationalsozialismus* was as self-contradictory as dry rain or vegetarian butcher. Hitler managed, by and large, to mask the contradiction, but in the mid-Twenties some Party members jibbed at the imbalance between the Nationalist and Socialist strands in his programme. The point at issue was whether the Weimar Republic should pay compensation for confiscated princely estates. Hitler took the side of the princes, thus arousing the opposition of some of his Left-leaning followers.

The best known 'Left' Nazi was *Gregor Strasser*, subject of a new biography by Peter Stachura (Allen & Unwin, £12.50). Strasser's career made him a typical representative of the so-called Old Fighters. Unlike many of them he had solid professional qualifications (as a pharmacist), but, with his shaven bullet-head and stentorian voice, he nonetheless conformed to type. He was a veteran of the Great War, the postwar *Freikorps* and the Munich beerhall putsch. While Hitler was in Landsberg jail Strasser expanded the Party into Germany; later he led the Nazi group in the Reichstag. Oswald Spengler thought him one of the cleverest men he had ever met. Top Nazis like Goebbels and Roehm intrigued against him. The pursuit of vendettas in the upper Party echelons followed predictable lines. Goebbels alleged that Strasser's mother and wife were Jewish. Strasser went one better: he attributed Goebbels' clubfoot to part-Jewish ancestry (*Folge der Rassenvermischung*). Neither side came to much harm, for Hitler viewed such infighting among his satraps with self-interested Olympian detachment.

Shortly afterwards the Nazis moved from the periphery to the centre of German politics. Their election successes in the early 1930s owed much to Strasser's work as *Reichsorganisationsleiter* of the Party. However, in the political manoeuvring that marked the death throes of Weimar, Strasser deviated from the Party line by advocating co-

operation with General Schleicher. When Hitler vetoed this, he resigned all his Party offices and departed the political scene.

Then, when the Nazis took power a short time later, Strasser, the self-proclaimed anti-capitalist, settled into a well-paid executive position in the pharmaceutical industry. He was, however, to enjoy the lifestyle of a tycoon for only a little over a year—ending his life in a hail of SS bullets on the Night of the Long Knives (30th June 1934). Paradoxically the other two most prominent victims of this bloodbath were his ex-enemy Roehm and his ex-ally General Schleicher.

Dr. Stachura thinks Strasser's reputation as a Socialist undeserved, but quotes with approval ex-Chancellor Brüning's statement: 'He was the only person in the NSDAP who could have one day eliminated Hitler and similar figures, and prepared a party evolution which might have spared Germany and Europe all that has occurred.' I find little to quarrel with in this conclusion.

I reacted somewhat more critically to *The Nazi Machtergreifung*, a collection of essays on such themes as 'National Socialism and Women' and 'Ideology, Propaganda and the Rise of the Nazi Party'. Some of the contributors to this volume (occasioned by the 50th anniversary of 1933) make it hard for the reader to see the wood for the trees. (Edited by Peter D. Stachura, Allen & Unwin, £15.) As conscientious, and career-minded, academics they obviously feel compelled to show themselves *au fait* with everything written on their chosen topic—but the display of their apparatus of scholarship hardly makes for readability. Even so the book deals with a number of important issues, and repays diligent, if selective, study. One such topic is the appeal of Nazism to German women. What emerges is that throughout the 1920s women voters remained more loyal to the clerical/Conservative parties than men. However in the elections of the early Thirties, and with the concurrent demise of the Protestant conservative *Deutsche Volkspartei*, Nazism made deep inroads into the female electorate. In the Catholic constituency the *Zentrum* managed to retain the loyalty of its women voters right up to March 1933, but since

the Party then capitulated to Hitler over the *Ermächtigungsgesetz* such constancy was ultimately of little avail.

For me the most absorbing theme touched on in this volume is the degree to which antisemitism buttressed the appeal of Nazism. The conclusions are so important that I quote them almost verbatim:

In the transformation from *völkisch* sect to mass party, antisemitism played no more than a secondary role. Areas such as Franconia and Hesse were exceptions. A lengthy tradition of antisemitism in such areas had much of its source in the dominance of local trade and rural credit by a relatively large and widely dispersed Jewish population. In most parts of Germany, however, even where the NSDAP did disproportionately well at the polls, there was little history of outright hostility towards the Jews going beyond latent prejudice, and antisemitism was not usually a particularly striking feature of Nazi propaganda. Though antisemitism probably played a more important motivating role for certain more 'ideologically' inclined social groups, such as teachers and students, it came in the Depression period to be generally relegated to a role as backcloth to appeals made directly to economic interest.

Jew-baiting in Vienna

Since sophisticated modern polling techniques cannot be retrospectively applied to 1933, we shall never be able to quantify the exact contribution of Hitler's Jew-baiting to his election victory and mass appeal. It is certainly the case that in 1938, as can be read in the recollections of Robert Weltsch and George Clare, Berliners exhibited less antisemitism than the population of Vienna.

Mention of Vienna, once the medical 'capital' of Europe, brings me to David Irving's biography of Dr. Morell, the Fuehrer's court physician. Entitled *Adolf Hitler: The Medical Diaries*, (Sidgwick & Jackson, £10.95) this book seems to have been commissioned on the assumption that any printed matter with Hitler's name in the title will find willing buyers. The assumption may be correct, but I found reading the thing a mind-numbing chore. Who wants to wade through 300 pages loaded with nuggets of information like 'two or three times a day I inject 10 cc of twenty per cent glucose

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resolution and after that 10cc of Septomid. Intra-muscular injections of Vitamultin Calcium have done a lot of good. . . .?

Now and then, however, my boredom abated and gave way to nausea. One day Hitler had no bowel evacuation for five hours, whereupon Dr. Morell administered an enema. Afterwards he sent a fecal specimen to Prof. Nissel for examination. The latter returned his analysis post haste, attaching a note full of envy at Dr. Morell's proximity to the centre of the action.

Connoisseurs of nausea will also glean from these pages that Morell munched his food like a pig at a trough, closed his eyes from the bottom up and exuded foul body odours.

Nor will connoisseurs of David Irving's *persona* be disappointed. Irving, it will be remembered, first disputed the authenticity of the *Stern*-promoted Hitler Diaries, but did a volte-face when allowed access to a forged volume, because the handwriting in it fitted in with Dr. Morell's diagnosis of Hitler's Parkinson syndrome.

It emerges subliminally from Irving's study that the decay of Hitler's body in no way affected his character. The Fuehrer moves through these pages as kindness incarnate. After a minor operation he tells the surgeon who wants to waive the fee 'Be reasonable—you've got eight children!' After dropping in unannounced for lunch on the Morells he gives the Frau Doktor ration coupons for the cheese consumed. At the end of the war, and on the verge of suicide, he still spares a thought for Morell. 'Act as if you've never seen me. Get out of that uniform, put on some plain clothes, and go back to being the doctor of Kurfürstendamm.'

To sum up on a book which also assures us that Hitler did not have VD: although boring as medical history it is a fascinating *Charakterzeugnis* of the Fuehrer.

IRVING RENEWS HIS OFFER

The revisionist historian David Irving, who not long ago addressed the far-right Institute for Historical Review and has been invited to speak by a number of universities in this country and in Ireland, recently attended a meeting of the German Historical Institute in London. He renewed his offer of \$1,000 for documentary proof that Hitler knew of the existence of the death camps, waving a bundle of dollar notes in the air.

Mr. Irving, who recently enhanced his reputation in Germany when he first rejected and then backed the alleged "Hitler diaries", issued leaflets before the GHI meeting, stating that he would be the principal target of Professor Eberhard Jaeckel's lecture and again challenging the proponents of Hitler's direct guilt.

Professor Jaeckel, an eminent scholar at Stuttgart University, told his audience that "of course Hitler knew—his role was essential in the whole process". (It was at this point that David Irving waved the \$1,000 in the air). But he suggested that there was no single set of orders issued by Hitler; rather that the death camps evolved in a more gradual process with the continuing approbation of the dictator. He quoted Goebbels as saying "The Fuehrer is an unrelenting advocate of the Final Solution", and pointed out that the documentation of the time was difficult to evaluate, since important matters were referred to in code

and top secret operations were deliberately left without documentary trace.

Another revisionist historian who has recently been heard on university campuses is Lenni Brenner, but with a different emphasis. A left-wing Jewish civil rights activist, Lenni Brenner develops a thesis of "Zionist collaboration with the Nazis".

REHABILITATION OF FORMER NAZIS

The PEN Centre of German-Speaking Writers Abroad issued a statement, protesting against a number of incidents in which former adherents of the Nazi ideology were rehabilitated by being awarded prizes named after prominent Jews. Thus, about five years ago, the Sigmund Freud Prize of the "Deutsche Akademie fuer Sprache und Dichtung" (Darmstadt) was awarded to Siegfried Melchinger; according to the statement, Melchinger had written an enthusiastic review of the antisemitic interpretation of Shylock by Werner Krauss in 1943. Last year, the Hermann Sinzheimer Literary Prize of the city of Freinsheim was awarded to Dr. Wolfgang Schwarz, whose book "Italienische Dichtung von Dante bis Mussolini" (1942) carried a homage to Mussolini at a time when the anti-Jewish legislation, resulting in the ultimate expulsion and extermination of Italian Jews, was already promulgated. Another example is the intended erection of a Heine Statue in Norderney, modelled in 1931 by Arno Breker, later Vice-President of the Nazi-Reichskunstkammer. It was in view of these antecedents that, a few years ago, the municipality of Düsseldorf had rejected basing the statue on Breker's model in Heine's city of birth.

OATH TAKEN AT MAUTHAUSEN

When an Austrian private soldier found himself among those detailed to clean the "Stairway of death" at Mauthausen—each stone, it is said, represents a human life—it made him realise that his knowledge of history was sadly inadequate. He had never been taught at school that "there had been a real concentration camp in Austria" where 110,000 people had been murdered, and the idea came to him that it would be fitting for other Army recruits to know something of the recent past. Austrian soldiers take an oath as follows: "I swear to protect my Fatherland, the Republic of Austria, and its people and to engage in their armed defence." The soldier thought that an oath taken in the surroundings of Mauthausen would make his comrades understand what they in fact would have to defend in the last instance.

Recently his idea came to fruition when Defence Minister Frischenschlager and President Kirchschläger attended a parade of nearly 600 recruits at Mauthausen and heard them swear to defend their native country. The event marks something of a change in Austrian attitudes, since many of them believe that their country was more sinned against than sinning in the Hitler epoch and seek to evade responsibility for Nazi crimes.

Yet only lately the Viennese paper "Profil" has recalled that when 419 Mauthausen inmates broke out of the camp in the last stages of the war, the local people joined in killing them. Even today, a public opinion poll has revealed that 85% of the population would have no objection to "workshy" people being conscripted for labour.

BEST NOT TO STAND TRIAL

A Düsseldorf court has finally decided that Werner Best, second in command to Reinhard Heydrich, is not fit to stand trial for his crimes. Best, now 80 years old, is said to be so enfeebled in his memory and mental processes that he could not stand the strain of proceedings. This decision confirms an earlier pronouncement by the courts that no improvement was to be looked for in the condition of the accused.

Best, the German representative in occupied Denmark, was sentenced to death by a Danish court in 1945 for his acts of terror; the sentence was commuted, however, and he was released in 1951. The current accusations against him fill a thousand-page volume and treat of some 8,700 murders of Jews in Eastern Europe, carried out by Einsatzgruppen.

It was stated during the Nuremberg Trials that during his term of office in Denmark, Best had made the arrest of Jews virtually impossible by forbidding police to break open apartment doors. This information was confirmed at his Danish trial by a former Auswärtiges Amt official, who declared that the RHSA (Reichssicherheitsamt) had complained of his action, since arrests were limited to Jews who chose to open their doors to the police.

EMOTIONAL EVIDENCE ON SOBIBOR

One of the rare survivors of the death camp of Sobibor, Esther Raab was scarcely able to speak through her sobs as she gave evidence against Karl Frenzel in a Hagen court. She told of Frenzel shooting a carpenter—"that was the only time I saw him personally shoot anyone"; of his casual murder of a baby; of the festivity when the millionth Jew was gassed. Whippings, hangings and beatings were carried out before the assembled prisoners: the SS-men were so sure that none of the inmates would survive that they spoke openly and in detail of their crimes. Mrs. Raab was selected to work sorting clothes of the victims and later helped in the camp garden, always under the threat of death by shooting ("that was a luxury in Sobibor"), hanging or beating. Her evidence, which she had previously given at an earlier trial in Hagen, has been corroborated by other witnesses. After four days in the witness-box, Mrs. Raab became too distressed to go on. At one point she exclaimed, "If I have a few more years to live, I don't want to be always living with Sobibor. Here in the court I relive that dreadful time—I am in Sobibor again!"

"FINAL SOLUTION A WILD RUMOUR"

Two American professors, Alan Kraut and Richard Breitmann of the American University, Washington, D. C., believe that the man who first told the Allies that the Final Solution had begun was Eduard Reinhold Karl Schulte. Dr. Schulte, a German businessman, had been an Allied intelligence agent since 1939 and had contacts with the upper levels of the Nazi government. "Someone high up under Hitler" had let information slip, Schulte heard about the extermination programme and passed his information to the Allies. However, the American Office of Strategic Services—forerunners of the CIA—dismissed his story as "a wild rumour inspired by Jewish fears". The two historians have written about their researches in a recent issue of "Commentary".

NEWS FROM GERMANY

MUNICH OLYMPICS CASE RECONSIDERED

The Bavarian authorities have asked Israel Television for a copy of their recent programme on the death of the Israeli hostages during the Munich Olympics of 1972. Although the Bavarians say that all enquiries have been completed, they still maintain their interest in this tragic event. Indeed, it is still discussed throughout Germany.

The Israeli film accuses the German police of stupidity in their attempts to save the nine hostages. Two high-ranking Israeli officers were apparently dismissed because they had let the German security forces continue with their mis-handled plan of action.

CENTENARY OF HAMBURG GRAVEYARD

Hamburg Jewry marked an important anniversary when the centenary of the cemetery in Hamburg-Ohlsdorf was celebrated by the community with speeches and lectures, together with a tour of the graveyard. The Director of the Hamburg Institute for the History of German Jews has written an informative booklet about the cemeteries of Hamburg, including Altona, dating from 1616, Grindelfriedhof, destroyed in 1937, and Ottensen. Many of the remains and tombstones from these cemeteries have now been brought to Ohlsdorf, including those of Heine's relatives.

NAZI SALUTE INCURRED FINE

A former Ritterkreuzträger who gave the Nazi salute at the burial of Hans-Ulrich Rudel has had his fine reduced from 3,000 to 1,500 DM by a decision of the Weissenburg magistrates. The reason given for the reduction was the worsening financial situation of the accused, a 62-year-old man running a taxi service. In the course of his appeal for a lower fine, the man declared that he had promised former flying ace Rudel to bid him farewell in proper military fashion.

MURDER OF "SS-MAN" AND HIS WIFE

Murder followed the screening of a television programme in which former concentration camp inmates spoke of an SS-man named Blum and having a ruddy complexion. It is alleged by the Bocholt (Westphalia) prosecutor that after watching the programme, a 40-year-old Polish refugee and his German mistress began to suspect that an elderly neighbour, Heinrich Blum, was the high-ranking SS-man mentioned. After a visit to Blum, in which the old man apparently admitted to having been in the SS, the Pole was convinced in this idea. He bought a rope and strangled Blum and his wife, afterwards setting fire to the bodies.

HITLER'S "OEUVRE" PROHIBITED

The Munich publishing house "Amber" faces a fine of half-a-million DM if it continues to put out its "Catalogue of Works", containing paintings, drawings and architectural sketches by Adolf Hitler. The publication, which first appeared earlier this year, was backed by an American industrialist, Billy F. Price. Although the publishers asserted that the book was merely a work of reference without any political intention, a Bavarian court declared that it was "an article inculcating veneration for the person of Hitler". The publishers have given notice of appeal.

RETROSPECTIVE FOR KULVIANSKI

Painter, sculptor and father-figure of the "Neue Sachlichkeit" artistic movement, Issai Kulvianski has lately been honoured by a retrospective exhibition in Düsseldorf. Kulvianski, a Lithuanian by birth, came to Berlin before the First World War and worked there with Max Liebermann, Hermann Struck, Ernst Fritsch and other well-known artists. He was also friendly with John Heartfield, Brecht, Chagall and many other representatives of European culture. Kulvianski emigrated to Palestine in the thirties, but returned to Germany in 1950, where he continued to work over a wide range of media, paint, pen and ink, ceramics, wood, bronze and others. Eventually he retired to the South of France and died in London in 1970.

MATHEMATICS UNDER THE NAZIS

Two members of the Technical University Berlin, Professor H. W. Schütt and Dr. H. Mehrtens, have undertaken an intensive study of mathematics under the National Socialists. The regime made a sustained attempt to politicise the sciences, in which the attack by "German physics" on the "Jewish" theory of relativity was a well-known feature. But the attitude towards mathematics was more two-sided: while the politico-romantic, völkisch ideologisation of the field was one aspect, there was also a definite trend towards modernisation free from any political taint, and a true advance in technology. The Reichsforschungsrat, founded under the Third Reich, was a respectable institution and it was in those years, too, that the Diploma for Mathematics and Science was inaugurated. Yet there was also a system of "German mathematics" which called for clarity as against the "Jewish juggling with definitions". The two scholars are shortly to publish a book on their researches.

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MAYOR APPOINTS SPRINGER "FRIEND"

By a unanimous vote of the Jerusalem City Council, publisher Axel Springer has been awarded the honorary title of "Friend of Jerusalem". The distinction, created a year ago, gives the Mayor of Jerusalem the right to nominate three foreigners annually as "Friends of Jerusalem". Axel Springer was Teddy Kollek's first choice.

MANCUNIAN VISIT CHEMNITZ

In the course of a civic visit to Karl-Marx-Stadt (formerly Chemnitz) in the German Democratic Republic, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Manchester (Dr. Michael and Mrs. Rosemary Taylor) made a point of contacting the Jewish community. The president of the community, Siegmund Rotstein, told them that there were only 11 Jewish families left in the city, where 3,000 had lived before the war, and the synagogue was used as a centre with occasional services only. If people wanted to attend service, they normally went to Dresden. During their visit, the Taylors were told that East German youth were encouraged to visit the sites of concentration camps in order to reinforce the teaching against antisemitism which they received.

THE THIRD REICH AND THE BAHAIS

From Iran today, we often hear news of death sentences pronounced against Bahais because of their alleged spying activities, for the USA, for Britain, for "Zionism". Other Bahais are executed for teaching their children religion or on other transparent pretexts. International appeals on behalf of the victims have proved fruitless.

Bahais are particularly subject to the charge of "Zionist spying" because many of them have visited Israel. The founders of their faith (which began in the last century) are buried there and the world centre of Bahaim is in Haifa, with many fine buildings, built without state subsidy or contributions from anyone but Bahais. Israel recognised the faith in 1971, which further aroused the suspicions of Moslem fundamentalists, but its members hold themselves strictly apart from the Arab-Jewish conflict in accordance with their pacifist and unitary tenets.

Until a few years ago, not many people had heard of the Bahais, but they did not escape the notice of the Nazis. The Third Reich was the home of the largest European Bahai community and, although they did not resist the law, none of them joined the NSDAP or took part in elections and plebiscites. This, added to their pacifism and internationalism, drew a special order from Himmler in 1937, specifically forbidding the Bahai faith and closing all their institutions. There followed spoliation, looting, show trials and in some cases years of imprisonment.

The Bahai movement was one of the first to re-establish itself in West Germany and Austria after 1945. Pilgrimages were made to Israel and the bones of the founder, Baha'u'llah, were secretly brought from Persia to Akko.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

SOVIET ANTISEMITE ATTACKED

A strong protest has been made by a non-Jewish Soviet scholar against the antisemitic propagandist Lev Korneyev (mentioned in our issue of August 1983). Ivan Fyodorovich Martynov sent an open letter to the Soviet Academy of Sciences, at the same time renouncing his title of Candidate of Pedagogical Science. He protested against the retention of an academic title by Korneyev, "who has blasphemously revised the number of Jewish victims" and called for a public discussion of his own reasons for renouncing his academic title. Martynov further demanded that his colleagues should "condemn mercilessly and expel from the scientific community L. A. Korneyev, a professionally bankrupt ignoramus and falsifier who disseminates the most vicious Black Hundred [Imperial Russian pogromists] type of antisemitism in the pages of the Soviet press . . .".

MORE BOMBS IN PARIS

The sound of terrorist bombs was again heard in Paris recently when 30 people were injured at the Israeli-owned restaurant L'Orée du Bois in the Bois de Boulogne. The restaurant is often used by pro-Israel groups and was shortly to have been the venue for a meeting of representatives of the French Jewish community and the new Israeli Ambassador.

Another explosive device was also found in a car parked outside the synagogue in Versailles. It was found that the bomb would have exploded at the time of morning service on the following Saturday.

"FIDDLER" IN SOVIET GEORGIA

A Soviet version of "Fiddler on the Roof" has recently been produced in Tbilisi, its first professional performance in the USSR. It is not quite clear how closely it follows the musical familiar to London and Broadway: Tass's Tbilisi correspondent referred to the play under the title of "Tevey from Anatevka" and said that the musical themes "echo those of the well-known musical 'Fiddler on the Roof' by Jerry Bock. However, a different interpretation of the characters, which is closer to the life-asserting spirit of the original, gives a new dimension to the musical basis of the production".

CANADIAN TEACHER'S SETBACKS

Jim Keegstra, the Canadian teacher who sought to indoctrinate his pupils with antisemitism and neo-Nazi ideas, is no longer Mayor of Eckville, Alberta. Moreover, the Alberta Teachers' Association has recommended revocation of his teaching certificate. As reported in our issue of October 1983, the Association had formerly backed Keegstra and given him legal help when he appealed against his dismissal last May. He has also been requested to resign from the vice-presidency of the Social Credit Party.

Indeed, it was only by one vote that Mr. Keegstra was saved from complete suspension of his membership of the SCP of Canada.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle

PROBLEM AT VANCOUVER UNIVERSITY

Although the Simon Wiesenthal Center of Los Angeles cabled the President of British Columbia University informing him that one of his lecturers was a convicted war criminal, the university has refused to take any action in the matter. Jakob Luitjens, a botany lecturer at the Vancouver university, was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment by a Dutch court in 1948 for his collaboration with the German occupiers. He had, however, already left the Netherlands. Now the Dutch government is seeking his extradition, a claim rebutted on the grounds that the relevant treaty does not cover the offence of collaboration with the Nazis. The Simon Wiesenthal Center urged the dismissal of Luitjens if the extradition proceedings should fail, but British Columbia University has taken the position that the matter is a question for the Canadian government, and that a man is innocent until proved guilty.

KORCZAK ORPHAN'S HARMONICA CONCERTS

Forty years have passed since Janus Korczak went with "his" children to the death camp of Treblinka, from which not one of them returned. But some former inmates of the orphanage who had experienced Korczak's goodness did live to tell the tale—and one of these was Schmuël Gogol.

A mouth-organ player, Gogol was forced to play his instrument while Jews went to their death in Auschwitz. After the war, he regarded his talent as a responsibility to be used to help Israeli children. He formed a school of harmonica playing in Tel Aviv and has recently been touring the Rhineland area with an orchestra of 31 young players, all trained by him. The concert repertoire ranges from Bach and Mozart to pop, including Israeli folk tunes.

LIDICE CHILD VICTIMS REMEMBERED

A group of young Russian girls recently visited the memorial at Lidice in Czechoslovakia to pay particular tribute to the memory of the children who died when the town was razed to the ground in 1942. In revenge for the assassination of Heydrich, all 173 men of the village were shot, the women were deported to Ravensbrück, 88 of the children died in concentration camps and others were "re-educated" in German families. Only nine of the children are known to have survived the war. The Russian girls, dressed in their "Young Pioneers" uniform, laid roses at the Lidice memorial and visited the nearby museum.

BELGIAN-DUTCH ANTI-TERRORIST OPERATION

In a joint operation by Belgian and Dutch police, another Arab implicated in the murderous attack on Shlomo Argov has been arrested near Brussels. The wife of the suspect, a Syrian, and another man have been detained by the Dutch police and four more people have been arrested in Belgium.

The Rotterdam police uncovered two Polish Rak 63 machine-guns at the house of a suspect, the type of weapon used in the attempt on Mr. Argov, at the Seitenstettengasse Synagogue outrage in Vienna, in the attack on a Jewish restaurant in the Rue des Rosiers and in the Rosh Hashanah woundings at the Great Synagogue of Brussels. The Rak guns found in Rotterdam are now in the hands of ballistic experts.

FROM HAMBURG TO CANBERRA

Yissakhar Ben-Yaacov, who became Israeli Ambassador to Australia a short while ago, was born in Hamburg in 1926 as Walter Jacobson. He emigrated to Palestine in 1933 and has held positions in the Israeli foreign service since the establishment of the State. Before he was transferred to Australia, he was Ambassador to Austria.

E.G.L.

HISTORIC ROMAN PLACE-NAME REVIVED

One of the most historic parts of the Old Ghetto in Rome once again bears its traditional name—Piazza delle Cinque Schole (Five Synagogues Square). For many years it has been simply known as the Via del Progresso, but it has remained a favourite meeting-place for the Jews of Rome. The five synagogues no longer exist, having been demolished about 75 years ago when the area underwent civic rebuilding, but the present chief synagogue of the city is only a short distance away.

"WELCOME IN LIMOURS"

The Home of La Solidarité, the corresponding organisation of the AJR in France, has been rebuilt and modernised. It is situated in Limours (30 kilometres from the centre of Paris) and offers comfortable accommodation for both permanent residents and temporary guests. Further information may be obtained from: La Solidarité, 14 Rue St. Lazare, 75009 Paris, Tel. 526-58-17 (Monday to Thursday from 14.00 to 18.00 hrs).

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HOME NEWS

EICHMANN AGAIN ON STAGE

A new play by Thomas Wiseman was recently given its première at Southampton. The title "The Dealer" refers to the attempts to bargain for Jewish lives with Adolf Eichmann in the Vienna of the forties. The author had personal experience of Vienna up to 1938, although he was still a child, and he has drawn on his own experience for his story of persecution and desperate bargaining.

VISITORS AT AJEX PARADE

For the first time, representatives of the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and women were able to lay a wreath in memory of the dead at the Holocaust memorial in Hyde Park, before the main parade took place in Whitehall on November 20th. Wreaths were laid at the Cenotaph and General Sir John Stanier, Chief of the General Staff, took the salute, while the Chief Rabbi conducted the traditional service. Some 5,000 marchers took part in the parade and contingents from the US, Finland, France, Denmark and Gibraltar joined the British veterans. Police look-outs were to be seen on nearby roofs as evidence of the security measures in force.

MOUNTBATTEN HELPED ESCAPES

Among the guests at the unveiling by the Queen of the memorial statue to Earl Mountbatten were Mr. & Mrs. Eli Hackenbroch. Mr. Hackenbroch is the chairman of the Sabbath Observance Bureau and his wife Elsbeth is distantly related to the late Lady Mountbatten, a granddaughter of Sir Ernest Cassel. Lord Mountbatten, conscious of the family connection, was personally involved in helping a number of Mrs. Hackenbroch's relatives to escape from the Third Reich.

CLUB 1943

Meetings on Mondays at 8 p.m.
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- 2 Jan. No Meeting.
- 9 Jan. Prof. Dr. J. W. Bruegel: "Jaroslav Hašek" (1883-1923) Der Schöpfer des "Guten Soldaten Schwejk".
- 16 Jan. Gerald Holm: "Ludwig Holberg" (born 1884): Danish Playwright and Historian.
- 23 Jan. Meira Yudkin, M.A., Dipl. of Education: "The Jews in Modern American Literature".
- 30 Jan. Dr. Ruth von Schulze-Gävernitz: "Das astronomischgeographische Weltbild Plato's (circa 420 B.C.)."
- 6 Feb. Berta Sterly: "In Pursuit of the Holy Grail".
- 13 Feb. Otto Egert, Dipl.Ing. (Vind): "Bilder aus dem Fernen Osten" (mit Commentaren).
- 20 Feb. Dr. E. Seligmann: "Paradies mit Zores". Auf der Suche nach Israel's Seele mit Amos Oz.
- 27 Feb. Walter Lewis: "My Desert Island Books".
- 5 Mar. Henry Hellmann: "Die Widerstandsgruppe 'Neu Beginnen'". (1933-1935).

DAMAGES FOR "LABOUR HERALD" EDITORS

Following allegations by "Private Eye" and another magazine that the "Labour Herald" was financed by Colonel Gaddafi, the leader of the GLC, Ken Livingstone, and two members of Lambeth Council have obtained substantial, though undisclosed, damages for libel. The three councillors were the joint editors of the "Labour Herald" when the libel was printed and their counsel stated that the paper was entirely financed by themselves, their friends and sympathisers.

YOUTH CHOIR'S 25 YEARS

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Youth choir attached to Belsize Square Synagogue, the choir-mistress Sue Straus arranged for a special youth service to be held. The choir has a remarkably solid tradition, for Mrs. Straus is only the second conductor and herself sang under Johanna (Hanni) Lichtenstern. Mrs. Lichtenstern was a trained soprano in her native Germany and she has sung at many concerts under her maiden surname of Metzger. She says that really the original choirmaster was her husband Paul but he handed over the job to his wife on the grounds that he couldn't sing.

Hanni Lichtenstern is still active in the world of music, although she left Belsize Square Synagogue six years ago. Another choir has come under her baton, the all-woman Kol Rinah.

WOMAN RABBI ORDAINED

The fifth woman rabbi ordained by Leo Baeck College is Daniela Thau from Berlin, noted for her work with young people. Germany's first woman rabbi was Regina Jonas, who died in a concentration camp.

AMERICAN GIFT TO LIBRARY

The Wolfson Foundation has presented the American Trust for the British Library with the sum of £10,000. The grant is intended to enable the Library to fill up gaps in its collection of American Jewish books and periodicals. Much of the British Library's material was lost through Second World War bombing.

EXHIBITIONS Altdorfer and the Jews of Regensburg

The magnificent Altdorfer painting "Christ taking Leave of his Mother" which was purchased from the Wernher Collection at Luton Hoo by the National Gallery has now been cleaned and restored and is on view in the Acquisition in Focus exhibition at the Gallery until 8 January 1984. This is a superb example of the rare work of this early German painter and well worth visiting. An accompanying booklet written by Alistair Smith is available at the exhibition and gives a great deal of information about the picture itself and about Altdorfer and his times. Altdorfer was a member of the Town Council of Regensburg in 1519 when

the Jews were finally expelled and he had the opportunity to make etchings of the interior of the synagogue before it was razed to the ground. These etchings, reproduced in the booklet, give a fine indication of what a synagogue must have looked like at the time. The Regensburg community, the oldest in Bavaria, had mixed fortunes, the Jews being pawns in the continual struggles between emperor, duke and municipal council. At first the council protected their Jews, but as their economic value declined, with the decline in the fortunes of the town itself, the attitude of the municipality to the Jews changed, leading to their final expulsion in 1519, in which Altdorfer took a part. How far he was an active anti-semitic or simply followed popular opinion of the time is an open question.

Hockney as a Photographer

David Hockney is well-known as a painter, but he has also been using the camera since the early 1960s and an exhibition of his work in this field is now on view at the Hayward Gallery until 5 February 1984. It would be wrong to attempt to compare the merits of his paintings and his photographs, but the latter are a sheer delight and show what the camera is capable of when directed by the discerning eye of a consummate artist.

The opening of the New Roman Britain room at the British Museum has brought together familiar masterpieces such as the Mildenhall Treasure and the Lullingstone paintings, together with other major discoveries of recent years. "Roman Britain", an illustrated introduction to the subject by T. W. Potter, is available at the Museum bookshops.

Reg Butler

One of the most exciting events in the early post-war years was the sudden emergence of a new artist, Reg Butler, with his "Unknown political prisoner". A work which in its massive gaunt simplicity said everything that could and should be said on this emotive subject. Since then Butler has done much good work, although the life-size, painted bronze nudes of the seventies may not be everybody's cup of tea.

A comprehensive exhibition of Reg Butler's work is being held at the Tate Gallery (until 15 January 1984). It is well-worth seeing, if only to compare Butler's work with other modern pieces which are displayed in the hall approaching the special exhibition.

A Vanished World

The Ben Uri Art Gallery, 21 Dean St., W.I., exhibited a collection of photographs by Roman Vishniac depicting life in Eastern Europe in the years before the outbreak of the war. The pictures are being published by Penguin Books Limited in a book entitled "A VANISHED WORLD", price £30.

Vishniac's own career is itself exciting, but not more so than these emotive pictures. They are superb in their intimacy and in the manner by which they reveal little scenes, familiar but observed with a keen eye. These scenes reveal the manner and conditions under which Jews were forced to live.

The exhibition is being transferred to Manchester this month.

ALICE SCHWAB

Egon Larsen

PRINCE OF THE FALASHAS

Recent reports about the efforts of the Falashas, that unique tribe of black Jews living in Ethiopia, that emigrate to Israel reminded me of my first weekend in London before the war. I strolled through Hyde Park, ending up at Speakers' Corner. There, towering on his soap-box above the biggest crowd of listeners, stood a six-foot African in exotic, flamboyant garb topped by equally gaudy headgear of multi-coloured ostrich plumes.

"Thank God for the Jews!" he roared and went on to elaborate, with great temperament and a sharp wit, what the Jews had done for mankind, and why Hitler was the most evil man in history for persecuting them. There were, of course, some antisemitic hecklers, and one of them cried, "Why don't you go and join them?"

"Because I *am* one of them, you noodle!", the black giant shouted back. I stayed on until he had finished his most enjoyable performance. I spoke to him, and we became friends. When I told him that I came from Germany he insisted on speaking German, which he did quite fluently, and during our subsequent meetings he told me his amazing life story, which culminated in Prince Ras Monolulu's ascent to fame as Britain's most popular "turf adviser", a commonly called race tipster, whose war-cry, "I gotta horse!", had become part of the English vernacular.

He was indeed a Jew: a Falasha, born in Ethiopia in 1880 as the son of a chieftain, and therefore a prince of that strange Hamitic sect which had been practising the Jewish faith since the days of their alleged ancestors, King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Prince Monolulu, as he called himself (only his passport revealed his real name), had left his home at the age of 14, made his way to French Somaliland and worked his passage from Djibouti to New York as a stoker's mate.

At that time, unskilled Negroes could get only the lowest jobs in America; he cleaned spittoons in a bar, and on Sundays he carried Salvation Army banners for a hot meal. At 18 he joined the U.S. Navy, but got out again at 20 and worked his way back across the Atlantic on a freighter, feeding sugar to seasick horses. He started his European career in Munich, selling peanuts at the Oktoberfest of 1902.

At this point of his autobiographical narration he began to sing the local anthem, "*So lang der alte Peter*", in his beautiful, warm Negro bass but with a genuine Bavarian accent. A side-show at the festival, he went on, was the *Negerdorf*, where they hired him for some weird singing and dancing—"and suddenly I had to turn cannibal, charging into the audience like this, *verstehst du mir?*", and he grabbed my head, apparently with the intention of biting a chunk out of it.

In between his regular October appearances he wandered all over Central Europe, telling fortunes, selling patent medicines and the like.

At the outbreak of the 1914 war he donned a fez and said he was a Turk, to be on the safe side politically. But in November 1918 he happened to be in Berlin, and true to his temperament he joined the revolutionaries, demonstrating, and waving a red flag on a lorry full of "bolshies". They were all

arrested and taken to the Alexanderplatz, the police headquarters. "You black man, what are you doing here?" the police interrogator asked him. He replied by pointing to his nose: "*Schwarz, schau her!*", then to his teeth: "*Weiss!*", and then he stuck out his tongue at the policeman: "*Rot! Ich bin schwarz-weiss-rot—ist das nicht deutsch genug?*" And he started singing: "*O alte Burschenherrlichkeit . . .*". They ushered him out of the Alex in no time at all.

After the war, he worked as a circus rider, lion tamer, prize fighter. In 1920 he came to England and soon discovered his ideal calling, that of a tipster. With his crazy costume and his shout, "I gotta horse", Prince Monolulu became the darling of the punters. No one minded that not all the horses whose names he sold in his envelopes came first in the races; everybody loved him. And since he liked to hear himself speak, Speakers' Corner was his own favourite Sunday entertainment.



Prince Monolulu

His private life was something of a mystery. His claim that he had been married ten times, however, must have been a slight exaggeration. When I met him for the last time, I was in for a surprise: "Come up to my flat," he said, and meet my wife." He took me to a shabby old apartment house in Cleveland Street near Regents Park, and there he introduced me to a charming Austrian woman in her thirties: Anita, a baroness from Salzburg. She told me that she had been married to a doctor in Zagreb. When the Germans came, they shot him and deported her to the Ravensbrück KZ.

After her liberation she got a job as a governess in London. One day she was walking with the two children in her charge in Regents Park, and suddenly a tall old Negro stood before her. "Nice kids you got there," he said. "They are not my own," she replied. The black man grinned: "That's a pity. You should have some of your own. Will you marry me?", he asked, just like that. Of course they never married, but soon they were good friends, though he liked to call her his wife.

Yet she was not his last love. Some time after my visit he was taken to the Middlesex Hospital, where he died, 84 years old. I published an

obituary in this journal. And there came a sad letter from a married lady in West Germany whom he had met at Düsseldorf airport. For a few years, they had corresponded on the most intimate terms. He called her "*mein lieber guter Kamerad*", "my best friend this side of Paradise—I fell in love with you. Such is life . . ."

Soon after writing his last letter, that warm-hearted, high-spirited colossus of a black man was on the "other side". Like so many Jews, he was cremated at Golders Green. That had been his last wish.

MENDELSSOHN PLAQUE IN EAST BERLIN

A portrait relief of Moses Mendelssohn was recently unveiled on the frontage of the house Grosse Hamburger Strasse (East Berlin), originally built for the Jewish Mittelschule and during the war a collection centre for deportees. It is the work of the sculptor Professor Gerhard Thieme. From 1909 onwards, a bust of Mendelssohn stood in the corridor of the school until it was destroyed by S. A. men in 1938. The building is now used as training school for industrial business men.

E.G.L.

SCHOENEBERG'S LIFE UNDER HITLER

A comprehensive exhibition has recently been mounted by the Schöneberg Kulturarbeitskreis to demonstrate life under the Third Reich. The exhibition is divided into five sections, of which one of the most interesting is "Heil Hitler, Herr Lehrer!", subtitled "Die Berliner Volksschule 1933 bis 1945". With the help of town maps, chronologies and other documents, the life of schoolchildren is shown from the first indoctrinatory lessons to the Volkssturm conscriptions of children as Berlin crumbled. The expulsion and rejection of Jewish pupils forms one strand in the exhibition and the antisemitic propaganda directed at children is also shown.

"JUDENDORF" INVITATION

The Rhineland village of Flamersheim near Euskirchen has long been known as the "Jewish village". In 1910, its Jewish population amounted to 13% of the inhabitants and even in 1934, their ratio was 7%. German Jews before the coming of Hitler made up less than 1% of the German population. The village has not forgotten its former citizens and, as well as holding various events intended to further reconciliation, it is inviting all Jewish Flamersheimers to their former home in June 1984.

VIENNA'S OLDEST CEMETERY RE-OPENED

In the presence of municipal and communal representatives the old Jewish cemetery in the "Rossau" (Seegasse) was solemnly reopened a short while ago. The cemetery had been put to use in the 16th century and the last funeral took place in 1783. It was destroyed by the Nazis but, in 1943, some courageous elders of the community secretly managed to transfer a number of tombstones to the Central Cemetery. Now they have been returned to the Seegasse and the cemetery is open to the public.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR LEONARD SCHAPIRO

A world authority on Soviet Russia, Professor Leonard Schapiro, CBE, has died at the age of 75. Born in Glasgow, Professor Schapiro began his career as a barrister but was also always interested in events in Eastern Europe and Soviet Russia. During the Second World War, he served in the Intelligence Division, German Control Command. After the war, he returned to the Bar, but devoted himself more intensely to international law and East European affairs. He joined the London School of Economics, rising from a part-time lecturer to Professor of Political Science, and publishing many books, notably "The Origins of the Communist Autocracy" in 1955, which first established him as a major scholar in the field.

After retirement as emeritus professor in 1975, Professor Schapiro continued to exercise his talents, particularly in support of Jewish rights within the Soviet Union. A long-standing member of the Institute of Jewish Affairs in London, he was chairman of the editorial board of the IJA's "Soviet Jewish Affairs" over a term of 15 years.

DR. ALFONS LETCHNER

Dr. Alfons Letchner died earlier this year at the age of 84 after a long illness. Having qualified in 1924 in Berlin, he worked in hospitals and in practice there until 1933, when he came to Britain. After a year's study at Edinburgh University, he bought a practice in Harrow Weald and worked there, mainly single-handed, until 1974 when ill-health forced his retirement. He was respected for his medical knowledge and accurate diagnostic ability and for his concern for his patients. To those privileged to know him he showed wide interests in art, music, history and in the world around him. He is sadly missed by his patients and colleagues and by his family and friends.

MRS. FELICITY (FAY) CRAMER

Recently a quite remarkable lady completed a life span of more than 94 years, which started in, then German, Strasbourg, as a daughter of the "Schaf" Weils. Brought up bi-lingually, she added fluent Italian during her studies as pianist and singer at the local conservatoire. By 1911 she married and lived in Frankfurt-on-the-Main till the family moved to Hamburg in 1925. There she chaired the cultural committee of the Bnai Brith Steinthal Lodge (where she partnered her husband, as in so many other aspects, during their almost 40 years of marriage) before emigrating to London in 1937, and during World War II, to Leicester. Though handicapped by extremely poor eyesight, she retained throughout her love for the arts.

Well into old age she commanded the affectionate admiration of all who surrounded her—whether family, friends or nursing staff—due to her exemplary joie-de-vivre and a ubiquitous faith in strict Judaism, which made it natural for her to complete a Yom Kippur fast even at 93.

After staying for many years at the London home of her children, she spent the last 18 months at "Woodstock Lodge" for the Elderly.

R.C.

HENRY RUDOLPH LINDSAY

Henry Rudolph Lindsay died in London 24th October 1983. Born in Cologne on 31st July 1904, he studied Technology in Berlin and, after graduation, set up as a Consulting Engineer. He specialised in telecommunications, optics and lighting. His professional activities brought him into close contact with the cinematographic industry in Germany and various European countries, and the development of talking pictures. He was involved with a considerable amount of patent litigation in the early years of talkies, and even developed a few inventions of his own, including a 3 dimensional video disc; he was also connected with the early beginnings of television in Germany and was a founder member of the Allgemeine Deutsche Fernseh-Gesellschaft.

During the November-1938 pogrom, he was put into Sachsenhausen K.Z. However, with the help of a non-Jewish business associate (a friend of the Polizeipräsident of Berlin, Graf Helldorf), he was released to attend to the urgent engineering problems of some "aryan" clients.

In April 1939, having ensured the safety of his wife and daughter, he managed to escape from Germany and to be admitted to Kitchener Camp. After a short while, with the help of Lord Sempill (a pioneer of the Fleet Air Arm) and Commander Howard of the Admiralty (who was also a member of M.I.5 Secret Service) he was permitted to set up practice. Later, though an enemy alien, he obtained a job with Gaumont British Picture Corporation as a sound engineer. After a while, his influential friends vouched for him, saved him from internment, and enabled him to work on various special government projects, mainly for the Admiralty.

This brought him in touch with Thorn Electrical Industries and, in 1943, he started work for them, especially in research for defence contracts. Later he founded their Patent, Trade Marks and Copyright Department. He stayed with Thorn Electrical, later Thorn-EMI, for the remainder of his working life, developing his department into a vast area of responsibility as the company expanded. After he retired, aged 70, he still maintained an active interest in his own field and kept in touch with his colleagues at Thorn-EMI. He made regular weekly visits to the Chancery Lane Patent Office in order to keep up-to-date with electronic developments, and even at the end of his life had several patents of his own pending.

It can be said of Rudolph Lindsay that his work was his hobby and his hobby his work. However, he also found time to be active in the Leo Baeck B'nai B'rith Lodge and he belonged to the Belsize Square Synagogue. Above all, he was a much loved family man and will be greatly missed by his second wife Clementine, daughter Elsa, son-in-law Raymon and especially his three grandchildren.

R.B.

PAUL ELIASBERG

The Munich-born painter and graphic artist Paul Eliasberg died recently in Hamburg, aged 76. He spent his years of exile in France and survived the war there, having joined the Resistance. France became his second home and he made many journeys to the Mediterranean area.

MRS. LILLY KOHNSTAMM

The death of Mrs. Lilly Kohnstamm occurred on 25 November, a few weeks before her eightieth birthday. She was the daughter of Julius and Gisela Weinschenk and at the age of 19 married Siegmund Karl Kohnstamm, thus uniting two families which for many years had been prominent in the hop trade in Nürnberg. With their three daughters and her parents-in-law the family came to this country in 1937 where her husband, with the help of British Kohnstamm cousins of an earlier wave of immigration, opened the first factory on the Treforest estate in South Wales for the production of chrome leather.

Mrs. Kohnstamm was an outgoing personality and the beloved matriarch of an extensive and close family which included numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, all of whom adored her and for whom she had a loving understanding and maintained continuous contact in a manner rarely seen between generations.

Her life was one full of activity at all times. Having been an enthusiastic car driver since the early twenties, when it was quite unusual, if not considered outrageous, for women to be seen behind the steering wheel, she retained her driving licence to the end and was much in demand by a large circle of friends to drive them to the opera, to bridge parties, or other activities. A member of the AJR of long standing she regularly assisted our work with welfare visits to elderly refugees who, though her contemporaries, needed help and companionship and were invariably cheered by her impish humour and common sense approach to everyday problems.

She will be widely missed and our community the poorer for losing her.

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BIRTHDAYS

ARNOLD HORWELL 70

On January 19, Dr. Arnold Horwell, member of the AJR Executive, will join the ranks of the septuagenarians. If one tries to put his qualities on a common denominator, one may say that he is a man who has time for everything and everybody.

He was born in Berlin, where he was active in the German-Jewish youth movement and, after completion of his studies obtained his doctorate of economics when the Nazis had already come to power. Later, he joined the "Hilfsverein" and, as head of the Secretariat, rendered signal services in the organisation of emigration during the years of anxiety and persecution. He himself left the country only shortly before the beginning of war, became an inmate of Kitchener Camp and participated in the work of the Re-emigration Department. When war broke out, he joined the Forces, and ended his military career with the rank of a Captain. After the end of hostilities, he was attached to the first unit which entered Belsen—a traumatic experience, as he describes it. He tried to assist the surviving victims, as far as this was humanly possible.

After his demobilisation, he first went through difficult times. Yet from small beginnings, and with the help of his wife Susanne, he built up a business in medical equipment, which grew from strength to strength and only recently moved to larger new premises. His standing is reflected in the honours and offices he holds. He is a Freeman of the City of London and Livery Man of the Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument

Makers. He also serves on the Council of the British Laboratoryware Association.

Yet his professional work has always been linked with outstanding activities in the Jewish sphere. One of the beneficiaries is the Leo Baeck Lodge. He was its President in 1968, when the Lodge celebrated its 25th anniversary and held a dinner with Quintin Hogg (now Lord Hailsham), James Callaghan and Sir Bernard Waley-Cohen among the speakers. He also organised the preparations for the Leo Baeck Memorial Forest in Israel. Last, but not least, he arranges group visits of members and friends of the Lodge to places on the Continent, making a point of always bringing the participants in touch with the local Jewish communities. When they were in Rome, the leaders, including himself, had a special audience with the Pope.

In the AJR, his counsel is greatly appreciated by his colleagues in the Executive, who have also become his personal friends. There are two annual functions under the auspices of the AJR Club, of which he takes charge: the Seder evenings, where he reads and explains the Haggadah, and the Chanukah celebrations, at which, together with his wife, he selects and compères serious and humorous records from his large collection.

In his house, he treasures a remarkable collection of Judaica silver, and his library is constantly replenished by new publications, last but not least about his home town of Berlin. There are many friends who enjoy the hospitality of the Horwells, whose happy homelife is enhanced by the close relationship with their son, David, a Gold Medalist of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, their daughter-in-law, and their three grandchildren.

Arnold is a good and trustworthy friend to many in our midst, and it is in gratitude for this friendship that we extend our sincerest birthday wishes to him.

W.R.

DR. WALTER DUX 95

Dr. Walter Dux, one of AJR's long-term friends will celebrate his 95th birthday on January 8. He was the first chairman of the Otto Hirsch House in Kew when it was founded in 1958 and served in this capacity for many years. He offered at all times help and advice to the main AJR committee as one of its important members.

He is also well remembered as a brilliant speaker at the many lectures he gave at Hannah Karminski House on a wide range of subjects: The Life of Galileo, Helen of Troy, astronomy and other scientific and cultural themes. He fascinated his audience by speaking for well over an hour without notes and with witty interludes.

Born in Hildesheim and belonging to a family with roots in that city for over 250 years, he lived in Hanover, where he was very active in Jewish welfare.

With the help of his devoted wife Marga, he keeps in constant contact with old friends from his K.C. days and people all over the world, and still shows an enormous interest in music, opera, progress in science, political happenings, and loves being surrounded by his circle of family members.

We at the AJR join his family and friends in wishing him continued happiness for many more years to come.

CROWDED QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

"Sold Out" was the proud announcement at the ticket office of Queen Elizabeth Hall on the occasion of the Self Aid Concert on November 13. The audience was not an anonymous gathering of concert-goers but consisted of people of the same background. For many of them, it is the annual occasion of renewing their contacts with friends and acquaintances. Thus, as in previous years, the function was a social success.

Yet to no lesser extent it was also an artistic success. The performance was rendered by the orchestra of the Yehudi Menuhin School under its conductor Peter Norris and with Louis Kentner as the soloist. The well selected programme was, as the Self Aid and AJR Chairman, Mr. C. T. Marx, pointed out in the preface to the beautifully made up Souvenir Programme, "a musical pilgrimage covering two centuries." It started with a Concerto Grosso by Handel, to be followed by a Piano Concerto by Mozart and Elgar's lovely "Serenade for Strings". The last two works, "Five Pieces" by Hindemith and "The Capriol Suite" by Warlock were, by the standard of the not too young audience, "modern"; yet they too were received with great applause. The orchestra is an organic ensemble, living up to the obligation arising from the name it bears; it was very evident that Louis Kentner, himself a teacher at the school, enjoyed the partnership with the youthful orchestra; it so happened that he was also the soloist at the first Self Aid Concert 36 years ago.

The advertisements in the Souvenir Programme testified anew to the loyalty and generosity of our friends in business. Together with the proceeds from the ticket sale they made the Concert also a financial success, thus providing means for the needy ones in our midst.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Friedrich Heer

Sir,—I submit that the Austrian Catholic historian and writer, Friederich Heer, deserves better of you than a mere five-line obituary saying he produced several works on Hitler's religious and quasi-religious beliefs.

In his "Gottes Erste Liebe" translated into English as "God's first love" Heer wrote one of the most profound and exciting books about the inner conflict between the early Catholic church and its Jewish origins and showed how this led to religious anti-semitism, the father of racial anti-semitism and its horrendous consequences.

Heer also wrote an important "Cultural History of Europe" and many other serious works, in all of which he denounced universal anti-semitism in general and Austrian anti-semitism in particular.

Friedrich Heer was perhaps in some ways a maverick among historians, but one who has played a singularly notable and noble part in furthering his fellow Catholic's understanding of the relationship between their faith and its source in Judaism.

75 Hornsey Lane
London N6

GEORGE CLARE

Sir,—Friedrich Heer was not just a "Roman Catholic writer and editor", but a historian lecturing at Vienna University as an extra-mural Professor on the "Geistesgeschichte des Abendlandes". He was also "Chefdramaturg am Burgtheater".

However, he will most likely be remembered as the author of the book "Gottes erste Liebe. 2000 Jahre Judentum und Christentum . . ." (1967), in which he demonstrates that the concept of hatred of the Jews and of genocide against them received material support from Christian theological concepts; thus he deals in this book also with the spawning of the Austrian Catholic Adolf Hitler.

As long ago as 1968 Heer won the Buber-Rosenzweig Medal for his efforts towards reconciliation and brotherhood between Christianity and Judaism.

24 Florida Court
Westmoreland Road
Bromley

TIBOR HAAS

300 Years of Franco-German Emigration

Sir,—Lotte Eisner, who was mentioned in the above report in your November 1983 issue, recently died in Paris. She was not, however, a "filmmaker", as stated in your report. She started her career in 1926 with the daily newspaper the "Film-Kurier" and soon became a film critic. In March 1933, she succeeded in fleeing to Paris, where she joined Henry Langlois who established the "Cinématèque Française". A short time before her death she was decorated with the Légion d'Honneur. Her books include the standard work on the films of the expressionist era: "L'écran démoniaque". The book has also been translated into English ("The haunted Screen") and German ("Die daemonische Leinwand").

Her older brother Fritz, who went to England after having been forced to abandon the old established textile firm in Berlin, was an authority on Heinrich Heine. He edited four volumes of the poet's letters accompanied by four volumes of comments as part of the "Saekularausgabe", published in Weimar and Paris 1976.

26 Heath Drive
London NW3 7SB

HANS FELD

Memoirs of Refugees

Sir,—A number of years ago I embarked on a study on German-Jewish refugees in this country. This study has been successfully completed and will be published by Macmillan in March 1984 under the title: *German-Jewish Refugees in England. The Ambiguities of Assimilation*.

Meanwhile, I have set up a publishing firm and it is in this connection that I am taking the liberty of again asking your readers for their co-operation.

We are in the process of building up a series of Jewish interest. One of our publications will be a volume of memoirs of Central-European refugees living in London. We are interested in people's experiences on the Continent and in London. (Contributions from individuals who later moved out of London will be equally welcome). The picture should be fairly comprehensive and ideally cover as many areas as possible (family, education, work, religion etc.). Together with illustrations and photographs of important places and people this collection should become a valuable historical document.

It is our intention to deposit all the material received in the archives of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York to add to its collection of memoirs. However, we would like to stress that strict confidentiality will be assured.

The volume will be edited by Dr. Barbara Weinberger who has also prepared a set of guidelines for those who feel this would help contributors to relate their experiences. Dr. Weinberger would be most grateful if interested readers, who would like to contribute to this volume, in any form, would contact her at the following address:

School of Law,
University of Warwick,
Coventry CV4 7AL.

(Dr) MARION BERGHAHN

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Visit to Pforzheim

Sir,—Former residents of Pforzheim were invited to a six-day visit to their former home town. The hospitality was overwhelming and the programme was exceedingly well arranged. It included, among other things, the unveiling ceremony of a memorial plaque in front of the Jewish cemetery. There was also an opportunity to meet non-Jewish citizens, with whom personal contacts had been lost after the emigration or who had never met Jews before, because they were born during or after the war.

Altogether, the party consisted of 31 invitees, and there will be a second meeting in 1984 for those who could not attend. Any former Pforzheim residents among your readers, who are not on the list of emigrants at the Rathaus should send in their address to the "Kulturamt der Stadt Pforzheim" which is interested in having all the addresses on their files.

87 Bridge Lane
London NW11

O. A. SCHLESINGER

NEO-NAZIS ON TRIAL

Friedhelm Busse, the leader of the Volkssozialistische Bewegung Deutschlands Partei der Arbeit is currently standing trial in Munich on charges of belonging to a terrorist organisation, illegal possession of weapons and blackmail. Four other members of the group are sharing the dock with him. Although the VBD (People's Socialist Movement) boasts only about 120 members, it is considered one of West Germany's strongest neo-Nazi organisations. Busse, once a pupil at an Adolf-Hitler-Schule, was imprisoned last October for spreading racialism.

FREED AFTER DISCREPANCY IN EVIDENCE

Lack of evidence against Kurt Hänsel in Munich meant that he was set free and has demanded damages for unlawful arrest. He had been accused of killing six Poles in Rzeszow (Reichshof) during the war, but none of the alleged eye-witnesses to the act could maintain their evidence as set out in the preliminary depositions. The State prosecutor said that he had never known such a discrepancy between affidavits and evidence, and the judge declared that it would be unsafe to convict Hänsel.

NO MORINGEN PROSECUTION

The author of the Moringen town history which blamed the Jews for "provocation" before the pogrom of November 9th, 1938 (AJR Information, September 1983) will not be prosecuted by the Land Hanover. The public prosecutor decided that Dr. Walter Ohlmer, formerly Moringen's archivist, although holding "a very individual perspective of historical events", could not be considered as expressing solidarity or identification with the Nazis' attitude towards Jews.

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GERMAN JEWRY'S PART IN BRADFORD

Although only about 400 Jews live in Bradford today, they can look back on a proud record of civic involvement, mostly by Jews of German origin. German merchants in the 1820's and 1830's were attracted by Yorkshire's flourishing wool trade. A notable member of the community was Sir Jacob Behrens, who built up an international business on the multi-millionaire scale from a firm opened by him in Bradford in 1838. An honoured adviser to the Government of the day, he was knighted in 1882 and in his own words: "Who would have thought it possible that now just 50 years after I stepped ashore on English soil at Hull, a foreigner and a Jew, I should be deemed worthy of the offer of a knighthood by the Queen's Government?"

Another noted immigrant, Charles Joseph Semon of Danzig, was elected as the first foreign-born and Jewish Mayor of Bradford in 1864. He supported and endowed many charities and in particular built the Semon Convalescent Home in Ilkley, which is still in use by the Council.

The first Rabbi of Bradford was Joseph Strauss, who came from Germany in 1873 to establish regular services and a religious school. It was at this time that the community acquired its synagogue and cemetery.

The warehouse district, built in the second half of last century, is still known as "Little Germany" and the buildings bear the names and monograms of well-known German-Jewish families: Nathan Reichenheim of Berlin, the Kessler family, Edelstein & Moser, Reiss Bros., Rutherford & Heilbron (formerly Rothenstein & Heilbron).

Another influential Jew in Bradford's history was Jacob Moser, a founder of the Bradford Synagogue and a fervent Zionist. Among his many charitable works was the founding of a Jewish hospital in Leeds (where the community was much poorer than in Bradford) to be known as the Herzl Memorial Home—today called the Herzl-Moser Hospital. But his donations were not limited to Jewish objects—for example, he gave £10,000 as endowment for a fund to help the local aged and infirm—and his obituary told of gifts amounting to £300,000 during his lifetime and made to charities benefiting all races and creeds. In 1910, Jacob Moser followed the example of C. J. Semon by becoming Lord Mayor of Bradford.

THE BUF WAS INFILTRATED BY MI5

The chief surprise involved in the opening of the Oswald Mosley files of the thirties seems for most commentators to have been the efficient way in which MI5 infiltrated the British Union of Fascists. Regular quarterly reports were made, often speaking of internal squabbles within the movement. With regard to funding, information received at the time from Alexander C. Miles, then propaganda industrial officer for the BUF, spoke of money having been received from Courtaulds, ICI, Sir A. V. Roe, the aviation pioneer, Lord Lloyd, Sir Charles Petrie, the historian, and other individuals, particularly landowners, and firms. Lord Nuffield's name was mentioned, but he publicly denied at the time that he had contributed to the BUF. The MI5 report makes it clear that it had not been possible to verify Miles' information and the vast majority of those named are now dead.

Some money was received from Italy, apparently £3,000 per month up to 1936, when the amount was cut to £1,000 a month. Other backers of the movement included an elderly invalid "known to be ill-disposed towards Jews", W. E. D. Allen, chairman of a printing firm, the novelist Francis Yeats-Brown (author of "Bengal Lancer") and best-known of all, the proprietor of the "Daily Mail", Lord Rothermere. Rothermere's newspapers began by giving considerable support to the Fascist movement, but in July 1934 an exchange of letters printed in the "Daily Mail" showed how great was the distance between Mosley and the press baron. A Home Office official noted at the time: "Lord Rothermere, somewhat late in the day, finds that he cannot approve the word Fascism or any policy directed to a corporate state or a dictatorship or involving attacks on the Jews." It may be noted in passing that the "Night of the Long Knives"—the murder of Ernst Roehm and others who might be thought to undermine Hitler's forward march—had taken place only two or three weeks before this rupture.

BULGARIAN FAMILY HOPES TO REGAIN GOLD

The ownership of eight kilograms of gold is at the heart of a tale of oppression by a succession of Governments, told by Raphael Ventura.

In May 1939, Asher Ventura of Sofia deposited the gold in a safe deposit in London as an

insurance against the oncoming war. He returned home and two years later fell a victim to the German pressure on Bulgaria "to solve its Jewish problem". Although Bulgaria endeavoured to save its Jews, the effort was not entirely successful. The Ventura family business was seized, they were forced to live in a ghetto and the two sons had to work in labour camps.

In 1948, the Ventura firm was nationalised by the new Communist Government and the family emigrated to Israel. Some months later, Asher Ventura travelled to London to claim his gold, only to find it had been expropriated as "enemy property". As a Bulgarian, he was technically an enemy during the war years and the British government did not consider that his life during the war was one of "deprivation of liberty", so that he was not eligible for an ex gratia payment. A long, slow, intricate correspondence developed and in 1977 he was finally informed that his gold had been disposed of in accordance with the peace treaty of 1947 between the Allied Governments and Bulgaria.

The peace treaty had provided for Bulgaria to compensate its citizens who had lost assets under the terms of the treaty, but the Venturas had never received a penny under this provision. The sums realised by the sale of Bulgarian property held in Britain had been distributed among British claimants who had lost property held in Bulgaria.

Up to his death in 1979 at the age of 90, the only sum received by Asher Ventura as recompense for his suffering and losses was an ex gratia payment from the West German Government. But his son Raphael is carrying on the struggle in the hope of regaining some part of the gold deposited by his father nearly 45 years ago.

ERLANGEN AND DEUTZ COMMUNITIES RECALLED

The Mayor of Erlangen recently dedicated a memorial tablet at the Jewish cemetery for those who died during the Nazi period. A path leads to the graveyard and along it are placed noticeboards, telling the visitor something of the history of Erlangen Jewry.

Another place where the Jews of the town have been remembered is Deutz, a district of Cologne. The catalogue of an exhibition celebrating the 80th anniversary of the town's incorporation contains a short history of the Jews of Deutz.

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.

Death

Ritchie:—Lydia Ritchie, born 1919 in Vienna, passed away on 19 November after a long illness. Sadly missed by her relatives and friends.

CLASSIFIED

The charge in these columns is 50p for five words plus £1.00 for advertisements under a Box No. To save administrative costs, please enclose payment with the text of your advertisement.

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BAMBERGER. Rudolf and sister Maja Bamberger, formerly of 9, Western Road, London, N2. Please contact URO 328 0021.

Personal Enquiry

SIMMONS. Rudolf, formerly Silberberg, late of Berlin, who used to be the manager of the Kensington Palace and Royal Garden Hotels. Please contact Gerald Collin, 6, Delamere Avenue, Whitefield, Manchester.

THE JEWS AND RELIGION

A true comparison of religions must depend upon a real understanding of the religions to be compared. In *Take Judaism for Example*,* a book of essays by eminent scholars, edited by Professor Jacob Neusner, diverse facets of Jewish life and thought are examined in detail. For instance, a full account is given of the Jewish Pietists in the 12C. in the Rhineland as an example of how religious excesses can develop. The intolerance of this sect almost defies description. "It is preferable to provide essential clothing for the wife of a Fellow (Pietist) than to save the life of a non-Pietist" (Sefer Hasidim by Judah the Pietist). Other essays deal with worship, society, modernity, etc., including an account of the efforts of rabbinical leaders, e.g. Samson Raphael Hirsch, to come to terms with the external world. Not easy reading, but containing much of original and lasting value.

Horrendous is the only possible description of the Baalei Teshuvah movement in Israel, especially in Jerusalem, as explained by Janet Aviad in *Return to Judaism*.† Although emphatically denied

by its leaders, this movement is no more than a brain-washing exercise undertaken by the ultra-Orthodox. Trained missionary rabbis are sent into the streets of Jerusalem to entice "drop-outs" and other disorientated youth, mainly American, to enter specially established Yeshivot (schools of study). In these schools the inmates are encouraged to wear the old traditional East European dress, adopted by the very Orthodox and are spoon-fed a doctrine of intolerance and personal superiority, if they follow the doctrine (not unlike the Pietists of the 12C). Nothing enjoyable about this book, but worth reading to learn of the curious ways in which "religion" can be expressed.

Dominique Schnapper's book on *Jewish Identities in France*‡ is a sociological study, with all the jargon that implies. It tells nothing very new about French Jewry except that it is divided into the Orthodox (relatively few in number), the militants, the assimilated and those entirely divorced from their Jewish connections. Faced with a large North African immigration over recent decades, the out-

lines of French Jewry have changed, but the situation does not appear much different from that to be found in most western countries.

W. M. SCHWAB

* *Take Judaism for Example. Studies toward the Comparison of Religions*, edited by Jacob Neusner. University of Chicago Press, 1983, £18.00

† *Return to Judaism. Religious Renewal in Israel*, Janet Aviad. University of Chicago Press, 1983, £16.00.

‡ *Jewish Identities in France. An Analysis of Contemporary French Jewry*, Dominique Schnapper. University of Chicago Press, 1983, £20.00.

SILVER JUBILEE OF LEO BAECK HOUSE

The 25th anniversary of Leo Baeck House was celebrated at the Home's Chanuah Party on December 4. As, due to the holidays, this issue had to be given to press earlier than usual, a full report will appear in next month's edition.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

Halévy Family. Before 1933, operas by Jewish composers appeared regularly in the repertoire of European opera houses. The works of Offenbach, Goldmark and Meyerbeer were produced and revived, and Erich Wolfgang Korngold followed; among these, the French-Jewish composer Halévy (originally Levy) made his name 150 years ago when, after having won the Prix de Rome and initial operatic successes, his opera "La Juive" (The Jewess) won international fame. In Vienna, it was enthusiastically received when the tenor part as Eleazar was sung with brilliance by Leo Slezak. Halévy taught at the Paris Conservatoire where his son Leon was his pupil; his brother Leon was an author whose son Ludovic (who died in 1908) collaborated with Meillac in writing opera librettos, the best known of which is Bizet's "Carmen."

Tit-Bits. *Michael Ritterman* stage, film- and television actor who lived in London for many years, was associated with the "Blue Danube" ballet for a while, and has been playing many character roles in Switzerland since the Sixties, as Duerenmatt's "Ackterloo" at the Zürich Schauspielhaus. *Hans Thimig*, at 83 the youngest (and only surviving) son of the family of actors, is again acting at Vienna's "Josefstadt" theatre, and gave a Christmas reading at Vienna's "Hietzing Church Festival." *Birthdays.* Senior member of the Schauspielhaus Hamburg, actor *Josef Dahmen* celebrated his 80th birthday. Starting at Hamburg's "Kammerspiele" and after acting years in Berlin, Dahmen became one of the legend-

ary Gruendgens-team, and has over the years been a pillar of strength for the ensemble. *Hertha von Walter*, the German actress, known in Berlin as "Kesse Göre", has also reached the milestone of 80. Having begun her career with Max Reinhardt, she then progressed to be Berlin's "Fraulein Julie"; she played in dozens of films, and was in Fritz Lang's famous "M"; she proved "disloyal" to the Nazis, had to emigrate and returned in 1958. *Johannes Heesters*, Dutch-born operetta tenor, and acclaimed as German stage-and film favourite since the Thirties, has just joined the octogenarians; at present he delights Munich audiences in the (originally Chevalier) part in Lerner/Lowe's "Gigi."

Obituary. He was the most popular representative of the French chanson, good-looking and he possessed a brilliant voice: *Tino Rossi*, who has died at the age of 76. He was internationally admired for the sincerity of his interpretations of songs like "J'ai ma main dans ta main" and, above all, "La vie en rose." S.B.

CRACOW ON SHOW

Kazimierz, the old Jewish quarter of Cracow, is one aspect of the work of the Viennese-born photographer Susanne Taschner. An exhibition of her work is to be seen from January 4th to January 28th at the Photographers' Gallery near Leicester Square.

PRIZES FOR SOVIET JEWRY

After a decline over the past few years, the number of Jewish prize-winners among the Soviet State prizes for literature and the arts has suddenly increased. Six out of 20 winners of the October Revolution Prizes were Jewish. One of them, Mikhail Shatrov, whose film "This is how we shall win!" was honoured, is believed to enjoy the personal support of President Andropov. He has written a number of plays on subjects usually considered taboo in the USSR, and their public performance must indicate some special influence on the Soviet censorship. Several Jews also won prizes in the field of science and technology, but artistic recognition has increased quite markedly.

BRAZIL HONOURS TRANSLATOR

An important literary figure in Brazil is Dr. Herbert M. Caro, who has just been awarded the Critics' Circle Prize in Sao Paulo for his work as a translator of German literature into Portuguese. Dr. Caro practised as a lawyer in Berlin until 1935, when he settled in Porto Alegre. His translations have included works by Emil Ludwig, Thomas Mann, Oswald Spengler, Elias Canetti and other leading German writers.

MINISTER AT POGROM REMEMBRANCE

West Germany's Minister of Justice Hans Engelhard was among those who remembered the anniversary of the November Pogrom of 1938, when he laid a wreath at the site of a Berlin synagogue destroyed in the pogrom.

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