

# AJR INFORMATION

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Egon Larsen

## UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

### A Long Look at German Jews in Britain

A few months ago, British television showed a late-night horror film about an astronaut who gets lost in space and lands, all alone, on some populated planet; I think it was Mars. The inhabitants receive him kindly and provide him with a habitat very similar to what he was used to on earth. But then he discovers with a dreadful shock that he is, in fact, behind bars as an exhibit in a zoo. A crowd of Martians have gathered to watch him curiously, some with their writing-pads at the ready to make notes about the stranger for scientific works or programmes on the Martian media. The poor astronaut is for them the unique specimen of the tellurian homo sapiens.

I could not help feeling that we refugees from Hitler's Central Europe who had found a new home in Britain were in a similar position. Innumerable articles, books, and media programmes have been made about us, based on all kinds of sources from official records to "in-depth" interviews and correspondence with us. Some of us may feel rather fed up with being research objects for historians, sociologists, anthropologists and so on, and of serving students as willy-nilly helpers with their theses.

Now, however, there is a good chance that the end of our annoyance and embarrassment may be near: a standard work, a definitive anthology on all aspects of our species has appeared, so comprehensive that other prospective writers won't be able to find much more, yet undiscovered information about us.

The book, written in Britain but in the German language, is called *Exil in Grossbritannien*, edited by Gerhard Hirschfeld of the German Historical Institute in London and published by Klee-Cotta in Stuttgart. It has a dozen contributions by specialists in their various fields, from historians and sociologists to journalists and technologists. No pertinent subject has been forgotten; in fact,

the reader may find that the same information appears in more than one contribution. The book is, of course, meant for a German readership which so far has heard only fragmentary stories about us, some misleading and biased.

In his introduction, Gerhard Hirschfeld lists the main subjects covered by the contributors and gives us some figures: Out of the 400,000 emigrants from Nazi Germany, 10 to 15 per cent came to Britain and stayed here, 90 per cent of them Jews. The first contribution, by John P. Fox, a specialist writer on the history of our persecution in Germany, analyses our reasons for leaving the country ("Why did the Hitler regime cause such an enormous flood of emigration?") and calls it a complex question, though we refugees might have put the answer in one word: fear. Hitler's "Mein Kampf", Julius Streicher's "Der Stürmer" had prepared us for the urgency of packing our bags when the Nazis came to power.

#### The real reasons

Fox might have emphasised the real reasons for getting out: the massive arrests, our dread of the concentration camps, the destruction of business and livelihood, the boycott, the burning of the books: that was, as we all know, just the beginning. Some of us believed in the optimistic theory that the Nazis would soon *abwirtschaften*, and decided to stay. In the end, that illusion was dispelled in the Kristallnacht, and those who still could, got out as well.

Bernard Wasserstein, Professor of History at the American Brandeis University, who published a book about "Britain and the Jews of Europe 1939-1945", deals here with the British governmental attitudes towards immigrants, starting with the nineteenth century when there were no re-

strictions at all and the Conservative Lord Malmesbury said in Parliament (1852):

"I can well conceive the great pleasure and happiness of a refugee, hunted from his native land, on approaching the shores of England, and the joy with which he first catches sight of them; but they are no greater than the pleasure and happiness every Englishman feels in knowing that this country affords the refugees a home and safety."

But this benevolent attitude changed rapidly when 100,000 victims of the Russian pogroms immigrated. In 1905, the first law for stemming the flood was introduced; in 1914, 40,000 German residents were interned. Wasserstein deals in detail with the difficulties we had to overcome when, in the 1930s, the visa began to rule supreme and those of us who managed to get it were prohibited from working—except, of course, our wives, who were permitted to become domestic servants.

#### In the first year

What happened in the first year of the war is the subject of the contribution by Dr. Michael Seyfert, a German journalist and media writer, under the title of "His Majesty's Most Loyal Internees". The fates of 74,000 Germans and Austrians were decided by 112 aliens' tribunals. 27,200 were detained and interned somewhere in the U.K., especially the Isle of Man, or deported to Canada and Australia.

Among them were the 175 refugees who drowned when the *Arandora Star*, on her way to Canada, was torpedoed by a German U-boat. Soon after, the survivors were shipped to Australia on the *Dunera*, on which the guarding pioneers robbed them of their last pitiful belongings. Who would have thought then that only some months later it was the Pioneer Corps that invited the internees to join its ranks and do their bit for the war effort!

#### Don't miss:

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Worms Machzor Saved, p. 9

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## HOME NEWS

## UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Dr. Seyfert describes the amazingly rich intellectual and artistic life behind the barbed wire of the internment camps (he mentions the late Richard Friedenthal's splendid novel *Die Welt in der Nusschale*, that most memorable account of internment on the Isle of Man). A great number of these "most loyal enemy aliens" were academics, artists, writers and other cultural workers who refused to accept their unfair imprisonment with resignation.

There were theatre and cabaret shows, scientific lecture courses were organized, libraries set up, newspapers produced, art schools and exhibitions arranged; books were written (and later published). Dr. Seyfert presents a comprehensive review of these activities in the various camps and countries; all this helped enormously to keep the internees' spirits up, and helped them feel that their time was not being wasted. It may also have prevented a few suicides.

In the meantime, the official and popular approbation of Churchill's "Collar the lot" policy had flagged noticeably, and a proper campaign for stopping the nonsensical exclusion of anti-Hitler refugees from the fight against the common enemy had begun. Dr. Seyfert ought to have mentioned that it was a powerful cartoon in the London "Evening Standard" by New-Zealand-born David Low that fired the starting shot of the new movement, only a few weeks after mass internment had begun.

The variety of subjects connected with our refugee lives is well reflected in the diversity of contributions about specialised angles. Anthony Gles of Brunel University writes about exiled politicians and exile governments in Britain, trying

to influence Allied war aims and post-war plans; Dr. Lothar Kettenacker, a director of the German Historical Institute, also deals with the delicate question of the German refugees' influence on British policy; Professor Francis L. Carsten, of London University, surveys the difficulties and achievements of the cultural and scientific workers among the refugees (he might have mentioned more than just the name of Dr. Ernst Boris Chain, the Russian Jew from Berlin, without whose inspired efforts penicillin, and with it the whole of today's antibiotic medicine, would have remained a mere bacteriological oddity observed by Alexander Fleming as long ago as 1928). Herbert Loebel, an engineer, tells us the history of the refugees' industrial enterprises which provided employment and business stimulation particularly in the "depressed areas".

John Willett, the well-known author of books about the Weimar era and co-editor of Brecht's works in English, writes about the arts in exile, thoroughly researched, with all the relevant names and events. He missed, however, the two series of political-musical cabaret revues produced throughout the war by the Free German League of Culture and the Austrian *Laterndl*, which are now regarded as part of theatrical history and have been much written about in Central Europe.

Conrad Pütter, who works for the *Deutsches Rundfunkarchiv in Frankfurt*, deals with the German refugees' activities at the secret British radio stations, an important factor in the Allies' psychological warfare against Nazi Germany. He forgets, regrettably, to mention one of the best-known stations, the *Soldatensender*, a joint effort of British Political Intelligence and the U.S. Office

of Strategic Services, with its clandestine headquarters at Woburn Abbey under Sefton Delmer, in the decisive last year of the war. Its success was mainly due to its clever use of what the Germans had missed since 1933: Anglo-American jazz.

What reminded me most of all of the TV film I spoke about in the beginning is the last contribution to the book, on the German Jews' "assimilation and integration" in England. This human and rather private process is analysed with academic seriousness by the German sociologist Dr. Marion Berghahn; it is the concentrate of a book she is now publishing on that subject. She makes me, as an exhibit in that science-fiction zoo, feel that I'm living the wrong way according to her theories, which tell me how to be a refugee.

We should, for instance, classify our fellow-refugees in more or less assimilated categories according to their degree of adherence to the Jewish religious rites. And if we belong to the third generation of immigrants we should feel the "distinctive urge" to differ from our English environment, while the "*gestandene*" (?) businessmen among the refugees of the first generation probably had to take jobs as "butlers".

## 180 interviews

But most of all Dr. Berghahn decides that it is our eating habits that reveal our imperfect assimilation: we have, she says, our daily main meal at lunch time and cold dinners in the evening, we prefer German dishes and dislike the famous English tea time. In short, as Dr. Berghahn seems to have discovered during her 180 interviews with refugees, we are still hankering after the good old days in good old Germany—although many of us were strikingly successful in the sphere of the "*sogenannte E-Musik*" on Radio 3, whatever that may mean. Our interest in culture, however, also reveals our continental upbringing. Fortunately, the authoress admits that one can only speculate what our marital behaviour is like, "since there are no data available".

All this is good fun (and, I think, a great help with our assimilation is a sense of humour as a common denominator of the Jewish and the English character). But there are in Dr. Berghahn's contribution some really appalling statements: that there is "open antisemitism" among the British people, "taking often quite alarming forms", and that there are, "again and again, returning antisemitic waves"—one only has to read the back numbers of *AJR Information*, she recommends, to get a "good impression" of that.

Perhaps the most damaging remark is that, although we are convinced of the basic decency of the English and believe that the liberal traditions of the country will gain the upper hand in the end, we are somewhat reluctant about it, "for after all we believed the same about Germany". In other words: watch them, these Britishers! You never know what they're up to.

But on the whole, this book is probably the most valuable and reliable of all the many publications about us (though, as a reference work, it should have a subject index). So please, let us now get out of our zoo cage, mingle quietly with the other multiracial natives, and have our big or little meals in peace, secure from the scientists' analytical gaze.

The Low cartoon that changed the tide (see above).



## AJR INTERVIEW DEPTA KANTER AT 75 HOME NEWS

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Margaret Jacoby 102

Believe it or not, this is no misprint. On May 22 Margaret Jacoby will celebrate her 102nd birthday. Though she is no longer quite as mobile as she used to be, she is still as active as we have known her throughout the years. Many admire her vigour when she attended the Hanukka Party of the AJR Club. The guests at Arnold Horwell's birthday party enjoyed her brief speech off the cuff as the oldest friend of his family and the cordiality of her birthday article in honour of her second-in-command, Dora Segall, to appear in next month's issue, testify to her irrepressible spirit. While these occasions become known to a wider circle, mention must also be made of her undiminished day-to-day work, where she gives guidance to the work of the Club and keeps up contact with individual members, never forgetting to congratulate them on their birthdays. Now it is our turn to extend our congratulations to her, in gratitude and admiration and full of good wishes for the future.

### FORGED LETTERS SENT TO MPs

Letters purporting to come from Ajex and Woburn House are currently the subject of police investigation. Addressed to MPs at the House of Commons, the circular letter runs: "British Jews live in an increasingly dangerous atmosphere created by anti-Zionist and antisemitic forces in Great Britain... the Jewish community is not prepared to yield to such threats." After naming ten MPs whose activities are "dangerous to the Jewish community", the letter continues, "You are in a position to persuade the voters to stop supporting those MPs. We believe that no MP should decline responsibility for protecting the Jewish community". Ajex has sent disclaimers to all parliamentary parties and is firmly denying that it has any connection whatsoever with the letter.

### BRITONS FOR ISRAEL HOTELS

Six Devonian students will be working in Herzlia this summer. They are learning catering at South Devon College of Arts and Technology under Leslie Retallick, who last year struck up a friendship with a team of Israeli chefs attending the Torquay International Gastronomic Festival. After approaching the local Jewish community, the Israeli Embassy and the Zionist Organisation, Mr Retallick was able to organise classes in Hebrew and lectures on the State of Israel for his students before they leave for their temporary posts at the Hotel Sharon.

In another exchange, a hotel expert, Mr. Melvyn Greene of Surrey, was invited by the Israeli Ministry of Tourism to address the annual conference of Israeli hoteliers in Herzlia.

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### DR. SCHONFELD COMMEMORATED

An educational fund has been established in Israel to commemorate the late Rabbi Dr. Solomon Schonfeld. In recognition of his rescue of Jewish children from Nazi Europe and of his work for the Jewish Secondary Schools Movement, the fund will provide teacher training scholarships at Yeshivat Dvar Yerushalayim and also finance building there.

Dr. Schonfeld's family have indicated that their approval has not been sought or given in the matter of this fund. They are to provide their own form of commemoration.

### HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MEETING

The annual Holocaust Memorial Meeting will be held on 6 May at the Savoy Theatre at 3 p.m. The guest of honour will be the Israeli Ambassador, Mr. Yehuda Avner. Tickets can be obtained by writing to Ajex, Ajex House, East Bank, London, N16, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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### SURVIVOR'S MEMOIRS CONVINCED DOUBTER

Mrs. Jolan Grossmann could not convince Alison Benstead, her young English teacher, that the horrors she had heard of Nazi occupation were the bare truth. So she asked her, "If I write my memoirs, will you believe it?". After helping 81-year-old Mrs. Grossmann to prepare her work for publication, Alison is quite convinced. And it is indeed a varied story. Born in Hungary, Jolan Grossmann was deported from Budapest but managed to escape to a peasant family, then walked back to the capital, having obtained false papers. Her husband had already been taken and died in Buchenwald, and she herself lost one hundred relatives in the Holocaust.

After the war, she was reunited with her daughter Judith and the pair made their way to England. But Judith married a Hungarian and returned to her native country. Conditions grew harder for them and at the time of the Hungarian Rising in 1956 the family managed to get back to England. Mrs Grossmann was then in America, but she had a new reunion with her daughter when she returned to Wembley in 1972. She leads an active life, swimming each week, attending English language classes and now looking for a publisher.

### DAUGHTER ACCEPTS MEDAL

Dr. Ludwig Zurowski was the Polish medical officer of wartime Cracow and used his position to help the Jews held in the city's ghetto. He smuggled in hairdye, so that grey-haired men could pass themselves off as "arbeitsfähig" and took in jars of fat and sugar, saying that they were medicine. He carried messages and insisted on employing a Jewish doctor to help him in medical work in the ghetto. Although suspected and beaten by the Gestapo, Dr. Zurowski survived the war.

Today his daughter Alina Zurowska-Lichtarowicz, also a doctor, practises in Nottingham. She still remembers the horrors she saw as a child in Cracow and the bravery of her father and mother. Recently she travelled to London, where the Israeli Ambassador presented her with the Medal of the Righteous Gentile awarded by Yad Vashem to her late father in recognition of his efforts to save the Jews of Cracow at the risk of his own life. For Dr. Lichtarowicz the honour was quite unexpected—her father had always dismissed praise of his acts with the words "It was my duty".

### UHLMAN'S COLLECTION

Fred Uhlman, the noted artist, who is also an AJR member, has been collecting African sculpture for the last 50 years, and he has donated his outstanding collection of some 70 pieces to Newcastle University, where it will be displayed in the Hatton Gallery. When he left Germany in 1933, Uhlman first took refuge in Paris, where he decided to abandon his conventional career as a lawyer and became an artist, and it was in Paris that he started his collection.

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## AJR INTERVIEW

## BERTA KANTER AT 75

However fresh and exciting an idea may be when it is born, after half-a-century of the rough and tumble of the real world, it is usually worn and stale from use and abuse. Not so in the case of Youth Aliyah. It was a brilliant idea then. It worked. And it is alive and filling the needs of the present and the immediate future.

Berta Kanter, who turned 75 in April, can look back on the full fifty years, to those tense and anxious beginnings when the urgent task was to get Jewish children out of Germany, and a Berlin rabbi's wife, Recha Freier, launched the idea. From a Berlin railway platform swarming with SS men, Berta Kanter waved off the first group of 43 children; they arrived in Palestine in 1934, at Kibbutz Ein Harod in the Jezreel Valley. The first batch were children from the middle class, but as the pressure grew children from all classes were taken and sent out; in the end no child was ever refused. German-Jewish children were first, but as the calamitous events of the 'thirties marched on to the outbreak of war, Austrian, Czech and Polish children came into Youth Aliyah care, and after the war the migrations from North Africa, Yemen and Russia brought their waves of children in need.

Mrs. Kanter was sent to London in 1934 to explain the problems of saving the children to the Women's Appeal Committee, and to organise support, and she has been at it ever since. Three youth conferences were held in the 'thirties, and committees were set up in Holland and France. Some 800 children a year were sent to Palestine in the years leading up to the Second World War. For the most part they were trained and educated in the kibbutzim, which were welcoming and helpful.

The post-war period presented quite different challenges and problems. First there were the child survivors, and then the great new waves of immigration from the Jewish communities of the Arab countries. Youth Aliyah adapted itself to their special needs. This consisted fundamentally in educating these children for life in a modern westernised society, in providing them with the attitudes and skills for coping and adjusting and working.

Youth Aliyah has made a point of teaching children in small groups, in shaping the curriculum to suit the special needs of its charges, in making a—remarkably successful—effort to bring out the best, the genuine potential, in each individual. This has been done no matter how low down in the educational scale the child is upon arrival, or how complicated his or her emotional or social problems may be. Disadvantaged Israeli children from families which cannot cope also come into the Youth Aliyah net. There are cases of immigrant children from very primitive backgrounds who have to be taught the use of a chair and a bed, a knife and a fork. As is well known, the Israeli Army has an important educative function, but it only takes literates, and Youth Aliyah does the groundwork for them.

The most recent arrivals are Falasha children from Ethiopia, who are integrating slowly but surely.



Berta Kanter

It is probably no exaggeration to say that Youth Aliyah is one of the most successful large-scale experiments in modern education. Over 200,000 children have been cared for by Youth Aliyah; one in twenty of the Israeli population is a former Youth Aliyah child. The efforts of the Committee for Great Britain and Ireland concentrate on five Youth Aliyah villages: Talpiot, Yemin Orde (named for Orde Wingate), Nitzanim, Neve Hadassah and Alonei Yitzhak.

Together with Mrs. Lola Hahn-Warburg, Mrs. Kanter arranges auctions at Christie's of donated works of art, with the proceeds divided equally between Youth Aliyah and the Save the Children Fund.

### On AJR Executive

Mrs. Kanter has served on the AJR Executive, leaving it as she has reached her three-quarters-of-a-century. She had been happy to do what she could to help the AJR fulfil its invaluable role in uniting the community and caring for its older members. She had, for example, organised the donations which had facilitated the installation of inter-communicating telephones in Osmond House.

It is not easy to draw her out about the personal side of her life, her two sons, successful in their respective occupations, and her five grandchildren, all of them a close-knit family. Her conversation always returns to her work, and even then, self-effacingly to the achievements of others. It was the World Head of Youth Aliyah who said, when presenting her with its Gold Medallion, that "We all know what you have done for Youth Aliyah during the fifty years of its existence. I thank you for your devotion, your hard work and your loyalty from the very beginning to this unique family." She herself only says that "It has given me more than I have ever given."

### A BAVARIAN-JEWISH RELIC

Hans-Rainer Hofmann is probably the only mayor of a German town who speaks Yiddish—or at least a closely related language. He and a couple of dozen inhabitants of the little Bavarian town of Schopfloch (pop. 2,500) are the last heirs of a centuries-old tradition. Somewhat strangely, although the language—Lachoudisch—is Jewish in origin, not one of its speakers is a Jew. It was brought to Schopfloch with the town's first Jewish settlers in the early 16th century, many of them cattle dealers who found it helpful in keeping their dealings secret. But in Schopfloch it was not just the Jews who spoke Lachoudisch. Their Gentile neighbours learnt the secret tongue and it gradually became a second language for the villagers, not meant to be understood by outsiders.

One day whilst Mayor Hofmann was in a public-house, he heard the words, "Der Schoufett hockt im Juschbess und kippt sein Ranze voll". Coming from neighbouring Ansbach, he could not understand what was meant but had an uneasy feeling that some of the older people nearby were talking about him. Only later, when he had learnt Lachoudisch, were the words clear: "The Mayor (Schoufett is the Hebrew *shofet*, judge or magistrate) is sitting in the pub and drinking his bellyfull".

As so often in such stories, the survival of Lachoudisch—despite its importance for cultural historians and etymologists—was discovered by pure chance. Some years ago an Israeli diplomat spent the night in a Schopfloch hotel. He was astonished to find that the waitress understood what his children were saying in Hebrew. After he had passed on the story to an Israeli TV journalist, a documentary film was made in the village and aroused much interest in Israel.

### Lachoudisch Society late

Lachoudisch vocabulary clearly shows what the historic Jewish population thought of their Christian neighbours. "Church" is "tum" (from the Hebrew for "unclean"), a policeman is "sinem" (hated man) and a priest is "gallach" (shaven one). At Carnival time, Schopfloch children still sing a rhyme containing some Lachoudisch words, but the language will soon disappear, even as the Jews of Schopfloch have disappeared. Mayor Hofmann's attempt to found a Lachoudisch Society has failed; there are simply not enough people who speak the language. An American press report rightly said that the attempt came ten years too late: it was the people born about 1900 who knew Lachoudisch as a living dialect and they are dying out.

The last Jews of Schopfloch vanished in the thirties, some to exile abroad, some to deportation. None of them returned. Even before the Third Reich period, their numbers were fast declining; 150 years ago the community was some 400 strong, or almost a quarter of the population, but by 1933 there were only 37 Jews in Schopfloch. The site of the synagogue, destroyed in 1938, has never been built on, but the Jewish cemetery was restored after the war. That is the only memorial to this Bavarian community: that and a few last words of Lachoudisch.

## NEWS FROM ABROAD

### ENCOURAGING TRENDS IN US

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith recently published its annual report concerning anti-semitic incidents in the United States. This shows an encouraging decline in such events over the past few years:

In 1981 there were 974 incidents, (number of assaults or threats not shown for this year), 10 cases of arson, 4 bombings and 15 cemetery desecrations. In 1982 there were 829 incidents, 593 assaults or threats, 7 cases of arson, 3 bombings and 15 desecrations. In 1983 there were 670 incidents, 350 assaults, 3 cases of arson, no bombings, and 9 desecrations.

Virtually all the perpetrators were found to be youths or children, not attached to any organisation. The ADL ascribes the decline to stricter enforcement of existing laws, the introduction of new laws in a number of states directed against vandalism linked to religious or racial prejudice, growing public antipathy to such acts and a general decline in lawbreaking in the USA over the past year.

Not such cheering news comes from a similar report issued by the Centre for Information and Documentation on Israel, based in The Hague. It had found 60 cases of antisemitism in Holland during 1983, including statements by government ministers and officials, the distribution of anti-Jewish stickers and badges, and the publication of antisemitic books.

### PRESSURE ON WARSAW GHETTO MAN

The last surviving leader of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, Dr. Marek Edelman, is again facing a clash with the Polish authorities. He was arrested in 1981, but released after Western protests. Last year, he characterised the official ceremonies at the 40th anniversary of the Uprising as "cynical and contemptuous", completely opposed to the aims of the Ghetto fighters. He was accordingly forbidden to leave Lodz, where he is director of an intensive care unit, until the ceremonies had ended. Now the Polish hospital service is calling for Dr. Edelman's early retirement: he still has twelve months to go before reaching 65, the compulsory retirement age. Lodz doctors and patients are protesting against the pressure now being exerted against their fellow-citizen.

### SWEDISH SUGGESTIONS FOR PEACE PRIZE

Two recommendations for this year's Nobel Peace Prize have recently been submitted by Swedish members of parliament. Ten MPs suggest that Elie Wiesel, the Hungarian-born chairman of the US President's Commission on the Holocaust, should be so honoured, whilst another four Social Democrats have offered the Peace Now movement as a suitable candidate.

### SALT LAKE CITY FEARS ITS MARTYR

The age-old conflict between an established religion and a thorny conscience is exemplified by the life and death of Helmut Hueberer. As a boy of sixteen living in Nazi Hamburg, he was one of the 15,000 Mormons living in the Third Reich. One tenet of the Mormon religion is to obey "kings, presidents, rulers and magistrates" and accordingly the Elders of the Hamburg church set up the required notice: "Jews forbidden to enter here".

Ashamed of this act, Hueberer and two of his friends began active Resistance work, illicitly producing anti-Nazi material on the church's typewriter and duplicator. In 1942, the three youths were betrayed and tortured: the two others were sent to a concentration camp, but Hueberer was executed—not, however, before he had been excommunicated as a heretic by the Mormon church.

Now a play on this theme is being performed to full houses in Salt Lake City, the centre of the Mormon movement. Some years ago, a similar play was suppressed by the Elders and the present production is never mentioned in the official daily paper.

Both Hueberer's comrades survived and now live in Salt Lake City, like many other German Mormons who emigrated after 1945. They were attacked by anonymous letters and telephone calls at the time of the first play about Hueberer. One of them, Rudy Wobbe, says that he has been told by Thomas Monson, one of the Elders, that there were fears for East Germany's 4,000 Mormons if any young man there tried to follow the martyrs' example.

Concerning the whole question of Helmut Hueberer, Monson is quoted as saying: "Who knows who was right or wrong? I don't know what we accomplish by dredging these things up . . .".

### ACTIVE FRENCH NATIONAL FRONT

Recent French municipal elections have produced cheering results for the French National Front Party and its leader Jean-Marie Le Pen. In a subsequent TV interview he was told that he scared people and he should define himself. Le Pen replied: "I am accused of racism, fascism, anti-semitism. This is a disinformation manoeuvre by the Communist press . . . a mask put over my face." Asked about his relationship to Nazism, he said that in backing the dissemination of records reproducing Hitler's speeches and Nazi songs his aim was to give a real image of the past. It was scandalous that his portrait had been juxtaposed to one of Hitler. Accusations of antisemitism were "intellectual terrorism".

At a separate press interview, Le Pen declared that he would "drop down dead" if accused to his face of racism—"it's such a terrible charge". This did not deter him from referring to North African immigrants as "unemployed parasites swelling France's crime rate" nor from remarking that he was not obliged to love such Jews as Marc Chagall, Pierre Mendès-France or Simone Veil.

Under the pretext of "exposure", the National Front Party paper "Present" has recently reprinted an antisemitic leaflet denying the Holocaust, calling Israel a threat to peace and demanding the expulsion of the Jews and Blacks. The wide dissemination of such leaflets is causing grave anxiety to French Jewry.

At a public meeting in Paris a few weeks ago, Le Pen encouraged the audience to shout and jeer at Jewish names. A mention of Simone Veil provoked the cry "To the gas ovens", while a reference to the Archbishop of Paris, a converted Jew, was greeted by "Death to the Jews".

### SPERBER PRIZE IN AUSTRIA

Following the death of Manès Sperber, the Austrian government has inaugurated a cultural prize in his honour to the value of about £3,500. The first of the annual awards will be made in 1985.

### ANNE FRANK ON DUTCH STAGE

Princess Margriet and her family attended the première of "The Diary of Anne Frank", a new production of the dramatised version not seen in Holland for over 20 years. Otto Frank's widow also came from Basle to see the play, which was put on in Amstelveen, a district of Amsterdam.

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## NEW USES FOR OLD LIBELS

In 1976, Stephen Knight published "Jack the Ripper: The Final Solution", in which he maintained the thesis that the prostitute victims of 1888 had been murdered by an eminent physician to protect the British throne—the mutilated women, he said, had known that Queen Victoria's grandson had illegally married a Roman Catholic. It might be thought that such a tale contained every titillating ingredient for a best-seller—sex, sadism, venal doctors, scandal in high places, the Royal Family and, most fashionable of all, "cover-ups". But the author was not quite content. One chapter dealt with "The Protocols of the Freemasons . . . published by Eyre & Spottiswoode in 1920". According to Knight, these protocols prescribed "ritual murder" and he provided some quotations which, as might be guessed, were simply taken from the old discredited calumny "The Protocols of Zion". Indeed, to banish any doubt, the index to "Jack the Ripper" carried the relevant entry "The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion".

In his latest book (*The Brotherhood: The Secret World of the Freemasons*, Granada Publishing, London, £8.95), Stephen Knight does not perpetrate anything quite so blatant, although he summarises his earlier work and repeats his former charges, including that of ritual murder by mutilation.

The largest section of "The Brotherhood" deals with alleged police corruption arising out of Freemasonry. Later parts relate to the judiciary, the legal profession, the City and other areas. No doubt the author really was told many tales of favouritism shown to Masons within the police force—accelerated or undeserved promotion, failure to prosecute criminal Masons and so on—and some, at least, may be true. No one, except perhaps Mr. Knight, believes Masons to be more than human. He is also careful to detail more favourable opinions, both by Freemasons and outsiders, and to discredit some rumours of conspiracy.

### Casting suspicion

But with such a subject, suspicion is easy to cast. In the course of his investigation, the author circularised judges, asking if they were "members of the Brotherhood". He writes:

"Sir John Donaldson, before he succeeded Lord Denning, a non-Mason, as Master of the Rolls, told me: 'I do not really feel that the question of whether or not I am a Mason is a matter of public concern . . . It is a totally irrelevant consideration in our work'. Sir John's wife is tipped as the first woman Lord Mayor of London, an office that membership of the Brotherhood is usually helpful in obtaining."

The earlier chapters show some more of the author's methods. For example, "The Thirty-Third Degree" gives (without source) a list of romantic titles—Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, Patriarch Noachite, Sublime Elect—of which all but three are said to be beyond the jurisdiction of the United Grand Lodge: ". . . even the majority of Freemasons have no idea of their existence". Why, then, should Stephen Knight note with apparent surprise that Sir Ralph Hone, formerly "the most senior Freemason of the 33rd Degree in England and Wales", did not refer to

Freemasonry in his "Who's Who" entry? He sets out Sir Ralph's record of public service, mainly in the former Empire—Attorney General of Uganda, Governor of North Borneo, Constitutional Adviser to the Bermuda Government and many other responsible posts—and continues in an accusing tone. "This, then, was the man who [formerly] was truly Britain's highest Freemason . . ." Subliminal denunciation, too, is to be heard in the single sentence on Churchill: "The next twenty years maintained this rate of growth with Lodge No. 3000 opening in 1903, in which year Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, the MP for Oldham, was initiated to a masonic career that was to last more than sixty years".

### Strange sources

In the longest chapter in the book, "The Devil in Disguise?", Knight draws on "Darkness Visible" by Walton Hannah, and the bibliography refers to Hannah's later work "Christian by Degrees", published by the fascist Britons Publishing house in 1954. (One of the difficulties in "The Brotherhood" is that very few specific sources are given and the reader must, with all caution, take every statement whence it comes). In this chapter Stephen Knight tells us that Freemasonry, far from uniting all believers in a Supreme Being regardless of their formal faith, in fact has its own sinister Masonic God. "The true name, although not the nature of the Masonic God is revealed only to [certain] Third Degree Masons . . . In the ritual of exaltation, the name of the Great Architect of the Universe is revealed as Jah-Bul-On . . ." Jah is said to represent Jahweh, Bul equals Baal and On is Osiris. After this disclosure, he tells us:

"But more recently, within a hundred years of the creation of the Freemason's God, the sixteenth-century demonologist John Weir identified Baal as a devil . . . A description of Baal to be found in de Plancy's *Dictionary of Witchcraft* is particularly apposite when considered in the light of the secretive and deceptive nature of Freemasonry: his voice was raucous, and he taught his followers guile, cunning and the ability to become invisible."

And Knight brings another witness, "the renowned masonic author and historian General Albert Pike", who in 1873 wrote that he was disgusted and disquieted by the name "in part composed of the name of an accursed and beastly heathen god, whose name has been for more than two thousand years an appellation of the Devil".

### Conspiracy fodder

Following this section, which goes on to describe Christian attitudes and experiences relating to Masonry, we find a few short chapters on the "P 2" case in Italy, the alleged involvement of the KGB and a repetition of Chapman Pincher's attack on Sir Roger Hollis—all good "conspiracy" fodder.

Stephen Knight's earlier book was a best-seller and the present work may well become another, appealing as it does to the prejudices of the moment and some which are more deeply-seated. Perhaps the author's own secret is revealed in his

prologue; here he tells how "The Brotherhood" was originally commissioned by the New English Library, subsequently taken over by Hodder & Stoughton. The latter firm was headed by Philip and Michael Attenborough, sons of a Freemason. Anxious not to distress their father, they decided not to publish the book. Knight's comment is:

"If the incident does not demonstrate the direct power of Freemasonry over the Fourth Estate, it does offer a vivid example of the devotion that Freemasonry so often inspires in its initiates, a devotion that is nothing less than religious. So it was that the Attenboroughs made their decision to throw away £8,000 in advance royalties and thousands more in legal fees and in terms of time spent on the project by the editorial, design, subsidiary rights, promotion, sales and other departments rather than wound their father."

Money comes easily to a man for whom filial affection weighs but a feather against the pure gold of the promotion department's expenses.

J. LANGMAID

### US HOLOCAUST COMMISSION REPORT

The report of the American Jewish Commission on the Holocaust has now been completed. The Commission, chaired by Arthur J. Goldberg, sat for over two years; last year a preliminary report highly critical of American Jewish leaders during World War II led to an interruption in its work. At that time, two of the most outspoken critics resigned—one of them, Samuel Merlin, had written the controversial report. The present author is Professor Seymour M. Finger of the City University of New York.

The conclusions reached by the Commission are that in the period 1933–1941 the lives of hundreds of thousands of European Jews could have been saved by more forceful action on the part of American Jewish organisations. But it gives some of the reasons for the failure to act effectively: massive unemployment following the Depression which led to a fear of large-scale immigration; the idea that, given public antisemitism and resistance to immigration, any move to liberalise entry by Jews into the US might lead to a backlash and even tighter restrictions. The American Jewish Committee and B'nai B'rith continued behind-the-scenes, gentlemanly prodding of sympathetic Government officials, without realising that these conventional efforts were leading nowhere. On the other hand, the American Jewish Congress called for more energetic action, such as street demonstrations and boycotts.

Many American Jews, the report states, were influenced by three basic misconceptions: that Nazism was not essentially different from historic forms of antisemitism, which had allowed Jews to survive in the past; that there was no point in trying to negotiate with Hitler's allies and satellites; and that the US and British Governments "would give the rescue of Jews a serious priority". On the contrary, it is noted, neither Government made any real attempt to rescue Jews until very late in the war, and both "actually obstructed such attempts by others".

Few will quarrel with Mr. Goldberg's own words, quoted in the "New York Times": "As much as it hurts me to have to say it, we didn't do enough. Nobody did enough".

## OBITUARIES

### BENNY BRENT

A German-Jewish refugee who settled in York, H. S. (Benny) Brent died a few weeks ago. Secretary of the York Anglo-Israel Friendship Society, Mr. Brent had done much to cement relationships between the Jewish and Christian communities of his adopted city. He had been the moving spirit behind a competition to sponsor York sixth-formers for holiday work on a kibbutz.

### MAJOR SAMUEL WEISER

Samuel Weiser, a former British army officer deeply committed to the cause of Israel, has died in London at the age of 81. During the Second World War, as a member of the British Military Mission in Moscow, he smuggled Jewish survivors to the West in Allied Liberty ships, without the knowledge of his superiors. Later he held meetings at Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park, where he spoke vigorously in the Zionist-Revisionist interest, explaining the reasons for Jewish militancy in Palestine. He toured North America appealing for funds to arm Israel, and recruited for a Hebrew Legion destined to fight the Arab invasion. In his later years, Major Weiser returned to the Soviet Union to make contact with the refuseniks and to see how they could be helped.

### RABBI ALBERT PAPPENHEIM

A leading member of the Canadian Jewish community, Rabbi Albert Pappenheim has died at the age of 62. A native of Frankfurt, he escaped to Britain and during the Second World War was transferred from internment to Canada. At the time of his death, Rabbi Pappenheim was chairman of the Ontario Rabbinical Assembly.

### DR. LESLIE EDGAR

London-born Dr. Leslie I. Edgar has died, aged 78. Since 1961, when he retired on health grounds, Dr. Leslie had been the First Rabbi emeritus of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue. During the thirties, his name was associated with that of Rabbi Mattuck in helping Jewish refugees to escape from Germany and settle in England.

### DAVID BROWN

Founder-editor of the "Sheffield Jewish Journal", David Brown has died in his 75th year. He was a prominent member of many Jewish organisations within the city and in the 30s had been active in assisting Jewish refugees to leave Germany and settle in Sheffield.

### PASTOR MARTIN NIEMÖLLER

Martin Niemöller, a famous name of the Protestant resistance to Hitler, died recently in Wiesbaden at the age of 92. He was a U-boat commander in the First World War, a founder of the Confessing Church in Germany, and he was imprisoned for eight years in various concentration camps. Although honoured after the end of the war, he acknowledged his own inadequacy in the statement: "The Nazis came for the Jews and I said nothing; they came for the communists and I said nothing; then they came for the liberals and still I said nothing. Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak up for me."

### GROSS STREHLITZ

The Association of former inhabitants of the Upper Silesian district centre of Gross Strehlitz meet every two years in Soest/Westfalen, the next meeting being in May 1985. The son of the former Protestant pastor of the town, Mr. Wolfram Rudel, would like to contact former Jewish citizens of Gross Strehlitz, particularly the son of the former Rabbi, Isidor Feinberg, and Siegfried Rosenberg (both born, like Mr. Rudel, about 1918). The family doctor was Dr. Susmann Koenig, the grocers Adolf (Abraham) Schoenguth and Jonas Jacobsohn. Other former citizens are asked to contact him as well, for a possible reunion. Write to: Wolfram Rudel, Im Mühlenfeld 20, 2852 Bederkesa, West Germany.

### OFFENBACH'S ADDRESS LIST

The town of Offenbach on Main has produced an address list of former Jewish citizens. 180 names are given in the 21-page booklet, one-half of whom are to be found in the United States. 25 addresses in Great Britain are given, some 30 in Israel and the rest are spread throughout the world. The booklet comes free from the Presse- und Informationsamt, Stadthof 15, D-6050 Offenbach/Main, and the compilers will be grateful for amendments or further information.

### OBENER KUHBURG RELICS WANTED

With the aim of teaching recent history to today's young people, a memorial museum is to be opened in November 1984 on the site of the former concentration camp Oberer Kuhberg in Ulm/Donau. A permanent exhibition, library and archive will be maintained there. Dr. Walter Wuttke, Syrlinstr. 19, D-7900 Ulm/Donau, would be grateful for the receipt of any relevant documents or photographs.



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## SEARCH FOR ROOTS

## FAMOUS WORMS MACHZOR

## THE REST OF THE FAMILY

I was born comfortably and safely in Streatham, London, just before the war, of continental parents, and it has taken me all this time to discover the important fact that I am a survivor of the Holocaust.

My father died when I was a child. I did not know any of his side of the family, only that he had had thirteen brothers and sisters; that two of his sisters had married and gone to South America, and that everyone else including my grandparents had vanished in the Holocaust.

Throughout my adolescence and my early married life, I was not particularly affected by this; I was too busy to worry about the unknown dead. But, as I grow older, and as a student of the Spiro Institute for Modern Jewish History, I began to get curious about my roots. Every time I went to Beth Hatfutsot (The Museum of the Diaspora) I would key into the computer variations of what I thought was the name of the *shtetl* my father had originated from, but to no avail. Looking at pre-war maps of Europe didn't help: either my childhood recollection was faulty or the place was much too small for any but an ordnance survey map. But I did not give up.

Last year, helped by the AJR, and others, I spent four weeks at Yad Vashem on a "Teaching the Holocaust" Course. The course is a story all to itself, but being on top of the archives of Yad

Vashem made me wonder if I could try a different direction and see if my grandmother, or grandfather, who had vanished in the war, might appear on a *Daf Eidut* (Page of Testimonial) and one free afternoon I thought I would spend half an hour on this probably fruitless search.

I smiled at the Librarian at her desk and gave her my maiden name. If my grandparents' names appear, perhaps I could photocopy the page, I said. She asked me the name of the town. "Ah, there's the rub", I said, and explained my quest. She told me she would be two or three minutes, but the time passed and it was twenty minutes before she returned, carrying a large sheaf of papers. "Sit at the desk", she suggested "and I will bring you a drink of water." "Oh no, just give me the page and I will photocopy it and I am not thirsty, just in a hurry". She ushered me firmly to a desk, switched on the light, put the sheaf of papers in front of me and told me she was bringing me the water I most emphatically did not want.

## Her own name

It was obvious that what she had brought me must have been all the letter "S's" of that particular area and I would have to forego the delights of the Old City of Jerusalem and sift through them to see if my family name appeared. The top page brought a chill to my heart: my name sprang out at me. But I am alive, why am I on the page testifying to my murder in a concentration camp? I looked at the next page: my brother's names were there, Avraham Menachem. My brother, alive, thank God, and living in Israel; how could he be on such a sheet? I rifled through the pages, the sweat of terror running down my face, and then I understood. My father had been one of a family of fourteen children and we were not the only ones named after long deceased great grandparents.

Over and over our names appeared, with others, all bearing the same surname, all from that small *shtetl* I had tried to trace with so little success.

## Responsibilities

And as I read page after page, 200 odd, I wept, and a grief, the like of which I had never felt before, spread throughout my being, and when the Librarian silently handed me the glass of water, which she knew I would need, I drank and accepted her comforting arm. How I wished then that I was a man so that at least I could say Kaddish for my murdered family, for those 200 odd souls whose names survive in my brother and the generations that will come after him.

I had the sheets photocopied. I decided not to look at them until I returned home, and once here, I put them in a drawer. Every now and then I open the drawer, I look at the page on top and slowly shut the pages of testimony of the destruction of my family away from sight. One day, I will have the strength of mind to look at them carefully and sadly learn of my roots and realise the responsibility that both my brother and I bear of being the survivors.

CHANA FINKLESTONE

## 28TH BIRTHDAY-BRING-AND-BUY-SALE OF THE AJR CLUB

Nobody wanted it. But I did. It is the Club's traditional event. And the result: A big success. The largest amount of money we have ever realised.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the outstanding organisation of the three "Ws": foremost to Mrs. Maria Wilson with her family and then to Mrs. Lolli Walter and Miss Irma Woodman. Our heartfelt thanks also go out to the crowd of helpers, downstairs and upstairs and to the many donors for their gifts. It gave me much pleasure to watch everybody buying and selling in high spirits. £200 of the proceeds have been sent to the Ahavah Children's Home in Israel.

MARGARET JACOBY

## MANCHESTER MUSEUM OPEN

The Jewish Lord Mayor of Manchester, Dr. Michael Taylor, expressed his extreme pleasure and pride when opening the city's new Jewish Museum. The exhibition, housed in the former Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, Cheetham Hill Road, will not be quite complete until the end of this year, but it is already open to the public. The intention is not to restrict the display narrowly to Manchester Jewry, but to let it reflect the spectrum of Jewish society in Britain.

## EXTREMIST POSTERS ALLOWED

Despite protests, the Munich authorities have decided that the right-wing NDP may display election posters in the square dedicated to the victims of Nazism. In principle, the protesters were told, the posters may only be removed if they are actually causing obstruction.

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## STORY OF FAMOUS WORMS MACHZOR

A facsimile edition of the 650-year old Worms Machzor is to be published in London.

Probably the oldest known Ashkenazi High Holyday Prayer Book still in existence, it is considered one of the most important, rare and beautiful Machzorim of Ashkenazi Jewry. It was completed in 1272 in the Rhine area of Germany and was held in the hands of the cantors of the Worms Synagogue for over 650 years.

It is written on large sheets of parchment in calligraphic scripts with vowels. The pages are illustrated with illuminations which mirror the community's life and thought of the times. On the images of human figures are heads of birds wrapped in Jewish head coverings typical of that time. Also drawn in the Machzor are animals, some of them primeval, as well as illustrations of scenes from the text itself.

While the second commandment prohibited Jews to create images, a ban which often resulted in poor artistic production, the Worms Machzor displays a bold scheme of decoration. It was handwritten by the scribe Simhah bar Judah and intended for the use of his uncle, Rabbi Baruch bar Isaac of Nuremberg. It was meant for the use of hazanim (cantors), which explains its large size, so that it could be read from the bimah in the synagogue, from a distance.

The Machzor is an important source for the study of Jewish art, liturgy and pronunciation of Hebrew in medieval Germany as well as of medieval Hebrew poetry. It is the earliest documentation of written Yiddish to be found and—according to experts—one hundred and ten years earlier than the oldest known Yiddish manuscript, representing a mixture of old German and Hebrew. The manuscript pages are crammed with glosses, notes and cantors' records, which reveal the long history and use of the prayerbook.

The two volumes of the prayer book disappeared during the Kristallnacht, when the Synagogue in Worms was destroyed by fire by the Nazis. Thanks to the interest and courage of the former Director of the cultural archives of the municipality of Worms, Dr. Friedrich M. Illert, the two Machzor volumes were saved.

While all the documents and records kept in the Jewish Museum in the entrance hall of the Syna-



Worms Machzor

gogue were destroyed by the flames, the Gestapo sent all documents in the archives of the Jewish community kept in the community centre, to Darmstadt for perusal. Amongst them were the Machzorim, which were kept in the cellar of the grand-ducal palace for examination. However, as they could not decipher the illegible and strange writing the Gestapo chiefs called in Dr. Illert for interpretation. He told them that he could not examine the archives in the dark cellar and suggested transferring them to Worms.

As a result all documents and books were handed over to Dr. Illert who took all material to Worms and stored it there together with records of the municipal archives in the towers of the Cathedral in Worms.

### To be restored

At the end of 1956 an agreement was signed between the Israel Government and various German and Jewish authorities concerning the transfer of the Machzor and the remaining archives of the Jewish community in Worms to Israel where they were deposited with the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem.

Over the years the first volume of the prayer book has deteriorated, the original structure of the codex has been completely destroyed, the margins of many of the loose leaves were worn out and some of the illustrations were damaged.

The manuscript was examined in Jerusalem by Professor Waechter, Director of the famous Restoration Institute of the Austrian National Library in Vienna. It was decided to restore the precious volume, and this work was done mainly in the restoration laboratory of the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem, but ten illuminated leaves, which needed special care, were restored in Vienna.

Upon completion of the restoration the Jewish National and University Library entered into an agreement with Cyelar Publishing Co. of London to publish a full high-quality facsimile of the first volume of the prayerbook.

WOLF S. MATSDORF

## THE ORIENTALISTS

Napoleon's ill-fated occupation of Egypt in 1798 was no success in military terms, but did result in the "mysteries" of the Near East and North Africa being opened up to western visitors and especially to artists who were fascinated by the light, landscape, townscape and street scenes with which they were totally unfamiliar. Near Eastern scenes by artists, some of whom had never even been there but used their fertile imagination and the reports of others who had been, became very popular in the West and were much sought after. These artists have been generally described as "Orientalists" and a wide selection of their work, entitled "The Orientalists: Delacroix to Matisse", European Painters in North Africa and the Near East, is now on show at the Royal Academy until 27 May 1984.

Some of these painters, like William Roberts, Edward Lear and Holman Hunt, were mainly concerned with scenery and landscape.

Other artists, such as Ingres (1780-1867), were more influenced by the mysterious and somewhat erotic aura of the Near East. His "Odalisque and Slave", for instance, clearly shows the artist's attempt to westernise an imagined Oriental theme. In fact, he never travelled outside Europe. By Renoir there is also "The Jewish Wedding (after Delacroix)" which was commissioned by an Alsatian industrialist, Jean Dolfuss. Delacroix had taken the scene from life, but Renoir did his version long before he went on his North African trip.



The Holy City by Holman Hunt

One of the most interesting pictures in the exhibition is Bauernfeind's "Lament of the Faithful at the Wailing Wall, Jerusalem". Gustav Bauernfeind (1848-1904) was born in Stuttgart, studied and practised in Munich, but visited the Near East frequently. In 1898 he settled in Jerusalem where he eventually died.

This is not an exhibition of great masterpieces, although there are many superb works on display, but is specifically designed to show the impact of the Orient upon European artistic life and development in the nineteenth century. What is surprising, however, is that there is nothing in the exhibition to indicate that the artists concerned were aware of, or in any way affected by, the treasures of Islamic art which must have been around them on their travels.

ALICE SCHWAB

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### FOUR FRIENDS

At the Marlborough, 6, Albemarle St, W1, there is an exhibition (until 12 May) of Portraits and Self-Portraits by Arikha, Auerbach, Freud and Kitaj. These are all works executed in recent years by these artists, who are all foreign-born friends.

### GLASS ROOTS IN FRANKFURT

Felicity "Fay" Peck is known to many charitable organisations for her generous gifts of cut glass to adorn bazaar stalls and tempt buyers. Her late father owned a glass works in Frankfurt and moved to Britain in the thirties, where he again began working with glass in a Watford factory. After his death Fay took over and now has 50 cutters and polishers working under her. She hopes that her son and daughter will follow her into the business. Some years ago, Mrs. Peck was so successful in exporting her creatively cut glass to America that she was honoured with the award of the MBE.

### FAMILY EVENTS

*Entries in this column are free of charge, but voluntary donations would be appreciated. Texts should reach us by the 10th of the preceding month.*

#### Engagement

**Singer-Meier:**—We are happy to announce the engagement of Helen Jane, daughter of Peter and Hanna Singer, Harrow Weald, to Jonathan Philip, son of Trude and Arnold Meier, Manchester.

#### Birthdays

**Jacoby:**—Warmest congratulations to our dearly loved Chairman, Mrs. Margaret Jacoby on her 102nd birthday! We are deeply grateful for her ever active interest in our well-being and that of her Club. May she remain so incredibly young for many years to come! The members of the AJR Club.

**Roloff:**—Kate Roloff, Wembley Park, celebrates her 80th birthday on 11 May. Congratulations and best wishes to our dear friend, Ruth, Barbara and Bill.

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### VIENNA MUSICIAN HOUNDED

Following critical attacks by the press and the Austrian Minister of Culture, French-born Lorin Maazel has resigned as director of the Vienna State Opera. Neo-Nazis took up the purely artistic criticisms and packed parts of the Opera House with a claque which booed the director whenever he appeared in public.

### DOUBTFUL HONOUR FOR HEINE

Despite protests from the PEN-Centre of German-Speaking Authors Abroad and others, the town of Nordeney had set up a Heinrich Heine memorial from the hand of Arno Breker. The town wished to honour the poet's memory—Heine was a visitor to the North Sea resort—but the involvement of Breker, one of the Third Reich's most esteemed sculptors, was seen as an affront. The PEN-Centre has criticised a growing practice in West Germany of rehabilitating former supporters of Nazism.

In 1979, Heine's birthplace Düsseldorf rejected

a memorial made by Breker because of the outcry over the sculptor's past. Other works of his have recently been seen in a Düsseldorf exhibition entitled "Sculpture and Power" which displayed many of the stiffly over-muscled figures of the thirties and forties.

### RESEARCH IN DUISBURG

Students in the Department of Jewish History and Religion in the University of Duisburg who are doing research on the Jewish communities of the area would be grateful for recollections (and perhaps documentary material) from former citizens of Dinslaken, Duisburg, Gelsenkirchen, Moers und linker Niederrhein, Oberhausen and Wesel, especially during the Nazi period. Interested readers could take up contact in the first place with the head of the department, Dr. Brocke, who will put them in touch with the individual students: Dr. Michael Brocke, Fachbereich 1, Universität Duisburg, D-4100 Duisburg 1, West Germany.

### Deaths

**Cohn:**—Dr. Hans M. Cohn died after a long illness on 16 March 1984, aged 83. He was much loved and is deeply mourned by his wife, family and many friends.

**Guttfeld:**—Frank Guttfeld, formerly Berlin, died on 28 March. Sadly missed by his wife Marie, son Frank Alan, daughter-in-law Marsha, and grandchildren Richard, Linda, Liza, Robert and Frederick.

**Moses:**—Meinhard Moses died peacefully on 27 March at the age of 97. He will be deeply missed by his daughter Karla, family and friends.

**Ruhm:**—Hilda Lily Ruhm, widow of Ernst Ruhm, mother of Beate Ruhm van Oppen and Delia Walker, died peacefully in her sleep on 14 March, aged 94, at Moseley Hall Hospital, Birmingham.

**Schumann:**—Else Schumann passed away on 23 March in her 89th year, after a short illness. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her daughter and son-in-law Eva and Eric Sheldon, her four grandchildren and great-grandchildren and other relatives and friends.

**Silberberg:**—Alfred Silberberg, beloved husband of Gerta, died peacefully on 21 March 1984. He came from Breslau and has lived and worked in Leicester since 1939.

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**FELDMAN.** Siegmund and Helmut Feldman, presumed to be living in London, or their descendants, please contact Jedwiga Plodowska, Born Strasse 22, 2000 Hamburg 13.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Moshe Silverberg

Sir,—In the "Obituaries", Moshe Silverberg was mentioned. I knew him, and I am a friend of the family.

He was a great scholar and very well versed in Judaism, and apart from his Army service he helped a great many people with a discretion which was characteristic of his whole way of life.

I showed his wife your obituary, and she was overcome with emotion. She had no idea that the A.J.R. knew of his existence.

It is true that as an interpreter, amongst other things, in the British Army, he helped many displaced persons liberated from the concentration camps to get to Israel, America, Great Britain and elsewhere.

His wife has asked me to say that if any person from those dreadful camps who was helped by him would care to get in touch with her, she would like to hear from them, in order to know of their experiences with her husband in those years. This

would be a very great comfort to her. Her name is: Mrs. Rebecca Silverberg, 14 Glenbrook Road, West Hampstead, London. NW6 1TN. Tel: 01-794-4783.

I write this letter, because I know that *AJR Information* is read very widely in this country and abroad.

13. Avery Gardens, MORRIS FINKLETAUB  
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Ilford,  
Essex. IG2 6UJ.

## Swimmer Found

Sir,—I would like to mention that I am, or better, was the swimming companion of more than 50 years ago, whom Mr. F. Thorn mentioned in his book review "Political Cabaret Satire" in your February issue.

10 Brody Street FRITZ STOECKLER  
69 056 Tel Aviv

## HEBREW UNIVERSITY DREAM

The idea of a Hebrew University in Palestine came to Hermann Zvi Schapira, professor of mathematics at Heidelberg University, just one hundred years ago. The centenary was marked by an agreement between the two universities, which, it is hoped, will ensure co-operation in research and teaching, and further understanding between Israel and West Germany.

## JEWISH PARTISANS PRAISED

Former partisans were present at a ceremony held recently in Jerusalem, when the cornerstone was laid for an open air memorial to the communities annihilated during the Holocaust. The "Valley of the Destroyed", covering 2½ acres of Yad Vashem's grounds, will consist of hollowed-out cave formations and will take five years to complete. At the ceremony special praise was given by Mr. Itzhak Shamir to the one and a half million Jewish underground and ghetto fighters against the Nazis.

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# THEATRE AND CULTURE

**From the German Scene.** "Der Schein trüegt" is a new play by the amazingly-productive *Thomas Bernhard*, which when premiered at the Schauspielhaus, Bochum, brought tepid reaction in general but tremendous praise for ever-young *Bernhard Minetti*. The "grand old lady" in German films is *Kaethe Haack* (she appeared in over 240 films) who for 10 years belonged to the Gruendgens ensemble in Hamburg. Now living quietly in retirement, she gave an interview on Bavarian television, speaking about her life and work. *Carl Heinz Schroth* and *Brigitte Horney* were seen in a special "Senioren-Programm", and during a television variety show with *Ilse Werner* and *Carl Raddatz*, there was a guest appearance by *Curt Bois* who recited a story: the story of his emigration in a remarkable version interwoven with a biblical chapter of the Old Testament.

**Birthdays.** One of the best known writers of operetta libretti and cabaret lyrics, Austrian author *Hugo Wiener*, joined the Viennese octogenarians. He was co-author of many Karl Farkas revues in the "Simpl" cabaret where he also accompanied his wife, *diseuse Cissy Kraner*, at the piano. *Magda Schneider*, the film actress, in the thirties and forties partner and wife of the late *Wolf Albach-Retty* and mother of the lamented *Romy Schneider*, celebrated her 75th birthday. Long-serving baritone of the Vienna State Opera *Erich Kunz* (outstanding as *Leporello* and *Papageno*, parts he sang in many cities), also an ideal interpreter of Viennese songs, is 75.

**Obituary.** American authoress *Frances Goodrich*, whose greatest success was the dramatisation of

the "Diary of Anne Frank", on which she collaborated with her husband *Albert Hackett* in 1956, has died in New York at the age of 93.

**Daughter writes about Mother.** *Desi Halban-Kurz*, who herself became an opera singer at a very early age, has written a biography of her mother called "Selma Kurz, die Saengerin und ihre Zeit." (Published by *Belser, Stuttgart and Munich.*) The book is of particular interest to opera fans of the earlier part of this century. It is very honestly written, describing, 50 years after her mother's death, the beginnings of *Bielitz-born Selma*, who came from a poor Jewish family, and her rise to primadonna status. *Selma Kurz* was probably not a fascinating superstar in the present sense, but was for many years a firm favourite with the Viennese (to a considerable extent Jewish) audiences, and was faithful to the Vienna opera house from the *Mahler* era to 1927. *Selma Kurz*, in her day Austria's best known coloratura singer, died in 1933, only 59 years old.

S.B.

## JEW'S' COLLEGE MURAL FOR TECHNION

Now that *Jews' College* has left its former quarters in *Montague Place*, the mural which used to adorn the library has found an honoured place in *Israel*. Painted in 1957 by *Jacob Bornefrend*, the 27 foot high mural depicts all the Jewish rituals and festivals. The *British Technion Society* has arranged that it shall be shipped to *Haifa*, where it will remain on permanent loan to the *Technion*.

## PULZER'S GLADSTONE CHAIR

*Peter Pulzer* has been appointed to the *Gladstone Chair of Government and Public Administration* at *Oxford University*. He is a *Student (i.e. Fellow)* of *Christ Church College* and is an expert on modern European politics and on antisemitism. As *Gladstone professor* he will reside at *All Souls College*. Former *Gladstone professors* have been *Samuel Finer* and *Lord Beloff*. Among *Professor Pulzer's books* are *Rise of Political Antisemitism in Germany and Austria and Political Representation and Elections in Britain*. He is a contributor to *AJR Information*.

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## COLOGNE OPERA ACCLAIMED

*Cologne Opera* enjoyed vigorous public support when it visited the *Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv*. *Israelis* queued for up to six hours to obtain tickets, and *President Chaim Herzog*, with many other public figures, attended "The Magic Flute", performed in collaboration with the *Israel Philharmonic Orchestra*. At curtain-fall, there were enthusiastic scenes and a standing ovation for the singers and orchestra.

## NEW CATALOGUE OF JEWISH BOOKS

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