

# AJR INFORMATION

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Ronald Stent

## LEARNING AS PURE PLEASURE

### New Opportunity Offered by U3A

When Harold Wilson was once asked of what achievement he was proudest he pointed to the foundation of the Open University some 15 years ago. Over the last 18 months another academy intended to stimulate and broaden the fount of knowledge of the 'more mature' has mushroomed in Britain, the University of the Third Age, better known as the U3A.

But whereas the Open University is a tightly structured educational institution with its essay schedules, exams and degree awards, the U3A has been devised entirely for the creative enjoyment of its members. Oscar Wilde once said: 'the tragedy of old age is not that one is old but that one is young'. And it is to those young in spirit—regardless of the age recorded in their passports—to those who want to widen their horizons and keep their minds working smoothly, that the U3A addresses itself.

The whole idea of creating a fraternal co-operative of like-minded people started in Toulouse some ten years ago, where the first 'Université du Troisième âge' was established. It has since spread to most European countries.

It took somewhat longer for its seeds to germinate in Britain because in the field of Adult Education this country has been somewhat ahead of the others. With the Extra Mural Departments of the universities, the O.U., the W.E.A. and the various Local Education Authority facilities it already provides a rich tapestry of cultural learning opportunities.

#### Different purpose

However, the U3A is different from all of them, both in purpose and in structure. It is really more an Academy in the Greek sense in that it aims at learning for the sake of pure cognitive enrichment in a congenial social ambiance.

The London U3A began its active life early in 1983 and has since progressed in leaps and

bounds. It now has over 700 members in the Greater London area and runs some 44 different study groups. These cover a whole panoply of educational and recreational activities and include cooking, dressmaking, painting, sculpting, music making and appreciation, English literature and poetry, foreign languages, computer appreciation, environmental studies, mathematics, psychology, philosophy, politics, history and the history of art.

There are also special lectures for U3A members run by such London University colleges as Kings and Birkbeck, study trips abroad, guided museum visits and other extra-mural social activities.

#### Informal atmosphere

The whole atmosphere is very informal and unstructured. Words such as 'class', 'tutor' or 'lecturer' are taboo; there are only 'co-ordinators' guiding the 'study-groups'. The co-ordinators are usually, but not always, retired educationists with special subject knowledge. The groups meet during day time, somewhere in London University premises in Bloomsbury, for sessions usually lasting one-and-a-half hours. It is the whole group which decides at the beginning of each term, together with their co-ordinator, what particular range of topics they wish to tackle. Discussions are usually lively, often quite controversial, occasionally verging on the 'shambolic', but always stimulating and often lots of fun.

The whole organisation is being run on a shoestring, sustained not so much by the occasional and welcome contributions from commercial firms and educational establishments, but by the enthusiasm of its staff, all of them volunteers. Nobody gets any pay. On the contrary, the co-ordinators and office staff pay the same annual subscription as every other member. The subscription stands this year at £6 and for that princely sum members can take part in as many groups as they have the time and stamina for.

There are no lower or upper age limits. Nobody needs to be afraid that his or her educational background or mastery of language might be a bar to taking part in the discussions and in the learning process. He or she will be a peer amongst others.

The London U3A was the first in Britain. Since then many more have sprung to life throughout the whole country, from Devon to East Anglia, from the South Coast to Scotland. All of them are similarly organised and motivated.

Shakespeare's idea of senior citizenship as being 'a second childhood and mere oblivion sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything' was probably never a fair one and never less so than today and never less so than amongst ourselves.

#### Creative activities

The U3A was created to cater for all those who do not want to atrophy mentally, do not want to be isolated, but are anxious to spread the wings of their spirit and to participate with likeminded people in creative activities of their own choice.

For details of membership and existing study groups write to the University of the Third Age, Langton Close, Wren Street, WC1X 0H8 or phone 01-833 4747. Details of the provincial groups from the University of The Third Age, 6 Parkside Gardens, London SW19 5EY.

The U3A may never attain the same importance as the Open University has justly achieved. It does not have to do so, but it has come to stay and will grow because at a time when the physical ageing process is slowing down and more and more people are able to enjoy long spans of retirement it fills a vital gap for all those whom 'age cannot wither' nor 'custom stale'.

*Mr. Stent, an AJR member, runs a U3A course on 'Europe Between the Wars: 1917-1939'.*

#### Don't miss:

Young Girl's Story page 4

Danish Rescue Letter page 8

Bizarre No-Man's Land page 9

Great Coriolanus page 12

### HANUKKA IN AJR CLUB

The series of Hanukka celebrations was opened three nights before the event by the AJR Club. Following a long standing tradition, the entertainment was arranged by Arnold and Susanne Horwell, who again presented a wide selection of records, each of which they prefaced by fitting explanations. The audience gratefully enjoyed the well chosen programme. The function was enhanced by the presence of the Club's Chairman, Mrs. Margaret Jacoby, whose clearly worded off-the-cuff speech belied her great age of 102.



Volunteers talking, left to right: Mr. H. Mullard, who visits people both in their houses and in the Old Age Homes; Dr. E. Retzlaw, a retired doctor who has given concerts at Old Age Homes; and Mrs. J. M. Hulse, who shops for residents in Eleanor Rathbone House.

### GOLD AND SILVER HISTORICAL EMBLEMS

In Worms, a medallion available in gold or silver has been struck by the city's Sparkasse and is intended to mark the 950th anniversary of the Rashi Synagogue. It bears representations of the synagogue and of the seal of the Holy Congregation at Worms. Hitherto, the bank has produced a number of medallions illustrating Church history, but this is the first connected with the Jewish community of Worms.

At the same time, precious-metal coins are now being minted in Israel: a gold 10-shekel piece and silver one- and two-shekels. The coins are not just for display but will be accepted as legal tender.

### SPANISH-SPEAKING JEWS IN SARAJEVO

Despite the depredations of the Nazi occupation of Yugoslavia, over one thousand Jews still live in Sarajevo. In 1941, there were 14,000 members of the community, of whom 10,000 perished at Nazi hands and 350 fell fighting the invader. The present head of the community is Isak Levi, a retired veterinary surgeon, whose forefathers came from Toledo and who, with a few others, still speaks Spanish. The community is descended from 15 Sephardi families who came to Sarajevo in 1565 following the expulsion from Spain in 1492.

### CHAIR NAMED FOR PM

As part of the Weizmann Institute's 50th year celebrations, a chair of chemistry is to be named after Mrs. Margaret Thatcher. She is the first Prime Minister to be honoured in this way while still in office. The Duke of Devonshire, formerly president of the Conservative Friends of Israel and currently president of the SPD Friends of Israel, is to have a forest named after him by the Jewish National Fund.



Mr. Ludwig Spiro, Hon. Treasurer of the AJR, thanking the volunteers for their efforts. On the right, Miss Ruth Gawthorpe, Matron of the Heinrich Stahl House.

### VOLUNTEERS THANKED

Sixty volunteers came to a thank-you Hanukka party given for them by the AJR staff at Hannah Karminski House on 19 December, in appreciation of the work they had done during the year. Some had served on the House Committees of the Homes and had visited residents in the Homes regularly, others had visited people in their own homes or in hospital, had shopped or collected their pensions for them, had taken them out for car rides, or had maintained phone links with them, and still others kept Meals on Wheels moving. A fine tea was served. Among the hosts of the party were the Chairman, Mr. Marx, the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Spiro, who addressed the large gathering, the Administrator, Mrs. Lassman, and the Volunteers Co-ordinator, Mrs. Matus.



At the volunteers party, left to right: Mrs. F. Kochmann, on the House Committee of the Otto Schiff House; Mr. C. T. Marx, Chairman of the AJR Executive; and Mr. C. Haller, of the House Committee of Osmond House.

### PHOTOGRAPHER REMEMBERED

With the aim of furthering peace between Arabs and Jews, a fund named after Omar Oscar Marcus has been set up at the Hebrew University. O. O. Marcus was a Berlin-born Jew and in his career as a press photographer took particular interest in pictures relating to the Arab world.

### BIELEFELD JEWS

Bielefeld is the latest among German cities which seek to preserve the memory of their Jews. Assisted by the municipal record office, two young historians, Joachim Meynert and Friedhelm Schäffer, expanded their academic thesis into a 208pp. illustrated volume entitled *Die Juden in der Stadt Bielefeld während der Zeit des Nationalsozialismus*.

It presents a telling example of the general story of Nazi persecution (covered in an extensive bibliography), and the authors have gone to considerable trouble to provide local variations on the theme. They have traced a number of survivors whose stories they taped and have also consulted the official archives as well as the local press. An annex contains 72 documents including 28 photos.

The authors hope that their book will have an educational effect, especially at schools, but they also wonder. The older generation, they feel, has largely repressed the crimes and resents any reminder as either a reflection upon themselves or as something akin to "soiling one's own nest", while younger people are for the most part simply not interested. There is, we are told, a "lack of a sense of history", and thus a chance of "coming to terms with the Nazi era," has been wasted.

This experience in turn tends to cast a shadow on the point to which the authors, understandably, lend prominence: the opposition of nonconformism. It was there, certainly, but what little there was—and it would be hypocritical to expect much—was corrupted from the start by "complete indifference" to antisemitism generally.

Even the pogrom of November 1938 revealed little more than ambivalence, and (say the authors) "how far embarrassed concern was shown in concrete assistance to Jews—in the sense of a 'humanitarian resistance'—remains a moot point". (Unfortunately they do not mention how, by comparison, people reacted to a crime peculiar to Bielefeld, the "euthanasia" practised at the Bethel institutions.)

Devout Christians disapproved of the destruction of the synagogue; they eventually discovered the common humanity of Jew and Gentile, and they had "premonitions" of what would happen to the deported. But having once tolerated anti-semitism they were no longer free to resist the inevitable implications.

The 800-odd Jews in 1933 (among a general population of then 130,000) have now been reduced to about 30 registered members of the community (possibly enlarged by a handful of the unattached). They have neither a rabbi nor a cantor. They occasionally meet their brethren in nearby Minden and Herford, and how long they will be able to maintain the present *minyán* is uncertain.

C. C. ARONSFELD

### LESSING'S LETTERS SOUGHT

Original documents relating to the life of Theodor Lessing are needed for a new comprehensive edition of the philosopher's letters. Dr. Julius H. Schoeps (c/o Fachbereich 1, Politische Wissenschaft, Universität-GH-Duisburg, Postfach 101629, D-4100 Duisburg 1) would be glad to hear from anyone possessing letters or postcards from or to Theodor Lessing.

# HOME NEWS

## CBF CHANGE

From 1 January 1985 CBF World Jewish Relief has been registered as a new company. From that date the 'old' CBF has become the CBF Residential Care and Housing Association. Both companies are registered charities.

This step was undertaken so that the residential care facilities could benefit from the grants available to such establishments. CBF World Relief will continue to have the closest links with the Housing Association.

The Chairman of the Housing Association is Mr. Ludwig Spiro and the Director Mr. Maurice Ross. The Chairman of CBF World Jewish Relief continues to be Mr. Kenneth Rubens, and Mrs. Eva Mitchell continues as Executive Director. A grant of £426,000 has already been confirmed by the Housing Corporation for the CBF Residential Care and Housing Association to develop 17 bedrooms for the disabled on the present Heinrich Stahl site.

*We send our best wishes to Mr. Spiro in his new appointment, to which he will bring his qualities of devotion, care and attention to detail. He will continue as Hon. Treasurer of the AJR, which has benefited from his energy and flair.*

## PRIZEWINNER

The 1984 HH Wingate Prize was awarded to Naomi Shepherd for her *Wilfrid Israel—German-Jewry's Secret Ambassador* (published by Weidenfeld at £12.95). Miss Shepherd, British by origin but living in Israel, came to Britain to receive the prize from Lord Goodman on 12 December at the Savile Club Ballroom. The book was reviewed on the front page of *AJR Information* of June 1984.

## HARRIS HOUSE GIRLS MEET

Following the efforts of Yorkshire Television to trace a group of girls who first met as refugees in Harris House, their reunion will shortly be screened. Margaret Stone, the matron of Harris House, will also be seen with "her" girls. Now middle-aged women, the former child refugees travelled from Israel, the US and Austria to join their friends who had remained in Britain.

## HISTORY BOOK WILL BE AMENDED

The publishers of "The Plantagenets", the history textbook condemned for its retailing of "ritual murder" stories, have announced that they will no longer issue it in its present form. Fontana have asked the author, John Harvey, to revise the offending passage before its intended reprint in 1985. "The Plantagenets", used in dozens of schools, is currently in its 18th printing.

## Annely Juda Fine Art

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## A NONAGENARIAN ARTIST

Friends in plenty gathered at the Fieldborne Galleries, St. John's Wood, to celebrate the 90th birthday of sculptor Fred Kormis, who also remembered that the day marked 50 years of residence in Britain. (See the interview with him in our November 1984 issue.) Frankfurt-born, he is known for his medal portraits of Churchill, Weizmann, Golda Meir, Menachem Begin and Charlie Chaplin, among many others. It was Dr. Kormis, too, who created the Prisoner of War Memorial in Gladstone Park. He is still at work in his studio in St. John's Wood and does not expect to retire in the foreseeable future.

## JUDAIC CENTRE NAME CHANGE

The largest centre for Judaism in Europe, Manor House, will in future be known as the Sternberg Centre for Judaism. The change of name follows a gift of £300,000 from Sir Sigmund Sternberg's foundation. Sir Sigmund will become a trustee. He believes that the Centre has enormous potential, but it requires support and, in his view, the only way to bring in money is by providing the example.

## LEGACIES

The AJR Charitable Trust has received legacies from the estates of Miss Ellie Leyser, Mrs. C. R. Bowen, Miss Erica Lind, Mrs. Berta Clarke, Miss Frederika Lowenhardt, Miss Lotte Oppenheim and Mr. Frederick Schwartz.

## BAUHAUS

Exhibition of watercolours, drawings and prints of some of the famous artists. From 1st to 28th February. Monday to Friday: 2-6 p.m. Saturdays: 11-4 p.m. **Margaret Fisher Gallery**, 2 Lambolle Road, London, N.W.3. Tel: 794 4247.

## AJR CLUB

### 29th Birthday BRING & BUY SALE

SUNDAY, 17th FEBRUARY,  
2-5.30 pm

HANNAH KARMINSKI HOUSE,  
9 ADAMSON ROAD, NW3  
(Swiss Cottage)

Entrance 30p

Refreshments 35p

In aid of

MARGARET JACOBY-ORGLER  
FUND  
GERTRUD SCHACHNE FUND  
AHAVAH CHILDREN'S HOME IN  
ISRAEL

## WARTIME STORIES WANTED

A printer and publisher in Hull, Jack Lennard is hoping to bring out a series of books on the experiences of Jews in wartime. The first of these, projected for May 1985, is to be on British Jews and Mr. Lennard hopes to hear from everyone who has a tale to tell. An executive member of B'nai B'rith and a defender of human rights, he can be reached at: Salisbury Hall, Park Road, Hull HU3 1TD.

## ELAT VISIT

1985 has been designated as "Year of Youth" and British diver Jill Myers has begun a project in the true spirit of that slogan. She intends to take eight handicapped children to Elat this September and train them to explore the coral reefs there by using snorkels. British waters are too cold for them to swim in, so the sea will be a new experience for these children. Mrs. Myers also hopes to meet handicapped Israeli children and take them on an exchange visit to her home in Yorkshire. She is currently raising the £5,000 needed for the project.

Mrs. Myers is the international secretary of the Friends of the Red Sea and the moving spirit behind the Egyptian government's marine park soon to be opened at Ras Muhammed.

## WIDE-RANGING INTERFAITH VISIT

A major interfaith visit to Israel was organised some weeks ago by the Jewish Social Responsibility Council. Five Jews, seven Christians, a Moslem, two Sikhs, a Hindu and a Rastafarian left Britain for Israel, accompanied by Pauline Webb, head of World Service religious broadcasting. The party was also varied in race, comprising Indian and West Indian members. A special Shabbat was celebrated with Christian and Moslem-Arabs at Ulpan Akiva and the group visited Neve Shalom, the Jewish-Arab reconciliation project, Kfar Blum, Nazareth, the Knesset and Beth HaT'futsot, as well as other places of interest. All agreed that their deepest feelings were roused by the visit to Yad Vashem.

## EDELWEISS PIRATES HONOURED

During the Second World War, a tiny group of young Germans signalled their hatred of the Hitler regime by helping Jews and foreign workers, hiding them, getting them out of the country if possible and otherwise lending support. They were known as the Edelweiss Pirates. Recently Yad Vashem honoured some of the "pirates" with the Medal of the Righteous Gentile. Specially named were Bartholomäus Schink, who was executed without trial in the closing stages of the war, Michael Jovy, who survived but died recently after a successful diplomatic career, and Jean Jülich. The latter was able to collect his award in person: Schink was represented by his sister and Jovy by Wolfgang Schwarz, who was both helped by the Edelweiss Pirates and afterwards became a member of the organisation.

## BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

51 Belsize Square, London, N.W.3

Our communal hall is available for cultural and social functions. For details apply to:  
Secretary, Synagogue Office.

Tel: 01-794 3949

## A YOUNG GIRL'S STORY

For some time now, many former refugees, having retired from work or nearing the age of retirement, have felt an urge to look back on their lives before and after emigration. Some feel that they have an extraordinary story to tell, others are motivated by the desire to keep a record of their sufferings and achievements for their children and grandchildren. These often quite artlessly told stories should certainly provide valuable source material for future historians.

Hannele Zünderfer's *The Ninth of November* (Quartet Books, London, £7.95) is different. To its author time has stood still. She tells the story of her sheltered life and her unusually close relationship with her publisher father which was shattered on the night of the ninth November 1938 when Nazi thugs destroyed her home and physically attacked the family. Only then did her parents decide to send Hannele and her younger sister to England and to prepare for their own emigration.

### Obstinate insistence

The two girls first joined relatives in London who made room for them in their cramped quarters, but they were soon evacuated to Rickmansworth with their school, and due to their obstinate insistence on staying together were fostered on an unwilling and hostile family. Eventually they found a home with a young Roman Catholic pianist and her mother with whom they stayed during the war. The chapter in which the author describes her life with this family is headed "Complex relations."

She still sees them as complex, and she still harbours and expresses resentment and rebellion against those trying to adapt her to her new life. She recognises her limitations when she states: "I have described my experiences as I remember them, and since the politics of the period affected me profoundly, the book is incidentally an account of great events impinging on ordinary people and seen through the eyes of a child."

### Stuck in groove

She has never tried to add to her childish knowledge of these events. We never learn how her parents managed so quickly to send their two children to penniless relatives in London nor how they received their own visas to come to Britain. (Unfortunately, apparently due to Nazi red-tape, they were unable to make use of them and were deported). Her lack of historical curiosity also becomes apparent when she relates that in 1935 or 1936 the last German maid the family kept, left "because it was no longer healthy for an Aryan girl to be seen working for a Jew." Has she never heard of the Nuremberg Laws? One wonders. In another, admittedly unimportant context she says that her father attached great importance to the fact that she was born on the 100th anniversary of Marlitt's death, and that all she could find out about Marlitt was that "he" was a writer. Any reference book would have disclosed that E. Marlitt was the pen-name of the prolific writer Eugenie John, whose novels, serialised in the popular weekly "Die Gartenlaube" were avidly

devoured by a vast readership in the latter half of the 19th century.

We are never told what happened to the younger sister. Hannele herself, supported by a benevolent Jewish teacher from Stroud, managed to finish school at Rickmansworth and to obtain a school certificate. An uncle in America paid her fees for a year's secretarial course at the Regent Street Polytechnic whereupon she was employed by the Ministry of Economic Warfare for the duration of the war. Later she took an honours degree in English at Bedford College, London.

The book ends on some rather moving notes on the deportation and death of the author's parents. She does not tell us anything about her and her sister's later life, but we learn from the publisher's blurb that she worked as a journalist for a rural paper in East Anglia and as a features writer and Woman's Page Editor for a paper in Norwich. She now lives in Scotland with her sculptor husband and their daughter. She still writes under her childhood pet-name Hannele. Time has indeed stood still for her. M. POTTLITZER

### OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

When Anja Rosmus-Wenninger was recently presented with the Geschwister-Scholl Prize for her book "Widerstand und Verfolgung am Beispiel Passau 1933-1939", she told something of the difficulties she had encountered in her research. She found that the Diocesan Archives lacked basic information. The local authority offices maintained that its records were lost and it was illegal for her to make a personal search for them; she was obliged to obtain a court order to see Passau's own archives, while other documents were declared to be "no longer extant", "not to be found" or "on loan" for months at a time. Frau Rosmus-Wenninger's application forms were mislaid or overlooked; even when the courts had ordered the production of certain documents, they were shown to her only in part and photocopies were not available. Matters reached such a pitch that a local editor filed suit against her and anonymous telephone callers threatened to kidnap her children.

Even people whose hands were genuinely clean refused to give Anja any information, fearing that they would be blamed for the re-opening of old wounds. Innumerable falsehoods were spread about her personally and about her work.

The Geschwister-Scholl Prize, instituted five years ago in memory of Hitler's student opponents, is given to literary works which recall the legacy of Hans and Sophie Scholl. Despite the previous difficulties, Anja Rosmus-Wenninger hopes to write a further book on the history of the Jews in Passau.

### CANADIAN FILM DISAPPOINTMENT

Marcel Marceau, the famous French-Jewish mime, has been awarded damages of over £150,000 against a film company by a Toronto court. The company, Cinequity, had agreed to produce a film about a concentration camp in Czechoslovakia, based on a story discovered by M. Marceau and casting him in a starring role. However, the idea came to nothing. Marcel Marceau's father was in fact in a camp in Czechoslovakia and the mime himself was active in the French underground movement.

### NEW RESEARCH INTO ALTRUISM

Many studies have been made of the psychological impact of persecution on its victims and, to a lesser extent, the personalities of the executioners have also been the subject of research. One group involved in the Holocaust, however, has not yet received the attention of sociologists—the group of rescuers, the "righteous Gentiles". Twenty years ago, Rabbi Harold Schulweis, with the help of the Judah Magnes Memorial Museum in America, began a project to study rescuers and rescued, recording interviews with a number of people. But at the time finance was not available to continue the work, which has now been taken up by Professor Samuel Oliner of the Humboldt State University, California, under the title of the "Altruistic Personality Project". The research will be funded by the American Jewish Committee and the John Slawson Fund.

Professor Oliner intends to question 500 non-Jewish rescuers, 500 of their contemporaries who did not undertake any rescue and 500 of the rescued. He hopes to understand what motivated the non-Jews to risk their lives when it would have been so much easier to do nothing at all, and feels that with the passing of years there is little time to be lost. He has already sent thousands of letters to synagogues, asking rabbis if they can suggest suitable interviewees. Helping him in the work are colleagues in West Berlin, France and Poland.

A survivor of the Holocaust, Professor Oliner has travelled through Europe for discussions with his fellow-workers. But not least in his thoughts was a visit to the mass graves in Garvotz Forest, Poland, where his entire family perished. He is himself one of the rescued—as a 12-year-old boy, he was pushed aside by his mother to save him from the coming massacre. He fled to the next village, where Polish friends lived. They took him in, changed his name and told everyone he was a Christian boy; he went to the local Catholic school, attended Mass and confession. After the war, Professor Oliner was for a short time in England before emigrating to America. He is the author of "Restless Memories: Recollection of Holocaust Years".

### A RENOWNED EYE SPECIALIST

1985 sees the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Georg Levinsohn, a Berlin eye specialist. From 1904 to 1933, he was especially active in the study of shortsightedness, particularly in children. It was he who recognised that the development of myopia in children was due, not only to hereditary factors, but to the force of gravity on the eye itself.

After the First World War, many sight-training schools were set up in Germany; it was hoped to improve short sight by eye exercises. Levinsohn warned against exaggerated reliance on this method and believed that such success as was obtained was due to psychological factors. His own efforts were directed to the improvement of the tonometer, an instrument for measuring pressure within the eye, in his opinion a particularly significant condition. He believed that children with sight problems should not be educated in an ordinary school, nor yet in a school for the blind.

His Hermann Herzog School in North Berlin was a pioneering attempt to help partly-sighted children, which has been followed as an example throughout Germany and beyond. Professor Levinsohn died in Haifa in 1935, when he was in his late sixties.

# NEWS FROM GERMANY

## JUBILEE FOR BERLIN COMMUNITY

It is just 25 years since the Jewish Community Centre was established in Fasanenstrasse, Berlin, and the anniversary was celebrated with an evening of music and poetry. Heinz Galinski, head of the Berlin Jewish Community, was presented with a small-scale replica of the former synagogue in Fasanenstrasse. Klaus Franke, Senator for Building and Houses, who handed over the model, recalled how, as a boy, he had stood thunderstruck before the burnt and plundered synagogue.

## JEWIS REMEMBERED IN MANY TOWNS

In Aachen a Magen David in black glass, 10 feet high and weighing 24 tonnes, has been erected on the site of the former synagogue, destroyed in November 1938. The area has been re-named Synagogue Square.

Other plaques and memorials recently unveiled to commemorate lost German-Jewish communities are at Wolfenbüttel, Bodersweiher, Moerfelden-Walldorf in Hesse and Gütersloh. Many other towns hold an annual ceremony on the anniversary of the November Pogrom, among them Stuttgart and Oldenburg, where 70 citizens marched in silence from the police barracks to the site of the synagogue. Although the Oldenburg marches started only three years ago, the number of participants has steadily increased.

## SCHOOLBOY REBELS READ BRECHT

A recent exhibition in Frankfurt a. Main, "Youth in National Socialist Frankfurt", throws light on one aspect of resistance to Hitler's Germany—the schoolboys who rejected the Hitler Youth. One of them told how they would jump on their bikes after school, pedal to a hidden spot, put on check shirts and then cycle to a tiny village. There the boys sang illegal songs and read "folk-endangering" books, such as Thomas Mann, Kurt Tucholsky and Bertolt Brecht. After a time, the boys were caught, their check shirts, books and photo albums seized. Some of them, who had organised an inter-regional meeting in Halle, were sentenced to five years in a concentration camp.

## MUNICH AWARD FOR KISHON

The Munich carnival association Narrhalla has awarded its 1985 Karl Valentin Order to the Israeli humorous writer Ephraim Kishon. The order has been given annually since 1973 for the "most humorous and sliest remark in the style of Karl Valentin", but Kishon's winning quotation, among so many possibilities, has not yet been made public.

## NEW FRANKFURT JEWISH CENTRE

An important event for the Jews of Frankfurt a. Main was the laying of the foundation-stone for a large new Jewish community centre. The Hessian Culture Minister, the Mayor of Frankfurt and representatives of the local Jewish community were among the many public personages who attended the ceremony.

## FILM-MAKER AT 70

Noted for such films as "Des Teufels General" and "Der Hauptmann von Köpenick", Gyula Trebitsch celebrated his 70th birthday at the end of last year in Hamburg, where he is Professor at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst.

## HISTORY IN STAMPS

A philatelic exhibition for young people recently held in Berlin traced the history of Israel and German-Israeli relations through postage stamps. German stamp collectors show more interest in Israel than in any other foreign country and many philatelists specialise in Biblical motifs.

## DOCTOR'S LICENCE RESCINDED

When the Stuttgart authorities discovered that a gynaecologist practising in the city was strongly suspected of having taken part in the Nazi "Euthanasie-Aktion", they cancelled his licence to practise. In fact, the doctor was accused in 1970 of complicity in thousands of murders, and the case has never been closed, although not actively continued.

## CHANGES AT LUDWIGSBURG

It was announced that Dr. Adalbert Rückerl had left his post as head of the Zentrale Stelle der Landesjustizverwaltung zur Aufklärung nationalsozialistischer Verbrechen. Dr. Rückerl, who has filled this important position since 1966, was obliged to resign for reasons of health. He is succeeded by his deputy for the last 20 years, Oberstaatsanwalt Streim.

## AUSTRIA TO SELL HEIRLESS ART

After years of bureaucratic tangle, the Austrian Government is to auction the many valuable art works it holds and which have no known owners. American forces in Austria at the end of the Second World War found a Nazi hoard of artistic treasures, most of which are believed to have been expropriated from Jews who died without living heirs.

Simon Wiesenthal has for many years been pressing the Austrian Government to act in the matter. However, various hindrances melted away when American journalists pointed out that suspicions were emerging about the government's possible wish to claim the heirless property as its own.

A recent statement by a ministry spokesman confirms that money received from the auction will be handed over to Austrian Jewish organisations and charities such as Amnesty.

## GROWN-UPS AND TEENAGERS

Two groups of Berlin sixth-formers who enjoyed visits to Israel last year were invited by the Association for Christian-Jewish Co-Operation to give an illustrated lecture on their experiences. Pupils from the Kopernikus-Oberschule showed a film of their tour of Israel by coach, with particular emphasis on the wonderful landscapes and the historical and botanical wonders of the country. Those from the Marie Curie School, on the other hand, gave a spoken diary of their experiences, stressing the personalities of their hosts and emphasising visits to the Christian kibbutz Ness Amim and the museum of the Diaspora, Beth HaT'futsot. Rather unusually, the end of the lecture brought forth a stream of questions from the adult audience to the young people who had actually seen the Holy Land. The impression left was that a true meeting of peoples had been achieved.

## LINKS WITH MOSES

The remains of an altar within a large courtyard and surrounded by sheep bones and ashes has been found high up on Mount Ebal in the West Bank area. The discoverer, Adam Zartel of Kibbutz Ein Shemer, believes that the altar may date from the times of Moses and Joshua. It was found in the course of excavations sponsored by Haifa University.

Another enterprise inspired by Biblical history is that of a French-Jewish writer, Jacques Lanzmann, who has set out to follow the route of the Exodus, but making the journey from Jerusalem to Cairo, that is, in reverse. He intends to walk the whole 560 miles within a few weeks, going by way of the Judaeen desert, Sinai, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez.

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## JUDGING THE JUDGES

In September 1984, readers of the British press may have been surprised to note the news item that Mr. Paul Reimers, aged 82, had been charged in West Berlin for his part in 97 death sentences passed on political opponents of the Nazi régime between 1943 and 1945 by the Nazi "People's Court" (Volkgerichtshof), the first "judge" of the "Court" to face trial for these activities. However, Reimers recently committed suicide in Bremen.

Legal investigations into 46 other cases concerning members of that "Court" are reported to be continuing.

It was only in 1979 that the West Berlin authorities ordered an investigation—now completed after five years with true German thoroughness—to prove that the Volkgerichtshof of the notorious Roland Freisler "was not a regular Court and was used by Hitler to kill political opponents", a fact of which one would have thought any lawyer in the civilised world would have taken judicial notice during the last forty years without the need of any further proof. According to the "Guardian" the investigation "met with fierce opposition from the Federal German Judges Association which had repeatedly blocked attempts to debate publicly the role of justice under the Nazis. Their position was backed by a 1968 ruling of the Federal German Supreme Court which said that Nazi judges and prosecutors enjoyed special judicial privileges and had acted according to the law and their own consciences at the time."

Whilst it is to be welcomed that even at this very late stage some of the surviving "desk murderers" of the "Peoples' Court" might have to face trial, it is obvious that even if such trials result in convictions against one or the other of the 77 "judges" and "prosecutors" who "administered justice" at this "Court" surviving after about five hundred of their colleagues died quietly in their beds, just punishment will not be meted out to any of these men who were responsible for the judicial murder of about 5,000 opponents of the Nazi regime.

### Special laws

In 1944 the United Nations War Crimes Commission was formed with the purpose of preparing for the just punishment of the enormous crimes committed by the Nazis. The Commission based its deliberations on the fact that when Hitler in 1934 declared himself to be the "supreme judge of the German people" the rule of law as it is normally understood in civilised countries had been replaced by a system of organised criminal anarchy. It was therefore considered impossible to judge and punish Nazi crimes pursuant to the rules of the old German Criminal Code of 1871, but it was decided that special laws had to be formulated to deal with this unprecedented situation.

This led to the creation of the International War Crimes Charter which formed the basis of the proceedings before the International War Crimes Tribunal against the major war criminals in Nuremberg. This Charter defined various classes of war crimes, in particular "crimes against humanity" which covered all acts of terror committed by the Nazis in whatever form and on whatever pretext.

Allied Control Council Law No. 10 made this

"Nuremberg Charter" part of internal German law, but alas, in the post-war period when it was left to German Courts to adjudicate on Nazi crimes, this law was soon forgotten and the Courts of the Federal Republic tried to deal with Nazi crimes on the basis of the old German Criminal Code. As predicted by the United Nations War Crimes Commission and by this reviewer and other refugee lawyers from Germany who assisted the Commission in 1944 in the preparation of the basis for the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials, this largely frustrated adequate retribution for Nazi crimes.

Some of the ludicrous results of this practice have been admirably illustrated by a collection of six essays by Günter Spendel, Professor of Criminal Law at the University of Würzburg, West Germany (*Rechtsbeugung durch Rechtsprechung, Sechs strafrechtliche Studien, 1984. Walter de Gruyter, Berlin/New York. DM. 74*) analysing some attempts by West German Courts to prosecute so-called "prosecutors" and "judges" of the Nazi régime for the crimes committed by them under the cloak of so-called legal proceedings. Spendel acknowledges that the "Nazi régime had caused a perversion of justice the enormity of which can hardly be put into words".

### Straitjacket

However, instead of treating the crimes committed by Nazi "prosecutors" and "judges" as Crimes against Humanity as defined by the Nuremberg Charter and Control Council Law No. 10, post-war German Courts tried to press these cases into the straitjacket of "Rechtsbeugung" as understood by the German Criminal Code (Deliberate breach of the law by a judge or prosecutor in the course of legal proceedings—punishable by a prison sentence not exceeding five years), and this became only relevant in order to establish that the death sentences in which these "judges" or "prosecutors" co-operated, were "unlawful"! When one bears in mind that Law as understood in civilised countries did not exist in Nazi Germany, at any rate with regard to "political" (in the widest sense) offences, it becomes difficult to see how such non-existing law could be broken. Thus Professor Spendel has to devote many pages to the argumentation by various West German Courts whether and to what extent these "judges" and "prosecutors" were aware of the illegality of what they were doing!

### Hair-raising reasoning

In one of his articles Spendel analyses the proceedings before the West German Supreme Court against the Chairman and the Chief Prosecutor of the proceedings against Pastor Bonhoeffer, Admiral Canaris and others which culminated in the judicial murder of these men on the 20th July 1944 under the most degrading and humiliating circumstances. It is hair-raising to follow the reasoning of the Federal Supreme Court justifying the eventual acquittal of the Chairman of the Court. The prosecutor was only convicted as an accessory to murder (by the executioner!) as he allowed the execution to proceed before having

the death sentence confirmed by Hitler or Kaltenbrunner in accordance with the "laws" then in force.

In another of his studies Spendel describes the proceedings against two assessors of the Nuremberg Special Court in 1942 which found the Jewish defendant Katzenberger guilty of "race pollution" (sexual intercourse between Jews and "Aryans") and sentenced him to death, causing his judicial murder. The Chairman of the 1942 Court had been sentenced to life imprisonment by a U.S. Military Tribunal in 1947, the two assessors came before a lower German Court and were convicted of manslaughter, but the Federal Supreme Court set aside the conviction in 1970 and ordered a new trial which never took place as the matter was delayed long enough for the defendants to be finally discharged in 1976 because they were said to be medically unfit to stand trial.

The "evidence" in the 1942 proceedings against Katzenberger was so flimsy that even if one treated "race pollution" as an ordinary criminal offence, no normal jury in a civilised country would have convicted the defendant.

The result of these and other similar Court proceedings against Nazi judges and prosecutors is admirably summarised by Professor Spendel: "The doctrine of German Criminal law... hardly concerns itself or does not concern itself at all with the really burning problems of overcoming the Nazi past from the point of view of criminal law. This applies to the punishment of general Nazi misdeeds as well as to the judicial appraisal of shameful judgments administered by Nazi Courts. Thus it is a declaration of bankruptcy for the administration of justice in our Democratic state that it has hardly ever administered just punishment for the many judicial murders caused by deliberate violations of the law".

Courageous words of a German professor with which one can only heartily agree although a Heidelberg professor in a reputable legal journal thought fit to reject this "vocabulary of moral indignation".

It remains one of the unsolved mysteries of post-war history why Control Council Law No. 10 which made crimes against humanity an essential part of German law, has, as far as is known to this reviewer, never been applied by the Courts of the Federal Republic. F. HELLENDALL

### OTTO HIRSCH MEDALLION

On 9 January 1985, the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Otto Hirsch, the first Otto Hirsch Medallion was presented to Dr. Otto Küster by the Mayor of Stuttgart, Manfred Rommel, in the Town Hall, on behalf of the City of Stuttgart and the Society for Christian-Jewish Co-operation. Two of Otto Hirsch's children, Hans George Hirsch and Ursula Hirsch Joachim, were present at the ceremony. Dr. Küster, who was dismissed from his position as a judge in 1933 because of his anti-Nazi views, was the chief state legal official in charge of Restitution. The encomium was spoken by the city archivist, Dr. Paul Sauer, to which Rechtsanwalt Küster replied. The Grusswort was given by Hans George Hirsch, the son of Otto, the brilliant Stuttgart-born Ministerialrat who became head of the Reichsvertretung and did so much to save the German Jews who emigrated, while himself staying on courageously to help further until he was murdered in Mauthausen on 19 June 1941.

## OBITUARIES

### LOTHAR NELKEN

Dr. Lothar Nelken died suddenly on 30 December at the age of 75. As recently as our issue of last September we congratulated him on his 75th birthday and wished him many more full and happy years, now so abruptly ended. Born in Silesia, he studied law in Germany before coming to Britain, where he had a successful career in the distribution of pharmaceutical products. He was active in numerous spheres of Jewish life, most prominently as Chairman of the KC and of the Theodor Herzl Society over many years, serving with much devotion. He was a member of the AJR Board and of the B'nai Brith Leo Baeck (London) Lodge, sitting on several of the Lodge's committees. Lothar Nelken's outstanding characteristic was his concern for his fellow human beings and his love of his family. Significantly, he died when visiting a relative who needed his help. Our warmest sympathy goes out to his widow and children to whom he was so devoted and who were so devoted to him.

F.E.F.

### PETER BRENT

The author Peter Brent died recently aged 53. He came to this country with a children's transport shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War and was educated in Wales. His parents perished in the Holocaust.

Determined to write from his earliest years, Peter Brent took a number of jobs—porter, teacher, film extra, journalist—before producing his first novel "Exit" at the age of 28. A number of novels, plays and biographies followed; these included a biography of Enzo Sereni and another of T. E. Lawrence. He also wrote thrillers under the name of Ludovic Peters.

After extensive travel in India, Peter Brent wrote "Godmen of India", a study of gurus. Widely acclaimed, too, was his biography of Charles Darwin, published in 1981. At the time of his death, Mr. Brent was working on a study of Indian medicine and was hoping to write a life of "Darwin's Bulldog", Thomas Huxley.

### JOHN SOMMERFELD

One of the German-Jewish refugees who made a major contribution to victory over Germany, John Sommerfeld has died in London at the age of 71. Born Kurt Joachim in Berlin, he went with his family to Switzerland after his father's property had been expropriated. As an engineering student, his road led through France and Palestine to London in 1938, where he attended Imperial College. After designing air-raid shelters, he developed a heavy-duty portable road which could be used to create a bomber runway at 24 hours' notice. This was extensively manufactured in Britain, America and India and made a vital difference to Allied air power.

### PRINCE HUBERTUS ZU LÖWENSTEIN

One of Hitler's aristocratic opponents, Prince Hubertus zu Löwenstein died recently in Bonn at the age of 78. A man of strong beliefs, he felt that peace and justice in Europe depended on the unity of all "Germans", whether German or Austrian in nationality. But he was a devoted supporter of the Weimar Republic, joined the Reichsbanner and wrote for the Vossische Zeitung. Exiled after 1933, he attempted to organise the cultural elements among those who had been banished or had fled from Germany. He lectured widely and founded the German Academy of Arts and Sciences in

Exile, based in the United States. No less active after the war, Prince Hubertus opposed Adenauer and was instrumental in bringing the Saar into the Federal Republic of Germany.

### PAULA DOBSCHINER

Leaders of the Berlin Jewish Community paid tribute to a colleague of long standing at the funeral of Paula Dobschiner, who died at the age of 71. Mrs. Dobschiner had worked for 16 years as secretary to the Community Chairman and was closely connected with the rebuilding of the Jewish community after 1945. Failing sight meant that she had to take on different work but she continued in various capacities until her retirement in 1976.

### HANS REIF

A veteran parliamentarian, Professor Hans Reif has died in Berlin. He was 85 years old. An active member of the Deutsche Demokratische Partei in the Weimar Republic, Professor Reif returned to German political life after the war and played an important part in the creation of West Germany's Basic Law. He also engaged in the struggle to obtain a just law of restitution.

### HERMANN P. GEBHARDT

Dr. Hermann P. Gebhardt, originally of Frankfurt-an-der-Oder, has died in Montevideo in his 81st year. Emigrating to Uruguay in 1937, Dr. Gebhardt started a radio programme, "La Voz del Dia", in which he castigated Nazi barbarity, whilst never ceasing to believe in a future democratic Germany. For years, he was the South American correspondent of newspapers in many European countries and also worked for the German-language journal "Argentinisches Tageblatt".

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Danish Protest

Sir,—In your January issue you published the report by the Danish Dr. Holm about the negotiations between the Danish authorities and high ranking Nazi officials before the actions taken by Count Bernadotte and his team.

Your report especially mentions a meeting with Ernst Kaltenbrunner on March 8th 1943 to transfer Danish policemen to Denmark and that the Danish Police did not want to be released while the Danish Jews remained in Theresienstadt.

I was in Denmark during the occupation and it is common knowledge that the raid on the Jews in Copenhagen took place in the early days of October 1943, i.e. 6 months after the reported March meeting with Kaltenbrunner.

A refusal to accept freedom at the expense of their fellow-Danes, the Jews, did indeed take place when the Danish Army, who had been interned in their barracks on August 29th 1943, protested at having their subsequent release linked with the "Elimination of the Jews from Public Life in Denmark" as the official version of what had happened during the night of October 2-3 1943 was called.

The action against the Danish Police took place much later.

W. E. GODDARD-GOETZ

10 Perceval Avenue,  
London, N.W.3

### Comprehensive History

Sir,—I have read your leader (January 1985) with great interest and appreciation. The comprehensive work you suggest about the life, work and contribution of the refugees to their host country would be of great value not only to the offspring of the immigrants but also to the history of Great Britain. I sincerely hope that a suitable chronicler will appear . . . soon.

May I add that I am one of your readers who is always grateful to receive the monthly—long may it continue to thrive.

38 The Drive, STELLA ROTENBERG  
Alwoodley,  
Leeds LS177QD

### FILMS IN HOLLAND

A wave of films and plays about the occupation of Holland and the persecution of Jews is currently to be seen in that country and more will follow soon. One of these films is "Bastille" (based on a book by Leon de Winter) depicting the search of Paul de Wit for his Jewish identity after the death of his parents in Auschwitz, and how he finds his unknown twin brother.

"The Ice Cream Parlour" is a film now being made, telling the story of the Koco Ice Cream Parlour, run by two Jewish refugees and a meeting place for young Jews. After a raid by the Germans, when one of the proprietors opened a bottle of chemical fluid, 425 were arrested in reprisal and sent to their deaths in Mauthausen. It is believed that Klaus Barbie was involved in this affair, which led to protest strikes in Amsterdam. A new television film will tell the story of the strikes, starting with the memories of a widow whose husband was shot in retaliation for the part he played in this action.

Dutch and English versions of "The Bitter Herb" by Marga Minco, an account of deportations from Breda, are also in preparation. The book is still popular in Holland, especially in schools. Also coming is a filmed life of Friedrich Weinryb, the controversial figure convicted of collaboration in 1948, who has however always maintained that this was a cover for rescue operations which saved hundreds of Jews. Having served three and a half years of a six-year sentence, Dr. Weinryb left Holland and now lives in Zürich.

### HIDDEN DUTCH JEWS ON TV

A unique film appeared on Dutch television some time ago—twenty-five minutes showing the lives of Jews hiding from the Nazis in an Amsterdam house. The original reels were shot between July 1942 and April 1943 by a Resistance man who had formerly worked for a film society. The first clue to the film's existence came in May 1983 when workmen found a diary and a script whilst repairing the house. The diary was by Henry Robinski, who long ago changed his name and no longer wishes to be reminded of the war years.

The originator of the film was Harry Swaab, who happened to have some spare money at the time and was bold enough to arrange for such a record to be made. He and his wife Truus were able to escape the Gestapo raid on the house in 1943 (as did Henry Robinski and his mother). The film had already been put in tins and hidden, but

Truus later reclaimed it from the hiding-place. The Swaabs kept it through the intervening years and Harry Swaab was extremely hesitant about allowing it to be shown once its existence became known. He has, however, passed the copyright to a film society in Holland and it is hoped that the documentary, which lasts about an hour, will also be seen on British and French television.

### LION DUNG MEETS BOTTLENECK

In China tigers' bones were supposed to strike fear in the heart of the fiercest dog, but this superstition has been brought up to date by Israeli farmers, who are spreading lion dung round their fields. The scent of the droppings deters wild gazelles from ravaging the crops. The animals are a protected species, so a non-lethal way of preventing them eating up the farmers' profits had to be found. Lion dung is now so popular in affected areas that the safari park at Ramat Gan cannot fulfil the demand, although 40 lions roam there. It is hoped that scientists may be able to produce a substitute.

### NEW CENTRE FOR RESISTANCE TEACHING

A new centre for teaching young people, Jewish and non-Jewish, about resistance during the Holocaust is to be established at the Museum of the Holocaust and Jewish Resistance in Western Galilee. It is to be named after two leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto Rising, Yitzhak Cukierman and Zivia Lubetkin, and will provide residential facilities for short-course students. Part of the £2 million funds required for this project has been provided by British Jews.

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## ROUND THE GALLERIES

### Meissen at the BM

The British Museum already owned a choice collection of Meissen porcelain, but this has now been enriched by the gift of twenty four eighteenth century Meissen figures, as well as one Höchst figure, given by the late Mrs. Oswald Finney in memory of her husband who had substantial business interests in Alexandria between the wars.

The gift comprises figures of characters from the Italian Comedy and a number of birds, mainly parakeets, many showing the mastery and mordant wit of that famous modeller, J. J. Kändler. The figures are now on view in Room 4 of the Museum.

At the Royal Academy (until 31 March) is the first major exhibition of the work of Chagall to be seen in this country since 1948. Chagall's windows (Jerusalem, New York, Chichester) are very well-known and some of his work in this medium is being shown. However, the most interesting part of the exhibition is his early work, dating from the period he spent in Paris before the First World War, as well as the great back-drop he created for the ballet *Aleko* in 1942.

The major exhibition at the Hayward Gallery (until 21 April) comprises paintings by Renoir, the most popular and best-loved of all the French Impressionists. It comprises about eighty of his finest pictures, many familiar in reproduction, gathered from museums in Europe, the United States, Japan and South America.

### Chinese ornament

It is a fascinating thought that artistic influences have been travelling backwards and forwards between East and West for more than two millennia. This is admirably shown in the exhibition of 'Chinese Ornament: the Lotus and the Dragon' at the British Museum (until 5 May). In itself the exhibition is very pretty and worth a visit for that reason alone. But it also has a message for those with inquiring minds, since it carefully sets out to trace the movements of cultural motifs.

Acanthus leaves apparently travelled eastwards at a very early date, whereas those mythical creatures which we sometimes call lions, as well as flowers and fish, travelled westwards to appear in Persian and Ottoman ceramics and rugs. And, to confuse the issue, the motifs themselves became transformed in their journeyings and travelled back again, in transformation, to their native origins. All very perplexing, but admirably demonstrated and explained in the exhibition and in the excellent handbook/catalogue by Jessica Rawson, Deputy Keeper at the Museum (price £12.95).

For nearly forty years the records of a minor, but bizarre facet of Second World War British policy had lain forgotten, but for the memories of those who had been at the receiving end of it; the internment of some 30,000 German and Austrian refugees, the self-styled 'His Majesty's Most Loyal Enemy Aliens'. Suddenly a spate of books, films and TV documentaries emerged, recalling that strange interlude. Two books were published here almost simultaneously, exposing and documenting the historical background of internment. Other books followed, dealing with specific aspects, as the camps in Canada or the awful passage to Australia aboard the good ship *Dunera*.

Now a young, non-Jewish German, living in London, has turned his recent doctoral thesis for Berlin University into a book which has just been published in Germany by 'Das Arsenal'. He is Michael Seyfarth and the book is called: *Im Niemandsland—Deutsche Exilliteratur in Britischer Internierung*. It is a splendidly researched book, a veritable labour of love, written with much empathy and free from the patronising or belittling attitude which one occasionally encounters where postwar Germans try to come to grips with our past.

### New ground

The first part of the book recapitulates what has been related in earlier books and by and large is based on the same sources: the circumstances which led to general internment and the inept way in which it was carried out. It is in the second part that the author breaks new ground and makes available for the first time a rich harvest of poems, bitter-sweet songs, essays and fiction fragments germinated by the life in the various camps over here, in Canada and in Australia, patiently brought to the surface again from archives or collected from authors, where no doubt it had lain dusty and forgotten for those many years.

Much of what he has selected is written in German, which at that time was for most of the refugees the language in which they thought, dreamt and could best express themselves. Some of it is in English, not always word-perfect but showing all the more how deeply their emotions had been roused.

The selection also clearly reveals the basic dichotomy between the two principal groups in the

Spink & Son Ltd of King Street, SW1 are also showing the artistic accomplishments of the East with an exhibition of works by Ho-Nien Au (until 1 March 1985). Ho-Nien Au is the leading contemporary artist in Taiwan.

Most of the 75 pictures shown are of animals and flowers, although there are some landscapes. His work shows great delicacy, subtle colours and charm.

During the month of February the Ben Uri Art Gallery, 21 Dean Street, SW1 will be showing a selection from its well-known permanent collection of works by important Jewish artists.

ALICE SCHWAB

## A Bizarre No-Man's Land

camps. Those—and they were the majority—who had cast aside their old allegiances and were in various stages of anglicisation, partly subconscious, partly deliberate; and the others, who were primarily political refugees, whose bonds to Germany were as strong as ever and who looked upon their involuntary sojourn in Britain as a mere interlude before they could return home and resume their old involvements.

Time and again, whether expressed in prose or poetry, whether drawn in sketches and cartoons or transformed into music, the same cri-de-coeur breaks forth: Why are we here, behind barbed wire, we, the people who had fought Hitler and all he stood for at a time when many of those in high places were still wooing and appeasing him? As one internee expressed it in a poem written in Camp Hay in Australia:

*We have been Hitler's enemies for many years  
before the war,  
We knew his plans of bombing and invading  
Britain's shore;  
We warned you of his treachery when you believed  
in peace  
And now we are His Majesty's most loyal internees.*

Much of the selection reflects the frustration, the impotence the anxieties which were so pervasive and corrosive in the camps. But some of it also shows the wry wit, the flippant, mostly good-humoured lampooning of fellow inmates, camp conditions, jailers and of the whole establishment.

There are photocopies of bits of camp newspapers, of cartoons, of songs with their specially composed music; there are letters to the editor, menus, concert programmes, a rich panoply of cultural activities, which Michael Seyfarth has brought out of oblivion and which ought to be of nostalgic interest not only to those who were there, but also for others, in particular the post war generations who know nothing or very little of what went on there.

R.S.

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## 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.

## Birthday

**Norman-Nattenheimer:**—Happy Birthday to Mr. Peter M. Norman-Nattenheimer, of 61 Green Acres, Hendon Lane, N3, on 5 February.

**Woolf:**—John E. Woolf, of 60 Deanscroft Avenue, NW9, will celebrate his 80th birthday on 25 February.

## Deaths

**Klarenmeyer:**—My beloved sister Annaliese Klarenmeyer left me heart-broken on 11 December 1984. Forever mourned by her only devoted sister, Ruth. Shalom.

**Lehmann:**—Manfred Lehmann, husband of Henny, father of Julia and Tanya, died suddenly and tragically on 31 December 1984. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

**Lehmann:**—Beatrice Ruth Lehmann, aged 72, died on 11 December after a long illness. Deeply mourned by her daughter-in-law Henny and grandchildren Julia and Tanya, family and friends.

**Lichtenstein:**—Hedwig Lichtenstein, née Michel, died peacefully at home on 5 December, aged 88, after a painful year of illness. Mourned and remembered with love by daughter Charlotte, grandchildren Peter, Susanne and Wolfgang, and sister Assi and family.

**Melford:**—John Melford dearly loved husband of Renata, deeply mourned and sadly missed, by his wife and many friends. Passed away tragically after a short illness on 24 September 1984, at 68. He will always be remembered as a kind and loving man and will remain forever in our hearts.

**Nelken:**—Dr. Lothar Nelken, of 17 Tenterden Drive, London, NW4 1EA, passed away suddenly on 30 December. Deeply mourned by his widow Grete, children Stephen and Caroline and their spouses, relatives and many friends.

**Summerfield:**—Frank Summerfield, of 81 Holmfield Court, Belsize Grove, London NW3, passed away on 18 December 1984. Deeply mourned by his wife Margot, his twin sons George and Peter, his daughters-in-law Giselle and Marianne, his grandchildren Mark, Mandy, David, Jacky, Michael, Janette and Suzanne and all family and friends.

**Tym:**—Mina Tym died on 25 December 1984 after a long illness. Mourned by all her friends and colleagues at Children and Youth Aliyah.

**Wahle:**—Fred Wahle (of Princes Court, Shoot-up Hill) passed away on 8 December 1984. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by his wife Maria and sister Ida Beck, of Clifton, N.J., U.S.A.

**Weltsch:**—Robert Weltsch, born in Bielitz, beloved husband of Betty, passed away in December 1984. Uncle of Family Gross and Riggs, of Sarasota, Florida and of Marianne, of Haifa. An unforgettable friend to all friends. 35 Kingsmill Court, Kingsmill Terrace, NW8.

**Wertheimer:**—Else Wertheimer (née Valfer), born Kippenheim, died peacefully on 4 January in her 71st year. She will be deeply missed by her son Leslie, daughter Fay, relatives and friends. 13 Brooklyn Crescent, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 1DX.

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**GEISMAR,** Otto, Berlin, art teacher Gr. Hamburger Strasse. Recollections, photos required for article by Dr. H. Simon, Juedische Gemeinde, Oranienburger Strasse 28, DDR 1040 Berlin.

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**FOR ACADEMIC PUBLICATION,** biographical information from friends, relatives, about Margarethe Constance Gutmann, née Lieser, born Vienna 21/7/1897, possibly died Cambridge 1965; Heinz Saltenburg, producer, died London 1948; Marianne Gross, born Vienna 1900, married name unknown, sister of late journalist Fritz Gross. Box 1048.

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**NEW ROLE FOR MENUHIN**

For the first time, Yehudi Menuhin has conducted an opera which he also produced. He chose for his "debut" Mozart's last opera, "Titus", which appeared at the end of 1984 at the opera house in Bonn. The production was rehearsed every day for five weeks—perhaps the longest period that Menuhin has ever stayed in one place, even at his home in London. It also marks the first time since 1929 that the world-famous musician has come in extended contact with Germans, though he visited Germany immediately after the war and was the first to play German music in Jerusalem after 1945.

And the Federal Republic has not been slow to return the compliment. President von Weizsäcker, former President Carstens, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and ex-Chancellor Willy Brandt have all contacted Menuhin; he has been asked to sign Bonn's "Golden Book"; "Die Welt" published a long front-page interview.

Yehudi Menuhin finds Germany civilised today, because the country is still in a state of penance, "a very healthy human condition," he says.

**SECRETLY OBSERVED**

A recent photographic exhibition in Tel Aviv revealed every facet of a group of French neo-Nazis. The photographer was Escias Baitel who, born in Sweden to German refugee parents, lately came to Israel to live. Baitel, a professional press photographer, was trying to re-discover his roots in Europe when he came to Paris and there fell in with a group of young photographers who were engaged on a project to document French youth. At first, Baitel concentrated on Jewish and former refugee groups but, seeking a wider canvas, he came across a street gang who had adopted Nazi symbols and ideology.

For four years, the photographer concealed the fact that he was Jewish and accompanied the group everywhere carrying a clandestine camera. In his exhibition are pictures of the young people tattooing their arms and bodies with swastikas, honouring Nazi emblems and pushing dolls into model crematoria. Such scenes often brought him to the point of nausea, but he continued with his task of creating a visual warning about neo-Nazi trends.

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# THEATRE AND CULTURE

**Hamburg.** Among the smaller stages of this theatre-conscious city, the "Theater im Zimmer" prepared for a double jubilee: playing Pinter's now classic "Caretaker", *Gerda Gmelin*, manager of the house for 25 years, actress for 50 years, adopted a new idea by creating a female foursome with herself playing Davies, the tramp. In a congratulatory letter, Harold Pinter expressed his delight with the originality of this interpretation. *Rolf Liebermann*, the Swiss-born opera chief who left Hamburg in 1973, subsequently working for the Paris Opera which experienced "golden years" under his leadership, has been called back to Hamburg to become "Opera Intendant" once more.

**Birthdays.** The Austrian dialect comedian *Paul Löwinger*, doyen of the popular family of actors and singers, celebrated his 80th birthday. *Bernhard Minetti*, the German actor whose activities still take him all over the German-speaking theatre scene, is also 80 years old. *Ellen Frank*, another octogenarian who was Ingrid to Hans Albers' Peer Gynt in the thirties, who acted with Gustav Fröhlich, Grethe Weiser, Victor de Kowa and Heinz Rühmann, was once called Germany's answer to Katherine Hepburn, and was compared to Yvette Gilbert when singing chansons Lion Feuchtwanger wrote for her. Nowadays, as an actress in Munich, the once celebrated UFA star lives in the suburb of Schwabing and will shortly be seen in a thriller called "Monday Murder". German actress *Agnes Fink*, wife of actor-producer Bernhard Wicki, who divides her time between Munich and Zürich, is 65.

**Obituary.** Hanover-born *Gerhard Huesch*, the German baritone, an outstanding Wolfram in

Bayreuth (1930), a famous Papageno and Lieder singer, later a much sought-after singing teacher (one of his pupils is the British baritone Derek Hammond Stroud) has died in Berlin at the age of 83. Actor *Paul Dahlke* whose 80th birthday was reported in this column in December last, has died at his home in Grundlsee; he is survived by his wife, actress Elfe Gerhart, once the much-admired Buhlschaft in Salzberg's "Jedermann." Director-producer *Oscar Fritz Schuh* has died, aged 80. He was an intellectual and indefatigable man of the theatre whose productions were highlights of the German stage. He worked in Berlin in the fifties, Cologne (1959-1962) and Hamburg where he was the successor to Gruendgens in 1963. S.B.

## A GREAT CORIOLANUS

*CORIOLANUS* by William Shakespeare. Directed by Peter Hall. The National Theatre, in repertory at the Olivier.

Many factors can conspire to make up the success or failure of a Shakespeare production. It is easier to pinpoint the mistakes, much more difficult to articulate reasons for success. There are some irritations in this *Coriolanus*: the mishmash of modern dress and ancient robes, the missed opportunity to design impressive uniforms for the military, and the anachronistic despatch of the hero at the end by gunfire, when all before had been swordplay. But these quibbles are nothing to the power and sweep of this magnificent production.

It is a *Coriolanus* to remember and one by which others will long be judged.

The two outstanding assets of this production are Ian McKellen in the title role, and Irene Worth as his mother Volumnia. *Coriolanus* is quite a complex character despite the thrust of his overbearing pride, and this is so subtly and powerfully projected by Mr. McKellen that we are wholly convinced by the climactic scene in which he surrenders to the entreaties of his mother and wife to spare Rome. He radiates the charisma of a true leader of men, but is very funny when, much against the grain, he has to tout for the people's votes to confirm his consulship. Is there anything Mr. McKellen cannot do? Only recently he was Chekhov's charming good-for-nothing Platonov (our November '84 issue, p. 12), and here he is the forceful man of action, storming through the play like a whirlwind to his tragic end.

Irene Worth is a perfect foil of equal stature, and her change from the proud and jingoistic mother of the first half to the supplicant mistress of rhetoric in their great scene together, is just as convincing. How lovely and how true and womanly was the marvellous scene of the three women chatting together: Volumnia, her daughter-in-law Virgilia, and Valeria.

But this great acting takes place in a context—in Shakespeare's most politically conscious play. These political intricacies and machinations have been skilfully brought forward by the director, Sir Peter Hall. Society, like a rough crystal just dug from the earth, is turned this way and that, showing one facet after another (plebs, patricians, military) in conflict and resolution, but with a curious neutrality, above the battle. One sees the workings of society from the outside while being intensely involved in the drama of the actors within it. It is a remarkable achievement and a theatrical experience not to be missed. M.S.

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