

AJR

INFORMATION

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Suzanne Franks

VISITING TWO GERMANYS

Sharp, Revealing Contrasts

This article arises from a recent visit to East and West Germany in preparation for a television documentary.

When you lose a war, like Germany, there are no memorials. America experienced the same dilemma over Vietnam. After a period of official amnesia they erected a stark monument in Washington, for the soldiers who died. There can never be a monument to those who fell defending the Third Reich.

This painful agonising about how to remember has been highlighted more sharply than ever over the past months in West Germany. Willy Brandt is adamant that Germans must be able to say "Yes to their own people's history, even the dark parts". In a sense things are easy for him because of his own exemplary record. For most other Germans deciding how to remember the end of World War Two has been a matter of endless political and emotional complications.

Manfred Rommel, son of the Field Marshal and now Mayor of Stuttgart, advocated that the anniversary be met in silence. This was not possible and the official position was resolved that "May 8th will be a day of self-examination."

Chancellor Kohl was at pains to point out that the business of remembering will be "many faceted". It reflects his need to speak for as many Germans as possible, including those whose relatives lie in the Bitburg Cemetery, or who were driven out of Silesia in 1945 or who mourn the beginning of the division of their country.

In East Berlin they do not face a problem of too many facets. As in every other year there was a large military-style parade celebrating the delivery from Hitler's fascism and the birth of 'real' Socialism with the help of the Soviet army. If West Germans are not sure what to remember, East Germans are told only too clearly.

All children at the age of fourteen are taken on an extended visit to a concentration camp. It is part of their preparation for the 'Jugend Weihe', a kind of Communist confirmation. There they listen to a version of events which sounds almost surreal to Western ears, but which is quite normal in the GDR.

The Germans, they are told, were a victim population who suffered at the hands of a tiny minority of fascists and monopoly capitalists. The word Nazi is not used, probably because spelling out the initials National Socialist German Workers Party would lead to complications. There are other omissions: No mention of the Nazi-Soviet pact nor of the fact that it was actually American troops which liberated a large part of East Germany, as far as Leipzig. All the anniversary posters displayed slogans like "Thank you dear Soviet soldier", including those put up in the towns which were first entered by the US Army.

Switching cards

The East Germans make great play of the fact that the firms where the slave labourers from the camps toiled are the same names that dominate West German industry today: Krupp, I. G. Farben or Siemens. It is certainly true that the East does have a better record on de-nazification. Prominent Nazis were not reabsorbed into the establishment in the same way as they were in West Germany.

Yet on the other hand it is ludicrous to suggest that the population as a whole was simply a hapless victim like that of Holland or Poland. A senior Communist official privately admitted this to us, citing his own father who had been an ardent Nazi member until the very end, had subsequently switched party cards, and was now a committed Communist.

AGM ON JUNE 6

The AJR Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 6, 1985 at the Hannah Karminski House, 9 Adamson Road, N.W.3 at 7.30 pm.

It is because they do not admit this official national sense of any responsibility that the East Germans have avoided the need to pay any compensation to former German citizens who were persecuted. However they have at the same time derived some other disturbing ideological contortions.

The children visiting the camps like Buchenwald are given a detailed lecture about minority regimes, because they are told that the fascists were themselves a small minority who seized power. The comrade describes how a state can be subverted by an evil minority.

Three examples

Three examples are given: Chile, South Africa and Israel. So that only moments after retelling the horrors suffered by Jews in the camp there is an unpleasant tirade about the wicked Zionist oppression. There is no mention of the popular success of the Nazis at the polls and similarly there is no reference to any democratic process in Israel.

In West Germany there has been an attempt to come to terms with the issue of majority involvement in the Nazi era, both active participation and general apathy. Chancellor Kohl has tended to repeat rather often that he was only fifteen when the war ended and that two thirds of Germans were born after 1945. However in his speech at Belsen on April 21st he spoke instead of undying German shame and responsibility.

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ACT NOW — Support our Wiener Library Appeal

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K.C. SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY TO ISRAEL

TWO GERMANYS

The decision to hold a special session in the Bundestag on May 8th was also intended to symbolise the fact that it was the old Parliament which voted full powers to Hitler. Once again, in contrast to the East, it was designed to demonstrate to the younger generation the role of the majority in enabling the dictatorship to assume power.

Yet it is also the parliament which has witnessed a recent episode which has cast somewhat of a shadow over the whole period. Only a few days before the May 8th commemorations the Bundestag finally passed the controversial law called the "Auschwitz Lie". Prompted by the rise in anti-semitic, neo-Nazi literature, it had been under discussion for some time.

Originally all the parties supported the idea of a law which would specifically make it a crime to deny the Holocaust of the Jews. Previously it had been up to a victim to initiate action against such a libel, but the intention was to strengthen the law so that the public prosecutor could intervene. However in March the proposed bill ran into difficulties. The right wing of the CDU refused to accept a bill which dealt only with the Jews and did not include mention of other groups like those expelled from the Eastern provinces. In other words shifts of population agreed at Potsdam were to be equated with mass murder at Auschwitz.

The Social Democrats were unable to alter this draft and were obliged to see this unsatisfactory compromise passed by the parliament. The Jewish community was also bitterly disappointed. Heinz Galinski, their leader in Berlin, himself a former camp inmate, said he would have preferred no law at all to the present cynical deal.

The East European press have made much of the public disagreements and delay in passing the law against the Auschwitz Lie, especially at a time when Germany was supposed to be honouring its martyrs. Even East Germans deeply opposed to their own regime were dismayed by the episode. Certainly it is true that the subject of whether or not the atrocities existed could not even surface in the GDR. There instead it is the questions of exactly who committed the atrocities in the name of whom that are left open to considerable interpretation not to say untruth.

SAAR PHILANTHROPIST HONOURED

The Saar Order of Merit has been conferred on Martha Blum, the widow of Dr. Ernst Blum. Dr. Blum, blind from childhood, founded establishments to help the blind both in Germany and Israel. In this he was consistently helped by his wife who, after his death, continued to work in the field, joining the administration of Marburg's "Hilfe für Blinde in Israel".

She was also deeply involved in building up the Saar Jewish community after 1945 and for thirty years headed the Jewish Women's Society. As well as her other work, Martha Blum worked in the directorate of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and she also helped to found a home for the elderly and handicapped in Saarbrücken.

Near Beth Shemesh and the Valley of Elah, where David the shepherd fought Goliath the Philistine, is the "K.C." (Kartell Convent) Memorial Forest of the Jewish National Fund, dedicated to "the memory of the members of the Jewish Student Fraternities united in the Kartell Convent, who fought antisemitism in the German universities and those who perished during the Nazi Holocaust 1933-1945".

Survivors of this "Kartell Verband juedischer Studenten" from Europe, America and Israel recently paid homage to their departed members at this Memorial Forest.

It was the late AJR member Lothar Nelken who



K.C. Memorial

initiated the idea of the Memorial Forest. Among those present at the ceremony were Fritz Hallgarten and William Henne.

This Jewish students' fraternity goes back to a period of open and concealed antisemitism by students and even professors at German universities almost a hundred years ago after Jews had previously been excluded from student life.

The first Jewish student Fraternity was created spontaneously in 1896 in Breslau (now Wroclaw) to fight antisemitism and to educate members as self-confident Jews who would also later in public life fight for and defend the civil rights of Jews.

They wanted to solve the Jewish question in Germany, hoping that humanism and freedom would overcome antisemitic chauvinism.

This first Jewish students' fraternity, "Vidrina", adopted as motto "Nemo Me Impune Lacessit" (nobody shall provoke me with impunity) and tried to teach active and senior members self-confidence as Jews, courage, loyalty to Judaism, discipline and integrity.

Since the German elitist student fraternities restricted or refused admission to Jewish students they decided to wear caps and ribbons like the other student fraternities, thus openly demonstrating their Jewish identity. In order to counter any accusations of cowardice the active members were also taught fencing in case they were challenged to duels.

When Jewish student fraternities sprang up in other university towns like Heidelberg, Munich, Berlin and Freiburg, like-minded students formed in 1896 the "Kartell-Convent juedischer Korporationen" (K.C.) with the main purpose of fighting for respect and acceptance of Jews not only at universities, but also in academic life, thus making the K.C. effective training ground for the Jewish self-defence movement.

Republican Germany proved too weak and incapable of coping with rising antisemitism in German universities.

Under these conditions the original means of self assertion at the time of the foundation of the K.C. became obsolete, and during the last years before the Nazi seizure of power the acquisition of the official German "Sports Badge" replacing fencing became obligatory in many fraternities, thus again emphasising the basic tenet of self-discipline and also because often provocations had to be met with a readiness to fight back physically.

With the dissolution of German student organisations by the Nazis the familiar meeting places of the K.C. had to close their doors forever, though the links between the old and young members were kept intact wherever possible.

Bonds of friendship forged during the student years proved indestructible to members of the K.C. Fraternity, now living in 33 countries on all Continents and are passed on also to the next-of-kin of departed ones.

A tangible expression of solidarity is the "Max-Mainzer Memorial Foundation", a fund which is available to ease the burden of old age wherever in the world a member or his widow may live.

Regular communications of the "American Jewish K.C. Fraternity" and the "K.C. in Great Britain" are lively mirrors of matters of interest for the rapidly fading remnants of the Fraternity.

In many fields of academic, scientific, public and Jewish interest members have made important contributions to the countries where they found a haven.

Amongst them are the late Dr. Eugen Glueckauf, Deputy Chief Scientist of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell, an Honorary Fellow of University College London, and Sir Ludwig Guttman, founder and director of the National Spinal Injuries Centre in Stoke Mandeville, Founder of the International Stoke Mandeville Games for Paralysed and of the Sir Ludwig Guttman Military Spinal Injury Centre at Tel Hashomer in Israel.

Since members of the K.C. Fraternity came to Eretz Israel in the early 30s they made their contribution to the development of the country as farmers, labourers, defenders of the Yishuv, as civil servants and in the scientific and medical fields.

Professor Julius Kleeberg, now over 90, a veteran of the First World War in the German Army, became one of the founders of the first Faculty of Medicine at the Hebrew University.

Professor Klaus Dror developed occupational medicine in Israel. The late Shimon Yallon, a senior civil servant, was Israeli Consul General in the U.S.A. and addressed an international K.C. Convention in New York on the task of the K.C. for Post-War Jewry.

The youngest of the active members of the K.C. before the enforced liquidation are now 70 years old and the ranks of the Fraternity are rapidly thinning. The lasting memory of the proud Jewish fighters for rights as Jews, from 1896 onwards, will remain the pine trees in the K.C. Memorial Forest in the Valley of Elah in Israel, perpetuating the K.C. motto: "Per Aspera ad Astra."

WOLF S. MATSDORF

BRITISH JEWRY'S ACHIEVEMENT

If proof were needed of the contribution made to Anglo-Jewry, and to Great Britain in general, by German Jewish immigrants, this can be found in great abundance at the Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, NW3 at the exhibition (until 2 June) organised by the Board of Deputies in conjunction with the Hampstead Artists Council.

As Charles Spencer, the organiser of the exhibition, points out in the introduction to the catalogue, the exhibition is neither a scholarly history of British Jewry, nor all inclusive. In fact, it is eclectic in its choice of exhibits and far-reaching in the spread of its tentacles. Dr Barnardo (of the Homes) and General Booth (of the Salvation Army) rub shoulders with that acknowledged Jew, Sir Basil Henriques. The Jewish connections of Barnardo and Booth are so tenuous as to be almost non-existent.

Karl Marx is included because he lived here for a time and Sigmund Freud because he came to this country just before his death. The Rothschild family is present in abundance. Other notable figures of German origin are Sir Ernest Chain, Sir Ernest Cassell, Lord Melchett, Sir Sigmund Warburg, Erich Mendelsohn, Bernard Wolpe, to mention but a few. Johann Zoffany (1773-1810) who was born in Frankfurt is also included, presumably because he lodged with a Jewish family in London.

Among the publishers we find Lord Weidenfeld and Victor Gollancz, but no mention of Thomas Rosenthal or the Maschlars, father and son. Elizabeth Bergner is also there, rubbing shoulders with Hermione Gingold (does being twice married to a Jew make you Jewish?)

The exhibition is well worth visiting and most enjoyable, if only to recognise old friends, to



Lord Weidenfeld, photographed by Judy Goldhill

wonder at certain inclusions and, still more, to wonder at certain exclusions.

In the next room at the Camden Arts Centre there was a large exhibition of photographs of the Anglo-Jewish community by Judy Goldhill, that very gifted young photographer. Judy is, of course, of good German immigrant stock on both sides of her family.

WALTER SCHWAB

BERNADOTTE REMEMBERED

The Swedish Jewish community commemorated the end of the Second World War by staging an exhibition based largely on the life of Count Folke Bernadotte. In the spring of 1945, the Count was involved in bringing 10,000 concentration camp survivors to Sweden, many of whom live in the country to this day.

TWO BRUSSELS EXHIBITIONS

Brussels has been the scene of two interesting events recently. One was a three-day festival of international Jewish culture, including paintings by Scarlet Nikolska, a public lecture by Sir Immanuel Jacobovits, music and drama. The other is an exhibition of "Daily Life in Belgium, 1940-1945", which although recording wartime Belgian life shows little of the persecution of Jews.

FILM ARCHIVES FOR ISRAEL

A number of Israeli institutions have received a generous donation of film archives from Chronos-Film, Berlin. The material, on video tapes, represents a total screening of 50 hours and has been made available to the Diaspora Museum, the Israeli Film Archive, Ghetto Fighters' House, and Israeli Television. It includes scenes never before published, some of them from Eastern Europe and others secretly filmed. Among the material are films of a Resistance trial in Paris, a People's Tribune during the Russian Revolution and a mass execution recorded secretly by a young German soldier. Much information about Jewish history, the Ghettos, the pogroms and prominent Jews such as Einstein and Trotsky, is also available.

AN ART HISTORIAN'S CENTURY

Professor Rahel Wischnitzer celebrated her hundredth birthday a few weeks ago. Nearly 60 years have passed since she became a member of the Berlin Jewish Community's Art Commission in 1927. In 1935, she was appointed Curator of the Jewish Museum in Berlin, a post she held until her emigration in 1938.

Rahel Bernstein was born in Minsk and educated in Warsaw, at the Universities of Heidelberg, Munich and Berlin, and also at the fine arts academies of Brussels and Paris. Returning to Tsarist Russia, where she married Dr. Mark Wischnitzer (later General Secretary of the "Hilfsverein für deutschen Juden"), she found her chief interest in the history of Jewish art. Both she and her husband were contributors and helped to edit the German "Encyclopaedia Judaica" (1928-1934). For a time she also edited the Berlin-based Hebrew journal "Rimmon".

It was also in Berlin that Rahel Wischnitzer began her major book "Symbole und Gestalten der jüdischen Kunst". In America she wrote several works on synagogue art and architecture and, after the death of her husband in 1955, helped to edit his "History of Jewish Crafts and Guilds", which appeared in 1968. In that year, already over 80, she retired from her professorship at the Stern College of Yeshiva University, New York, though she continued to publish some essays on her specialist subject even after that date. Her long life has brought her numerous friends, who celebrated with many good wishes so unusual an anniversary.

ANCIENT STORAGE METHODS REVIVED

Age-old methods of grain storage are being studied by Israel's Volcani Institute for Agricultural Research. Mountains of grain in moist climates quickly become mouldy and insect-ridden, but very few preventive chemicals can be used on foodstuffs. The Israeli researchers have noted that dry desert air and cold night temperatures keep the grain free from pests. Another line of inquiry is based on ancient agricultural practice. Over the centuries, Middle Eastern farmers learnt that grain covered with straw and fine soil developed an impermeable crust. Insects and mould are starved of oxygen and little of the stored food is lost. The work of the Volcani Institute has important implications for the famine regions of the Third World.

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HOME NEWS

WIENER LIBRARY EXHIBITION

The Wiener Library staged a month long exhibition marking the fortieth anniversary of the liberation of the Concentration Camps. It was designed and mounted by Roman Halter, himself a former inmate of Theresienstadt. Amongst the documents and photographs were a number of contemporary accounts by prisoners who were liberated and by the soldiers and journalists who witnessed the Liberation. At the opening of the exhibition on 24th April there were also former Camp inmates and representatives of those soldiers who were at Belsen forty years ago. Dr Isaac Levy recalled his emotions when he first entered the huts at Belsen and faced the task of thousands of dead each day.

Also there to pay tribute to those who died and who survived were former Prime Minister James Callaghan, President of the Library Endowment Appeal and Sir Keith Joseph MP, a vice-president of the Appeal. Both praised the unique work of the Library in preserving the memory of the Nazi horror as a warning to present and future generations. S.F.

OFFENDING TALE NOT TO APPEAR

An English collection of Grimm's Fairy Tales has been withdrawn from sale following protests from the Board of Deputies. The edition, printed by Omega Books of Hereford, contained the anti-semitic tale "The Jew Among Thorns". Dr. Jacob Gewirtz of the Defence Department pointed out to the publishers and to the copyright holder, Hasso Ebeling, that the story clearly contravened the Race Relations Act and would render them liable to prosecution. Both publishers have agreed that "The Jew Among Thorns" will be removed from further editions and the existing book is not to be distributed. Mr. Ebeling pointed out that the German edition did not contain the tale.

Dr. Gewirtz has since been informed that another edition of Grimm's Fairy Tales is on sale which includes the offending story. Bookshops have been asked to remove it from their shelves.

GRETE SALINGER SURPRISE

Having ignored her own 90th birthday a few weeks ago, Mrs. Grete Salinger, who has been Chairman of the Friendship Club of the League of Jewish Women of the Central Synagogue for 33 years, arranged a luncheon party on May 1st for the elderly people who meet on Wednesdays at the synagogue. Much to her surprise, at 1.30 the Mayor of Westminster, Mr. Ernst Bull, and his wife, turned up in full regalia to honour Mrs. Salinger, whose co-chairman had secretly arranged the surprise. The Mayor praised her long years of fruitful social work and wished her long life and good health. The AJR joins in the congratulations.

Annely Juda Fine Art

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CONTEMPORARY PAINTING AND SCULPTURE

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PROJECTED HENDON ARCHIVE

Yakar, an educational foundation in Hendon, has begun a project for a "media centre" to include a lending library and archive, video-tapes and films. The foundation also hopes to build up a corps of young educationists for youth work. Yakar's Director, Rabbi Michael Rosen, explained that the existing resource centres at Jews' College and Balfour House were intended for special sections of the community—teachers and youth groups—while Yakar's material would be made available to the whole community. At a launching dinner, a film of life in a Lithuanian town just before the Second World War was accompanied by a talk from the town's youngest survivor, Mr Jack Kagan. Funds amounting to £50,000 are required for the two projects.

ILEA'S TEACHING AID

The Inner London Education Authority has produced an audio-visual programme intended to help schoolchildren understand the meaning of the Holocaust. As well as documentary reproductions, the pack contains two videocassettes. The first, based on the Auschwitz Exhibition which toured Britain a short time ago, includes film clips and still pictures supplied by the Auschwitz State Museum.

In the second cassette, Clive Morton, headmaster of King David High School, Liverpool, advises teachers on their classroom attitude to these events. Mr. Morton stresses that Jews should not be presented merely as victims, since this could lead to undesirable effects on some pupils. Also included in the pack is a 30-minute discussion between Holocaust survivors and schoolchildren. The Board of Deputies has welcomed the programme for use in Jewish as well as non-Jewish schools.

PRIZE COMMEMORATES TRANSLATOR

In memory of Dr. George Webber, an annual prize of £1,000 has been established, to be given to the best translation from Hebrew into English. When Dr. Webber died three years ago, he was engaged in translating Israeli Supreme Court judgements into English and he already had many translations from Hebrew to his credit.

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THE BROKEN PEN

Egon Larsen needs no introduction to our readers. Ota Filip is a Czech dissident writer, living in Munich. Together they have edited an impressive collection from works of exiled writers (*Die zerbrochene Feder. Schriftsteller in Exil. K. Thiemann Verlag, Stuttgart*), 40 writers from 20 countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America who have little in common with each other with the exception of the fact that dictatorial regimes prevent them from living and publishing in their homelands.

Some of them, like George Mikes, have meanwhile become famous as writers in a new language in their countries of adoption. Others are still fighting for recognition, living "in dem alten Haus der Sprache" — in the words of Karl Kraus, quoted by Hilde Spiel, herself for many years an exile writer, in her most valuable Introduction. She concludes with a wise word of encouragement:

"Wenn manche der Autoren dieses Bands nach Jahr und Tag bereit sind, die Sprachbarriere zu ueberspringen, sich eine neue Geisteswelt und Ausdrucks moeglichkeiten zu erobern, werden sie mit Gewinn jene Leere ueberwunden haben, die das Gefuehl der Trennung vom Altgewohnten, des Unverstandenseins und Ausgestossenseins von der urspruenglichen Gemeinschaft, des schieren Heimwehs, kurzum, des Bewusstseins, im Exil zu leben, in uns bewirkt".

Achievements

Egon Larsen (who translated many of the contributions from English into German) is the author of another Foreword, comparing the achievements of writers exiled by the Third Reich with those of victims of later dictatorships.

A similar collection, but confined to dissidents from communism, has been presented by Juergen Serke (*Die verbannten Dichter. Berichte und Bilder von einer neuen Vertreibung. Albrecht Knaus, Hamburg*). Serke's book about the banned poets and writers is a pendant to his earlier publication about the burned poets, *Die verbrannten Dichter*.

J. W. BRUEGEL

PHILO LEXICON

'Philo-Lexicon', the famous Handbook of Jewish Knowledge published in Germany in the thirties, has just been reprinted (from the revised 1936 edition) by the Jüdische Verlag im Athenäum Verlag, Königstein/Ts. at DM49. This was an outstanding reference work, still very useful, and it is interesting to see the long list of collaborators, from the recently deceased John (Hans) Oppenheimer, to Leo Baeck, Otto Hirsch, Ismar Elbogen, Joachim Prinz, Eva Reichmann, Helen Rosenau, Hannah Karminski, yes, and Dr. Werner Rosenstock. It is a long roll of honour of the German Jewish intelligentsia. It is also beautifully produced.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prince Hubertus

Sir,—Dr. Joseph's statement in your April issue ("Family Connections") that Lord Pirbright, the maternal grandfather of the later Prince Hubertus zu Löwenstein-Wertheim, was "throughout his life active in Jewish affairs" is not correct.

He "dropped out" in 1886 when he was forced to resign the presidency of the Anglo-Jewish Association, which he had held, with other communal offices, since 1872, after attending the marriage of his daughter Alice in church. He survived until 1903.

In his autobiography "Towards the Further Shore" (1968), Prince Hubertus devotes 16 lines to him without hinting at the fact that, although second generation British, his roots lay in the Frankfurt "Judengasse".

18c Belsize Park H. F. ASHBROOK
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Silesians

Sir,—It may perhaps interest you that in the recently distributed *Jahrbuch der Schlesischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität zu Breslau* (Vol. 25, 1984), Verlag Jan Thorbecke, Sigmaringen, pp. 93-177, my essay "Die Juden im wirtschaftlichen und kulturellen Leben Schlesiens" was published. This essay is an enlarged version illustrated with 16 portraits of my article "Die Juden in Schlesien: Aus ihrer Geschichte und ihrem Beitrag zu Wirtschaft und Kultur" which was originally published in the *Bulletin des Leo-Baeck-Instituts*, No. 56/57, 1980. Excerpts from the article were also published in the catalogue of the exhibit "Grosse Schlesien" which was shown until the middle of May at the "Deutschlandhaus" Berlin, and last year in the "Kulturpolitische Korrespondenz" (Bonn).

I read your "AJR Information" with great interest and am grateful to have it.
6007 N. Sheridan Road, KURT SCHWERIN
Chicago, Ill. 60660

Family Servants' Attitudes

Sir,—Prof. F. Friedmann, a schoolfriend of mine (formerly of Augsburg, now living in Munich), has encouraged the Institute for Contemporary History in Munich to include in its study of 'Jews in Germany, 1933-45', the attitudes and relationships of non-Jewish domestic servants in Jewish households. It will be recalled that Rabbi Dr. Leo Baeck remarked that 'Above all the Christian maids demonstrated their devotion and fidelity to so many. They deserve a monument.'

Prof. Friedmann is trying to collect reminiscences from Jewish emigrants worldwide. Recollections of persons and relationships, above all after the Nazi seizure of power, and the names and addresses of relatives and acquaintances who might be able to contribute comments, should be sent to: Prof. Dr. F. G. Friedmann, Hans-Leipelt-Strasse 12, 8000 München 40, West Germany.
34 Christchurch Hill, R. STRAUSS, F.I.M.
London, NW3 1JL.

MB FAREWELL ISSUE

To mark the cessation of weekly publishing by the *Mitteilungs Blatt* (MB) in Tel Aviv, the organ of Irgun Olei Merkaz Europa (Central European Immigrants Organisation), MB published a 32-page issue looking back on the 50 years of its existence. It is full of interesting material, both new and reprinted. There are Passover Thoughts of the late Robert Weltsch, a piece by Heinz Gerling on German Jewish Zionists in Israel and their activities (Pinchas Rosen, Siegfried Moses, et al), Hans Capell on German Zionists and the First World War, recollections of childhood and youth by Ernst Simon, telling how he became a Zionist and evoking a vanished world with great charm and nostalgia. There is an amusing and thoughtful article by retired Chief Justice Chaim Cohn on the jokey-derisory term used for German immigrants in Israel—'Jেকে—A Most Honourable Title' and an assessment of 'MB' by our collaborator Ernst G. Lowenthal, with a front-page think-piece by Gerda Luft. The quality of the writing makes one all the sadder about the cessation of weekly publication. But the rest will not be silence. Fred Estreicher promises that there will be occasional future appearances, either in monthly form or an internal information bulletin.

BELGIUM'S JEWISH RADIO STATION

The first Jewish radio station in Europe, Brussels-based Radio Judaica, is celebrating five years of current affairs, news broadcasts, religious programmes and concerts, programmes which it has produced since its beginnings in 1980. The station broadcasts for 12 hours a day in French, English, Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino and has an audience of nearly 30,000. Belgian and Israeli leaders are often to be heard on Radio Judaica.

Two American Senators have recently suggested that a new Radio Maccabi should be set up, broadcasting six hours a day in Russian and designed to appeal to the Jews of the Soviet Union. Their idea is that Radio Maccabi should form part of the existing Radio Liberty, currently transmitting in Russian and minority languages such as Ukrainian.

HOSPICE

AJR member Mrs. Eva Trent informs us that the Hospice being planned for East Finchley (*AJR Information*, April) by the North London Hospice Group and the Jewish Welfare Board, will be open to people of all religions.

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CARL FLESCH AT 75

Carl Flesch will be 75 on June 23. Son of the famous violinist Carl Flesch and his wife Bertha, he grew up in Berlin. Though a music lover, he had no wish to follow in his father's footsteps and, on leaving school, read law at university. He was a pupil of the well-known 'Repetitor' Springer who is currently being honoured nearly 50 years after his death. Carl's time as a 'Referendar' was cut short in 1933 and he soon made his home in England and had to start a new career.

He chose Insurance Brokerage. His connection with practising musicians—many of whom had been similarly displaced—and his understanding of their professional needs enabled him to devote a major part of his efforts to a specialised service to musicians. London being a principal centre for insurance, he could develop his speciality on an international basis.

After starting out on his own he soon teamed up with another refugee who had already practised insurance in Germany, Bruno F. Leroi. Following the latter's departure for the USA the firm eventually merged into a quoted company, Allied Insurance Brokers.

There is no space in this brief note to follow every detail of Carl's subsequent career, but it is important to record that at an age when others had long retired he took on a new and taxing assignment which utilised his knowledge of the German language and of German business. Talk of impending retirement is not wholly convincing.

Shortly before World War II he married Ruth, daughter of Dr. Franz and Fanni Seligsohn. Of their two children, Michael resumed the connection with the law and has become a well-known Q.C.; Carol, herself a social worker, is married to a solicitor, Humphrey Wine. There are four grandchildren who may well be described as one of Carl's hobbies.

He has always been deeply involved in musical activities which were designed to honour the memory of his father. In addition he takes an active interest in refugee affairs and has been a member of the Executive Council of this Association for many years.

It is particularly fitting that he has been closely involved with the Self-Aid of Refugees and the organisation of its annual concert. Readers will wish us to thank him for his efforts and to join us in wishing him many years of continuing health and happiness. EDGAR HERZFELD

HOW ART CAN HELP

The Raphael Centre counselling service gives guidance on suitable help for Holocaust survivors and their families. One way in which it has been able to assist directly is through an art therapy course run by Mrs. Diana Halliday, whose parents came to this country to escape the pogroms of Eastern Europe. Mrs. Halliday, who is a Fellow of the International Society for Psychotherapy as well as a professional art teacher, has found that painting or clay modelling can unlock many stubborn memories and support people in integrating their past experiences into their present lives. She recalls the case of a Jewish woman, an orphan of the Holocaust who came to Britain at the age of five, having been sheltered by Catholic nuns. At first the woman could not remember her Jewish past, but art therapy allowed her to relive and accept her own childhood.

TURKISH DELIGHT IN IMMIGRANTS

They Moulded Ankara and the Hinterland

In 1933, Turkey saw the advantage to be gained from the expulsion of intellectuals by the Third Reich. Academic "guest workers" were secured for Istanbul University. Barely a year later, prominent Jews and non-Jewish emigrants were installed in Ankara, which had been declared Turkey's capital as recently as 1923 and was now being developed amidst a bare steppeland. Ankara University, however, was not formally founded until 1946. Up to that time there existed only individual faculties, academic foundations, clinics and modern ministerial departments.

To consider first the "guest workers" directly employed by the Government: monocled Dr. Max von der Porten, formerly economic adviser to the Brüning cabinet, bore a special responsibility. Turkey, an agricultural country at that date, was just nerving itself to leap into the industrial age. Liquid capital was short and private investors hard to find, so that the need of the moment was the establishment of industry and efficient financing institutions.

Celal Bayar, later to become Head of State, was at that time Minister of Economics and undertook literally nothing without consulting the trusty expert in his anteroom. (Bayar is still alive, now a centenarian.) To put it mildly, von der Porten was the most important Jewish sponsor of Turkey's industrialisation.

Industry on the European pattern is inconceivable without workers' protection and social security. It was Councillor Oskar Weigert who set this development on the right lines: he had already been highly successful in the same field in Germany and was always ready with advice and practical support for new emigrants.

Great opportunities

Virgin land lay in literally every direction for these pioneers of industry, including the market research necessary for an up-to-date economy. Fritz Baade of Neuruppin, formerly Reich Commissar for Cereals, had this well in hand. His Jewish wife had been an editor of the Liberal "Berlin Börsenkurier" and he himself had been among the youngest Social Democratic Reichstag deputies before Hitler's destruction of parliamentary democracy.

Another of his services to the land which gave him refuge was to organise an internationally competitive dried fruit export trade, which even today still provides extremely welcome hard currency. After the Second World War and the founding of the Federal German Republic he was again elected as a German Social Democrat.

As for Albert Eckstein, the Turkish press devoted whole series of articles to recording his successes. Up to his dismissal in 1935, he was head of the Children's Clinic in Düsseldorf and afterwards of the similar clinic in Ankara, created as it were out of thin air. It was said jokingly of Eckstein that he had visited the villages in Anatolia where the wolves still howled. And indeed child mortality in Turkey fell from a rate of 33% to 13%.

Professor August Laqueur, born in Strasbourg, had been a leading practitioner of physical therapy at the Rudolf Virchow Hospital in Berlin. He continued his work at the Nümune Hastanesi. Equally famous was the surgeon Eduard Melchior, dismissed by the Wenzel Hanke Hospital in Breslau in accordance with the Nuremberg Laws of 1935. Melchior made determined efforts to fulfil the terms of his contract, which provided that within three years his lectures should be given in Turkish. The students of Ankara and Istanbul, with their wonted courtesy, listened to him without moving a muscle. But when they later talked among themselves, one might hear, "The Professor's German was very hard to understand today".

Music and skat

At least once a month there would be meetings in one of the emigrants' houses for papers to be read and later discussed, often until day-break. Music was played enthusiastically within the home, but not in public concerts. Skat sessions were popular, producing all the usual pleasantries. Young emigrants were particularly fond of riding. With the onset of the heavy winter snowfalls, Viennese Otto Gerngrass—Professor of Organic Chemistry and Albumen Technology—used to ski from his house right through the capital to his faculty, returning the same way after work.

Later, during the war, when public transport was sometimes halted, the future Mayor of Berlin Ernst Reuter always rode a bicycle—much to the displeasure of the Dean, who believed in maintaining dignity. Reuter had been rescued by Quakers, sent to England via Holland, and Baade—his former colleague in the Reichstag Social Democratic Party—had enabled him to come to Ankara in 1935. There, the future Mayor proved himself as a Government adviser in the Economic Ministry, more precisely as a transport expert. Nor did the Turks fail to make use of his other fields of knowledge and his abilities. Reuter, the last freely-elected Mayor of Magdeburg, was accordingly appointed to the Academy for Political Science and occupied the newly-created Chair of Urban Architecture and Town Planning.

In 1940 the Turkish Government dismissed all its foreign advisers. Baade coped by founding a small factory making boxes for fruit exporters. Reuter continued as a professor; but he proved so difficult to replace that within a few years, in 1944, the Government re-employed him as an adviser.

He published freely, studied ancient languages, lectured among his fellow-emigrants, collected stamps and was a passionate skat-player. Despite the most tempting offers, Turkey could not retain Reuter's services after the war.

Two friends of Ludwig Erhart, Wilhelm Röpke and Alexander Rüstow lived in Instabul, having pioneered a social market economy. Reuter, Wilbrandt, Röpke and Rüstow with some other "academic guest workers" had formed a circle which considered and planned for the future of their native land. At first they were assisted by the Western Allies. Contacts were arranged with Helmuth James Graf von Moltke and Carl Goerdeler, who travelled to Turkey: both men would later fall victim to the failure of the July 20 Plot.

It is scarcely possible to reckon up all the advantages which the Ankara refugees created for Turkey. Professor Paul Pulewka, a native of Elbing, came from Tübingen to work as a Health Ministry adviser. In addition, he established and headed three learned institutes, including the particularly important Institute for Pharmacology and Toxicology.

Choosing ancestors

Benno Landsberger, the great Leipzig Assyriologist, founded the Sumerological Institute. He was a close friend of Hans Gustav Güterbock. Previously, as an associate of the Near Eastern Department of the National Museum in Berlin, he had taken part in the German Oriental Society's renowned Bogazköy dig, and went on to do important work at the Oriental Institute in Chicago. With his specialist knowledge of the Hittites, Professor Landsberger was especially esteemed by Kemal Atatürk who, seeking a new Turkish identity, had chosen the ancient Hittites as the forefathers of the Turkish people.

A third person in this band of friends was Professor Georg Rohde from Berlin, who founded the Institute for Classical Philology. Then there was Ernst Hirsch who worked for 10 years in Istanbul. Hirsch was a polymath, as shown by the fact that he was Professor for Commercial Law, Philosophy of Law and Sociology of Law, that he helped to initiate new laws and enthusiastically wrote and published.

Later to become twice Rector of the Berlin Free University, Professor Hirsch with energy and success enrolled himself in the cause of a new modern method of teaching (live dialogue) instead of the stubbornly traditional system of cramming by rote. It may be noted as a curious fact that even the director of Ankara's gasmask factory was a Jewish emigrant from Germany, Dr. Siegfried Herzbacher.

Even today, some Turks will tell you that they really ought to be grateful to Hitler: without him no one would ever have managed to bring so many prominent emigrants to Turkey, emigrants who, as midwives to almost all Atatürk's reforms and as teachers of Turkish youth, deserved so well of the country.

A. J. FISCHER

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AN ENGLISHWOMAN'S ROLE

In 1932 a young Englishwoman named Jocelyn Wyburd joined a friend for a long holiday at a somewhat primitive hotel in the Austrian Tyrol. With her conventional upbringing, she knew little of politics, although one of her best friends was secretary to Lord Robert Cecil and had passed on some knowledge of foreign affairs.

While on holiday, the two young women quickly picked up enough German to converse with the landlord and other local people. They found that Nazis were being sent to all the local villages—spruce, polite young men who made a good impression. In fact they attracted the more respectable villagers: shiftier ones backed the Austrian government and only a few supported Communism.

Mrs. Wyburd's family had simply ignored English Jews, saying that one could only "know" the Rothschilds and the Raphaels. But now she met a young German Jew who was to become her contact with many "clients". Most of these people were neither religious Jews nor Zionists, but professional men persecuted under the Nuremberg Laws.

Mrs. Wyburd learnt more and more of the Jewish plight and of Nazi indoctrination of ordinary people. Before the Anschluss, she found the Austrian political climate very similar to that of Germany. The government was tyrannical and the Tyroleans believed that either Nazism or Communism must come—they preferred Hitler.

It was in the mid-thirties that Mrs. Wyburd became involved in finding homes for refugees. Up to the Anschluss she visited both Austria and Germany—but afterwards only Germany—working to bring people out. An Austrian friend wrote

to her explaining that voting for union with Germany had been fair, "it was a vote for blood", everything was in the best order, it was the only right way for Austria. It was quite untrue that 5,000 people had been killed.

Picking her words carefully, Mrs. Wyburd replied that the English papers had indeed reported that no blood was shed in the take-over, but "If I explained to you what I fear is the truth of the mystery you would probably not believe me".

Bold approach

By 1938, Mrs. Wyburd had become officially involved in the immigration of refugees by working with the Quakers to bring out people of Jewish origin. At Friends' House, she told leading Quakers frankly that there were plenty of upper-middle-class English people in country districts who were unaware of what was happening, who thought Hitler "a good chap", who were in the main antisemitic: but these were the very people to approach since they had large houses and good hearts.

Out of this bold approach came the Austrian Appeal Committee. 20,000 appeals were sent out and only two of the replies received were offensive. Many refugees were taken in by the "antisemites" among whom Mrs. Wyburd classes her own father. Among the people she helped were Dr. Felix Tietze and his family, Dr. Richard Jörg and the Kenedi family, all of whom came from Vienna.

While visiting Germany late in 1938, Mrs. Wyburd was accompanied by John Baber, since

for her protection she needed "an improbable-looking man who did not speak German". Her mission was to check that the Jews with whom the Quakers were in touch were still alive and free. Even though the November Pogrom had already occurred, she still had to convince some people that they were in real danger.

In January 1939, Bloomsbury House was turned over to refugee committees and Mrs. Wyburd worked there for some time. She tells a touching story of the commissionaire, who came hatless to her office and said he could no longer bear to hear what he was continually told—that little children were in danger. Could he and his wife not adopt a refugee child?

In May 1940, Mrs. Wyburd married the "improbable-looking" John Baber. Today she lives in a quiet country town, where her piles of correspondence with refugees and would-be refugees testify to the rescue or tragedy of whole families in the 30s and 40s. She has written her recollections of those years and hopes that these, together with a number of case-histories, will soon find a publisher.

J. LANGMAID

HONOURS FOR WIESENTHAL

Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Jewish Documentation Centre in Vienna, has recently received two more decorations to add to the many testifying to his work since 1945. The West German Ambassador in Vienna recently presented him with the Federal Republic's Grand Cross of Merit, acknowledging that he was keeping the memory of mankind on the alert, so that crimes of the past should not be repeated. Similar sentiments led to a presentation of a plaque by the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women to Mr. Wiesenthal on his recent visit to London.

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OBITUARIES

OSCAR NEMON

In the course of his 79 years, the Yugoslav-born sculptor Oscar Nemon, whose death was recently announced, produced portrait sculptures of many prominent contemporaries, including the Queen and the Queen Mother. At only 23, he was commissioned to carve a likeness of Sigmund Freud for the psychoanalyst's 75th birthday and forty years later a statue of Freud by Nemon was set up in Hampstead. In his early years, Oscar Nemon exhibited a number of his works in various European cities, but in the 1930s he made his home in Britain. A great friend of Winston Churchill, he created many images of the statesman and in his turn was sculpted by Churchill.

ERNST EDUARD HIRSCH

Professor Ernst Eduard Hirsch, an international jurist of great repute, died recently in Königfeld, West Germany. Born in Friedberg, Hesse, in 1902 to a family of long-established fabric and fashion merchants, the young man was apprenticed to his uncle in the Otto Hirsch & Co. banking house. But his academic gifts could not be denied and at 27 Dr Hirsch was already a tutor in the Juristic Faculty of Frankfurt University and by 1931 had a "life-long" judicial appointment. Nevertheless, with the coming of Hitler, Hirsch was removed from his post by Roland Freisler's own order. He emigrated to Holland and then to Istanbul, where at 31 he was Professor of Commercial Law. He published many books and articles in Turkish.

Professor Hirsch was persuaded by Ernst

Reuter to return to Germany in 1952 as a professor at the Berlin Free University. He retained his links with Turkey, sometimes returning there as guest professor, and often helping Turks in West Germany who found themselves in trouble with the police.

DR KURT ENDERL

With the death at 71, of Dr Kurt Enderl, Austria has lost an efficient diplomat, a man of straight character and an active Anglophile. Having shared many precarious war-time adventures with him aboard the ill-reputed "Dunera", and a subsequent year in camp in Australia, I came to appreciate Dr. Enderl as a most likeable man of cheerful disposition, natural optimism and as a philosemite by conviction.

During his diplomatic career after the war, he was appointed Austrian Ambassador to Hungary, and, during the seventies, to Great Britain, where he soon became a most popular and respected figure.

He was married to English opera singer Adele Leigh who, after an engagement at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, became the Vienna Volksoper's interpreter of many soprano parts which included Lehar and Strauss operettas. Everywhere Dr Enderl will be remembered as having represented Austria in the best sense of the word.

STEFAN BUKOWITZ

RUDI GERNREICH

Son of a Viennese hosiery manufacturer who emigrated to the USA in 1938, Rudi Gernreich has died in New York aged 62. He became noted in

the 1950s as a way-out fashion designer with his stretch clothes, short skirts and psychedelic designs. Gernreich created something of an American furore in 1984 with his topless bathing suit and his advice to women to discard their bras. In the late 1960s he abandoned the fashion world but produced some designs for ballet.

KURT WEISSKOPF

A prominent economic journalist, Kurt Weisskopf died recently in Brighton in his late seventies. Born in Czechoslovakia, Mr. Weisskopf emigrated to Britain in 1939, where he published "The Agony of Czechoslovakia". For many years, he was senior economics editor of Reuters and was working for the "Financial Times" at his death.

RONALD JAMES D'ARCY HART

Ronald James D'Arcy Hart, who died recently aged 89, was noted for his skill in genealogy. An electrical engineer by profession, Mr. Hart published a history of Mordecai Hamburger and his descendants in 1937 and in 1958 produced a genealogy of the Samuel family. An important member of both the Jewish Historical Society of England and the Jewish Museum for forty years and more, his help was often sought by family historians.

EMMA BERGER

Emma Berger, founder of the German fundamentalist sect Beth El, has died in Haifa at the age of 64. Although Christian-based, Beth El steadfastly backed the State of Israel and Miss Berger always denied that it had missionary aims.

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LANDSCAPE ARTIST

Edward Lear's Book of Nonsense is so familiar and beloved that it is difficult to imagine that he had other than literary accomplishments. Yet he was an outstanding landscape artist from which he earned his living, leaving more than 7,000 water-colours and over 300 oil paintings at his death in 1888.

The Royal Academy, still recovering from the effects of a quarter-of-a-million visitors to the Chagall exhibition (the income of the last day, £14,000, went to the Ethiopian Fund), have now mounted an exhibition of Edward Lear's work (until 14 July). A large number of his paintings are on show, but also such interesting items as the manuscripts of "The Owl and the Pussy-cat" and "The Dong with a Luminous Nose".

The landscapes include a view of the Old Jewish Quarter in Frankfurt, a stunning picture of Beachy Head near Eastbourne and many of the Holy Land, especially Jerusalem. The massive, fully-illustrated catalogue, edited by Vivien Noakes and published in association with Weidenfeld & Nicolson, is very good value at £7.90.

Doris and Charles Saatchi, of advertising fame, started collecting modern art in 1970. Their vast and important collection is now housed in a new gallery, converted from a disused warehouse, at 98a, Boundary Road, NW8. The opening exhibition concentrates on the works of Donald Judd, Andy Warhol, Cy Twombly and Brice Marden and it is intended to change the display every few months. The gallery is open to the public on Fridays and Saturdays from 12.00 to 6.00 p.m. and at other times by appointment. A catalogue of the collection "Art of Our Time" in four parts is available at £20.00 per part, for those who can afford it.

Modern art is also to be seen at the Juda Rowan Gallery, 11 Tottenham Mews, W.1., where there is an exhibition of collages and relief paintings by Judith Rothschild (until 22 June). This American artist has had exhibitions all over the world since 1945 and her work is to be found in many public collections. She has been showing at the Juda Rowan Gallery since 1976.

Edward Wright (born 1912) is an artist and designer of great versatility and has explored a wide range of techniques. One of his best known

commissions was the rotating sign for New Scotland Yard. A travelling exhibition of his work has been mounted by the arts Council and can be seen in Norwich (7 May-1 June), Oxford (16 June-28 July), and Wrexham (3 August-6 September).

The National Portrait Gallery is certainly worth a visit to see the new display of Stuart portraits which includes some important recent acquisitions. And, for Charlie Chaplin fans, the same gallery has a display (until 30 October) of portraits, photographs and video film revealing various aspects of the great comedian's life.

Photography is the subject of the Barbican Centre's large exhibition "American Images: Photography 1945-80" (until 30 June). Over 400 works by 80 artists are on display.

Finally, for the gourmet, an unique collection of paintings created for the wine labels of Chateau Mouton Rothschild at the Victoria and Albert Museum (until 9 June). ALICE SCHWAB

FRED UHLMAN

Fred Uhlman, who has died in Hampstead aged 84, was a highly gifted artist and writer whose romantic and sophisticated personality was expressed in all his work. He grew up in Stuttgart, a city with a strong democratic tradition where friendly relations between Jews and non-Jews were the rule rather than the exception. He settled there as a lawyer and was a member of the Social Democratic party and therefore in immediate danger after the National Socialists came to power.

In March 1933 he was warned by a High Court Judge who later became the Nazi Minister of Justice that he should leave immediately. He went to Paris, leaving behind his parents and sister who were to perish in Belsen and Auschwitz. He never got over an irrational feeling of guilt on their behalf.

Unable to follow his profession, he began to paint under the influence of painters like Utrillo, Braque and Renoir, and his imaginative and colourful paintings became an immediate success. On a visit to Spain in 1936 he met Diana Croft, the radical daughter of Tory MP Sir Henry Croft, later Lord Croft. They married the same year and settled in England two years later when they bought a house at 47 Downshire Hill, Hampstead, in the centre of the strong Hampstead artistic community. They helped to organise the 20th Century German Art exhibition at the Burlington Galleries, an answer to the Nazis' exhibition of "Degenerate Art".

Soon afterwards they were approached by the Kokoschka Group of German refugee artists in Czechoslovakia with an appeal to help them to come to Britain. An "Artists' Refugee Committee" was set up, with Diana Uhlman as its secretary and its office at the Uhlmans' house. They succeeded in bringing over 22 artists, Kokoschka among them, who were offered hospitality by the Hampstead artists. The Uhlmans took in John Heartfield, the political photomontage artist.

Between 1938 and 1975 Uhlman's paintings



Fred Uhlman

were exhibited at most major London galleries, some of them jointly with Henry Moore's and Epstein's work. His large output is now owned by public institutions in five countries, by the British Museum, a number of English county councils and of course many private admirers. The story of Fred Uhlman's life up to 1960 has been told in his witty autobiography, "The Making of an Englishman". When failing eye-sight forced him to give up painting, he wrote a novella "Reunion" which was hailed as a masterpiece by Arthur Koestler. It has just appeared in German as "Mit neuem Namen" (DVA, Stuttgart). It was translated into ten languages, and earlier this year, performed on the stage in Paris. On the occasion Uhlman was invited by the British Council to Paris where he appeared on TV before an audience of six million.

He will be sadly missed by his many friends in many walks of life and by his wife who in nearly fifty years assisted him and contributed to the many difficult tasks he set himself.

M. POTTITZER

BEN NORLAND

No sooner said than done. Reviewing a show by the son of Ernst Neuschul in our May issue, we mentioned in passing that the grandson, Ben Norland, had also set out on a career as a painter. This is not entirely surprising, since his late grandfather was an artist, and his grandmother and both his parents are artists. Now he has just had his first exhibition, in May, at the Willes Studios in Kentish Town.

It is a remarkable debut and there is no need to make allowances for youth and influence. The disposition of space is flawless and colour is used with complete assurance for dramatic or atmospheric purposes. The sheer painterly skill is most impressive, so natural and unforced. Two or three canvases with references to aspects of Francis Bacon seem to incorporate an ironic gloss on his work. It will be fascinating to follow Ben Norland's development. Predictably, his undoubted talent will flourish in the figurative realm, where feeling, and his power to project it, are always present.

M. 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

Bandmacher:—Charlotte Bandmacher (Shari), widow of the late Simon Bandmacher, of Vienna and Maida Vale, celebrated her 90th birthday on 1 May. Her daughter, son-in-law, grandchildren, relatives and friends send their love and best wishes.

Jacoby:—Heartiest congratulations and all best wishes to our dear chairman Mrs. Margaret Jacoby on her 103rd birthday. In gratitude from the members of the AJR Club.

Simion:—Dr. Erna Simion, Berlin, celebrated her 95th birthday on 29 April.

Stokes:—Frederick Stokes, of 54 Northways, College Crescent, London NW3 celebrated his 100th birthday on 25 May. With love and good wishes from his nephews and nieces and all their families.

Wedding

Singer-Meier:—The wedding took place on 31 March of Helen Jane, daughter of Peter and Hanna Singer, Harrow Weald, and Jonathan Philip, son of Arnold and Trude Meier, Manchester.

Deaths

Mathiason:—Mr. Hans Mathiason passed away on 25 April, shortly after he celebrated his 80th birthday. He will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Reichenbach:—Mrs Ilse Reichenbach, of 6 West Heath Lodge, Branch Hill, London, NW3 died on 2 April, at the age of 92.

Welt:—Hildegard Welt, formerly of Vienna, passed away peacefully on 8 April in her 87th year.

Memorial Stone

Walters:—The memorial stone in loving memory of our dear wife and mother Edith, née Grünauer, will be consecrated at Hoop Lane Cemetery on Sunday, 30 June, at 3 p.m.

CLASSIFIED

The charge in these columns is 50p for five words plus £1.00 for advertisements under a Box No. To save

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**INFORMATION REQUIRED
CLAIRE VOLLOWITZ FRIEDLANDER**

was born in Vilna, Lithuania and came to London during or before World War 2. From there she moved to Glasgow, Scotland. She has a son DAVID FRIEDLANDER. If you have any information about her or her descendants, I should like to hear from you. CLAIREVOLLOWITZ FRIEDLANDER was my aunt and I am writing the history of my family. I am MARC DOLLINGER, 700 Via Somonte, Palos Verdes, CA 90274 USA.

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"The Situation of Jewish Dentists in the Third Reich" is the title of the thesis I am writing for my doctorate. I am anxious to contact dentists, oral surgeons and oral biologists who have experience of those times, or their relatives who emigrated from Germany, as well as libraries and archives with material on the subject. Ulrich-Wilhelm Depmer, Bachstrasse 133, 2000 Hamburg 76, West Germany.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

Ghetto in Music? A much-debated musical play, "Ghetto", by Israel-born *Joshua Sobol*, had its premiere in Haifa last year, and was subsequently given by some European theatres, recently by the Volkstheater, Vienna. It is the story of the destruction of the Ghetto of Vilna, Lithuania, between 1941 and 1943. Many questions are being asked by reviewers and audiences: "it is permissible to use persecution as a subject for a musical? Can horror of that kind provide musical entertainment? Or is it a déjà-vu of "Fiddler on the Roof," transferred and intensified, adapted to end-century topicality? The subject is left open to discussion and presented to the public with a definite purpose: to inform the younger generation and to counter the lies of those who dismiss gas chambers and concentration camps as propaganda.

Visitors to Israel. Theatre managements in Israel, well aware of the interest prevailing in anything concerning theatre, concerts and other cultural activities, have recently been able to satisfy many demands by their multifarious audiences: the municipal theatre in Haifa presented Molière's "Tartuffe", the Vienna Boys Choir gave concerts in Tel Aviv, and the Duesseldorf Schauspielhaus sent their latest production of Lessing's tolerance-preaching play "Nathan der Weise" to Haifa, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, where these performances (in German) were much-acclaimed sell-outs.

San Francisco. Apart from the "American Conservatory Theatre", this city of some 750,000 inhabitants possesses many smaller stages, among them the "Magic Theatre", recently in the foreground of public interest. The theatre has Martin Esslin as its dramatic adviser. Esslin, Budapest-born

and Vienna-educated was for many years in charge of BBC Drama productions, wrote "Brecht: A Choice of Evils", and is at present a lecturer at Stanford University. He is instrumental in showing plays rarely to be seen elsewhere, often new German and Austrian works, one of the latest being "The Couch" by Lynne Kaufman, a play about Freud and Jung and referring to Freud's break with the latter whom he had originally designed to be his successor.

"*Gestern war ein schöner Tag*". The memoirs of Peter Herz (announced in this journal in January 1985, Oesterreichischer Bundesverlag), are amusing, Vienna-loving and sentimental. The chapter dealing with London, with the "Blue Danube Club" and events in Finchley Road during and after the war reminds us of old friends (many, alas, no longer with us), and reading it, one is inclined to sigh and laugh at the same time. S. B.

SWISS BOUGHT LOOTED GOLD

Robert Vogler, a Swiss historian, has revealed that the Swiss National Bank bought gold worth hundreds of millions of pounds sterling from the German Reichsbank during the Second World War. Mr. Vogler was also archivist of the Swiss bank for some years. Since the amount of gold involved was wildly in excess of the known Nazi gold reserves, it was evidently looted, either from persecuted individuals or from the resources of German-occupied countries. However, Mr. Vogler believes that the bank was unaware of the circumstances at the time.

MUSEUM FOR NEW YORK

After a long argument as to an appropriate site, the New York City Holocaust Memorial Commission has agreed that a Holocaust Museum shall be situated in Lower Manhattan. It will be housed in one section of a 34-storey building forming part of the enormous project known as Battery Park City. Work is expected to begin next year and it is hoped that the Museum and Memorial will be opened in 1988.

PHILADELPHIA STATUE SHIFTED

The Statue of Religious Liberty in Philadelphia is to be moved from Fairmount Park to the grounds of the National Museum of American Jewish History. Dating from 1876, the 25-foot-high sculpture was the work of Sir Moses Jacob Ezekiel. It was commissioned by B'nai B'rith International to mark one hundred years of the United States.

BOHEMIAN RABBI WEDS

For nearly half a century, there has been no wedding of a rabbi in the Jewish community of Bohemia-Moravia. But the case has altered with the marriage of Rabbi Daniel Mayer, the successor to Dr. Richard Feder who was chief Rabbi of Bohemia and Moravia from 1953 until his death in 1970 at the age of 95. It was only last year that Rabbi Mayer was installed as Rabbi of Prague and Regional Rabbi of Bohemia-Moravia.

SIR ROBERT'S GENEROSITY

Although Sir Robert Mayer made a large fortune during his lifetime, nearly all of it was expended on his children's concerts, Youth and Music and other charitable enterprises. Sir Robert, who died earlier this year at the age of 105, was even obliged to sell some family heirlooms a year or so ago. His will has been proved at under £26,000.

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