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Egon Larsen

THE TRUTH ABOUT REDL

How E. E. Kisch Uncovered a Classic Spy Case

In our age of spy scandals, special interest has been revived in the first, gravest, and most sensational case of twentieth-century espionage: that of Colonel Alfred Redl, the Austro-Hungarian counter-intelligence chief and Prague's Chief of General Staff, who in May 1913 turned out to be a Russian spy.

What made it a classic scandal was the fact that he had been blackmailed into betraying his country because of his homosexuality, then a heavily punishable crime; but some of the dramatizers and scenario-writers of our time also made him a Jew: a gross falsification of history. He was, in truth, the son of a provincial Catholic prison governor with no Jewish relatives at all.

But it was a Jew who discovered the real circumstances of the Redl case, and published them seventy years ago. He was a young Prague newspaperman, still renowned as the creator of modern investigative journalism: Egon Erwin Kisch, nicknamed *der rasende Reporter* after the title of his most famous book of collected reportages. It was an odd coincidence that put that keen journalist on the scent of the Redl case.

Kisch, the son of a Jewish businessman, grew up in an atmosphere which nurtured the talents of an extraordinarily large number of men of letters, among them Rilke, Kafka, Werfel and Meyrink (who wrote the "Golem"). Jews and Gentiles, Czechs and Germans belonged to that intellectual and bilingual literary community the like of which few other towns or periods have ever produced.

Kisch began to write local and crime reports for the German-language newspaper *Bohemia* in 1906. The paper was liberal and progressive, catering for the educated German-speaking, largely Jewish middle-classes: a good training-ground for a young journalist like Kisch.

But the first really big story fell into his lap on Sunday, May 25, 1913, when his football club



Egon Erwin Kisch

Sturm I lost the match against Union-Holleschowitz by two goals, due to the absence of the excellent *Sturm* full-back, the locksmith Wagner; he had not even apologised to the team captain Kisch.

Only on Monday did Wagner come to the *Bohemia* office. "Sorry, Kisch," he said. "I was already dressed for the match when some soldiers came and ordered me to go with them to open a

few locks." Kisch was still angry: "Rubbish," he shouted at Wagner. "Such a job takes a few minutes, and we had been waiting for you for an hour for the kick-off!"

"It took three hours. I had to open a house-door and then a lot of drawers and wardrobes. There were two gentlemen from Vienna. They were looking for documents, letters, photographs, maps and so on. The apartment must have been that of a senior officer. But there was something funny about it—as if it had belonged to a lady, with perfume bottles and pictures of young men. The two gentlemen kept shaking their heads, shocked. They had to take the evening train back to Vienna and took all the papers with them."

Sensational story

Kisch suspected that there was some sensational story waiting to be dug up. Wagner told his team captain the address of that house, and Kisch had no trouble finding out who lived there. It was Colonel Redl, whose obituary had been released by the official telegraph agency on that Sunday morning, with an appreciation of his patriotic services.

He had been a former head of the Foreign Department of the *Evidenzbüro* (counter-espionage), Chief of Staff of the 8th Corps (Prague), and a potential candidate for the post of War Minister. He had taken his own life "for unexplained reasons" during a duty visit to Vienna.

Kisch had no doubt that Redl had been unmasked as a spy, and he told his editor the whole story. But in a country with strict censorship it was impossible to print it. So the two newspapermen decided on a compromise—an ingenious ruse that would beat the censors: a fake denial.

continued on p. 2

Don't miss:

Volunteer Party:

AJR in Action page 7

Letters galore pages 6 & 9

Two new museums page 4

THE TRUTH ABOUT REDL

"We have been asked by the highest authorities," it ran, "to deny categorically some rumours, now current in military circles, that Colonel Alfred Redl . . . who took his own life in Vienna two days ago, had been engaged in espionage and betrayed defence secrets . . ." The search of his Prague apartment, the report went on, had in fact been for "evidence of totally different offences".

Bohemia got away with it, but a storm broke loose in Vienna. At the War Ministry, in Parliament, among the Imperial General Staff the Redl scandal was discussed. The Chief of Staff, Conrad von Hötzendorff, heard that Russian agents had blackmailed Redl into spying. "The scoundrel must die," declared Hötzendorff, "and by his own hand!"

The official attempt to spare the poor old Emperor the terrible shock had failed. "*Das ist mir ein schöner Patriot*," he was reported to have sighed when he heard the news (a quotation erroneously turned into "A Patriot For Me" as the title of John Osborne's English play about Redl). A film about the case, "Colonel Redl" is now showing in Britain.

Kisch felt responsible for digging out the true facts about the affair, but he was unable to publish them before 1918—before the Habsburg empire had gone, and its censorship with it. It was a dramatic story, beginning with two suspicious letters posted in a German-Russian border town and addressed to the Central Post Office in Vienna under "*Poste restante Opernball 13*". The secret police opened them and found large sums of money. Two plain-clothes detectives were ordered to wait in a backroom of the post office for the person who would ask for the letters under *Opernball 13*.

After a whole month's watch, a gentleman asked for them—and escaped before the detectives could stop him. A bizarre chase through Vienna began: by cumbersome motor taxis to a café and eventually to the Hotel Klomser. It was Redl's habitual *pied-à-terre* on his visits to Vienna, and it was there that he was caught and identified by his pursuers.

Shot rings out

They kept him in his room, reported to their superiors and waited for further orders. After some hours, four high-ranking army officers came and found Redl writing farewell letters. He had been expecting what followed: the officers left a revolver on his desk and waited outside. Early in the morning a shot rang out. Redl was dead.

Two other officers were sent to Prague, where the locksmith Wagner was ordered to break open the doors and all the drawers in Redl's home. We know the immediate result: *Sturm I* lost the match against *Union*.

The affair was certainly one of the biggest nails in the coffin of the Habsburg Empire. At the beginning of the 1914 war, Austria's first defeats proved that the Serbs and the Russians knew all about her defence plans—thanks to Redl.

The story made Kisch's name well known. He moved to Berlin in the early 1920s but soon began to travel abroad, reporting for liberal and left-wing papers. With his work he created, at least for German-speaking Central Europe, a new kind of reportage, lifting the usual sensationalist newspaper feature to the higher level of social and political criticism.



Col. Alfred Redl

No other reporter has had such decisive influence on journalism: he combined a flair for discovering a good story and for exposing its background with a warm-hearted feeling for the underdog.

In 1933, the Nazis arrested him for a while, and his books were burnt. He tried to emigrate to Australia, yet was not allowed off the ship; so he jumped overboard, attempting to swim to the shore but broke his foot. Thus he got to Australia, though he was kept in jail most of the time, and deported in the end.

He got to Paris; when the Spanish Civil War began, he joined the International Brigade. After that war he found a temporary home in Mexico. Immediately after the liberation of Czechoslovakia in 1945 he was back in Prague.

Had he lived, he would probably have been "liquidated" by the Stalinist regime together with other Jewish and westernised intellectuals who had spent the Hitler years abroad. But he was already a sick man. His last public appearance was at a banquet at the Soviet Embassy in Prague. He ate too much roast goose, his favourite dish; this, so far as we know, was the cause of his death at the age of 63—a "curtain" that Kisch himself might have fancied.

REWARD COMES WITH THE YEARS

When my wife and I were in Jerusalem in 1963, we booked two tours, one South to the Red Sea which passed off without incident, and one North, to Nazareth, Tiberias, Kana, which was badly marred by mishaps. The coach broke down twice and we lost much valuable time. So when we came back I wrote a letter explaining the circumstances and intimating that we might be entitled to compensation. The tour operators, Israel's national bus company, replied they were sorry, there could be no refund but next time we were in Israel, they hoped we would give them an opportunity of making up for the loss.

This was in 1963. I was, frankly, annoyed as we did not have the ghost of a prospect of ever returning to Israel. However, I kept the letter—as one never knows and I like to live in hope. Well, my hope was not deceived. A time came when we did return. I now wrote again to those tour operators referring to "previous correspondence". I enclosed a photocopy of their 1963 letter as evidence of the fond hopes then entertained by them. I said I was pleased I could now provide the opportunity they had wished—we were coming.

No argument

I admit when I told our friends about this plan they thought we were, not to put too fine a point on it, bonkers: these tour operators, being in business not in charity, would think we must be joking—fancy staking a claim like this after 22 years. Well, I happen to be a believer in trying, and we left—even before we had received a reply.

When we called at the company's Tel Aviv office, they were, understandably, surprised, not so much at our letter—greater miracles are known to have happened in the Holy Land—but at the fact that we had not been there for 22 years. However, the long delay notwithstanding and overwhelmed by the incontrovertible evidence, they stood by their word. There was no argument; if anything, there appeared to be a feeling we actually deserved a reward for our tenacity. We were invited to choose a tour from their very considerable prospectus, and two complimentary tickets were politely handed to us to make up for the loss in the far off past. Needless to say we now doubly enjoyed the tour.

If there was a joke in the story, as our friends had suggested, it came later, at home, when we found the company's reply to my original letter. Here they said it was not their usual practice to compensate beyond one year, but in our case they would make an exception in view of "this nice manner of keeping a letter for 22 years": they would allow us a 50% reduction . . . Clearly, our personal appearance made such an impression that we were granted 100%! A little patience, combined with a good memory (and filing system) had gone a long way to pay off.

C. C. ARONSFELD

HOME NEWS

KNIGHTHOOD FOR HISTORIAN

The New Year Honours included a knighthood for Geoffrey Rudolph Elton, Regius Professor of Modern History, University of Cambridge. He is the leading historian of the Tudor period and many of his books have become classics. He is a son of the ancient historian, the late Professor Victor Ehrenberg, who took an active interest in the work of the Leo Baeck Institute and was also a member of the AJR. We extend our cordial congratulations to Professor Elton.

RUTH NEUSCHUL AT 70

Ruth Neuschul, who has long worked for the AJR and Self Aid, was 70 in January. She comes originally from Insterburg in East Prussia, where her father was a dental surgeon and her mother a concert pianist who had studied with Artur Schnabel; her mother was the source of her lifelong devotion to music. Ruth moved to Berlin, where she trained as a nurse at the Jewish hospital in the Iranische Strasse and then helped her father as an assistant. She came to Britain in the last aeroplane to leave Berlin in March 1939, deliberately choosing Britain (instead of the USA), so that she could help in the war she saw coming. From Bloomsbury House she was sent to Birmingham, where she was in charge of a surgical women's ward in a hospital for the whole of the war period.

She then married, came to London, and raised a family, after which she worked for a spell as a social worker at the Belsize Square synagogue, and as a research worker for the AJR Homes department. She was invited to replace a retiring social worker at Self Aid, and as others retired, she found herself in charge, helping to finance the needy; she always strove to help raise funds for the charity. She has had good relations with her clients to this day. She has also been able to help with a number of successful restitution applications. In recent years she was responsible for organising the annual Self Aid fund-raising concerts with considerable flair and success, the last few concerts being sold out. Her loyalty and devotion to her clients and colleagues are outstanding.

We wish her a speedy recovery from her recent illness and many happy returns.

LEO BAECK MEMORIAL LECTURE

The 27th Leo Baeck Memorial Lecture was given by Professor Edward Ullendorf some weeks ago. His subject was the early days of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

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B'NAI B'RITH MUSIC FESTIVAL 1986

The success of the month-long B'nai B'rith Jewish Music Festival held in 1984 demonstrated not only the wealth of music that can be gathered together under this heading but also the tremendous amount of interest in it. The Festival is mounted at two-year intervals.

This year's Festival will again be a month long (from 15 June to 17 July) with enough variety to suit all tastes. There will be orchestral concerts, recitals, Israeli groups and special synagogue services featuring local choirs and liturgical music. The events will be spread around the country.

The "Jewel in the Crown" of the 1986 Festival will be the British premiere of "Kaddish for Terezin" by Ronald Senator. The work is to be performed in Canterbury Cathedral on Wednesday 18th June at the invitation of the Dean and in association with the Council of Christians and Jews.

The libretto, by Rabbi Albert Friedlander includes settings of children's poems written in Terezin, and it is scored for orchestra, choir and children's choir.

Malcolm Singer will be conducting, Rabbi Hugo Gryn narrating and Louis Berkman will be the baritone cantor soloist with the Zemel Choir.

During the afternoon there will be a film show about musical life in Terezin and a recital of music composed in the camp. There will be a reception in the Chapter House in the presence of Lord and Lady Coggan, making a whole day of memorable events.

Anyone who would like to know more about the Festival is invited to join the B'nai Brith Music Festival Society. Send £5.00 (or more) annual subscription to B'nai Brith Hillel House, 1/2 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DS and you will receive the programme, be entitled to some ticket reductions, and be invited to attend bi-monthly talks and previews of festival events.

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DACHAU STORY

In *AJR Information* of September 1984 there was a report of a series of articles by Hans Holzhaider on the Jewish residents of the town of Dachau which appeared in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and later as a booklet in German. One of the author's principal subjects, who also helped him find other survivors and provided much information, was Miss Johanna Jaffé, a member of the AJR. She has now translated the articles very readably, and has produced them as a booklet in English, for those who are interested but cannot read German. It is called *Before Sunrise* and a few copies, clearly printed in typescript, with reproductions of the original illustrations, are available from the translator: Miss J. Jaffé, 38 Atherton Close, Shurdington, Cheltenham, Glos. The 72-page booklet tells the story of the Dachau Jews—"who they were, how they came to live in Dachau, how they survived—or died".

JEWISH BOOK WEEK

Jewish Book Week will be held in March at three venues. The London one will start on Monday, 3 March at Woburn House, with the George Webber Memorial Lecture given by Jeremy Isaacs of Channel 4 on "Film, History and the Jews". Talks on "Jewish Entertainers", Moses Mendelssohn and other subjects will follow. At Brighton George Mikes, Alan Sillitoe and Bernice Rubens will appear (2-3 March), and at Oxford the Book Week will start on 10 March.

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JEWISH MUSEUMS OF THE FUTURE

The opening of two major Jewish museums is planned for 1987. In Frankfurt am Main the restored Rothschild palace is to house religious objects, pictures, photographs and archives. At first the intention was to record Jewish history in Frankfurt and Hesse, but material has already been received in quantity from all over Central Europe. Accordingly the museum has extended its scope to cover all communities of German-speaking Jews. Head of the project is Dr. Dietrich Andernacht.

Part of the collection is being housed for the present in the City Historical Museum, Römerberg. This includes thousands of photographs of Central European Jewish life, now being compiled by the Jewish Archives in Frankfurt. One aspect of this is a photo-archive of Frankfurt Jewry, with a card index of individual biographical details.

The religious objects and cultural treasures have a story of their own to tell: many of them were salvaged from the former Jewish Museum in the Fahrgasse or from the synagogues burnt and destroyed in the November Pogrom of 1938. A group of young Jews, helped by Christian friends, managed at the time to bring some of these to the Philantropin school, where the non-Jewish caretakers hid the items throughout the war. Other treasures were salvaged by Germans, who have kept them during the intervening years: now they are steadily returning to the Jewish community.

Anyone interested in adding to the collection

or finding out family information should write to Jewish Archives, Schaumainkai 35, Frankfurt am Main.

The second museum now being organised is in Amsterdam. It will be housed in four Ashkenasi synagogues, the oldest of which is the Great Synagogue, dating back to 1671. Walkways will connect this to the Obbene Shul (1686), the Driit Shul (1730) and the New Synagogue, rebuilt in 1752.

With emancipation, these synagogues had already lost their former importance by the 1930s and the Nazi occupation left them derelict and desecrated. Amsterdam City Council bought the buildings in 1955 and in the 1960s decided that a rejuvenated Jewish Museum should find a home there. The existing Jewish Museum, housed in the ancient Weights and Measures House, already has an impressive collection, which will be enlarged by the city and the Ministry of Culture. Public funds amounting to £5.5 million are being invested in the work, but the Jewish Museum has to raise another £1 million. The small Amsterdam community has managed to collect one-third of this sum from industry and charitable foundations, but it is now appealing to Jewish communities in America and elsewhere to help it find the outstanding amount. The administrator, Dr. J. Cahen, is eagerly looking forward to the new museum, with its increased space in a fine restoration of the imposing buildings beside the Amstel.

MORE WORK FOR DR. ROTH

Dr. Stephen Roth, director of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, recently attended a reception in his honour, marking 40 years of service to world Jewry. But his devotion to Zionism began long before. Now aged 70, he first joined Hashomer Hatzair as a youth of 15 in the Hungarian village of Gyoengoes, where his father was president of the Orthodox community. During the war he worked for Zionism in Hungary, which until 1944 was not occupied by the Germans and so offered a possibility of escape for Jews.

But eventually Stephen Roth became known to the Nazis after a group of refugees he was smuggling into Romania was captured at the border. He remembers as "the greatest achievement of my life" the fact that he gave no information away even after 36 hours of questioning by the Gestapo. There followed the harrowing experience of knowing he was being deported to Auschwitz for immediate extermination. Fortunately, the order to halt the transports came just in time to save him.

Dr. Roth took his law degree in Budapest shortly after the war, but came to the West in 1946 after representing Hungarian Jewry at the Paris Peace Conference.

Far from retiring from his life of service to the Jewish cause, Dr. Roth has recently been elected as chairman of the Zionist Federation. He also intends to continue his directorship of the IJA.

LOOKING BACK TO NUREMBERG

Speaking at the opening of the Wiener Library exhibition on the Nuremberg Trials, Lord Elwyn-Jones wondered what modern academic jurists and "questioners of justice" would have done with the Nazi war criminals. As a young lawyer, long before he became Lord Chancellor, Lord Elwyn-Jones was part of the prosecuting team at Nuremberg.

The value of the trials, he believes, lay in their lasting record of what could happen in a country where democracy had been destroyed: "But, alas, there has hardly been a government since then that has not been in breach of some of the principles of Nuremberg".

Ann and John Tusa, the writers of the book "The Nuremberg Trials", also spoke at the meeting and said how delighted they had been to have found all the documents they needed.

JEWS OF RHEINBERG

The town of Rheinberg recently organised a two-week exhibition to commemorate the history and fate of its Jewish citizens. The subtitle—"No Darkness without Light"—was given to the exhibition in remembrance of Maria Kann of Rheinberg, who courageously accepted sacrifice and risk in supporting her persecuted Jewish fellow-citizens.

ARCHIVE CREATION

Two enthusiastic volunteers, Miriam Saul Kraut and Sharon Pucker Rivo, have by their efforts created a major historical archive at Brandeis University, near Boston, Mass.

This is the National Center for Jewish Film, founded in 1967, whose holdings range from "Catskills Honeymoon" to Veit Harlan's "Jud Süß", from the earliest pre-1914 Yiddish films to East European records of today's remnant of Jewry.

The two women began their work with the idea of helping in the teaching of Jewish history. They wanted to rescue and restore each and every film showing some aspect of Jewish life. In the early days, they took no salary and it was a gift from the philanthropists Henry and Edith Everett that enabled them to begin the collection. Brandeis University allowed them a workroom where film could be restored and maintained: this came not a moment too soon, since earlier material was already beginning to crack and crumble away.

Gifts from individuals

As the archive became better-known, gifts of material from individuals flowed in: the son of Joseph Seiden, the first American Yiddish film producer, gave them his whole collection; a New Yorker offered them "some bits of film", which turned out to be 260 important sequences. At the same time, money was donated from national institutions and private donors. Not least among the latter was Arnold Picker, the former head of United Artists, who also gave much technical help.

Festivals

With the growth of the collection, too, material can be acquired by exchange with other film institutes. Small-scale festivals are organised, so that historians, teachers and Jewish communities in other areas of the USA are able to see some of the National Center's acquisitions.

Miriam Kraut and Sharon Rivo sometimes admit to being overwhelmed by the task they have set themselves, but they proudly point to the interdisciplinary value of their project and how the archive can be used to combat prejudice. Even antisemitic films can be made to yield a positive message in this way. Both of them recognise the need to document a proud history and at the same time maintain the record of fearful events.

A FATHER OF ELECTRONIC MUSIC

Josef Tal, regarded as the founder of Israeli electronic music, celebrated his 75th birthday recently. Born Josef Gruental in Pinne (Posen), he studied at the Musikhochschule in Berlin, but emigrated to Palestine in 1934. There he tried to organise musical events in the kibbutzim. However, he was recruited to set up the Palestine Broadcasting Service and then took up a teaching career in the Rubin Academy of Music, the Hebrew University and the Israel Conservatory. Josef Tal's work as an electronic composer is acclaimed world-wide and he has also produced a number of works for conventional instruments.

THE YEAR AHEAD IN ART

1986 looks like being a very rich year for exhibitions, starting with the most ambitious and comprehensive exhibition ever held of the work of Joshua Reynolds at the Royal Academy (16 January–31 March). Reynolds was born in Devonshire in 1733 and, after serving an apprenticeship with Thomas Hudson, a competent London painter, he went to Italy where he spent several years studying the great Renaissance masters. In 1753 he returned to London and quickly became the leading portrait painter of his time, as well as a great collector and theorist. It is only fitting that this exhibition of over 160 paintings is being mounted by the Royal Academy, for Reynolds was its first President in 1768 under the patronage of George III, by whom he was knighted the following year.

Study of time

Later in the year (15 May–20 July) the Barbican Centre will be holding the first major retrospective exhibition of the work of Cecil Beaton (1904–1980), including photographs, paintings, drawings and illustrations for fashion, film and stage. Before that (20 February–27 April) the Barbican is mounting an exhibition "Art and Time", covering many aspects of the study of time in modern art and including works by Rodin, Degas, Muybridge, de Chirico, Duchamp, Magritte and many others. Very much later in the year the Barbican will be holding an exhibition to illustrate the spectacle and opulence of Britain's last golden age—the Edwardian period.

A new feature in the London art scene is the "Fair for Watercolours and Drawings" (January 22–26) at the Park Lane Hotel. It will include a large variety of works, all for sale at prices from as little as £50.

The Royal Society of Painters-Etchers and Engravers will be holding their Spring Exhibition at the Bankside Gallery (21 February–23 March) and the Royal Society of Painters in Watercolours will similarly be holding their Spring Exhibition in the same venue (18 April–18 May). Neither of these events should be missed for there is always something or somebody new to see.

For those interested in fans, a visit to the Museum of London is obligatory to see the exhibition "Ivory, Feathers and Lace" (until 27 April). These fans are drawn from the Museum's own collection and include many fans with royal associations.

CANADIAN RESCUER ON FILM

A film released in Britain by Careyvision and entitled "Charlie Grant's War" tells the story of a Canadian "Righteous Gentile". Grant, played by R. H. Thomson, was an upper-class young Canadian who worked in Vienna during the 1930s. Partner and later owner of a diamond firm, Charlie used his money to bribe officials into supplying false passports. But Canadian refusal to accept refugees meant that he was unable to save

Even if Halley's Comet has proved somewhat elusive, a lack of viewing can be remedied by a visit to the British Museum's "Halley's Comet in History" (until 5 May). The display, drawn from the collections of the British Museum and the British Library, covers the period from 240 B.C. until the time of Edmund Halley (1656–1742) who predicted the comet's return in 1758.

The exhibition of Printmakers from Israel arranged by Christie's Contemporary Art and



Reynolds: Lady Chambers (detail)

supported by Polgat Industries at 8, Dover Street, W1 includes the work of nineteen Israeli artists. Most of the works here exhibited have never before been shown outside Israel.

It is particularly pleasing to know that the work of our old friend Margaret Marks (née Heymann) is being permanently recognised. Margaret Marks founded the Studium am Bauhaus (1919–1922) in Berlin where she made important modern pottery. Her work is now included in the collection of the Bröhan Museum, Berlin and specially mentioned in the Museum's magnificent and comprehensive catalogue (Kunst der 20er und 30er Jahre) which contains over 600 pages and 700 illustrations, over 100 of which are in colour. Finally, there is always something interesting to see at Gillian Jason's Gallery, 42 Inverness Street, NW1. Her present exhibition (until 14 February) is of modern British drawings and entitled "Pencil, Pen and Brush".

ALICE SCHWAB

his personal friends, the Goldmann family, who died in Auschwitz. However, he did save over 600 Jews by his efforts.

Charlie Grant himself was captured by the Nazis, tortured and sent to a concentration camp. He survived, but retained his bitterness towards his native country of Canada, refusing to shake the hand of an MP sent by the Prime Minister to welcome him home.

"Charlie Grant's War" was written by Anna Sandor and directed by Martin Lavut.

WIESENTHAL AWARD FOR US ACTOR

The Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies recently presented its Liberator's Award to the Canadian-born actor Glenn Ford. It was given in recognition of Mr. Ford's action during the Allied 1945 advance into Germany. Serving with the Free French forces, on secondment from the US Marines, he found that, while attention was focussed on the liberated survivors from Dachau, other victims were still struggling for life in the nearby camp of Fernwald. Quite illicitly, he "won" Army rations and medical supplies, put them on a lorry and sent it to the 15,000 starving survivors. For seven weeks, he kept the Fernwald inmates alive in this way and he is credited with having saved 5,000 or 6,000 inmates. Even more telling than the SWC award is the fact that a number of children born at that time in Fernwald were named Glenn after their rescuer.

IRISH JOURNALIST'S AWARD

First winner of the Friends of Israel Education Trust award for young journalists is Judy Dempsey, currently working as a freelance writer in Vienna. Irish-born, she is particularly interested in Eastern Europe, having worked in that field both for the "Irish Times" and the BBC World Service.

MONTPARNASSE GROUP IN N.Y.

A striking exhibition has just closed at the New York Jewish Museum. This was "The Montparnasse Circle: Jewish Artists in Paris, 1905–1945". The organiser, art historian Kenneth Silver, was careful to set such artists as Chagall and Soutine in their historical perspective and also to choose display items which were not only attractive for the spectator, but also of historical value in themselves.

It was the avant-garde group of Jewish artists in the early years of this century who deserted the traditional painters' quarter of Montmartre for Montparnasse. The sculptor Jacques Lipchitz and the painter Amadeo Modigliani were members of the circle. Portraits were important for the Montparnasse group and many of these are shown in the New York exhibition.

The Second World War still found a number of these artists in Paris. A number of them managed to survive the Nazi occupation by adopting a life of obscurity. Many others, however, were captured – it is estimated that some 80 Jewish artists from Montparnasse perished in concentration camps.

Concurrently, the museum held an exhibition on the main groups of Jews in India, namely the Bene Israel, Cochin Jews and Baghdadi Jews.

CARRY HAUSER

The death was announced recently of Professor Carry Hauser, President of the Austrian Aktion gegen den Antisemitismus until 1980 and thereafter Honorary President. Professor Hauser was 90 years old at his death. A gifted painter, stage designer and writer, Carry Hauser was a former PEN-Club secretary. Outlawed for his anti-Nazi stand, in 1938 he emigrated to Switzerland, but returned to Austria in 1947. He also held leading positions in Austrian ex-Resistance bodies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dunera Protest

Sir,—As an ex-Dunera Boy I would like to endorse Ronald Stent's protest against the film on Channel 4; as I did on "Right to Reply".

I also wrote to Mr. Jeremy Isaacs, Chief Executive of Channel 4, pointing out the soap opera and offensive nature of that concoction, to say nothing of its schmalziness, and asking him to consider another programme, this time of a documentary format, on the same subject.

Alas, he thinks it "unlikely" that they will return to it. He thought that the films were a most acceptable entertainment.

I was particularly surprised that the producer/director, Ben Lewin, made no reference to the many Dunera Boys who are still in Australia and who formed an Association there. Surely he should have consulted them?

Old Lampscombe,

Smithwood Common,

Cranleigh,

Surrey GU6 8QX

HUGH RANK

Dunera Affair

Sir,—Because of the historical interest of the Dunera Affair, which was discussed in your December issue, may I add a few personal recollections based on some scribbled diary entries jotted down soon after our arrival at the Australian camp?

I belonged to a small group of Hechalutz which later became the nucleus of the camp Zionist organisation and which received frequent assistance from Australian Zionists.

We had very few possessions with us which was the reason why we later did not trouble to claim compensation. But many of the older refugees might have had no choice but to carry *all* their possessions, including valuables, about with them all the time, even into internment. Many of these men lost everything, and they were among those shocked most by the treatment suffered at the hands of some of the guards on board the Dunera.

Apart from formally complaining about the treatment, our elected spokesmen quite early on during the trip drew up laboriously hand-written copies of a memo for submission to various departments of H.M. Government, both in England and in Australia. The gist was that all of us, Jews and Gentiles, had been forced to leave Germany and Austria. We had been told that as Jews, or as Quakers, or, generally, as opponents of the Nazi regime, we were no longer to consider ourselves as Germans.

The U.K. authorities had declared virtually all of us "friendly enemy aliens"; yet we now found ourselves treated as "un-friendly" just because we happened to hold German passports. In stressing our gratitude to this country, we wished to prove that we were as loyal as any true subject of the Crown.

As we had done at the outbreak of the war, we were again offering our services, according to our individual abilities. On these grounds we appealed for an early release from internment.

More than half of the nearly 2,000 men who were shipped to Australia on the Dunera were eventually enabled to return to the U.K. and to make their contribution to the war effort.

Barningham,

Bury St. Edmunds

BOBBY FREUND

Recollections Sought

Sir,—I recently visited Berlin after an absence of 50 years and submitted to the Berliner Museum eleven drawings which I had produced at the "Reimann Schule", Berlin, during the 1920s.

The Museum is preparing an exhibition entitled "Berlin in den 1920er Jahren". I was told that many records and memories had been lost and I was asked if I could write some "Erinnerungen der 20er Jahre".

May I ask your readers kindly to help define the artistic and liberating atmosphere of the Berlin twenties, the most progressive days of our lives? Your contributions will be collected by me and sent to the Berlin Museum with your name and address.

367 Banbury Road, HEINZ EDGAR KIEWE
Oxford

Holocaust Stamps

Sir,—I should like to point out that the Wiener Library's acquisition of the famous Eric Colebeck collection of stamps on The Holocaust was initiated and facilitated by the Judaica Philatelic Society.

We publish a magazine called "The Judaica Collector" which deals comprehensively with stamps connected with Jewish history, the Bible, Jewish personalities, Israel—in fact any stamp of Jewish interest. Readers sharing that interest are invited to contact us.

Judaica Philatelic Society,

Harold Poster House,

Kingsbury Circle,

London NW9 9SP

S. KESTEN

Editor,

The Judaica Collector

More letters on page 9

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AJR IN ACTION



Mr C. T. Marx, Chairman of the AJR, addressing the volunteers



Mrs Sandra Randall, Organiser of the Day Centre



Mr L. Spiro, Hon. Treasurer of the AJR (right) and Mr O. E. Franklyn, both Executive Committee members



Mr Wolf Salinger, Chairman of the House Committee of Otto Schiff House, and Mrs Margot Williams, volunteer, retired AJR social worker



Mrs Ruth Anderman (left), Executive member and in charge of the Hannah Karminski kitchen and Mrs Renee Lee, Homes Department Secretary



Mr C. Haller, of the House Committee of Osmond House



Mr Gary Leon (left), who helps in the AJR office, and Mr and Mrs Walter Benjamin, who were caretakers of Marie Baneth House



Mr Steiner, who helps at the AJR Club



Mrs J. M. Hulse (right) and Mrs Eva Trent, volunteers at Eleanor Rathbone House

VOLUNTEERS PARTY

Over 100 volunteers attended a party in their honour held in December at the Hannah Karminski House in a warm and jolly atmosphere. The Chairman of the AJR, Mr C. T. Marx, and the Hon. Treasurer, Mr L. Spiro, thanked the assembled volunteers for their efforts during the year and emphasised the great value of their contribution to the smooth working of AJR activities, and the ever-increasing need for voluntary helpers in the future.

DAY CENTRE COUNTDOWN

As we go to press, the Day Centre opening is still some ten days ahead and excitement is building up for this great new step forward in the activities of the AJR. Mrs. Sandra Randall, the Day Centre Organiser, has been seeing prospective visitors and busily making the hundred-and-one arrangements needed to assure its smooth and effective working. We shall give a full report of the opening next month.

Volunteers have been coming forward, but more drivers are needed to provide complete assurance of a smoothly functioning Day Centre that will be able to cope with all calls put upon its services. Come forward now so that you can be in at the beginning of this exciting new project.

Day Centre visitors should ring Mrs. Sandra Randall at her special number in the AJR office: 328 6317. Ring now!

HANUKKA PARTIES

The Hall of Hannah Karminski House was full to capacity when, on the 8th December, Dr. and Mrs. Arnold Horwell presented another of their most popular musical Hanukka entertainments to the AJR Club. To everyone's joy, the club's dearly loved Chairman Mrs. Margaret Jacoby was one of the party. She introduced the afternoon's activities and was as happy to be at her Club as its members were to have her there. Another welcome guest was Dr. Frank Falk, the Hon. Vice-President of the AJR.

There were delightful Hanukka parties at Leo Baeck House, Osmond House, Otto Schiff House, and Heinrich Stahl House. At Heinrich Stahl House the ceremony was particularly touching as the nonagenarian Dr. Kapralik lit the Hanukka candles.

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OBITUARIES

RUTH FLESCH

Ruth Flesch, the wife of the AJR's Hon. Vice-President, Carl Flesch, died on 7th January 1986 after a long illness. The daughter of a prominent Berlin lawyer, Franz Seligsohn and his wife Fanni, she came to Britain in 1933. From early childhood music played a major part in her life, an interest which she pursued actively as a gifted violinist, joining in chamber music, where her participation was always eagerly sought. In 1937 she married Carl Flesch, with whom she shared a deep interest in and love for music. She was a member of the London Medical Orchestra from 1964-81. She was much involved in the creation in 1947 of the annual Self Aid concerts and her charm and winning smile contributed greatly to rousing our community, in the early years, to support this now so firmly established event.

As one of the early members of the House Committee of Eleanor Rathbone House, she devoted time and energy to helping the many who needed her support and advice. A devoted wife, a wonderful mother and grandmother, she will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to have known her. L.S.

DR. GERTRUDE GOLDSCHIEDER

The sudden death of Dr. Gertrude Goldscheider on December 5 is a grievous loss not only for her friends but also for numerous other people who could rely on her help and advice. Born in Vienna

in 1902, she practised as a doctor in that city until, in 1937, she came to this country, together with her husband, the late Dr. Paul Goldscheider. After having obtained her British qualifications in Edinburgh, she joined the Marie Curie Hospital in Hampstead. Her work for victims of cancer is also reflected in numerous contributions she wrote for medical periodicals. After the war, she and her husband established their surgery in Goldhurst Terrace. It became a refuge for numerous patients of continental origin, who benefited from the professional expertise and human understanding of the Goldscheiders.

Contacts between them and the AJR became closer when the Old Age Homes were established and Dr. Paul Goldscheider, their medical officer, and his wife took an active interest in the wellbeing of the residents. Some time after her husband's death, she gave up the house and moved into a block of flats in Finchley Road. Yet her retirement was marked by another, newly chosen, activity. She joined the team of helpers in the AJR Club and regularly visited Hannah Karminski House.

By her unassuming human wisdom and motherly approach, she gained the affection of the members. It so happened that she spent the last afternoon of her life with them, looking forward to seeing them again three days later on the occasion of the Club's Hanukka celebration. This was not to be. Her death leaves a sadly felt gap and she will be missed by all who knew her.

WERNER ROSENSTOCK

SAM SPIEGEL

One of Hollywood's foremost producers, Sam Spiegel, died recently while on holiday. Born at the turn of the century in Jaroslav, then in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, he studied at Vienna University. His first visit to Hollywood was in 1927, but he returned to Berlin, where he joined the European section of Universal Films. At that time, he was making foreign-language versions of American films for distribution in Europe.

In 1933, Sam Spiegel was forced to leave Germany and he emigrated to the USA in 1935. At first his films were made under the name S. P. Eagle, but he took his own name again in 1954. His first film was "Tales of Manhattan" in 1942; some time later, he produced "The Stranger" which was directed by Orson Welles, an unpopular figure in Hollywood at that time. Other famous works produced by Spiegel were "The African Queen", "On the Waterfront", "Bridge on the River Kwai" and "Lawrence of Arabia". The last film he produced was "Betrayal", in which Harold Pinter collaborated.

PHILIP S. BERNSTEIN

Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein died in New York early in December at the age of 84. After the Second World War, Rabbi Bernstein played a major part in the relocation of German Jews. He was an adviser to two Israeli Prime Ministers—David Ben-Gurion and Golda Meir.

DR. GUSTAV JELLINEK

We regret to have to report the death in New York of Dr. Gustav Jellinek. Formerly a physician of great distinction in Vienna, he had to leave the country after the occupation of Austria by the Third Reich. He continued as a physician in New York until the age of 90.

In New York he formed the American Congregation of Jews from Austria and in this capacity as Chairman (later Hon. President) of that body, he took part in the negotiations with Austria aimed at obtaining a measure of indemnification for the losses suffered by the victims of Nazi persecution in Austria.

He was a member of the Curatoria of the various bodies established by the Austrian Government as a result of negotiations with the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria, New York, which provided a modicum of compensation to victims of persecution and also a member of the Curatorium of the Sammelstelle (collecting agency) "A" which had considerable success in tracing and reclaiming heirless and unclaimed Jewish property.

Dr. Jellinek earned for himself the respect and warm affection of all those who came in contact with him.

He was blessed with perfect health and the end, when it came at the ripe age of 101½ years, was quite sudden. Still the end of this remarkable longevity came too early for his many friends and for his wife, who surrounded him with love and protection.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Berlin Fashion Trade

Sir,—I am preparing a book about the role of Berlin in the fashion trade during the twenties and early thirties. In this connection I have to record the leading part played by Jewish firms in the field of "Konfektion" and related trades. An article by me on the subject was published in "Die Tageszeitung" of August 14, 1985. Most of the firms concerned were "aryanised" or dissolved under the Nazis. I would be very grateful if any readers who as former owners or managers of these firms or as their descendants could supply me with material, based on personal recollections or written material. Some of them have emigrated to England. As examples I can mention: Rudolf Loewenberg and his partner Dannenberg, Ephraimsohn & Neumann, Leopold Lindemann and/or his son Rolf. By profession a freelance journalist, I consider it most urgent to write the book I envisage as long as eye witnesses and records are still available.

Luxemburger Str. 6,
D-100 Berlin 65,

West Berlin,
W. Germany

UWE WESTPHAL

In Search of Identity

Sir,—The theme of Hans Bach's Book "The German Jew", reviewed by Dr. Rosenstock in your November issue, was powerfully supported by an exhibition based almost entirely on items from the collection of the Leo Baeck Institute and shown in Berlin under the title "Jettchen Geberts Kinder". It demonstrated the signal Jewish contribution to German culture from portraits and a bust of Moses Mendelssohn to drawings and water colours made by notable artists in Theresienstadt and to Ludwig Meidner's postwar charcoal portrait of Leo Baeck. An illustrated German/English catalogue of 184 pages has been issued.

The impact of the exhibition was shattering. It formed the end and pinnacle of a conference "Jews in Adversity 1933-39" in Berlin, the first conference organised by the Leo Baeck Institute

in Germany, which discussed the role and work of Jewish authorities during those years, and was extensively reported by Dr. Rosenstock in the January issue of *AJR Information*.

Impressive speeches by Dr. Diepgen, Lord Mayor of Berlin, by President von Weizsäcker and by Dr. Fred Grubel of the Institute opened the exhibition and bore witness to the present extensive collaboration between Jewish and German authorities in saving whatever heritage can still be saved and in fostering new joint cultural ventures.

In connection with the 300th anniversary of the Huguenot immigration, the Berlin Museum also mounted an exhibition "Emigrants from France to Germany and from Germany to France". It contained many photographs and drawings of the all too numerous, renowned Jewish personalities lost to Germany, from Heine and Marx to those forced to flee Nazi Germany.

89 Alleyn Road,
London SE21 8AD

M. L. MEYER

Wartime Experiences

Sir,—In connection with a book I am writing, I am trying to trace former members of No. 3 Troop 10 (1A) Commando who would be willing to talk to me about their wartime experiences. Anybody who has any information could they please contact me.

122 Sunningfields Road, MICHAEL ARTON
London NW4 4RE

ISRAEL'S "GENETIC GOLDMINE"

Of all plants, cereals have through the ages been by far the most important to mankind. But in barren parts of the world, grain crops often fail, leading to disastrous famine. Professor Eviatar Nevo of Haifa University thinks he may be able to alleviate this problem with one of Israel's untapped resources—wild cereals. Many varieties grow throughout the country and Professor Nevo hopes to cross these tough wild grain plants with domesticated modern types. The result, it is hoped, would be a cereal which could resist the harsh conditions of hot climates, sandy soils or excess salt in the ground.

As director of the Haifa University Institute of Evolution, Professor Nevo also works with Cambridge University and the US Department of Agriculture in the course of his researches into crops which may feed the world. For this purpose, he says, Israel's wild grain plants are a "genetic goldmine".

CONTRAST IN HOME MOVIES

In successive weeks, BBC2 showed two home movies from the 1930s and wartime. One came from the English village of Apsley Guise, the other from the North Rhine-Westphalian town of Beckum. The two films presented some striking contrasts, particularly when it came to interviews with the people who had figured in the films forty or fifty years ago. Elderly and middle-aged English people harked back with placid nostalgia to the days of their youth, while their German

contemporaries, even while they spoke of happy holidays and lovely gardens, could scarcely hide their unease at remembering the past. *Qui s'excuse, s'accuse* runs the French proverb, traditional wisdom borne out by the frequent references to such topics as schoolbooks idealising Nordic man; SA-men checking that the *Eintopf* days were being observed; to the alleged "militaristic" teaching of boxing to little boys, "unbelievable today"; stories of denunciation and replacement of non-Party by Party members—"My father lost his Civil Service post because he would not join the NSDAP, so I had to join to keep my own job".

One man more straightforwardly remembered that Nazi rule was seen as a great improvement on the bad years of the early thirties. When they came to power, he said, the Nazis were seen as restoring political order: they brought employment and improved working conditions. When a factory was re-opened, with flags, trumpets and ubiquitous uniforms, he declared, "it was one of the most beautiful days of my life—I had work again".

The elderly Beckumers told of the Kristallnacht: "My father was crying and wanted to go out, but my mother would not let him: so he closed the windows against the noise of the riot". No one, they admitted, had really wanted to help the Jews, but after the pogrom no one wanted to talk about it. They told too of economic persecution: a Jewish shopkeeper who had no customers, because the only woman who wanted to buy from him was threatened by her schoolboy son with denunciation.

One sequence of the German home movie showed a carnival procession in Beckum, with floats (one bearing the legend "Jedes Jahr ein Kind für den Führer"), pantomime animals, a jolly bunch of men dressed as clowns—and amidst the cheerfulness three masks of Jews: one with a top hat, the other two behind bars.

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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

Meyer:—Dr. Malli Meyer, retired dental surgeon, celebrated her 86th birthday on 29 December 1985 at 8 Amhurst Court, Pinehurst, Grange Road, Cambridge CB3 9BH.

Deaths

Alschbauer:—Mrs Hilda Alschbauer, née Rosenberg, died in

Vienna, Austria, in her 87th year. Mourned by her only surviving relative, nephew Eric Fisher.

Dannen:—Fred B. Dannen, beloved husband, father and grandfather, passed away 2 January 1986. He will never be forgotten.

Fabian:—Ernst Fabian died 2 December 1985, at the age of 87.

Goldscheider:—Dr. Gertrude Goldscheider died 5 December 1985. Deeply mourned by her very many patients and friends.

Roscoe:—Ernest Felix Roscoe (formerly Rosenstern), born in Hamburg on 5 November 1910, died unexpectedly 29 November 1985. Deeply mourned by his family and friends.

Welkanoz:—Margarete Welkanoz, of Leo Baek House, passed away peacefully on Friday 13 December 1985 in her 94th year.

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MILCH BATON SALE DISPUTE

Some months ago an officer's baton was sold by Phillips, the auctioneers and fine art dealers. Described as "of the type owned by a Nazi field-marshal", the baton was inscribed "Milch" and fetched £1,300. However, it may be recalled that Erwin Milch's baton had a particular distinction: it was broken over its owner's head by the late Brigadier Mills-Roberts in outrage at the murder of prison ship inmates. A short time ago, the Brigadier's family brought this very baton, with some 12 inches broken off, to Phillips for sale. It was expected that, as a genuine piece of history, it would fetch some £8,000.

On reading of the proposed sale, the revisionist historian David Irving, considering the baton as stolen property, alerted the Milch family. They applied for an injunction to stop the sale. The baton was thereupon withdrawn from Phillips pending a full hearing to determine ownership. The judge who heard the application from the Milch family suggested that it might be regarded as "spoils of war" and so belong to the Crown.

FOREIGN POSSIBILITIES FOR FASSBINDER PLAY?

The Verlag der Autoren has announced that the closed performance of Rainer Werner Fassbinder's "Der Müll, die Stadt und der Tod", to which 120 journalists were invited, is to be regarded as the world première of the play. This is an important step: by his will, the dramatist provided that the work had to be premiered in Frankfurt. Only afterwards could it be released for production anywhere else. One reason for the intense attempts to prevent a public showing of the antisemitic play was that the objectors thereby halted any other production whatsoever. The Frankfurt Theatre director, Dr. Günther Rühle, arranged the closed performance as a preview on November 4th.

The local Jewish community and other protestors have been taken by surprise by these developments, all the more so because Dr. Rühle expressed disapproval of a projected performance of the play in 1985. At that time he was editor of the "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung".

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

A **Memorial Tablet** was unveiled in Vienna for *Dr. Rudolf Beer*, a great personality who contributed to Vienna's reputation as a theatrical centre during the twenties and thirties. Under his direction at the Raimundtheater (1921-1924), Max Pallenberg was made a guest member, and there he was given the chance of showing his brilliant character acting in comedies old and new, in Molnar plays and Molière's "Malade imaginaire". For 8 years afterwards, Dr. Beer was director of the then "Deutsches Volkstheater" where many young artists started successful careers, among them Hans Jaray and Paula Wesely. His last theatre assignment was Vienna's "Scala" (formerly the Johann Strauss theater) where he worked until 1938 when, after the "Anschluss", he steadfastly refused to emigrate, fell victim to the Nazi regime, and finally committed suicide.

New Film Classics. German TV stations have recently shown films of the sixties which had received general acclaim over the years and became objects of country-wide discussion. Two of these deserve mention: "Geliebt in Rom", the story of a Jewish architect in love with an Italian dancer during the final stages of the war, and "The Rebellion" (after a novel by Joseph Roth) in which a war invalid (played by Josef Meinrad) has to fight red tape and bureaucracy.

Salzburg. Highlights of the 1986 Salzburg Festival will include two operas conducted by James

Levine, musical director of New York's "Met". He will be in charge of "Zauberflöte" and "Figaro", whilst Herbert von Karajan will conduct "Carmen" with Agnes Baltsa and José Carreras.

Birthdays. Willi Schuh, the Swiss musicologist, a Richard Strauss specialist, and for over 20 years a writer for the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung", is 85. Hildegard Knef (also known as Neff), the German film actress, had her 60th birthday. Her autobiographical book "Der geschenkte Gaul" may not have been to everybody's taste, but, when published in the sixties, presented the reader with an original view from the "other side", with information about the war and postwar years in Germany.

Obituary. The German actor *Rudolf Fernau*, who was held in high esteem by audiences stretching over several generations, has died in Munich. He was 87. The Austrian stage designer and author *Carry Hauser* who has died in Vienna, aged 90, was a disciple and follower of artists Alfred Roller and Oskar Strand, contemporaries of Max Reinhardt, who were the originators of modern stage design in Austria. *Werner Schmidt-Boeltke*, composer and conductor, has died at the age of 82. He conducted in Berlin for 25 years, wrote music for some 160 UFA films, and, after World War II became chief conductor of the Munich Radio orchestra.

S.B.

BUST OF LEO BAECK

A bronze bust of the head of Leo Baeck, made by Auguste Restiaux, née Jeselsohn (sister of the late Dr. Erna Goldschmidt), was bought by the B'nai B'rith Lodge in 1932 and displayed in the Berlin "Logenhaus" Kleiststrasse. Anybody who can give information which might help to trace the present location of the bust should kindly write to: Mme Auguste Restiaux, 3, Square de la Mayenne, 75017 Paris.

AUERBACH IN VENICE

At the Venice Biennale, which opens in June, the British Pavilion will be devoted to the work of Frank Auerbach. The Biennale is the most influential of all international exhibitions of contemporary art. He is a painter who deserves a major international reputation, as the Daily Telegraph art critic observed. Frank Auerbach was born in Berlin in 1931 and came to England in 1939. He was brought up by a cousin and never saw his parents again, or anyone else he remembered from his early years in Germany. Auerbach went to the St. Martin's School of Art and to the Royal College of Art. He now exhibits with Marlborough Fine Art.

PRESS INSTITUTE PROJECT

Tel Aviv University is hoping to set up a new institute to study the history of the Jewish press and media generally. The project would also include research on Jewish individuals such as editors, publishers or journalists. So far, however, the University does not have the necessary funds to begin these operations and is anxiously seeking a donor with \$1 million in hand.

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