

Werner Rosenstock

## LANDMARK IN OUR HISTORY

## Leo Baeck Institute Meets in Berlin

It was a symbolic act of the Leo Baeck Institute to hold its International Historical Conference in Berlin. After all, the city had been the administrative centre from which all actions of the National Socialist regime emanated. Every Jew who emigrated and now visits his former home town is reminded of the days of anxiety, when the familiar streets became enemy territory for him and the house in which he had sought no refuge from arrest and invasion by the Nazi authorities.

And yet, driven by nostalgic reminiscences of the "good" years, many ex-Berliners, often at the invitation of the Senate of the city, enjoy some time in the town where they spent the earlier years of their lives.

What holds good for the individual does not necessarily apply to an organisation. The choice of Berlin as the venue for a Historical Conference—the fifth of its kind—was therefore a courageous decision by the Leo Baeck Institute (LBI). It was the first time that an international Jewish organisation met on German soil. This was stressed by the promoters of the Conference and gratefully acknowledged by the heads of the Federal Republic, President von Weizsäcker and Chancellor Kohl.

At the opening public meeting, held on October 28 in the beautiful Otto-Bräun-Saal of the State Library, Rabbi Dr. Max Grunewald, President of the LBI spoke of the tradition of German Jewry and its scholarly achievements. He also read out a message of the Council of Jews from Germany, which had founded the LBI 30 years ago.

Chancellor Kohl described the German Jews who were at the same time Jews. The subject was enlarged upon by Peter Gay of Yale University in a lecture called "At Home in Exile—The Jews During the Weimar Era". He began with the view held by the late Ger-

shon Scholem according to which there had been an German-Jewish synthesis but an unrequited love of Jews for Germany. The speaker gave examples indicating a mutual relationship. As far as the subjective attitude of the Jews was concerned, he stated that the Jews had left at home in Germany. It was also significant, he said, that before 1933 Zionism had met with only a limited response among German Jews.

The International Conference was held from the afternoon of October 28 to the morning of October 31 at the Max-Planck-Institut (Berlin-Dahlem). It began with a feast complemented by a visit about

## Self-assessments

These subjects of self-assessments were dealt with, followed by a discussion on the floor. They covered a wide range of topics under the heading "Self-Assessment of Germany—The Jews in National Socialist Germany, 1933-1939".

The meetings were attended by about 150 participants from various countries, especially Israel, U.S.A., Great Britain, France, the Federal Republic of Germany and also the German Democratic Republic. Most of the lecturers were attached to universities, and the audience also included Board members of the LBI centres in Israel, U.S.A., and Russia. It was particularly gratifying to notice that the interest in the history of German Jewry is not limited to members of the older generation but that young scholars, both in Germany and abroad, both Jewish and non-Jewish, are doing intensive research work on the subject.

In some way, it was pointed out at the conference, the distance from the events may even be an advantage.

On the other hand, the proceedings were enhanced by personal recollections contributed during the debates.

It would exceed the limitations of an article to record the contents of each lecture and there will be a verbatim report of the proceedings in due course. If therefore a few examples are picked out at random, it does not imply that other issues were less important.

In the first lecture, Werner Mosse (University of East Anglia, Norwich) discussed a case-study of the paradoxes of the situation in the German Republic that there was wide official Jewish assimilation whereas at the same time 77 per cent of Jewish marriages in Berlin in 1928 were mixed marriages. During the discussion a former member of the Zionist youth and student movements contradicted the wide-spread assumption of the large share of "Ostjuden" in these movements; in fact, most adherents were German-born.

## Praiseworthy battle

In his lecture about "Jewish Self-Defence", Dr. Arnold Paucker, (LBI, London) assessed the work of the Central-Verein and stated that the Jewish community had engaged in a praiseworthy battle against antisemitism and fascism.

The first lecturer on German Jews under the Nazis was Reinhard Pümpel (Technische Universität Berlin). He said that for various reasons the Nazis had refrained from attacking a long-established "Judenrat" when they came to power. He also pointed out that at the time of the boycott on April 1, 1935 and the first discriminatory laws the Conservatives were still coalition partners without opposing these measures. He distinguished three stages of persecution, social separation, physical separation, and the "final solution", which in his view was not premeditated. The uncertainty about regulations which might be in the offing kept the Jews constantly under pressure.

continued on p. 2

## Don't miss:

Day Centre Opening  
AJR in German page 7  
Clara's Story page 7  
Hans Lohse page 4



# AJR

# INFORMATION

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shom Scholem according to which there had been no German-Jewish symbiosis but an unrequited love of Jews for Germany, the speaker gave examples indicating a mutual relationship. As far as the subjective attitude of the Jews was concerned, he stated that the Jews had felt at home in Germany; it was also significant, he said, that before 1933 Zionism had met with only a limited response among German Jews.

The actual Scholars' Conference was held from the afternoon of October 28 to the morning of October 31 in the Max-Planck-Institut (Berlin-Dahlem), 12 lectures, each of them complemented by a case study.

### Self-assertion

Thus altogether 24 subjects were dealt with, followed by discussions from the floor. They covered a wide range of aspects under the heading "Self-Assertion in Adversity—The Jews in National Socialist Germany, 1933–1939".

The meetings were attended by about 150 participants from various countries, especially Israel, U.S.A., Great Britain, France, the Federal Republic of Germany and also the German Democratic Republic. Most of the lecturers were attached to universities, and the audience also included Board members of the LBI centres in Israel, U.S.A., and Britain. It was particularly gratifying to notice that the interest in the history of German Jewry is not limited to members of the older generation but that young scholars, both in Germany and abroad, both Jewish and non-Jewish, are doing intensive research work on the subject.

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*continued on p. 2*

### Don't miss:

Day Centre Opening:  
AJR in Action page 7  
Clara's Story page 5  
Hans Keller page 4

continued from page 1

## LANDMARK IN OUR HISTORY

The position of the "Reichsvertretung" between 1933 and 1938/9 was analysed by Herbert Strauss (Technische Universitaet Berlin/CUNY), and the enforced conversion of this body into the "Reichsvereinigung" was dealt with by O. D. Kulka (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) who reported that files referring to the fate of the Jews during the years 1939-1943 had been found but not yet fully scrutinised.

The link between the Jewish youth movement and the training schemes for prospective emigrants was dealt with by Werner Angress (SUNY/Stony Brook), with special reference to the non-Zionist "Ring-Bund Deutsch-Juedischer Jugend" and the training centre Gross-Breesen. The re-training was certainly a pre-condition for the admission to other countries; on the other hand it would be interesting to learn to what extent emigrants to countries other than Palestine retained their vocations after an initial period of settlement.

During the discussion, Friedrich Brodnitz, Chairman of the Reichsausschuss der juedischen Jugendverbaende 1934-37, reported that the "Reichsjugendfuhrung" had, as a rule, shown understanding for the Jewish youth organisations and that it had been antagonistic to the Gestapo. In a discussion after a lecture by Hajo Bennett (Universitaet Bonn) about the Jewish Sports Movement, Paul Yogi Mayer stated that the Nazis had also destroyed the German Sports and Youth movements. He felt it would be desirable to devote some research to the resistance of German Jews to the Nazi regime by their service with Allied armies.

The intricate problem of a specific Jewish culture within a community which was integrated into its environment was dealt with by Herbert Freeden (Jerusalem). The dangers of which the Kulturbund der deutschen Juden (founded after the ascent of the Nazi regime) had to keep clear were the mental ghettoisation and lower artistic standards.

### Women's role

The decisive role of women, especially after the November 1938 pogroms, was stressed by Rita Thalmann (Paris). She referred to their inconspicuous and clandestine rescue activities and also paid tribute to the memory of personalities like Cora Berliner, Hannah Karminski, Paula Fuerst and Hedwig Eppstein (the wife of Paul Eppstein, who was shot in Theresienstadt).

Receptions for the participants were arranged in the Jewish Community Centre in the Fasanenstrasse, where the Chairman of the community, Heinz Galinski, was the host, and at the invitation of the widow of Axel Springer in the headquarters of the publishing house which borders the Berlin Wall.

The functions were concluded by a ceremony opening an Exhibition called "Jettchen Geberts Kinder", jointly launched by the Berlinische Galerie (Jabensstrasse, next to Bahnhof Zoo) and the Leo Baeck Institute New York. In his impressive address, Federal President Richard

von Weizsaecker, under whose patronage the Exhibition is held, stated that Jews had felt at home in Germany, and Eberhard Diepgen, Governing Mayor of Berlin, recalled the role of Jews in developing the metropolis.

Dr. Fred Grubel, Director of the New York Leo Baeck Institute, who together with Eberhard Roters of the Berlinische Galerie had prepared the exhibition, gave a vivid description of the spiritual background of German Jewry. The object of the exhibition is the display of the contributions of German Jewry to German culture from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. Most of the items, including several original works by Max Liebermann, came from the Leo Baeck Institute Art Collection in New York.

Going back to earlier times, portraits of paternal and maternal ancestors of Heinrich Heine were on show. At the other end of the spectrum there were portraits and documents of persons who had perished under the Nazis, among them the author Georg Hermann and the painter Felix Nussbaum.

### Wide publicity

The whole conference had very wide publicity in the press and on television. The Tagesspiegel called the Exhibition "the most important post-war exhibition on cultural history shown in Berlin". Ernst Cramer, who originated from the pre-war German-Jewish youth movement and who now holds a responsible position with the Springer Group, wrote: "In 1955, a conference of this kind would have been unthinkable in Germany—today, it meets with extraordinary interest".

From small beginnings 30 years ago, the Leo Baeck Institute has developed into a widely recognised enterprise. Its standing is based on the scholarly level and continuity of its research work and its publications. The success of the Berlin Conference, which was also a political venture, is to a large extent due to the President, Dr. Max Gruenewald, who guided the proceedings, and to the Director of the New York LBI, Dr. Fred Grubel, who was in charge of the complicated preparations and their smooth and efficient running.

### EMIGRATION IN EXHIBITION

From November 1985 to 31 March 1986, the Deutsche Bibliothek in Zeppelin-Allee, Frankfurt a.M., is holding an exhibition entitled "Die juedische Emigration aus Deutschland—Geschichte einer Austreibung". The Leo Baeck Institute, New York, has collaborated in organising the event, where much rare material is to be seen: books, pamphlets, official papers, letters and hundreds of photographs. Up till now, some of these documents have been held by private individuals and have never before been publicly seen. A catalogue is available, which is in itself a history of the Jewish exile.

### THE FORGOTTEN FRAU SCHINDLER

In a letter to the "Allgemeine juedische Wochenzeitung", Rudi M. Schwarz of Buenos Aires draws attention to the case of Frau Emilie Schindler, the former wife of Oskar Schindler. Without wishing to detract from the latter's humane rescue of many Jews during the Second World War, the writer points out that it is not unusual for a wife to be overshadowed by her husband and if the couple should be parted, she may well be forgotten altogether.

Mr. Schwarz emphasises that during the years in which Schindler was carrying out the rescue of Jews, his wife bore a considerable part in this work, as Oskar himself acknowledged. It was she who sought out food for the people sheltering in the factory, organised a 120-bed hospital for them and travelled many miles to exchange vodka for vitamins and medicines.

### Sixteen hours a day

In those days of shortage and rationing, much of her time was spent in establishing black market contacts, and she would sometimes work consistently for 16 hours a day. Like her husband she faced up to Nazi high-ups who tried to seize the Jews working in the factory.

After the war, Emilie and Oskar settled near Buenos Aires, but the nutria farm which they bought turned out a failure after several years. The two separated and in 1957 Oskar returned to Germany. Emilie, however, loved the animals and the morsel of farmland. Although her circumstances were very poor, she stayed in Argentina. But in gratitude for her unforgettable humanity, the B'nai B'rith lodge "Tradition" took Frau Schindler under its wing, bought her some land, built a house where she can stay for her lifetime and arranged for her to receive a pension.

Emilie Schindler is still living in Argentina and Mr. Schwarz hopes that publication of his letter will mean that, equally with her late husband, she will receive the recognition and honour due to her efforts for the oppressed.

### AJEX MEN AND WOMEN REMEMBER

The Ajax remembrance parade took place with its accustomed solemnity at the Cenotaph in November. The ex-servicemen and women there did not know that a number of people had been severely injured and two were killed when the coach bringing the Liverpool Ajax group overturned on the motorway.

Among those who took part in the parade were five men imprisoned by the River Kwai and two Chindit officers. Many came from Gibraltar, France, Israel, America and the Commonwealth to join the service. One veteran of the First World War was 95-year-old Joel Pollock of Manchester, who fought in France and Belgium with the League of Frontiersmen.

The service of remembrance was conducted by the Chief Rabbi and the subsequent rally was addressed by Ajax national chairman Edmund Kardo.

## HOME NEWS

### SALUTE TO OUR PRESIDENT

ALFRED DRESEL 95

On January 3, one of the veteran leaders of the AJR will celebrate his 95th birthday. He has been associated with our work from the very beginning in 1941, first as a Board member and later as a member of the Executive Committee. In 1954, he became Vice-Chairman and in 1963 Chairman, an office he held for eleven years. When he retired in 1974, the honorary office of President was bestowed on him.

These bare dates only superficially reflect the services Alfred Dresel has rendered to our community. Internally, he worked for the consolidation of our organisation. He gave guidance to his colleagues on the Executive and created an equilibrium between the Honorary Officers and the members of the staff, letting them as professionals get on with their work.

### Two central tasks

Externally, his work centred around two central tasks: collective and individual restitution and creation of Homes for the elderly. Both tasks were, of course, closely linked. A lawyer by profession, he not only helped many in our midst in obtaining payments provided for in German legislation but also fought for an adequate share of the organisations of Jews from Germany in the heirless, unclaimed and communal assets recovered by the Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation and the Jewish Trust Corporation in the former American and British Zones of Germany respectively. He was a member of the Allocation Committee of the Jewish Trust Corporation, which administered that part of the recovered assets which was assigned to Britain.

### Outstanding merits

The major part of these funds was used for the establishment and maintenance of Homes. In this field, Alfred Dresel's merits were outstanding. For many years Chairman of the Management Committee for the Homes, he had a decisive share in their planning, financing and administration. It was this work which gave him greatest satisfaction. His skill as a negotiator and his experience in financial and legal matters made his activities particularly valuable. Yet above all, it was his sincerity, his human kindness and his personal interest in his fellow-workers which created bonds of friendship and respect with his colleagues. With feelings of deepfelt gratitude we extend our cordial birthday greetings to Alfred Dresel.

W.R.

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### EXPANSION IN WIENER LIBRARY

The Wiener Library has benefited by the gift of a collection of books belonging to the late Joel Cang, former foreign editor of the "Jewish Chronicle". Mr. Cang's family invited the library to make a selection of the books, many relating to his specialist interest in Eastern European Jewry.

Another private book collection has also been donated to the library, in this case from the estate of Michael Hecht, who owned many works on communism and Trotskyism.

To mark the 40th anniversary of the Nuremberg Trials, the Wiener Library mounted a special exhibition on the subject.

### MORE JEWISH RADIO

BBC Radio Sussex has been running a fortnightly programme "Shalom" with items of Jewish interest. This has chiefly been drawn from Michael Freedland's Radio London series "You don't have to be Jewish". However, Radio Sussex feels that the programme should have more local appeal and a new organiser, Richard Woolfe, has been appointed. The idea is to provide more items from Brighton and Sussex, while continuing to use excerpts from "You don't have to be Jewish".

In another development, an independent radio station to be known as "Word of Mouth Broadcasting" has been mooted by Beverley Bond, Ian Sweiger and Joe Devine. Twenty-five other people are already involved in the work and the group has received many offers of help from Jewish organisations.

The Board of Deputies is also applying for a "community radio" licence.

### NEW HONOUR FOR EDITOR

Miron Grindea, editor of the internationally-known magazine "Adam", has recently been further honoured by the French government. Already a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, he has now become a Commandeur es Arts et Lettres. The award was made in recognition of Mr. Grindea's work in furthering Anglo-French relations.

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**H. OSCAR JOSEPH OBE AT 85**  
*Mr. H. Oscar Joseph OBE, President of the Central British Fund for World Jewish Relief, will be 85 on January 9. He has been a champion of Jewish refugees, and particularly refugees from Nazi oppression for almost half-a-century. The AJR offers its warmest congratulations and wishes him many many returns.*

### MOVING CEREMONY IN MANCHESTER

In a ceremony held in the South Manchester Synagogue to mark the anniversary of the November Pogrom of 1938, Rabbi Felix Carlebach described a visit to his home town in Germany. He and his wife had long resisted going back, yet ultimately felt they could no longer refuse to do so. He could never forgive or forget, but at least he could face up to old memories.

At Rabbi Carlebach's old school, 20 former classmates had gathered to greet him. Some table-napkins belonging to his mother were handed back to him. Despite the courtesies paid to the Carlebachs, it had been a difficult and draining journey of great poignancy.

The Reverend Gabriel Brodie, who escaped from Czechoslovakia but lost almost all his family in the Holocaust, gave another reading. Mrs. Brodie, whose family also perished, came to this country with a children's transport.

A number of children took part in the Manchester ceremony, which also included music by Mahler.

### CELAN FILM PLANNED

A Bonn group is planning a film based on the life of the great German-language Jewish poet Paul Celan. (See *AJR Information*, February 1982.) The director will be Frieder Schuller, originally from Siebenburgen, and the film will be made on location in Czernowitz and Bucharest.

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C. F. Flesch

## A PERSONAL MEMOIR OF HANS KELLER

After the great many tributes paid to Hans Keller by leading members of his profession, what more can one say about this remarkable man who died so tragically a few weeks ago? I for one could certainly not do justice to his outstanding and original contributions in the field of musicology. But I can try and contribute something to his memory from earlier years when he was still comparatively unknown.

We met almost 30 years ago when he had been commissioned to translate and edit the memoirs of my late father, the violinist Carl Flesch. And part of this brief meant that he was saddled with me as his collaborator. There can be few tasks more difficult and trying for an editor/translator than to cope with a close relative—in particular a son—of the subject of such a work, jealous of every sentence written and opinion expressed, and regarding as sacrilege anything that could remotely look like a detraction.

Hans Keller's handling of the problem—was wholly admirable. He combined just the right mixture of tact and firmness, patience with an unerring instinct for the right thing, in the face of my numerous queries about shades of meaning in translation, the necessity for many of his explanatory footnotes (were my father's words not good enough by themselves?), or the need to shorten certain passages (not a word was ever added!).

He would listen with unflinching courtesy and consider the matter from every point of view. If he felt that there was substance in what I had to say, he would readily agree. But never where he felt it necessary to stick to his guns in the interest of the work itself or of historical truth. Nothing but the best was good enough and he gave himself unstintingly.

I wish I could say that, at the time, I fully appreciated the value of what he did, but, truth to tell, this came only much later when I realised that without his immense dedication and erudition the work would not have achieved the status it did. (I am sorry if this sounds like an advertisement for the book—out of print in this country, anyway. But you cannot appreciate Hans Keller without praising what he did).

### Huberman fan

What a pain in the neck I must have been to him! His demeanour puts those people wholly in their place who—not knowing him well—confused his uncompromising search for truth with "being difficult". On the contrary, he was understanding and forbearance itself. I nurse the fond hope that the practical experience he gained through being confronted with an acute case of "inverted Oedipus Complex" (if that is the phrase I want), did add to his knowledge of psychoanalysis, another of his many interests.

During the whole of our collaboration, extending over almost two years, we never had what one could call a "serious" disagreement—except once, towards the end, when it came to the chapter about the famous violinist Bronislaw Huberman whom my father greatly disliked—for

musical reasons which, however, had spilt over into his assessment of this artist's personality. Hans, on the other hand, was one of Huberman's most ardent fans, and rightly objected to my father's views about his person which, I had to admit, were rather unreliable. When, however, he produced a footnote, several pages long, contradicting my father's *violin-technical* assessment in almost every detail, I suggested that this was going beyond his task of editing and that, if he felt so strongly, he should write his own book on the subject!



Hans Keller, drawn by his artist-wife Mylein Cosman-Keller.

This resulted in our one real quarrel. He threatened to withdraw from the project altogether—it was typical of him to disregard any monetary considerations although I believe that, at that time, he was still struggling financially—and it seemed that we had arrived at an impasse. Eventually, however, we agreed on a somewhat unusual compromise: no footnote, but an appendix in which he would fully set out his views and I would write a reply. Which is what we did.

But the point of the story is that he felt, on reading my script, that I had not done my case full justice and helped me to present it better. And there you have Hans Keller in a nutshell.

Many years later, Huberman's secretary presented me with a volume of fan letters to him, which she had collected. It contained one from Hans Keller, at the time, I believe, all of 16 or 17 years old, written after he had heard Huberman play for the first time. The combination of almost poetic freshness, enthusiasm and innocence was wholly captivating and touching. It made me realise afresh that, theory and research notwithstanding, what mattered to him above all else was the music itself and how to serve it.

Reading and listening to the many tributes paid to him after his death, one was struck by the deep loyalty and affection shining through it all—a sentiment I wholly share. And all of us in the AJR can be proud of the great contribution a fellow refugee has made to the musical culture of this country and beyond.

## THE PROTEST THAT WORKED

New researches are being undertaken into the "Protest in the Rosenstrasse", one of the most extraordinary incidents in Nazi Germany. Just 42 years ago, against the background of defeat at Stalingrad, Joseph Goebbels decreed that Berlin should be "judenrein" (clear of Jews) by Hitler's birthday on 20 April 1943. Alois Brunner, who swept away the Jews of Vienna with previously unheard-of brutality, was imported to carry out this task.

On 27 February 1943, some 9,000 Jews were arrested at their place of work without any warning and before 9 o'clock in the morning. From then on, the Gestapo hunted down Jews in the Berlin streets and in their homes. Thousands of them were immediately deported to the East, disappearing without a word or a sight of their families.

But one group of a few hundred was set aside. These were the partners in and the children of mixed marriages and they were taken to a former Jewish institution in the Rosenstrasse. From the day that the action began, their families began to seek them out. One small group of women complained to the Gestapo: "We are good Germans and shall our husbands and children be shut up in a camp?". These women agreed between themselves to meet again next day and to bring friends along as reinforcements. Two boys watched all night in the Rosenstrasse to give warning if their father should be deported.

The women arrived next day, some with serving relatives in military uniform who happened to be on leave. More people joined the group, having only now discovered where their families were being held. They brought food for the prisoners and clamoured for the keys and ration-cards still in the arrested men's pockets. Though the Gestapo ordered them away, many stayed in the street or returned next day. Those who had to work through the day came in the evenings. The news spread through the city and the crowd grew.

As time went on, the police and Gestapo men became more and more aggressive in their attempts to clear the street. Still people kept coming, the women shouting in chorus "Give us our husbands back!", until at last the Gestapo threatened to shoot. Even this did not quell the protest and at last, after more than a week, the prisoners were set free.

Nathan Stoltzfus of Harvard University is currently studying the whole episode, helped by grants from the Fulbright Commission and the Albert Einstein Institute. He hopes to make contact with people who were in Berlin at the time and can throw some light on the questions still to be answered. For example, why were the prisoners set free at all and what did other Berliners think about the protest? Mr. Stoltzfus' address is Wilhelmsau 134, 1000 Berlin 31 and he will be most grateful for any information. J.L.

Margot Pottlitzer

## A VERY VALIANT WOMAN

Janusz Korczak, the Polish doctor and teacher who insisted on going to the gas chambers with the children in his care, has become a modern legend, one of the righteous in a cruel world. In the nature of things there have been other cases of this kind which have remained unknown.

By good fortune one of them has recently become known to our friend and contributor Egon Larsen, and he has devoted a book to it *Und doch gefällt mir das Leben. Die Briefe der Clara Grunwald 1941-1943*. (Persona Verlag, Mannheim 1985.) It is a memorial to a remarkable woman and a small but significant contribution to the history of its time.

Clara Grunwald, born in 1877, was one of the eight surviving children of a rabbi in Rheydt in North West Germany. She became a teacher and found employment in a Berlin primary school. An adherent of the methods of the Italian educationalist Maria Montessori, she obtained remarkable results in educating retarded children and worked in the municipal children's house system where neglected children of working parents were looked after, fed and taught from 8-5 every day. Apart from her family, she had few contacts with Jews. She considered herself an atheist and left the Jewish community, only to rejoin it to show solidarity when Hitler came to power. Most of her friends belonged to the small group of German Quakers.

## Fateful choice

In 1933, she had to give up all her activities. She devoted the next few years to helping people prepare for emigration and to finding them work abroad. At last, in 1941, she was given permission to work on a hachsharah farm in Neuendorf near Berlin which was run by Bertel and Marti Gerson, a former pupil of hers and her husband who had both studied agriculture. On the farm, individuals and families, some with children, were trained to work on the land prior to their going to Israel. Clara brought with her a gifted former photographer, Charlotte Joel, who was completely impractical and helpless.

Clara remained on the farm, looking after the children and helping everywhere, until its last inmates were deported to Auschwitz-Monowitz in 1943. During these years she kept in touch with two close Quaker friends Clotilde Freiin von Schenk and Margarethe Lachmann, and her letters to them have just turned up.

They were always carefully worded in case they were opened by the authorities, but they reveal the incredible courage which inspired Clara and the people on the farm to live and work in the shadow of death. Clara could even say: 'I force myself not to suffer so much about my own and others' misfortunes, in order to keep my strength to help others....I often laugh heartily with the children and the young people.'

Clara Grunwald was supposed to join a transport to Theresienstadt where conditions were known to be better than in the East, but she pleaded with the responsible Nazi officer, much to his surprise, to be sent to the East with Char-



Clara Grunwald

lotte Joel, who once more threatened suicide. She was killed on arrival.

Egon Larsen deserves thanks for publishing her letters together with a succinct sketch of their background. It is to be hoped that the book will be read by many German children and grown-ups who are so often told that Auschwitz never happened.

## NOT LOOKING AWAY

Although he has received no formal recognition, 80-year-old Simon Wagensohnner of Munich is among those who did not let Nazism blind them to humanity. Enlisted in the Organisation Todt, a kind of general purpose labour force, during the Second World War he was employed in transporting munitions to Stalingrad before being sent to work in the "German Section" of the Riga Ghetto. It was here that he saw the undisguised face of persecution. Part of his duties was to take a group of women, many of them Rhinelanders, on his tip lorry to work and bring them back in the evening.

Today, his eyes still fill with tears at the thought of them. Without any kind of organisation, he began to do what he could for these women and girls, hiding bread, sugar or firewood about the lorry. "I nicked it all for the young girls," he says, "they were like my children." What he was doing was no more than a drop in the ocean, but it might just help someone to survive.

Even though the SS checked Simon Wagensohnner's lorry every evening, he managed to escape notice for two years. At last, inevitably, he came under suspicion and was sent to the Eastern Front, where he was taken prisoner by the Russians. "Then," he says, "I felt in my own body all the misery those others had suffered in Riga". While a prisoner, had he himself found

anyone ready to help him? "No," he answered fiercely, "no-one—nobody": another proof that people who can forget their humane instincts whenever they could get them into trouble are always in the majority.

A survivor from the Riga Ghetto tells how, as she was shovelling snow in the city, she suddenly found herself face-to-face with a neighbour from the small Rhineland village where they had both spent their childhood. But her former school-mate was now a highly-decorated SS-man: he saw her, he recognised her. And then he looked away.

Among the few who did not look away can be reckoned Simon Wagensohnner. An old, sick man living in Munich, he is still in affectionate contact with one of the women who survived Riga. Perhaps there are others who still remember his goodness and would like to take up the invitation he gave in 1943: "If you get out of this, maybe we'll see each other again". Just in case, his address is Linksstr. 12, München 45.

## DIPLOMATIC INHERITANCE

Before 1933, the father of Wilhelm Haas was employed in the German diplomatic service. But his wife was of Jewish origin and he was inevitably dismissed when the Nazis came to power. The Haas family emigrated to the Far East, where young Wilhelm grew up. In 1947, however, he returned to Germany and, like his father, trained as a diplomat. Now 54, he has been nominated to succeed Dr. Niels Hansen as West Germany's Ambassador in Israel.

## CLUB 1943

Meetings on Mondays at 8 p.m.  
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1986

- 6 Jan. Dr. Erwin Seligmann: "Randbemerkungen zu Abba Eban's Fernseh-Serie Zivilisation und die Juden".
- 13 Jan. Gerald Holm: "Wilhelm Furtwängler" (zum 100. Geburtstag).
- 20 Jan. Herman Frank, L.D.S. "The Exodus. Part 2. From Sinai to the Promised Land".
- 27 Jan. Helen Ross: "The Plight of Soviet Jewry as Seen on My Russian Visit."
- 3 Feb. Gerhard Guttman: "Colour Slides: Naples, Pompeii and Capri".
- 10 Feb. Meira Yudkin, M.A., Dip.Ed.: "The Image of Women in the Writings of Isaac Bashevis Singer".
- 17 Feb. Dr. Jennifer Tayler: "Monty Jacobs im Exil" (Editor and Critic of the Vossische Zeitung, Berlin).
- 24 Feb. Amanda Golby, LL.B.: "Leo Baeck and his Work".
- 3 Mar. Lucy Kay: "Changes in Jewish Education during the Last Fifty Years".
- 10 Mar. Ada Crown: "Coming Home—the Jews from Ethiopia in Israel".
- 17 Mar. Vivian Stern: "The Problems of Young People Living in Large Inner Cities".
- 24 Mar. Dr. Erwin Seligmann: "Der Ursprung des arabisch-jüdischen Konflikts".
- 31 Mar. No Lecture.

## JAPAN IN LONDON

The most important and comprehensive display now in London is to be found at the Barbican Centre. It is a festival of Japanese visual arts, "The Toki Tradition in Japan today" (until 26 January), and comprises painting, puppets, calligraphy, photography, pottery, ivory-carving, a Japanese garden where the Tea Ceremony is being performed, and so on.

Each of the elements in this vast show is worth careful study since there is so much of beauty and interest with which we in the West are unfamiliar. The paintings comprise the work of 48 of Japan's leading contemporary "Nihonga" painters. The "Nihonga" style arose from a Japanese awareness of western painting in the mid-nineteenth century as a result of renewed contacts with the west and combines the western mastery of perspective with age-old Japanese painting techniques.

A visit to the exhibition is essential for these beautiful paintings alone, but after lingering amongst the paintings the calligraphy must not be missed. This is the work of Sekishu Koto and the Hissei Group which he founded in 1960. The sheer grace of the brush strokes cannot be defined, but equally fascinating are the demonstrations of the ancient tradition of Japanese calligraphy by members of the group.

At the Hayward Gallery (until 23 February) is an Arts Council exhibition "Homage to Barcelona" and is concerned with art and architecture in that city. Barcelona is the capital of Catalonia and underwent a great period of cultural flowering between the Universal exhibition of 1888 and the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in 1936. The mighty figures in the exhibition are Picasso, Miro and Dali all with international reputations, but not to be missed are Gaudi's magnificent



Simeon Solomon: *Carrying the Scrolls of the Law*

buildings and town-planning designs.

An expedition to Bethnal Green, to the Gefrye Museum, Kingsland Road, E8 is well worthwhile for the exhibition of "The Solomon Family of Painters" (until end of December and thereafter at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery). Abraham, Rebecca and Simeon were the children of a successful London Jewish businessman and all achieved fame, but none so much notoriety as the youngest brother who died in penury and disgrace.

Abraham and Rebecca were first-class professional artists in the Victorian genre style and the excellence of their work is now much appreciated.

Simeon, the youngest brother, was much influenced by the Pre-Raphaelites and adopted the painting style, philosophy and habits of some of the more wayward members of that fraternity. His work was the most brilliant and original of the three. A small display of Simeon Solomon's drawings can also be seen at the Ben Uri Gallery, drawn from its permanent collection.


Those who were unable to see the exhibition of Kitaj's recent paintings at Marlborough Fine Art, may still do so if they happen to be in New York in March, for it is being transferred to Marlborough's New York gallery. Kitaj was born in the USA but has made Britain his home. His profound awareness of his Jewishness and of the Jewish tragedy are constantly reflected in his thoughts and powerful paintings.

Of lesser exhibitions, David Blackwood, one of Canada's foremost printmakers, is showing at the Canadian Cultural Centre (until 7 January). Jackie King-Cline has been showing her figurative sculptures at the Sternberg Centre and Yolanda Sonnabend, the designer for ballet, is showing her stage designs and paintings at the Serpentine Gallery (until 5 January).

ALICE SCHWAB

## Highway Broadcast

Writer and AJR member Mrs. Lotte Kramer of Peterborough will be interviewed on the light religious programme 'Highway', run by Harry Secombe, on ITV on Sunday, 12 January at 6.40p.m. The main theme of the programme is 'roots'.



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# AJR IN ACTION

**THE AJR DAY CENTRE** will open its doors on Wednesday January 22 at the Belsize Square Synagogue. The Centre will function on Wednesdays and Thursdays each week. We thank the Belsize Square Synagogue for the use of the Hall.

Mrs. Sandra Randall has been appointed Organiser of the AJR Day Centre. Mrs. Randall brings with her considerable Day Centre experience.

Day Centre visitors will pay £2 per session. This includes a hot lunch and light refreshments in the morning and afternoon. There will be a variety of interesting activities and visitors' suggestions will be welcome.

Those who want to come to the Day Centre should phone Mrs. Lydia Lassman at the AJR office, 624 9096.



On the Volunteer Trail: (right) Mrs. Sylvia Matus, Volunteers Co-ordinator, and (left) Mrs. Lydia Lassman, Administrator of the AJR.

## LEGACIES

The AJR Charitable Trust gratefully acknowledges bequests received in recent months from: Mrs. E. Benjamin; Mr. K. Bloch; Mrs. C. Bowen; Mrs. B. Clarke; Mrs. I. Furst; Mrs. G. Hamburg; Dr. W. J. Jonas; Mrs. S. Lenny; Mr. M. Leyens; Miss I. Lind; Miss F. Lowenhardt; Miss A. Mayer; Mrs. L. Oppenheim; Mr. K. Plessner; Mrs. H. Posner; Mrs. E. Priester; Mrs. C. Reizenstein; Mrs. F. Ricard; Mrs. H. Schemel; Mr. F. Schwartz; Mrs. E. Sonnenburg; Miss E. Steinheim; Mr. R. L. Strauss; Mr. J. D. Zahler.

## WIENER LIBRARY SUCCESS

The following report appeared in the current 'Wiener Library Newsletter':

"The AJR, whose Chairman Mr. C. T. Marx is a member of the Library Executive and Appeal Committees, has given the Library incalculable support, both through a donation of £10,000 from its own funds and an appeal to its members which is being extremely successful. The moving spirit, together with Mr. Marx, has been the Association's Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Ludwig Spiro, whose dedication to the Library is outstanding.

With the help of Mr. Victor Ross, an excellent appeal was drafted to be circulated in AJR Information or sent by post. It was suggested that donors might like to give for certain aspects of the Library's work, such as its maintenance or the provision of books and periodicals, or that they might wish to commemorate a relative by making a donation for a plaque to be affixed to a shelf or bookcase. This has appealed to subscribers and, at the time of going to press, the collection, which is still in progress, has already reached a figure that means the final total should be most satisfactory."

**The AJR Appeal for the Wiener Library rolls on. Our target is £60,000 and we have reached two-thirds of our aim. Please help us finish the job.**

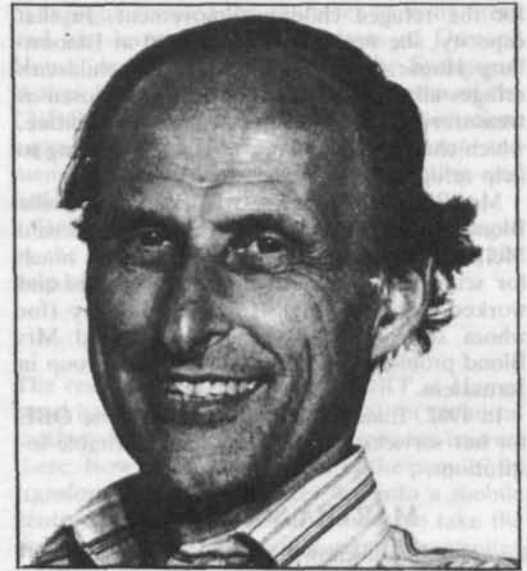
The AJR Tuesday Luncheon Club at Hannah Karminski House closed permanently on December 17, 1985. Those interested will be welcome to join the Day Centre.

## R. TAIT JOINS EXECUTIVE

Mr. Richard Tait, who leads the Day Centre Project Group, has been co-opted to the executive of the AJR.

He is the son of the late Walter and Leonie Tietz and nephew of Ludwig Tietz, pioneer of the German Jewish Youth movement.

Following a brief introduction to the life and language of England at Bryanston School, he went into industry at shopfloor level, aged 16.



Richard Tait

In 1961 he founded Sterilin, the first company in the UK to manufacture sterile disposable plastics laboratoryware and jointly with his brother Thomas, and Frank Odell, another AJR Executive member, developed it into the leading company in its field in Europe.

He retired from Sterilin in 1983 to devote more time to his leisure pursuits, which include travel, the arts and sports.

## NEW VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED TO

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Please phone Mrs. S. Matus at the AJR Office on 624 4449.

## OBITUARIES

### ELAINE BLOND

A noted philanthropist and Zionist, Mrs. Elaine Blond died recently at the age of 83. The youngest daughter of Michael Marks, the founder of Marks & Spencer, she became closely involved with the Federation of Women Zionists during the 1930s and for the past 16 years was its president.

During the Second World War, Mrs Blond became treasurer and director of the committee for the refugee children's movement. In that capacity, she not only worked hard at Bloomsbury House, but visited hostels and children's refuges all over the country. She was chosen as treasurer for the Women's Appeal Committee, which channeled the work of women wanting to help refugees.

Mrs Blond, with her second husband Neville Blond, also supported the work of Sir Archibald McIndoe, the plastic surgeon who did so much for scarred servicemen. She and her husband worked with the English Stage Company (for whom she acted as vice-chairman) and Mrs Blond promoted an Arab-Israel drama group in Jerusalem.

In 1982, Elaine Blond was awarded the OBE for her services to public life and charitable institutions.

### MARTHA SCHLAMME

Especially well-known for her singing of Kurt Weill songs, Martha Schlamme has died in New York, aged 60. She was born in Vienna, her original surname being Haftel, but escaped after

the Anschluss with her family. In Britain, she was interned on the Isle of Man, but turned those experiences to good account by beginning her singing career in entertaining other refugees. Up to 1948, Martha Schlamme was heard on the BBC and in clubs, but then moved to America where her singing talents were greatly appreciated. In 1964, she came to London with "The World of Kurt Weill" at the Vaudeville Theatre and later presented "A Kurt Weill Cabaret".

As well as her singing, Martha Schlamme's acting ability was widely recognised—she played Golde in the Broadway production of "Fiddler on the Roof". In addition, she lectured at Yale on the drama and scored a considerable personal success at the 1985 Israel Festival.

### HERMAN ROBERT HAHLO

A leading expert on South African law, Professor Herman Robert Hahlo has died aged 80. Although born in New York, he was taken by his parents to Europe and educated in Germany, where he gained a doctorate in law. He practised there until forced to emigrate. Arriving in South Africa in 1934, he recommenced his law studies, being admitted as an advocate in 1940 and joining the University of Witwatersrand as a lecturer and later professor. In 1968, Professor Hahlo left for Canada, where he became director of McGill University's Institute of Comparative and Foreign Law. He wrote a number of books on South African law, together with a host of other writings, and for 18 years was joint editor of the South African Law Journal. His work brought him many honours and great respect.

### ELIEZER BERLINGER

The Chief Rabbi of Utrecht, Rabbi Eliezer Berlinger, died recently at the age of 81. Born in the Saar and educated in Mannheim and Berlin, in 1932 he became Rabbi of Malmö in Sweden. He remained there throughout the war years and was able to help many Danish Jews to escape the Nazi occupation. He also played an important part in the revival of Jewish life in Holland during the post-war years.

### JOSEPH ROSENSTOCK

The conductor Joseph Rosenstock died recently in New York at the age of 90. From 1933 to 1936 he was Musical Director of the Jüdische Kulturbund Opera in Berlin. In his later career, he won worldwide acclaim. From 1958 to 1960, Joseph Rosenstock was Musical Director of the Cologne Opera and in 1955 he was awarded the Schiller medal in Mannheim. EGL

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### 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 please contact me.

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## Thank You Britain Fund Lecture

The fifteenth in the series of Thank-You Britain Fund lectures took place at the British Academy's lecture hall in Regents Park in three parts on 12 November and the two following evenings. The lecturer on this occasion was Professor Joseph Sandler who entitled his discourse: 'Between two worlds: the psychoanalytic psychology of adaptation'.

The president, Sir Randolph Quirk, in introducing Professor Sandler, recalled that it was almost exactly twenty years to the day that the cheque for some £92,000 was handed over to the British Academy in the Saddler's Hall in the City as a thank offering to Britain from refugees from Nazi oppression.

He spoke most warmly of the dominant role of the AJR in creating the fund which since 1965 has supported a series of lectures as well as almost forty research fellowships covering a wide variety of subjects.

### Adaptation

On seeing the announcement of the title of this year's lecture in *AJR Information* our members may well have concluded that the subject had relevance to the adaptation needed of everyone of our community on coming to Great Britain from the country of their birth. Not so. Professor Sandler was concerned with the adaptation of the human being from childhood's world of fantasy to the real world in which we live, from the inherited instinctive impulses or drives which are part of the unconscious of each individual on the one hand, to reach a balanced state of mind responding to reality, restrained on the other hand by conscience that keeps us within the bounds of social acceptability. It is this emphasis on the individual's need to adapt throughout his life both to his inner world, which he does not consciously know, as well as to the external world, that distinguishes psychoanalytical thought from other psychologies. The lecturer traced the development of psychoanalytic thinking from Freud's earliest work to the present day and illustrated the application of psychoanalysis

to modern social relationships and other aspects of our day-to-day mental life.

Professor Sandler is a native of South Africa where he studied at the University of Cape Town from which he holds BA, MA and PhD degrees. He was professor of psychoanalysis at the University of Leyden, where he obtained an MD degree, and, moving on, he held a number of senior and consultancy appointments in the United States, before becoming the first holder of the new chair of psychoanalysis at Jerusalem. Since 1984, again as the first holder, he occupies the Freud Memorial Chair in Psychoanalysis at University College, London.

He is recognised as one of the world's foremost scholars of psychoanalysis, to whose eminence the relatively small attendance at the lectures did not do full justice. Moreover, he presented his paper clearly and straightforwardly, and in his manner of delivery created a pleasant rapport with his listeners, whether or not they were familiar with the subject. The AJR members present included Mr Victor Ross who was one of the mainsprings of the committee that organised the Thank-You Britain Fund in the early sixties.

C.T. MARX

### ETCHING FOR YAD VASHEM

Mrs. Ruth Jacobson, who lives in Hampstead Garden Suburb, has used a faded photograph of a 1930s family wedding to create an etching entitled "Wedding in Cracow", which has been accepted for permanent exhibition by the Yad Vashem Museum in Jerusalem. The picture shows a group assembled for the marriage of Bernard Landau, who died fighting in the Warsaw Ghetto: his father (Mrs. Jacobson's grandfather) and one other person are the only members of the party who survived the Holocaust. Mrs. Jacobson, a graduate of the Slade School of Art, has prepared a key giving the family history, with particulars of its philanthropic work. She hopes soon to hold an exhibition of her works in Jerusalem.

## WILLY STERN MEMORIAL

At a simple and moving ceremony held at Osmond House on 2 December, a memorial tribute to Willy Stern was inaugurated and the man remembered. The memorial is in the form of a completely refurbished bathroom at Osmond House, with a specially installed hydraulic bath for the use of incapacitated residents.

The considerable funds for the refurbishment and bath were raised by the management and members of the Belsize Square Synagogue.

Rabbi Rodney Mariner of the Belsize Square Synagogue recalled the character of Willy Stern and his devotion to the residents of Osmond House, as did the Treasurer of the Synagogue Walter Strauss. Mr. L. Spiro, Chairman of the CBF Residential Care and Housing Association, expressed gratitude to the management and members of the Synagogue for initiating and fulfilling the project.

Refreshments for the gathering were arranged by the Matron, Miss Ruth Gawthorpe, with the help of Mrs. Pauline Todd.

### TRAVELLING ORT SHOW

The resource centre opened by ORT at Hampstead has proved immensely useful for technical teachers who have taken up the robotics courses there. Now ORT is "going out to the people" by transforming a single-decker bus into a mobile centre where 12 trainees at a time can take the course with the help of computer-controlled robots.

### NEW CULTURE LINK WITH ISRAEL

A new cultural link, the British-Israel Arts Foundation, has been officially launched in London. The chairman, Mrs. Lilian Hochhauser, gives credit for the original idea to the playwright Arnold Wesker. She welcomed the recognition obtained from the Israeli Ministry of Education and Culture.

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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**

**Philipps:**—Mrs E. Philipps, of 101 Vivian Court, Maida Vale, London W9, celebrated her 89th birthday on 30 December. Happy Birthday to our dear Else from all her family and friends.

**Acknowledgement**

**Neuschul:**—Ruth Neuschul expresses her warm thanks to all well wishers who wrote and called during her recent illness.

**Deaths**

**Bandman:**—Eva Bandman, née Simon, passed away on 14 September 1985. Greatly missed by her relatives and friends.

**Frank:**—Ing. Benno Frank, died peacefully on 20 November 1985 in Bournemouth, Dorset, almost 96 years old. He is deeply mourned by his daughter Eva S. Bergoffen, his son-in-law Max, their children, his relatives and many friends.

**Seidler:**—Margaret Seidler (née Huss) died on 27 July 1985. Dearly loved wife of the late David. Deeply mourned by her daughters Inge and Ruth.

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**Miscellaneous**

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**Personal**

LADY, 55, living NW London, wishes to meet gentleman with a sense of humour and intelligence for friendship. Box 1081.

**Information Required**

**KLEIN.** Paul Klein, son of Esther and Joseph Klein, formerly of 27/8 Gross Marenstrasse, Vienna II, emigrated to England with a children's transport in 1937/8. Would he, or anyone knowing his whereabouts please get in touch with his relative Mrs. Charlotte Rosenthal, 2109 85th Street, Apt. 302, Brooklyn, NY 1124, USA.

**POLAK.** Erwin Polak, born ca. 1914. Came from Vienna in 1938 and worked as a jeweller in London. Sought by relative Bianka Kohn (Korst). Would he or anyone knowing his whereabouts please contact Jewish Refugees Committee,

Drayton House, Gordon Street, London WC1H 0AN.

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**ESCAPE FROM BELGIUM**

Mrs. Mariette Cymberg, the wife of Rabbi Raphael Cymberg of Cockfosters and North Southgate Synagogue, has been telling the story of how she escaped from occupied Europe. At the outbreak of war, her family moved from Charleroi in Belgium to France, where they lived in a small village. Her father went back to Belgium, but was captured in France and sent to Camp Gurs. But the family managed to get him out of the camp and then they all travelled back to Belgium, for most of the way in cattle trucks. On the day in 1942 when the Germans were rounding up Belgian Jews for the concentration camps, Mariette and her sister took off their yellow stars and went for a walk with the sister's baby and husband. The two women did not look Jewish—but the brother-in-law did. He lagged behind to give his wife and sister-in-law a chance to escape, allowing himself to be picked up by the SS: he was never seen again. Afterwards the family split up and remained in hiding until the liberation of Belgium. In 1946, Mariette came to England where she met her husband-to-be, Raphael Cymberg.

**RECORDS RETURNED**

After 42 years, nearly 45,000 documents have eventually found their way back to an Amsterdam synagogue. In October 1943, the Nazi occupiers seized the papers of the Hoofdsynagoge, including marriage certificates, wills, records of divorces, births and deaths, dating back to 1754. The papers were taken to the Oranienburgerstrasse synagogue in Berlin, which was used by the Berlin Jewish council and later by Eichmann's department. Still later it suffered bomb damage. Shortly after the end of the Second World War, Rabbi Nathan Levinson, an American Army chaplain in East Berlin, discovered the cache of papers. However, little publicity was given to the find and Rabbi Levinson presented the documents to the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 1983, an article in "Studies in Bibliography" mentioned that the Hebrew College had received grants to enable the documents to be catalogued. Alerted to their continued existence, the Nederlands Israelietische Hoofdsynagoge—the original owners—requested their return and they have now been returned to the Amsterdam synagogue.

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# THEATRE AND CULTURE

**Jews in to-day's Germany.** The German TV station ARD is tackling a difficult problem by transmitting a 13-part series "Lewin und Guttman." The story of two Jewish families in present-day Berlin and their relations with non-Jewish neighbours is treated most carefully and will also be broadcast by Bavarian Rundfunk later this winter. The main parts are played by Werner Hinz (one of the last roles before his death) and Shmuel Rodensky, known widely as Milkman Tevye in "Anatevka", the German version of "Fiddler on the Roof."

**Personalities.** Peter Ustinov, the British author, actor and raconteur had been appointed "Commandeur des arts et des lettres" by the French authorities in appreciation of his great achievements in the cultural sector. *Mstislav Rostropovich*, the master cellist and conductor who now lives in the United States, was honoured with the Albert Schweitzer music prize. The daughter of the late actor Otto Wernicke, *Annemarie Wernicke*, plays one of the two old ladies in Kesselring's "Arsenic and Old Lace" at the Residenz-theater in Munich.

**Birthdays.** *Wilhelm Kempff*, one of the great pianists of this century, composer and author of the autobiography "Unter dem Zimbelstern, das Werden eines Musikers", celebrated his 90th birthday in his Bavarian home. *Aaron Copland*, the Brooklyn-born composer of Russian-Jewish origin (the family's name was Kaplan) reached

the milestone of 85; soprano *Elisabeth Schwarzkopf* is 70 years old. *Jane Tilden*, the actress whose career began in Czechoslovakia (born at Usti, then known as "Aussig"), and who became known after her Vienna debut in the comedy "Unentschuldigte Stunde" in 1935, had her 75th birthday. A most popular film actress and at Vienna's "Josefstadt", and during the sixties at the "Burg", her most successful roles included Valerie in "Tales from the Vienna Woods" by Horvath, and her much-acclaimed Franziska in Lessing's "Minna von Barnhelm."

**Obituary.** *Serge Jaroff*, founder and conductor of the world famous "Donkosakenchor", who administered the choir for over 50 years, has died in Lakewood, New Jersey, at the age of 89.

The name of *Grete Wiesenthal*, born 100 years ago, was synonymous with perfection in the art of dancing and founder of the "Wiesenthal Sisters School of Dancing"; she became a major figure of a Viennese cultural centre where artists, musicians and reviewers met regularly. Remembering this great lady (she died in 1970) a publication issued by Residenzverlag, Salzburg called "Die Schoenheit der Sprache des Koerpers im Tanz", has just been published. It is a monograph about that great dance expressionist and contains many illustrations plus letters from her admirers ranging from Hofmannsthal to Zuckmayer. Alfred Kerr, the severe and feared German critic, summed it up: "So was kommt nicht noch einmal, wie die Schwestern Wiesenthal".

S.B.

## ROYAL ACADEMY CENSORSHIP?

The art critic Peter Fuller complained in a "New Society" article that the Royal Academy exhibition of German Art in the Twentieth Century has ignored art of the Third Reich. He declares that Nazi art was not "some strange bird of prey which alighted from nowhere", leaving "nothing but bones clinging there in 1945". Mr. Fuller goes on: "Rather, like the modern movement themselves, the art produced in the Nazi era had deep roots in Germany's cultural past". In his view, Nazi art is aesthetically no worse than the work of other German painters "which, paradoxically, often relies on the imagery and architecture of the Third Reich for its subject matter".

In reply, Norman Rosenthal, RA Exhibition Secretary, pointed out that under the Third Reich major artists (many of them featured in the first part of the exhibition) were exiled or forbidden to paint. The artists who made their career under the Nazi regime, he says, were third-raters "whose facile and sentimental work served...to mask the barbarities of that time and have no place in the story of modern art" as set out in the current exhibition. To show such works as "art", Mr. Rosenthal concluded, would be to insult the integrity of other artists.

## BIOGRAPHY WELCOMED

A recent biography of Sir Siegmund Warburg, the enterprising banker who emigrated to Britain, has been widely acclaimed in France. The author is Jacques Attali, special adviser to President Mitterand and himself a Jew; he had made use of interviews, documents and Sir Siegmund's own notebooks to describe a life which represented, in his words, "one of the very finest hours in the history of the Jewish people".

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