

# AJR INFORMATION

Volume XLI No. 6 June 1986

£2 (to non-members)

## THE AJR IN 1985

*This page contains the formal notice convening the annual general meeting for Thursday, 17 July 1986, together with the annual report for 1985. The latter is a departure from earlier practice and provides our members and others interested in the work of the Association for the first time with a written report on our activities and a summary of our accounts for the year 1985.*

*This form of presentation will provide adequate opportunity at the annual general meeting for members to raise questions and make comments on items of special interest to them. With this in mind the annual report and accounts will at the meeting be taken as read.*

*In accordance with a now established tradition the formal meeting will be followed by a lecture, which this year will be given by Professor Heinz Wolff on 'Holiday in space - mankind's next adventure,' further information on which will also be found in this issue.*

### ANNUAL REPORT

As we present our report for the year 1985 it is not inopportune to reflect on the life expectancy the founder members in 1941 would have placed on the Association. Would they have thought that 45 years later it would so vigorously be operating in so many fields of activity and still expanding its membership and workload? With most of its former tasks largely completed, our major efforts are now designed to meet the increasing demand on our comprehensive social services, embracing support for old age homes, sheltered accommodation, day centres and offering advice and support wherever this is required.

#### MEMBERSHIP

A prerequisite for the maintenance of our services is a strong and devoted membership. It is gratifying therefore to report that 1985 has again seen an increase in the number of Members and Friends. The fact that, in some of our activities we have been joined by a group of younger people calling themselves 'Descendants of Jewish Refugees' (DJR), gives us confidence that the necessary interest and willingness from our younger generation will be forthcoming to continue our work for the elderly which is likely to extend to the very end of the century and probably beyond.

#### SOCIAL SERVICES

Our Social Services Department has continued to provide home helps to well over 180 applicants in need of assistance with shopping, cooking, cleaning and other chores. The department offers help and advice to many who fail to understand the

financial and other support systems provided by the ever changing regulations of the DHSS.

Our social workers have during the year visited some 300 Jewish refugees in the London area; the majority living on their own, widows and widowers, lonely and isolated, often housed in substandard accommodation and greatly in need of help and some diversion from their awful loneliness.

We have started an outreach programme for the provision of social work care. Members of the AJR and others listed in our records who asked for help or advice in earlier days are contacted by telephone or letter to arrange assessment visits. As a result our social workers are now looking after hundreds of refugees, organising and providing support and making contact as and when

necessary with their relatives, doctors, hospital social workers, council social services and DHSS departments. Almost universally reports indicate that primary care is a matter of listening patiently and sympathetically to the exposition of emotions and requests for help. This usually entails return visits involving our group of voluntary visitors who must then take over.

#### AJR DAY CENTRE

In 1984 a Sub-Committee was appointed to study our future requirements. As a result of the committee's findings the Executive authorised the establishment of a Day Centre to serve members of our community. The need for such a

*continued overleaf*

The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain  
reminds Members and Friends that the

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on Thursday, 17 July 1986 at 7.30 p.m.  
at Hannah Karminski House, 9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, London NW3  
(side entrance)

#### Agenda

Annual Report 1985  
Hon. Treasurer's Report  
Discussion  
Election of Executive Committee

The meeting will be followed by a lecture on  
**HOLIDAY IN SPACE**

#### Mankind's next adventure

to be given by  
Professor Heinz S. Wolff, B.Sc., F.I. Biol.  
Director, Brunel Institute of Bioengineering

centre was based on a survey which involved some 250 visits to members and others on our records in Northwest London. We were fortunate in finding a suitable building in Cleve Road, London NW6, the freehold of which was acquired by the AJR Charitable Trust with the most generous financial support of the Paul Balint Charitable Trust. Planning permission has been obtained for conversion of the building to our requirements, which will include ample facilities for the day centre, meeting rooms for other purposes, together with sheltered accommodation for eight persons and a caretaker flat.

Work has already started on this, by far the largest project ever undertaken by the Association and clear evidence, if such were needed, of our commitment to the community and to social welfare in general. We are most grateful to Mrs. Mary Garay and Dr. Andrew Balint, the Trustees of the Paul Balint Charitable Trust, for the interest they have taken and their substantial support without which we could not have gone forward with this project. We are hopeful that the 'AJR Paul Balint Centre' will open in the spring of 1987.

Wishing to start the operation of our day centre without delay we were fortunate, with the help of the Chairman and Council of the Belsize Square Synagogue, in obtaining the use of the Synagogue's hall, on two days each week pending the completion of facilities at Cleve Road.

The AJR Day Centre was duly opened at the Belsize Square Synagogue on the 22 January of this year and filled to capacity at each session.

#### SELF AID

Self Aid continues to care for over 150 people, the majority of whom need financial support. Help is given to finance occasional holiday breaks, visits to relatives and the like for the most underprivileged in our midst and our annual concerts help to finance much of this work.

The 1985 Self Aid concert took place on Sunday, 10 November, again in the Queen Elizabeth Hall. The Cohen Trio proved a great attraction and for the first time in many years the concert was completely sold out in advance. Our patrons were in no way disappointed by the polished performance of Beethoven, Suk and Schubert pieces by the attractive family trio playing to a family audience. Following the success of this and other of our concerts in recent years we look forward to the next one for which the same hall has been booked for Sunday, 2 November 1986.

#### SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION AND RESIDENTIAL CARE

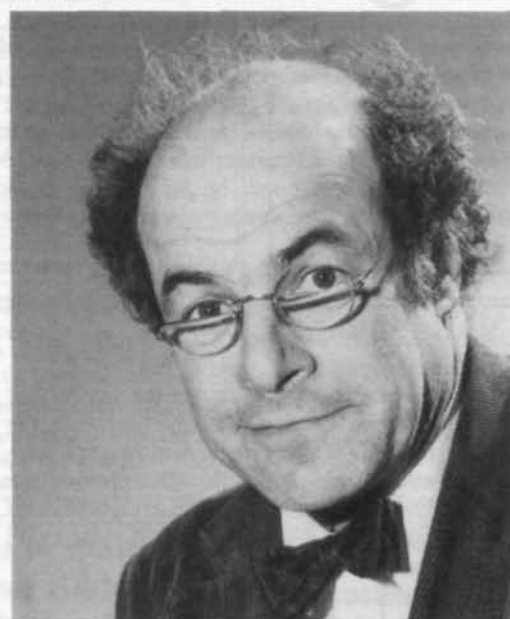
The AJR is closely associated with the homes in the Bishops Avenue, Leo Baeck, Heinrich Stahl and Osmond House, Otto Schiff House in Netherhall Gardens and Eleanor Rathbone House in Highgate, which latter provides sheltered accommodation in self-contained flats for 52 residents.

Our particular responsibility continues to be the selection and ultimate admission of applicants to the Homes and to Eleanor Rathbone House. Our social workers and their voluntary helpers endeavour to keep in personal touch with new applicants well before their admission and main-

tain contact with them thereafter so as to acquaint applicants with the forthcoming changes in their lifestyle and to help them adjust successfully to the new surroundings.

The Homes were established from funds secured by the Jewish Trust Corporation from heirless Jewish property in the British zone of occupied Germany and West Berlin. Their administration was formerly under the direction of the Management Committee of the Allocations Committee of the CBF and on 1 January 1985 became the responsibility of a new organisation the 'CBF Residential Care and Housing Association'. The Council of that Association consists of representatives of CBF World Jewish Relief and the AJR.

Demand for residential and sheltered accommodation outstrips our facilities. The CBF Residential Care and Housing Association will shortly open a new wing comprising 17 rooms at Heinrich Stahl House thereby completing the first stage of a major modernisation and development programme designed to meet the increased demand.



#### Introducing PROF. HEINZ WOLFF

who will give an address at the AGM

*He emigrated from Germany with his family in September 1939. After school in London and Oxford he trained as a physiologist and physicist at University College, London, graduating in 1954. He subsequently worked for the Medical Research Council until 1984. He then became director of the Bioengineering Division of the Medical Research Council's Clinical Research Centre in Harrow. Since 1975 he has held a number of honorary appointments with the European Space Agency. He has also served as the U.K. delegate on EEC committees concerned with Medical Engineering. Recently, he founded the Brunel Institute for Bioengineering at Brunel University.*

*For 15 years he has been a judge on BBC1's 'Young Scientist of the Year' and is now concerned with BBC2's 'Great Egg Race' and a new series called 'Great Experiments'.*

*His personal interests range from the invention of new high technology instruments to the application of technology to the problems of the elderly and disabled.*

We continue to provide sheltered accommodation in Otto Hirsch, Marie Baneth and Hannah Karminski House all of which are owned by the AJR.

#### MEALS ON WHEELS

Our meals-on-wheels service continues to thrive. In 1985 more than 9,500 cooked meals were prepared in our kitchens at Hannah Karminski House and delivered by our volunteer drivers over a wide area in North and North West London.

#### THE AJR CLUB

The AJR Club has again throughout the year provided its members with regular social gatherings on almost a daily basis at Hannah Karminski House. The club's heavy programme of popular lectures and many well attended functions enjoys excellent support.

#### AJR INFORMATION

*AJR Information* now in its 42nd year, has been well received, throughout 1985, by the membership and many interested parties at home and abroad. Its articles have maintained the high standard for which the journal has long been known, and the number of contributing authors continues to widen. The greater use now made of photographs combined with adjustments to layout, have improved the journal's appearance and added to the appeal it holds for our readership. With the increased activities of the Association 'AJR In Action' is now a regular feature in each issue. For the future it is planned to take account of the increasingly changing composition of our membership through articles of contemporary interest without disturbing the character of this important service to our members.

#### ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Copies of the balance sheet and accounts for the year to 31 December 1985 will be available at the Annual General Meeting and Members wishing to study the accounts beforehand should contact the office after 16 June so that a copy may be posted to them.

For the purpose of this report the Association's financial position has been summarised and is shown on tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1  
Summary of Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1985

	1985	1984
	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
(Less depreciation)	3,013	2,431
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	32,641	49,453
(Including Staff Retirement Fund)		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	28,505	24,364
	4,136	25,089
	7,149	27,520
Reserve for Staff Retirement Fund	15,153	36,131
	£(8,004)	£(8,611)
<i>Represented by:</i>		
General Fund		
Balance as at 1 January 1985	(8,611)	(8,904)
Net income for year	607	293
	£(8,004)	£(8,611)

Table 2  
Income and Expenditure account year to 31 December 1985

	1985		1984	
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
Allocations Committee (CBF)		14,400		15,200
Contributions from AJR Charitable Trust		85,000		50,000
Membership Fees and Donations		50,886		51,739
Bank Deposit Interest		12		31
		<u>150,298</u>		<u>116,970</u>
<b>Less EXPENSES</b>				
Overheads (Rent, Rates, Postage Telephone etc.)	24,850		17,354	
Salaries	90,703		69,077	
General Expenses	34,138		30,316	
		<u>£149,691</u>		<u>£116,677</u>
Net Income for Year		£607		£293

Income for the year shows a modest gain, however, membership fees and donations have declined although the number of members has increased. The AJR Charitable Trust has again supported the Association with substantial finance to meet the heavy increase in the costs of our operations.

The Trustees are satisfied that the planned expansion of our social work programme is justified and deserves their fullest support. The Trustees are confident that the resources of the Trust will continue to benefit from members' donations and legacies over the next few years. Consideration is being given to the launching of a fund raising programme within the next 12 to 18 months in order to secure stronger financial backing for the Association's social work activities.

It has been our policy to leave Members and Friends to determine their own annual membership contribution. However the annual payments of the majority of members have, as a result of inflation, become insufficient to cover even the cost of producing and posting *AJR Information*, quite apart from failing to assist towards the upkeep of our social services. We must therefore ask everyone of our Members and Friends to review their annual subscription and, if at all possible, increase it at the next due date. This applies in particular to all those whose annual payment has remained unchanged for many years. In the absence of members' co-operation in this respect it would be necessary to fix a

minimum annual subscription at an appropriate rate.

The number of members covenanting their payments has continued to increase. This method of payment has now been greatly eased and by taking advantage of this facility members can substantially increase value of annual payments without extra cost to them.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The policy of the Association is formulated and its administration supervised by the Executive Committee. Dr. F. E. Falk and Mr. C. F. Flesch retired from the committee at the annual general meeting. Dr. Falk was a member for a record 32 years and vice chairman during the past few years. Members are particularly indebted to him for the leading part he played in the Association's work over many years in matters of restitution and pensions. Much correspondence and discussions in which he participated with H.M. Treasury reached their culmination in the 1986 budget proposals of the Chancellor of the Exchequer no longer to charge UK tax on German and Austrian pensions payable to victims of Nazi persecution. Mr. Flesch has been a long serving member of the committee and for many years was prominent in the service of Self Aid of Refugees, of which he was chairman and deeply involved in the arrangements for and organization of numerous annual concerts.

In recognition of their valuable and varied contributions to the Association's work both Dr. Falk and Mr. Flesch were at the annual general meeting elected by acclamation to be honorary vice presidents.

#### VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

Our work greatly benefits from and could not be maintained without the unstinted support of our voluntary helpers. The tasks before us make it essential to increase their numbers substantially as their help is needed urgently to sustain the support for the aged amongst our members and their friends.

Our thanks are due to our volunteers and staff alike for their loyal support in all our efforts. We are looking forward to the years ahead with confidence in the knowledge that with wholehearted co-operation of our Members and Friends we will be able to strengthen the services which we are presently providing and which have become so valuable to our community at large.

For and on behalf of the Executive

C. T. Marx  
Chairman

#### Members of the Executive

The following members have served on the Executive Committee since the 1985 annual general meeting and will be proposed for reelection at the AGM on Thursday, 17 July 1986:

C. T. Marx (Chairman), M. M. Kochmann (Vice-Chairman), L. Spiro (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs. Ruth Anderman, O. E. Franklin, Mrs. Katja Gould, Dr. A. R. Horwell, F. W. Odell, H. Rothenberg, Dr. Lore Stein, R. B. Tait.

#### Our People in France

### The Story of "La Solidarité"

'La Solidarité des Réfugiés Israélites' is the aid organisation for Germans and Austrians forced to seek asylum in France. From its inception, it has been a member of the all-embracing Council of Jews from Germany (CJG).

Before the Second World War, *La Solidarité* was something of a social club and a forum for German and Austrian Jews in France to express their opinions, whether they had settled permanently in France or whether the country represented no more than a stop on a longer journey of migration. However, from 1939 onward, first the men and then, from 1940, the women, were interned in French camps. *La Solidarité*, of course, ceased to exist.

The history of victims who fled from the Nazis to France, Holland and Belgium was different from that of the exiles in Britain or overseas: they had to suffer a second persecution under the German occupation. When the war ended, therefore, those who had survived deportation found themselves in particularly hard-pressed circumstances.

The new *Solidarité* was established to help these people. Its work was made possible by a huge endowment of a million Deutschmarks from West Germany, a move unanimously approved by the Bundestag. Further financial support came from the Wurzeiler Foundation, the Jewish Trust Corporation, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Claims Committee. Because of this, *La Solidarité* was able to acquire a large hostel and old people's home near Paris. After modernisation in the intervening years, this is today exclusively run as an old age home.

#### Social Welfare

It was also possible for the organisation to help people who had not yet retired by purchasing suburban houses and putting them at the disposal of the homeless, some of whom had been living in cellars, since at the time France was suffering a very severe housing shortage. Besides these two major tasks, *La Solidarité* carried out the usual work of a social welfare organisation. A loan society was founded to assist those who wished to set up in business for themselves, the loans later being repaid out of the recipients' restitution money.

Today, *La Solidarité*, as a member of the CJG, limits itself to essential welfare work in maintaining its tenants' housing and its large old age home. Most of the people it helps have found their situation greatly improved by restitution payments (though this does not apply to the Austrians) and *La Solidarité* basically carries out the same tasks as other welfare societies.

### JACK'S EARLY CAR SERVICE

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## Widows' and Widowers' Pensions

### New German Social Insurance Rules

- The new regulations apply only when death has taken place after 31 December 1985.
- Widowers: *So far* widowers' pensions have been obtainable only if the deceased wife's income at the time of her death was higher than the income of the surviving husband. *Now* this limitation has been abolished. Widowers' and widows' entitlements are now on an equal footing.
- The new regulations stipulate that within certain limits reductions are to be made from widows' and widowers' pensions for income (German as well as non-German income) from work and from pensions. However, *no reductions* are made for
  - Annuities of victims of Nazi persecution, based on the Federal Indemnification Law (*Bundesentschädigungsgesetz*), i.e. *Entschädigungsrenten*.
  - Dependants' benefits generally.
  - Occupational pensions (in German: *Leistungen betrieblicher Altersversorgung*). In case of doubt whether a particular occupational pension qualifies for exemption from reduction elucidation may be sought from the German insurance authority which is concerned with the pension (*Bundesversicherungsanstalt* Berlin or *Landesversicherungsanstalt* Hamburg, as the case may be).
  - Income from private life insurance policies.
- Limits of reductions for other income.*
  - First of all, percentage deductions as per following details are made from figures of other income, to arrive at net income figures:

	Percentage deduction
Working income	35%
own social security pensions	nil
public servants' pensions	37.5%

- There is a free allowance (*Freibetrag*) of, at present, DM 894.27 p.m. This figure is subject to review from time to time. A reduction of widows' and widowers' pensions takes place only if the *net income* exceeds that figure. 40 per cent of the excess of the net income over and above that figure are deducted from the widows'/widowers' pensions.

#### Examples

- A pensioner in receipt of a widows'/widowers' pension has a working income of DM 1375.80. To arrive at the net income figure, 35% (as stated under (a)) = DM 481.53 is deducted
 

Net income figure	DM 894.27
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This is equal to the free allowance (see above under (b)). Consequently, the

widows'/widowers' pension suffers no reduction for other income.	
(bb) A pensioner in receipt of a widows'/widowers' pension has the following income:	
Working income	DM 1375.80
own German social insurance pension	DM 950.00
	DM 2325.80
less 35% deduction from DM 1375.80; there is no deduction from the social insurance pension figure (see above under (a)):	DM 481.53
	DM 1844.27
less free allowance	DM 894.27
	DM 950.00

- 40% of this amount (see above under (b)), equal to DM 380. p.m., is to be deducted from the widows'/widowers' pension. Should that pension be only just that figure or less, no widows'/widowers' pension will be payable for that period.
- Note the following further points:
  - The free allowance increases by, at present, DM 189.69 p.m. for every child entitled to an orphan's pension.
  - In respect of widows' pensions, the reduction of 40% is not effected in full immediately. It takes place step by step. The full reduction of 40% takes place in the fifth year after the husband's death only. As regards widowers' pensions, however, there is generally no step by step reduction and the 40% reduction takes place immediately.
- The new regulations provide that married couples may declare to the German insurance institute (*Bundesversicherungsanstalt* Berlin or *Landesversicherungsanstalt* Hamburg, as the case may be) that they wish the old law, i.e. the one in force until 31.12.85, to continue to be applicable to their widows'/widowers' entitlements. The declaration must be signed by both spouses. An attestation of signatures is not required. Whilst no particular form is prescribed, it is recommended that the declaration is made on a form which the German insurance institutes have drawn up for this purpose and which may be obtained from them. The declaration may only be made if both spouses were born before 1 January 1936 and if they were married before 1 January 1986. The declaration is irrevocable. It must reach the German insurance institute or a diplomatic representation of the Federal Republic of Germany, e.g. Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, 23 Belgrave Square, London S.W.1, latest on 31.12.88. The declaration must be submitted during the lifetime of both spouses. If no declaration is submitted, the widows'/widowers' entitlements will be governed by the new law.

- To guide married couples in their decision as to whether they wish to make a declaration as outlined under (5), the position set out in the foregoing explanations may be summarised as follows:

The law applicable up to and including 31 December 1985 gives the widow the right to a widows' pension without deduction for other income. The widower, on the other hand, can only claim a widowers' pension if his deceased wife's income at the time of her death was higher than his income. The law applicable from 1 January 1986 onwards is advantageous in so far as there is an entitlement to a widows' and to a widowers' pension on an equal footing. On the other hand, other income may lead to a reduction of the widows' and of the widowers' pension. If the other income is very high it may even wipe out the pension entitlement.

In many instances, no precise answer can be given to the question whether the option in favour of the old rules should be exercised because uncertain factors, quite apart from the time of death, are involved:

Income of the surviving spouse over the years after the deceased spouse's death.

Income of the surviving husband and of the deceased wife at the time of her death (to determine the widowers' pension entitlement according to the old rules).

£/DM exchange rate over the years – for the purpose of converting £ income into DM.

The decision whether to opt for the old rules depends on the circumstances of each individual case. The desire to ensure the best possible widows' pension, even at the expense of a widowers' pension, may play a part in that decision.

- The income of husband and wife is mentioned in this article in two different contexts, viz.
  - Comparison of husband's and wife's income at the time of the wife's death, to determine whether the wife's income was the higher of the two and whether, consequently, there is a widowers' pension entitlement according to the old rules. In this context, the *whole* income including indemnification annuities (*Entschädigungsrenten*) as well as all other income is to be taken into account.
  - The income which may be deducted from widows'/widowers' pensions according to the new rules. This comprises only income from work and from pensions, as explained in No. 3 and No. 4 of this article.

- The *Bundesversicherungsanstalt für Angestellte*, Postfach, Berlin 88 (it is enough to write *Postfach* without a number) has published Leaflet No. 3,9050 on the subject. It will send this leaflet to enquirers on request.

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\* Supplementary Notes are available on request from either AJR or URO (183 Finchley Road, London N.W.3).

## German and Austrian Pensions

Since our notice in last month's issue was written, the Finance Bill has been published. From this it appears that the complete tax exemption also applies to persons not domiciled or British subjects not ordinarily resident in the UK. (Clause 45, Finance Bill 1986).

### Jewish Themes published in W. Germany

Ever more books on Jewish themes are appearing in West Germany and obviously finding a market (says an article in *Kultur Chronik*, an official Bonn Government news and views review, No. 2, 1986, from which the information is taken). Among recent publications two are singled out – *Im Zeichen Hiobs*, dealing with Jewish writers and German literature in the 20th century, edited by Gunter E. Grimm and Hans-Peter Bayerdörfer (Athenaeum Verlag 372 pp.), and *Juden und Judentum in der Literatur*, edited by Herbert A. Strauss and Christhard Hoffmann, a volume which grew out of a lecture at Berlin's Centre for Research on Antisemitism, presenting the Jewish image in German, English, French, American and Russian literature (Deutsches Taschenbuch, Verlag, Munich. 432 pp.).

### Graetz in Paperback

The Fischer Verlag brought out a six volume paperback edition of Heinrich Graetz's *Volks-tümliche Geschichte der Juden* which first appeared in 1888. The Jüdische Verlag which was established in 1902, banned in 1938 and taken over by the Athenaeum Verlag in 1978, has produced the diaries, letters and reminiscences of Arthur Ruppin (612 pp.) edited by Schlomo Krolik with an epilogue by Alex Bein.

A Dortmund publisher (Harenberg) revived the sketches of Leopold von Sacher-Masoch on Jewish festivals, customs and rituals (*Jüdisches Leben*. 386 pp.), and in a similar vein *Die Erzählungen des Rabbi Nachman von Bratzlaw* have been translated by Michael Brocke for the first time in a complete edition published by Carl Hanser, Munich. 320 pp.

**OSMOND HOUSE**  
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### OPEN DAY

Sunday, 15th June at 2.30 pm

Stalls  
Entertainment  
Tea

Come and visit us and bring the family.  
Entrance incl. Tea and Cakes £1.00.

HILDA GLAZER

## IMPACT OF MY REFUGEE EXPERIENCE in Local Government work

When I arrived in this country in 1937 soon after I had taken my *Abitur*, I was fortunate to start my life here with the support of family settled in this country and without the pressing financial difficulties facing most of my fellow refugees, in an English residential girls' club and at a secretarial college. What impressed me after a very short while was the involvement of all manner of people in voluntary organisation – social, charitable, educational, political, and campaigning for specific causes. To be able to influence, even to a small degree, the conditions under which we live, the constant alertness and learning needed and the occasional fight for something worthwhile, I found exhilarating, and I was soon actively involved with union, women's and political groups. At the moment, my main work is connected with being a co-opted member of our local Education Committee.

I am a committed resident of the London Borough of Brent which, in spite of its high rates, seems to get most things right, and has done so under different administrations, as a caring borough. Its faults and controversies seem to arise mainly from trying to do too many of the right things all at once. Over the years, I hope I have repaid in some measure the help and service Brent has given to my family and others needing support.

### Meeting People from Other Cultures

The other attraction Brent holds for me is the mix of its population which makes for vitality and the chance to know people from other cultures. Starting life in England as a refugee has, I believe, given me a greater understanding of both the similarities and differences in our positions and perceptions. Both we and the immigrants from the New Commonwealth have tried to become an integral part of this society and both communities have been aware of discrimination; but although we have succeeded in becoming, at least to a large degree, an invisible minority, brown and black communities have not found it so easy to become accepted.

Perhaps we have also been helped by a long history of having to fit in, perhaps we have tried longer and harder because we were aware that this country was a refuge which owed us nothing except what we earned by work and service, perhaps our past has made us more patient. Most important of all, in spite of persecution and discrimination, we were never really a subject people and, because of our tradition, no one could ever make us *feel* inferior.

On the other hand, those from the New Commonwealth came here with both expectations and a right because, some time in their history, they had been *made* British, had been brought up to believe that British was superior to their own culture, and expected to come 'home', to build a better future for themselves and their children in the "mother country".

It is sad, though perhaps not surprising, that disappointment of their hopes has led active black politicians and their sympathizers to see 'institutional racism' everywhere; though we should be able to understand: haven't we cried 'Rishus' often ourselves when things did not go our way? The positive corollary for our black fellow-citizens has been a growing consciousness of and pride in their origin and diverse cultures and I hope this will be the healing agent for the future. Our own experience should make us eager to assist this healing process so that we can help to rebuild a society where the things that unite us are stronger than those that divide us.

### DESCENDANTS OF JEWISH REFUGEES (DJR)

The month of May found the DJR buoyant and active.

The April buffet supper saw a further increase in membership. Future events include theatre trips to see 'Mephisto' at the Barbican, and 'Pravada' and 'Brighton Beach Memoirs' at the National Theatre. Young single people between the ages of 20 and 32 approximately, wishing to join this vibrant group, should contact Caroline on 01-579 9906. (See also Letter to the Editor on p. 11)

### LEO BAECK HOUSE

The Bishop's Avenue  
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(Tel: 455 9806)

### OPEN HOUSE

Sunday 13th July, 3–6pm

Stalls ★ Raffles ★ Etc.

Entrance incl. Tea & Cakes £1.50

Gifts & Donations gratefully accepted

### WE NEED VOLUNTEERS AT THE RESIDENTIAL HOMES in THE BISHOP'S AVENUE

1. To help new residents to settle in.
2. To visit a resident on a regular basis.

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

## Culture and Entertainment

## LEONARD BERNSTEIN IN VIENNA

The Vienna State Opera toured Japan for a whole month, presenting 'Rosenkavalier', 'Figaro', 'Manon Lescaut' and 'Tristan'. During the absence of the ensemble, various Ballets were shown, and Leonard Bernstein conducted his own work 'A Quiet Place.' Viennese critics, while appreciating Bernstein's musical understanding, and respecting his importance as a modern composer, did not show much liking for this particular work.

A recent report, shown on German Television, entitled 'Wiener Klatsch im Berlin der Zwanziger Jahre' gave a portrait of the Austrian author Anton Kuh (1891-1941) described as a high-ranking satirical Jewish author whose home was the coffee-house and whose wit amused a whole generation.

## Jewish Life in Fürth

Cultural activities in this German town have been prominent for centuries, and it may be no coincidence that Fürth became one of the most important Jewish centres in Central Europe. A recent German TV feature told the story, illustrating how Jews and Christians were able to practise their religious customs and traditions on an absolutely equal footing since the 17th century; there was no ghetto, and at the beginning of the 19th century Fürth became the largest Jewish community in the newly-founded kingdom of Bavaria. After 1933, sadly, the town's Jewish population suffered the fate which is only too well known, and of the pre-1933 Jewish families of Fürth, there is not a single person left.

## Birthdays and Obituary

Curt Bois, the German character actor with a long and successful career both before and after World War II, is 85; he returned to Berlin in 1950 where he still works. The 70th birthday of singer and film actress Martha Eggerth (who lives in the United States) recalls a series of German films of the Thirties in which she starred. Her partners included Gustav Fröhlich, Paul Hörbiger, Wolfgang Liebeneiner, and, above all, her husband, the late Polish tenor Jan Kiepura.

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Relatives and friends are cordially invited to the above function which will be held on

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The death of Pamela Wedekind, daughter of Frank Wedekind (who died in 1918) extinguishes a great name of the stage. She was 79. An actress of repute, she also was a chanteuse, in particular interpreting songs written by her father. After her first marriage to author Carl Sternheim (with whom she had lived in Brussels) she returned to Germany and appeared with Klaus and Erika Mann in Mann's 'Revue zu Vieren.' In 1938 she married actor and translator Charles Regnier who survives her.

Otto Ludwig Preminger, film producer of more than 80 films, died in New York at the age of 79. Director of Vienna's 'Josefstadt' at an early age, he was energetic and forceful and made his mark in the film world where he was described as autocratic and 'difficult', but, doubtless, very gifted and successful.

Valeries von Martens, wife of the legendary Curt Goetz, died in Switzerland, aged 92. She was the daughter of an Austrian admiral, born in the East Tyrolean town of Lienz. Works by Goetz became unthinkable without her participation; she was the first 'Ingeborg' in 1921, and she acted with her husband in 'Hokuspokus', 'Dr. Med. Hiob Praetorius', 'The House in Montevideo' and others. The couple returned from America after the war (where luck was not always on their side) and Valerie von Martens ambitiously administered Goetz's dramatic heritage, playing all her rôles and enriching her husband's memoirs by two volumes. S.B.

## DAY CENTRE'S ENTERTAINMENT

Programme for June 1986

- Wednesday, 4th Musical entertainment by Jeff. Strum and accordion
- Thursday, 5th By popular demand - Hans Freund and guest artistes
- Wednesday, 11th An interesting slide show and talk about the excitement of the Orient by Mrs. Tausz
- Thursday, 12th Mr. Maurice Powell is giving a lecture on 'Healing'
- Wednesday, 18th Mrs. Mitchell takes you on a trip through Eastern Europe with the aid of her interesting slides
- Thursday, 19th Mr. Ronald Stent will talk and take questions on 'The Tragedy of South Africa: the Land of Milk and Honey'
- Wednesday, 25th Delightful musical entertainment with Rosa Butwick and guest artistes
- Thursday, 26th The fabulous voice of Angela Jenschil accompanied by Happy Branston

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1. To drive for Meals-on-Wheels.
2. To transport members to and from the Day Centre.

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## Art Notes

## SCULPTORS' AND PAINTERS' EXHIBITIONS

Fred (Fritz) Kormis who recently died was a sculptor who had already established himself in Frankfurt before embarking on a successful career in London. His parting at a ripe old age (91) will be missed. So will the demise of Adele Reifenberg/Rosenberg, a very good painter in her own right.

We have, however, many other artist members and among them may be counted Lilian Freeman whose work will be on show in the Loggia Gallery of the Free Painters and Sculptors, 15 Buckingham Gate, SW1 from 23 June to 4 July (opening hours, weekdays 6-8pm, Saturdays/Sundays 2-6pm). Lilian Freeman is an accomplished artist who loves trees which she carefully depicts in local landscape scenes - Ken Wood, Englands Lane, etc. Portraiture is another side of her activities and in the exhibition that of her uncle Oskar is particularly striking.

Leinster Fine Art is showing (until 4 June) works by Alfred Hrdlika, one of Austria's greatest living artists. Hrdlika is a powerful artist, both in sculpture and on paper; he has been described as the Bert Brecht of the fine arts.

## Artists in British Exile

Among the forthcoming events to note in your diary: the *Kunst im Exil in Grossbritannien 1933-45* (13 August-5 October) at the Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, where you will meet many old friends. The fashionable and interesting Summer Exhibition of the Royal Academy opens on 31 May and continues to 24 August. Annely Juda Fine Art is showing drawings and collages 1920-1960 by Friedrich Vordenberg-Gildewart (1899-1962), an important abstract artist who participated in the 'Degenerate Art' exhibition in Berlin in 1938. He lived in Holland for many years but returned to Ulm as one of the Rectors of the *Hochschule für Gestaltung* in 1954.

An interesting collection of 20th century German woodcuts, organised under the auspices of the Goethe Institut, is now on tour and may be seen in Belfast (1-21 June), Middlesbrough (1 July-11 August), Bristol (September/October) and Nottingham (10 November-24 December). The Ben Uri Art Society is celebrating the 75th birthday of Harry Blacker, the well-known illustrator, caricaturist and raconteur, with an exhibition of his graphic work (1-19 June).

And finally, at the Courtauld Institute (until 15 June) there is a most exciting exhibition "The Hidden Face of Manet. An Investigation into the artist's working processes", which is for the connoisseur - and is all that is implied in the title.

Alice Schwab

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## GERMAN PUBLISHERS CRITICISED

at International Pen Club's A.G.M.

German publishers of widely used books of reference which frequently include derogatory references to Jews came in for criticism at the annual general meeting of the International Pen Club, the centre of German-speaking authors abroad, which took place at the German Historical Institute, London, last April. Mr Manuel Wiznitzer, Munich and Tel Aviv, reported on his frustrations in corresponding with some of these publishers.

He singled out Rohrich's Dictionary of Proverbial Idioms which can be found in most school libraries. It includes such so-called idioms as *Den Juden in den Acker stecken, schmecken wie ein toter Jud*, and many others. This *lexicon* is published by the old-established Catholic Herder Verlag, but publisher and author refuse to acknowledge that such remarks are anti-Jewish. Even worse are several editions of Duden's Dictionary of the German Language which *inter alia* define Zionism as a political tendency in present-day Israel and amongst Jews in general to enlarge the territory of Israel at the expense of neighbouring Arab States, to pursue policies which aim at restricting the rights of Arab inhabitants of Palestine and to propagate such policies.

It was decided that International Pen should take up the matter with the publishers who would probably be more inclined to accept criticism from abroad.

Arno Reinfrank, secretary of the club, reported on last year's activities and future plans and thanked the club's President, Hans Keilsson, Amsterdam, who was in the chair, for devoting so

much time to the club notwithstanding his professional work as a psychiatrist much of which was concerned with Jews who had survived concentration camps as orphaned children.

In 1985 Pen International held a meeting at the Hyde Park Holocaust memorial on the 40th anniversary of the end of the war to remember late colleagues and friends who had suffered deportation and death as victims of the Nazis. In 1986 the Club will be represented at the 49th International Pen Congress in Hamburg. One major achievement will be the publication of the Club's book *Ach, Sie schreiben deutsch?*, edited by Karin Reinfrank, a paperback of 156 pages with 103 photos. It contains the history, mostly told by themselves of the Club's members, including those no longer alive. It will be a valuable contribution to the history of refugees and at the same time to contemporary literary history.

The executive was unanimously re-elected.

M.P.

### STEFAN HEYM'S US RADIO PROPAGANDA

Stefan Heym, the German Jewish refugee author who spent the war years in USA and then sought 'asylum' in East Germany, recently published the propaganda talks which he delivered as a US Psychological Warfare officer during the invasion of Germany (*Reden an den Feind*. Munich. 1986. 352 pp.). His message then was, essentially, that East and West were united in the defence of decency and humanity and that Germans had no choice but to surrender to this alliance.

A reviewer in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* notes Heym's 'uncritical enthusiasm' which he himself soon realised in his novel, published in America in 1948, *The Crusaders*, discussing the invasion, and the question is asked what made him revive his propaganda texts which were 'marked more by time-serving subjectivity than by reporting objectivity.' As there certainly is point in a nostalgic revival of those hopeful if, alas, misguided talks, the reviewer finds here a characteristic illustration of Heym's fate torn between East and West: 'He must live with the dichotomy that he serves a socialism which is taboo in the East and that he needs the class enemy (West Germany) to get his views published'.

### ALFRED GROSSER

#### Decorated at Frankfurt Börne Exhibition

Alfred Grosser, the German-born French Jewish historian and political scientist, was awarded the Goethe Medal by the city of Frankfurt in recognition of his contribution to the cause of reconciliation between Germany and France. He was handed the Medal by the Lord Mayor Walter Wallmann at the opening of an exhibition to mark the 200th birthday of Ludwig Börne.

He had actually contributed an article to the catalogue of the exhibition which was organised by the Frankfurt historian of literature Alfred Estermann. Its 300 exhibits effectively illustrate the many stages in Börne's life, from the birth in the Frankfurt ghetto of Juda Löw Baruch, to his Lutheran baptism in 1818, his assumption of the name Dr Ludwig Börne, further to his police record 'Criminalia 1820: files relating to the arrest of Dr Börne,' and his eventual exile in Paris where he died in 1837.



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EGON LARSEN

## ERICH KÄSTNER – EAST AND WEST

A good sign for the softening of the Iron Curtain between the two Germanies is the increasing number of the same books being published in both countries: either first in the West and then on licence in the East, or the other way round. A recent example for the latter route is a comprehensive biography and appreciation of that influential poet and splendid children's novelist of the Weimar period, Erich Kästner. First published in the GDR in 1983 and now as a Fischer Pocketbook in Frankfurt a.M. under the title *Humor auf Taille*, it has been compiled by a young East German literary historian, Helga Bemmann. She was born in 1933 – when Kästner's most successful period ended with his books being burnt by Goebbels himself.

I remember how in 1928 his first volume of verses, entitled *Herz auf Taille*, virtually bowled us over. There we had our young poet who felt and thought exactly as we did, lending expression to our generation's emotions, joys and anxieties with the same precision and humour as only Heine had done a century earlier. 'Since Kästner,' wrote a leading literary critic, 'people are reading poetry again.' His brilliant thriller for children, *Emil and the Detectives*, appeared almost simultaneously, but Kästner's satirical and political 'poetry for everyday use' was more important to him, and to us. Also like Heine, he was deeply worried about certain dangerous features of the German character which, he foresaw, would lead to despotism and war. 'Knowest thou the land where cannons sprout?'

he paraphrased Goethe in one of his sarcastic poems. 'You don't? You'll know it soon – watch out!' Many of his warning verses became cabaret songs.

Kästner was born in 1899 in Dresden as the son of a saddler and a former chambermaid. They would have liked him to become a teacher, but the first World War intervened, and he was called up to undergo brutal military training. After the war he got a scholarship, studied at Leipzig, and ended up as an editor at a local paper. Writing, he felt, was going to be his career. In 1927 he moved to Berlin and became a welcome contributor to the *Tage-Buch* and the *Weltbühne*. 'When I'm 30,' he wrote to his mother, 'I'd like my name to be known; at forty, even a little famous.' But at 34, when his books had been burnt, he was a banned writer, forbidden to publish anything in Germany.

### Survival in Hiding

He could have emigrated like his illustrator Walter Trier, but he decided to stay, mainly because of his beloved mother. It was a wretched life: his safety, his work, his income were uncertain. What he wrote, had to be hidden in his desk drawer, waiting for Hitler's end. Only once did he get a proper job: the UFA film people wangled from the Nazi authorities the permission for Kästner to write the script for a Münchhausen film with Hans Albers in the lead. He wrote under a pseudonym, but even this was not listed, either on the screen or in the programme.

Yet he had a good angel: a Jewish publisher with an Austrian passport called Kurt L. Maschler, once a well-known member of London's refugee community (he died last March). In 1933 he did what seemed the maddest thing imaginable – he bought the Berlin publishing firm of Kästner's children's books from its owner, the widow of Siegfried Jacobsohn. But Maschler knew very well what he was doing. The Gestapo was keeping a watchful eye on the firm, but when they raided it and confiscated the whole stock of books, he was prepared for that and transferred the business at once to Switzerland, to a new publishing house which he called Atrium Verlag. Its main purpose was the handling of Kästner's books and copyrights abroad. The result was that Maschler could hand his pet author a considerable sum of money when they met after World War II: he had made Kästner an international celebrity.

Kästner settled in Munich with a friend of his young days, the journalist Luiselotte Enderle. But he was no longer a healthy man; the nerve-racking, hungry days under Hitler had taken their toll. There were increasingly frequent spells in Swiss clinics, his output of new works grew smaller and smaller. Early in 1974 he celebrated his 75th birthday among a few friends, but he could not eat or drink very much. In July of that year he had to be taken to a hospital, where he died on the 29th. A little cemetery in Munich's suburb of Bogenhausen became his last place of rest, under a romantic, ivy-clad old lamp-post.

\*

For an obituary on Kurt Maschler see p. 11.

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H. W. FREYHAN

**'Music Politics': The Nazi Score**

While books on Nazi 'cultural policy,' its impact on the arts, are plentiful, researchers have frequently found themselves handicapped by a certain amount of 'vested interests.' Their approaches according vary greatly, as is evidenced for example in their treatment of such controversial figures as Richard Strauss and Wilhelm Furtwängler. A recent publication reveals its adherence to a certain philosophy by its very title: *Musik und Musikpolitik im faschistischen Deutschland*, edited by Hans-Werner Heister and Hans-Günter Klein (Frankfurt am Main. Fischer TV. 1984).

Many scholars who subscribe to a Marxist interpretation of modern history, tend to identify Nazism and Fascism, regarding both as attempts by capitalism to counter the threat of socialism. Those who have experienced the Nazi State as its racial victims are probably less inclined to accept this approach, without necessarily denying that it has its strong points.

The book under review is an anthology, with diverse chapters contributed by different authors, and expounds its fundamental position before arriving at its special subject of music in the Third Reich. Here the authors do not limit themselves to the sad tale of persecution; they also include a very interesting examination of Nazi music, with quite a fascinating musical analysis of Nazi songs, such as *Volk, ans Gewehr!*, and the research is extended to what passed as light and entertainment music during the Hitler regime.

H. Kolland's thought-provoking chapter on 'Wagner und der deutsche Faschismus' repudiates the post-1945 criticism of Wagner as 'Geniekult mit umgekehrtem Vorzeichen,' emphasising that the living Wagner, avantgardist that he was, would hardly have had a smooth passage versus the musical reactionaries of the

Nazi period. The author asks: 'Wie antisemitisch und reaktionär darf denn ein Publikum sein, besonders wenn es in die Oper und zu Wagner geht?' On the other hand, one of his statements throws light on the perversions which may arise from the one-sided Marxist approach: 'Ähnliches geschieht bei der Verkürzung des deutschen Faschismus auf die nach 1945 dämonisierte Führerfigur Hitler.' Really! So it was the capitalists who desired and manipulated the holocaust?

The hegemony of German composers in the outlook of men like Pfitzner is condemned as 'cultural chauvinism,' which, as is emphasised, has no equivalent in other countries. A good point is made when the inclination of the greatest German masters to learn from foreign models - Italian and French - is suitably stressed, e.g. in the case of Schütz, Bach, Handel, Mozart etc.

One chapter recalls the tragic fate of Karl Robert Kreiten, a young pianist, who stood at the beginning of a most promising career, when he was denounced by some Nazi women for having made some defeatist remarks; he was 'tried' by Freisler's People's Court and executed in 1943. Furtwängler's pleading with Goebbels was of no avail, and Kreiten's teacher, Claudio Arrau, thought he was 'probably the greatest talent of this century.'

Jürgen Mainka's essay on Hindemith's *Mathis* opera is objective and steers clear of the hostile views which the opinionated Adorno had expressed elsewhere. The volume's editor, Heister, contributes a thorough evaluation of the work of the genuinely anti-Nazi composer Karl Amadeus Hartmann (d. 1963) who, in his opera, *Simplicius Simplicissimus*, quotes the tune of the Hebrew song *Elijah hanavi*. One of the leading living German composers, Hans Herner Henze, is also represented in an interview with Heister.

**BRUNO KREISKY'S EARLY YEARS**

Dr. Bruno Kreisky, the former Austrian Chancellor, and his co-workers have for many years been amassing records of his political activity. Young Austrian historians working in the 'Dr. Bruno Kreisky Archive' have carefully compiled supplementary material from foreign collections. A first volume of reprinted material has now been issued under the title *Der junge Kreisky: Schriften, Reden, Dokumente 1931-1945* (Vienna: Jugend und Volk, 1986. 323 pp.).

Willy Brandt, whose friendship with Kreisky dates from the days when both were exiles in Sweden, writes in a Foreword: 'His own conviction and realistic assessment of power-political probabilities led him to recognise that the only goal worth a struggle was the recovery of Austrian autonomy.'

The work gives an introductory account of Kreisky's family and his youth, his studies and political activity. Some of the most interesting passages deal with the 'Socialists' Trial' of 1936 and Kreisky's clever and courageous defence speech. Many of his letters from prison are published here for the first time. Even after his release from detention, Kreisky was for a long time forbidden to continue his studies at the University of Vienna. The volume also contains letters to his parents from his further imprisonment by the Gestapo after the *Anschluss* in March 1938.

In October 1938, Kreisky was released and then forced to emigrate to Sweden. Once there, he immediately took up the threads of his former political activity. At the end of July 1939, he travelled to France under an assumed name to take part in the International Congress of Socialist Youth. While in Sweden, Kreisky succeeded in consolidating the differing political trends among Austrians and forming them into one organisation.

H.S.

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**FAMILY EVENTS**

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

**Deaths**

**Fink:**—Valerie Fink of 104 Carlton Av. East, Wembley, Middx. at the age of 73, died on 4th May 1986. Mourned by her two sons, grandchildren and many friends.

**Fischel:**—Miss Gertrud Fischel, formerly living at 213 Willesden Lane, died suddenly in the Morris Feinmann Home in Didsbury. Greatly missed by her sister, nephews and nieces. Thanks to all who sent letters of condolence.

**Mailaender:**—Mrs Trude Mailaender, of Sunridge Court, London NW11, died on 20 April in her 92nd year.

**Tebrich:**—Dr. Walter Tebrich, of 7 Digswell Court, Welwyn Garden City, died peacefully on 27 April 1986. Deeply mourned by relatives and friends.

**CLASSIFIED**

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**Information Required**

**BLUMENTHAL.** Would anyone knowing the whereabouts of Dr. Bernhard Blumenthal from Rodenbach, or of his descendants, please contact Pfr. Hans Mener, Mühlstrasse 11, 6458 Rodenbach, West Germany.

**LESSER.** Would anyone knowing the whereabouts of Mrs. Lotte Lesser, formerly of 123 Ashford Court, Ashford Road, London NW2 6BT, or her descendants, please contact Dr. F. Karsten, 40 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8HY (Tel. 636 7036).

**LINKE.** Lilo Linke, emigrated from Berlin 1933, lived and published in London until 1939, later in Ecuador. Died April 1963. Friends please contact Prof. Dr. Karl Holl, Beethovenstrasse 25, D-2800 Bremen 1, West Germany.

**MAYER.** Information required about Gustav Mayer, professor of History in Berlin before 1933, who fled Germany and lived in England after 1934. For a biographical study I should be grateful for any information about his life and work during his exile in England. Prof. Gottfried

Niedhart, Historisches Institut, Universität, D-6800 Mannheim, West Germany.

**STERN.** Siegfried Stern, formerly of Oberbreidenbach/Romrod, Oberhessen, who went to the Bergel School, Marburg an der Lahn, is sought by Theo Nathan, 12 Golombstreet, Haifa 33392, Israel.

**STRAUSS.** Would anyone knowing the whereabouts of Irma Frieda Strauss, born in Hamburg 6 September 1892, emigrated May/June 1939 to London, please contact Erich Pick, Postfach 51, 7160 Gaildorf, West Germany.

**LOWENSTEIN.** Martel (Mathilde) Lowenstein, born in Beverungen in the 1930s, daughter of Heinrich, is sought by relative Edith Pennrich.

**BARUCH.** Gerda Baruch, aunt of the above-named. Lived at 54 Gilling Court, Belsize Grove, London, NW3 in 1951. **ZAUSMER.** Leon Zausmer, last known address in 1948 221 Cromwell Road, London SW5, or close relatives. Please contact the Jewish Refugees Committee, Drayton House, Gordon Street, London WC1H 0AN.

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## Bondy Books

When you loiter around the neighbourhood of the British Museum, with its often quaint and sometimes exotic bookshops, you will have noticed the name fairly prominently displayed of Bondy Books. Bondy of course is a well established Jewish name, the Italian-Spanish version of *Good Day* though the origin is really Hebrew, for the Bondys, like the bookseller Louis W. Bondy, are descendants of Lipman Yomtov Heller, rabbi of Vienna, Prague and Cracow (1579-1654), who wrote the famous Mishna commentary *Tossafot Yomtov*, and *Yomtov* of course (Heller's name) means *Good Day*. Though Bondy has a sound knowledge of Italian and Spanish (as well as French), he actually originates from Germany where his father was the political editor of the Berlin daily *Börsencourier*.

Bondy specialises in miniature books, in fact he is regarded as the foremost authority on them. In 1981 he published a 221 pp. volume where he demonstrates the amazing variety of books that must be not more than 3 inches (76 mm) in height. There is no room here to give anything like an adequate summary of Bondy's learned researches which add as much to our enlightenment as to our amusement. Those equipped with a strong magnifying glass are sure to enjoy the Thumb Bibles of 250 years ago and will extract useful as well as entertaining information from such gems as the French *Phrénologie des Dames* of 1843, measuring  $1\frac{1}{16} \times 1\frac{1}{16}$  inches and explaining 12 different beauty spots on the female faces and their meaning as to the character and disposition of the ladies in question.

But Bondy's interests are by no means confined to books. He has played an active part in London local government, first (since 1958) as member of the LCC, then on the GLC since 1964, and in 1978-79 he was chairman of the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA), also from 1973 to 1977 of the Historical Buildings Board.

It was a long haul since the days when he left Germany, first for Paris and Spain, then for London where he met Dr Alfred Wiener with whose Library he was prominently associated until 1947. At that time he wrote his well documented first book, *Racketeers of Hatred: Julius Streicher and the Jew-baiters' International*.

With best wishes from

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## Letter to the Editor

### Descendants of Jewish Refugees

Sir, Your leading article 'Descendants of Jewish Refugees' (April issue) was of considerable interest. However, several matters arising from it need clarification. We are certainly pleased with what has been achieved since the new DJR group was formed, and hope that it will continue to be of value to all its members.

Whilst it is true to say that initially it was our common background as children of Jewish refugees that brought us together, we would like to emphasize that one of the group's main functions is a social one. All the members of the group were born in England, and have mostly established themselves in interesting careers, whilst maintaining an awareness of, and interest in, the past that brought our parents to this country. In some cases this feeling has only been recently awakened; amongst others, it has existed for some time.

Your article portrayed vividly the historical significance that a group such as ours may possess. However, in a number of instances your article gives a somewhat misleading impression.

(i) It is simply not accurate to state that to us, 'Central Europe is mainly the land of the Holocaust'. It can represent to us also (perhaps in part

through our background itself) a rich source of cultural interest within the wider perspective of present-day Europe, whilst we remain, of course, well aware of the events that took place there.

(ii) We have not 'set about canvassing'. We merely wish to bring the existence of this new - and mainly social - group to the attention of those who may be interested.

(iii) It is an injustice to suggest that 'many are horrified at the thought of Germany, even to the point of refusing to speak German which they remember having heard at home' or that they would not 'spend a holiday in Germany'. Many of us have in fact travelled to Germany, and also benefited from our knowledge of German in various ways (some even in our careers). The reluctance to speak in German within individual families was in the beginning felt sometimes - understandably - by the refugee parents rather than the children, who during adolescence may then not have wished to stand out from their peers. One of our members has expressed the views that as a German teacher who has accompanied many parties of schoolchildren to Germany, the teaching of the language and culture of Germany to young people has always been a fundamentally positive way of building bridges and breaking down insularity and prejudice on both sides. In this way one is at least helping to create a climate amongst the next generation, in which it can be seen that Europe has after all learnt from the past.

pp. DJR Steering Group.

John Dunston, Paul Dutch, Elizabeth K. Rosney, Anne J. Salinger, Caroline M. Salinger, Geoffrey B. Strum, Malcolm Wald, Daniel Levy, Steven Derby.

## Obituary

### Kurt L. Maschler

The well-known publisher died on March 25 in London where he had settled in 1939. He was 88. Apart from rescuing Erich Kästner from oblivion and establishing his international fame (see our article on p. 8), Maschler also helped Kästner's illustrator, the artist Walter Trier, during the difficult years of emigration. Having acquired the licence rights of Stefan Zweig's writings, he did much to save them too for posterity. As a refugee in London, Maschler published - in co-operation with Faber & Faber - the first low-priced series of booklets on the world's greatest painters, with coloured reproductions of their works. Maschler's own publishing house in Switzerland, the Atrium Verlag, became an internationally renowned enterprise which he ran until the last years of his life. He also established a £1,000 prize for 'imaginative children's books' by British authors. His son, Tom Maschler, followed in his father's footsteps and is now a prominent figure among the younger generation of British publishers. Those of us who knew Maschler respected him as an expert of the whole book trade and as a magnanimous friend. We shall miss him very much.

E.L.

### David Hirschfeld

who died recently, shortly before his 86th birthday, came to this country in 1933 from Berlin and having been refused renewal of his work permit as an engineer, founded Tyne Folding Boats in Newcastle, the first manufacturer of folding canoes in the UK. Always an enthusiastic canoeist, he was one of the first people to cross the Channel by canoe and in his late seventies and early eighties, canoed in the Arctic Circle.

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**BIRTHDAY BOOK FROM TEREZIN**

A brightly-coloured child's book, "Für Tommy zum dritten Geburtstag" by Bedrich Fritta (Günther Neske, Pfullingen), appeared not long ago in Germany, having already been published in Holland, Sweden and Japan.

Bedrich Fritta, an illustrator and editor, with his wife and baby son Thomas was deported to Theresienstadt in 1941. The picture-book, telling of the happy world outside and also showing Tommy's life within the camp, was prepared for his son's third birthday in 1944. Fritta formed part of a group of artists in Theresienstadt who recorded conditions there in drawings and sketches. Hearing of this activity, the SS deported him, together with three other artists, to Auschwitz, where he died. Before leaving Theresienstadt, Bedrich Fritta hid the picture-book in a wall being built. His wife and Tommy were put into a single cell in the "Little Fortress". She died there, but the child miraculously lived to be adopted by Leo Haas, who had been deported to Auschwitz with Bedrich Fritta, but who, with his wife, had survived.

**CZECHOSLOVAK JEWRY SEMINAR**

A seminar on Czechoslovak Jewry will be held at Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue, Oaklands Gate, Northwood, Mddx, on Sunday, 8 June, from 2.30 to 5.30 p.m. The seminar which is the third in a series is intended mainly for congregations with Torah scrolls from Czechoslovakia obtained via the Memorial Scrolls Trust at Westminster Synagogue. The aim is to encourage research and keep alive the memories of the community which originally owned them.

**SEARCH FOR LEMGO JEWS**

A search for the fate of its one-time Jewish fellow-citizens and their descendants is being undertaken by the town of Lemgo near Hanover, as part of its preparations for the 800-year anniversary celebrations in 1990. The town council is anxious to contact all surviving Lemgo Jews with a view to learning more about the local persecution under the Nazi regime. Any information will be gratefully received by Herr Stöwer, Archiv- und Museumsamt, Rampendal 6, 4920 Lemgo 1.

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### EAST BERLIN SYNAGOGUE TO BE REBUILT

The New Synagogue in Oranienburger Strasse, East Berlin, is to be rebuilt and ready for consecration on the 50th anniversary of the November 1938 pogrom (*Kristallnacht*), according to a report in the East Berlin magazine *Neue Zeit*. It is stated that the synagogue was then set on fire by the SA but saved from complete destruction due to the courageous action of a policeman who ordered the fire to be extinguished (he was later murdered by the Nazis). The synagogue ruins were hit during an air raid. The number of Jews living in East Germany is estimated at 475 (in 1982), including a community in East Berlin of 229 registered members (compared with 6,000 in West Berlin).

### HERMANN COHEN ARCHIVES

A critical edition of the work of Hermann Cohen, the German Jewish 'neo-Kantian' philosopher (1842-1918), is being prepared by the Hermann

Cohen Archives at the University of Zurich. The Archives were founded in 1969 and according to the editor, Helmut Holzhey, who began work in 1977, there will be 16 volumes. So far six have appeared, containing some of the principal writings - *Logik der reinen Erkenntnis*, *Ethik des reinen Willens* and *Ästhetik des reinen Gefühls*. This year one of Cohen's more popular publications will follow - *Kants Theorie der Erfahrung*.

### JAPANESE INTEREST IN HEBREW

The Mamoya sect in Japan recently published a textbook of Hebrew grammar. Without wishing to become Jews, Mamoya members devote themselves to furthering friendship with Israel and to the study of Jewish teachings and philosophy. The sect sees itself as a bridge between Japan and Israel: it has recently opened a school of Hebrew for non-members, supplementing its network of schools for members. It is said that there is growing interest in Japan concerning Hebrew studies and that students find the language remarkably easy.

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