

AJR INFORMATION

Volume XLIV No. 5

May 1989

£2 (to non-members)

THE AJR IN 1988 A Hive of Activity

Throughout 1988 there has been a steady increase in the work of the Association. Our services are closely tailored to the needs of the refugee community and it is natural, therefore, that more and more people bring their problems to us and seek our help. The truism that success breeds success is well borne out by the fact that the operation of the Paul Balint-AJR Day Centre, itself one of our success stories, has prompted new demands for help and advice beyond the daily activities of the Centre. Likewise, the more welcoming appearance of Hannah Karminski House, when compared to the rather dismal approach to our former offices with their steep stairs, has undoubtedly made calls more attractive to our visitors, however heavy their heart, and led to an increase in the number of callers.

Indeed, we are happy to see full use being made of all we offer and have not hesitated to increase our staff to meet the demand, but there is an inescapable corollary: additional services, new activities, and improved facilities all add up to heavy increases in the cost of our operations. We are not alone in this experience, which we share with social welfare organizations everywhere, — large or small, national or local — who minister to groups of people with diverse needs (such as Jewish refugees from Nazi oppression).

We take pride in the achievements already to the credit of the Association, which are the subject of the report below. It draws attention also to some of the problems, financial and other, that face us at this time. It will be our endeavour during 1989 to maintain and, where possible, to extend our activities.

The financial situation described is reflected, too, in the operation of our sister organization, CBF Residential Care and Housing Association, whose concern, like ours, is the welfare of Jewish refugees. The facilities they provide in five homes, which include sheltered accommodation, full residential care and nursing care, can only properly fulfil their purpose if buildings and equipment are kept up to date. In an age of rapid technological and social changes this is a continuous process calling for financial support in excess of what can be diverted from ordinary income.

AJR participation in the selection and admission procedures for entry into the Homes, in the house committees and other facets of residents' welfare underlines, if that were needed, that the efforts of both organizations are directed to the same group of people. To meet the needs of the refurbishing programme of the homes and the extended welfare activities of the AJR, substantial new funds will be required and an appeal for these will be launched in the coming months. In view of our joint endeavours this major fund raising scheme will be designed to meet the financial needs of both organizations — a supreme and co-ordinated effort by refugees for refugees. Its successful outcome will be a searching test of the ability of our administration, but even more so of the determination of our membership, to safeguard the future extent and quality of our welfare services to refugees through a commitment to subscribe generously to a cause which should be close to the heart of every member.

Our annual report follows on page 2.

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on Thursday 1 June 1989 at 7.30 p.m.
at 15 Cleve Road, London NW6

AGENDA

Annual Report 1988
Hon Treasurer's Report

Discussion
Election of Executive Committee

The Annual General Meeting
will be followed by a talk by

DR. KURT SCHAPIRA

entitled

'Love at First Sight'

An appreciation of Marc Chagall

Dr. Schapira is a consultant psychiatrist at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and his talk will undoubtedly be a lively and interesting one. For more details see page 4.

Tea will be served after the meeting

ANNUAL REPORT

SOCIAL SERVICES

During 1988 requests for assistance reached an all time high. Changes in the policies and regulations of the Departments of Health and Social Security have meant that our social workers were throughout the year busily involved in providing both practical and financial assistance. There are still many refugees who have been unable to adapt to the vast number of changes that have taken place in the world around us and, as they get older and physically weaker, life becomes ever more difficult.

Indeed, the extent of misery and want within our community is not sufficiently widely recognized beyond those among us who are daily involved in maintaining the function of the AJR. Nor is it material aid alone that will alleviate the loneliness and unhappiness of the uprooted, those who never 'made it'. They yearn for understanding and encouragement, for a few kind words and a listening ear. Many of our members, both within and without the Homes, are without family or friends and do need a *Kümmerer* to make them feel wanted, to be part of the community, and not forgotten.

Our social services staff, guided by Mr. Samuel Wolf, are mindful of these needs and greatly help to make life more tolerable.

PAUL BALINT — AJR DAY CENTRE

The year under review was the first full year of four day a week operation of our Day Centre. Having been a great success from the first modest start in premises kindly made available to us by the Belsize Square Synagogue, it has surpassed all our expectations, as well as those of the members for whose benefit it was created. They enjoy each others' company, the varied activities and the programme of entertainments, no less than the excellent food provided by our catering contractors. The most telling evidence of its value are the numerous letters of appreciation we regularly receive from members who feel that the Day Centre has given them a new lease of life and something to look forward to from week to week.

An important fallout of the operation of the Day Centre is the extension of our social services it generates. However comfortable and regular their daily life may be, elderly people do encounter problems from time to time. The solution to what bothers them may be straightforward or more complicated, but the aged mind cannot readily perceive it, while loneliness, or just reticence, often prevents them from disburdening themselves to others. It is thus surely a measure of the happiness they find, and the security that envelops them, at the Day Centre that they have no hesitation in discussing these often very personal matters with our staff. Having recognized this need, our social welfare service is now regularly available at the Day Centre supporting its general administration. We are delighted that Mrs. Susie Kaufman and Mrs. Eleanor Angel

have joined our devoted team of helpers to deal with these specific matters, while Mrs. Sylvia Matus, assisted by Mrs. Renée Lee, enthusiastically continues to exercise overall supervision.

RESIDENTIAL CARE

We continue to participate in the care of the residents at the Homes for elderly refugees, administered by CBF Residential Care and Housing Association, our main responsibility being the selection and admission of applicants, both for residential care and sheltered accommodation. Close liaison is maintained with the Housing Association's staff by Mrs. Ruth Finestone, and her team ensure that residents readily adapt to the new lifestyle.

House committees and volunteers continue to play an active role in the organization of functions and outings which are important foci of interest in residents' lives.

Demands for urgent immediate admission rose considerably during 1988, and everything possible is being done to help. We also try to meet the need for temporary accommodation and respite care for those who have been discharged from hospital, or to help relieve families looking after an elderly relative at home. In view of the still increasing demand for accommodation the Housing Association have formulated development plans for residential care well into the 21st century, in the discussions about which the AJR has been fully involved.

SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION

The residents in our sheltered accommodation at 15 Cleve Road are now well settled in. It is pleasing to record the contact that several of the residents regularly maintain with the Day Centre. This is beneficial both to them and the users of the Centre. We also maintain bedsitter accommodation at Otto Hirsch House and Hannah Karminski House.

AJR CLUB

We are delighted that the Club has settled so well into 15 Cleve Road without losing its identity. Many of its members are welcome participants in Day Centre activities. The Club's regular programme of entertainment and lectures is provided by many loyal helpers under the direction of co-chairmen Mrs. L. Saenger and Mrs. S. Horwell.

MEALS ON WHEELS

For many years we successfully provided a kosher meals on wheels service distributed by our own volunteer drivers. However, during the last two years the number of recipients declined severely and the service faced a number of other problems, the resolution of which would have rendered it unacceptably uneconomic.

We therefore deputed one of our social workers to interview each of our recipients of meals in order to determine their needs. This took several weeks, but in every case it was found that

satisfactory alternative arrangements could be made for their benefit, in most cases securing for them equivalent services from the local authority or enabling them to attend the Day Centre on a regular basis.

We discontinued this activity, therefore, conscious that the needs of our former clients had been provided for. It behoves us to express heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Ruth Anderman, at whose suggestion the service was originally initiated and who supervised the operation throughout the period of its existence. We are also indebted to the numerous volunteers who helped in various ways to maintain this valuable service for so long. Happily, several of them continue their voluntary work with us in other capacities.

SELF AID OF REFUGEES

Self Aid of Refugees, administered as part of the AJR, provides modest financial assistance to the needy in our community. Here, too, the number of those who come to us for help has dramatically increased during the year under review from 105 in 1987 to 143 last year.

Our annual charity concert, marking the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of Self Aid, was held on 9 October, 1988. The Amadeus Piano Trio played pieces by Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms to a packed audience of members, their families and friends. It is a source of great satisfaction that the concerts continue to be so overwhelmingly successful, both from the social point of view and as a means of generating badly needed funds.

The record concert receipts have scarcely kept pace with the needs for grants. Our accounts show that only larger contributions from the AJR Charitable Trust enabled us to meet the increased requirements for support.

The next concert will take place on Sunday afternoon, 5 November 1989, again at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, when we look forward to welcoming our regular concert supporters together with many new friends.

SELF AID OF REFUGEES		
Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31 December 1988		
	1988	1987
	£	£
INCOME		
Concert receipts	10,937	4,078
Donations, Coventants, Legacies etc.	1,767	6,087
Grant from AJR Charitable Trust	15,000	13,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	27,704	23,165
EXPENDITURE		
Aid Grants	21,006	14,972
Administration and Expenses	11,321	16,754
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	32,327	31,726
Deficit	(4,623)	(8,561)

AJR INFORMATION

AJR Information has now entered its forty-fourth year of regular publication. It remains a most valuable vehicle of communication with our members, who look forward to its arrival from month to month.

In the spring of 1988 Mr. C. C. Aronsfeld retired as editor. We are grateful to him for the varied and interesting articles he regularly contributed and for maintaining the high standard of the journal during his stewardship. We wish him well in his retirement.

Mr. Richard Grunberger took over the editorship, and we have since received many letters indicating appreciation of the lively debate he has introduced.

MEMBERSHIP

The extension of our services has resulted in a small percentage increase in the number of members. Our active workers, volunteers and staff alike, rarely miss an opportunity of promoting the recruitment of new members. We urge all our members similarly to encourage their friends and relatives who have not yet done so to join our ranks. Too many refugees still remain outside the Association. Their accession would greatly strengthen our ability to extend and improve our services.

We should particularly like the sons and daughters, and even grandchildren, of refugees to join. The number of such British born members is slowly rising, but we need more of them. The active Association of Children of Jewish Refugees is evidence that interest in what we are and what we do can be generated and expanded.

This report surely shows that we are not a backward looking organization concerned only with the past. On the contrary, our eyes are turned to the future in not only meeting social welfare needs of today, but planning for the longer term ahead.

Thus the scope for acquiring new members is great, but gaining reinforcement of our strength from the sources indicated largely depends on our members — you, the individual member and reader of these lines.

ACCOUNTS

Our annual accounts mirror the kind of social and welfare organization the AJR now represents. Our largest expenditure is for welfare work and social activities, and our social welfare department is still being expanded. The contribution from the AJR Charitable Trust indicates the extent of the financial cost of our welfare activities.

Our income from subscriptions does not keep pace with our financial needs. We hope our members will review their contributions and appreciate that unless we achieve an average income of £20 per member we shall not be able to continue to expand our activities. We are also counting on increasing our membership and ask our readers to recruit their friends and relatives to help us in this worthwhile task.

We publish below abstracts of our annual accounts. Copies of the balance sheet and accounts for the year ended 31 December 1988 will be available at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Table 1
Summary of Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1988

	1988		1987	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
(Less depreciation)		16,051		14,822
CURRENT ASSETS	73,370		49,113	
(Including Staff Retirement Fund)				
CURRENT LIABILITIES	31,996		21,832	
		41,374		27,281
Reserve for Staff Retirement Fund		57,425		42,103
		50,612		37,041
		6,813		5,062
<i>Represented by:</i>				
<i>General Fund</i>				
Balance as at 1 January 1988		5,062		(7,473)
Net Income for the Year		1,751		12,535
		6,813		5,062

Table 2
Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31 December 1988

	1988	1987
	£	£
INCOME		
Membership Fees, Donations	62,862	55,501
Contribution from AJR Charitable Trust for Social Welfare Work	125,000	107,000
	187,862	162,501
EXPENDITURE:		
Rent, Rates, Postage, Telephone, etc.	31,511	23,980
Salaries	110,651	89,902
Allocation to Staff Retirement Fund	12,500	16,000
Administration and Operation Expenses	7,012	10,609
AJR Information	24,437	24,475
Reserve for Property Repairs	—	(15,000)
	186,111	149,966
Net Income	1,751	12,535

AJR CHARITABLE TRUST

The AJR Charitable Trust has featured repeatedly in this report. The Trust has been built up over many years through Legacies, Donations and Covenants, and without its resources we would be unable to undertake and support our charitable work. The accounts printed below convey the extent of these commitments which substantially exceed the income of the Trust. It is only the receipt of further legacies during 1988 which prevented the reduction of our capital. An increasing number of our people are unable to pay the charges in 'our Homes', so that the CBF Residential Care & Housing Association looks to our Trust to help them to make ends meet. In the introduction of this report we stated that substantial funds will have to be found to pay for the essential refurbishing of the Homes and the funding of future deficits. The AJR Charitable Trust will, therefore, engage in a major fund-raising campaign this year and we hope our readers will give us their full support. Meanwhile we again urge our members to make Donations under Covenant so that we can continue to provide for the needs of our people.

AJR CHARITABLE TRUST
Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31 December 1988

	1988	1987
	£	£
INCOME		
Covenants, Donations	108,199	37,128
Dividends & Interest	145,219	111,112
	253,418	148,240
EXPENDITURE:		
Grants		
Paul Balint AJR Day Centre	63,084	43,859
AJR for Social & Welfare Services	125,000	107,000
Self Aid for Aid Grants	15,000	13,000
CBF Residential Care & Housing Association	40,000	—
Various other Organizations	5,572	13,900
Meals on Wheels	10,768	3,946
Administration, Legal Fees	31,366	17,757
	290,790	199,462
Deficit	(37,372)	(51,222)

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

We rely for the smooth and effective administration of our services on the small team of professionals ably led by our Administrator Mrs. Lydia Lassman. It is a happy combination that our permanent staff has the backing of so many volunteers, giving us flexibility and the means of coping with the numerous urgent and unforeseeable calls. It also enables us to husband our financial resources to meet the increasing demand. The work is rewarding to all engaged in it, but it is also arduous. We express our appreciation and thanks to all involved, both members of staff and volunteers.

Election of Members of the Executive

The following members have served on the Executive Committee since the 1988 Annual General Meeting and will be proposed for re-election at the AGM on Thursday 1 June 1989.

Mr C. T. Marx (Chairman)
Mr M. M. Kochmann (Vice-Chairman and Honorary Treasurer)
Mrs. K. Gould (Honorary Secretary)
Mrs. M. Brooks
Mr J. H. Dunston
Mr A. C. Kaufmann
Mr W. D. Rothenberg

Mrs. E. S. Angel was co-opted during the year and will be proposed for election to the Executive Committee at the AGM on Thursday 1 June 1989.

Mrs. Laura Howe is the staff member co-ordinating the activities of our volunteers. She has been recruiting new volunteers to assist our social workers, help at the Day Centre, and for visits to residents at the Homes. From our volunteers' reports it became apparent that the problems of their 'clients', with which they were required to deal, were becoming more acute and, as part of a support programme for volunteers, a series of coffee mornings were held for them. They were found to be most helpful get-togethers, all involved agreeing that they

provided a useful forum for the discussion of problems with other volunteers, comparing notes and interchanging ideas. Our volunteers are looking forward to similar sessions being arranged for 1989.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The executive committee met regularly during 1988. It is a pleasure to record the help I have derived from its members in the discussions of the great variety of subjects which naturally arises in the course of the administration of an association like ours. All of them are committed to the interests and welfare of our members and give of their time to participate in our activities.

After serving on the committee for several years Mr. Helmuth Rothenberg decided to retire and not seek re-election at the time of the annual general meeting last year. His wide knowledge of the community and its affairs were reflected in the valuable contributions he made to our deliberations, while his courteous and kindly manner of presenting them rarely failed to secure acceptance of his suggestions. The Association is greatly in his debt and fortunate in that he continues to make himself available for consultation.

An additional lady was co-opted during the year. Mrs. Eleanor Angel's active involvement in the Association's affairs for some time well qualified her for the work of the committee to which she will seek formal election at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

C. T. MARX
Chairman

A KÖPENICKIADE IN 'THE TIMES'

Fifty years ago when Prime Minister Chamberlain pursued the chimera of appeasement despite mounting evidence of the bankruptcy of this policy he elicited the enthusiastic cooperation of large segments of the British press. Chamberlain's leading acolytes in Fleet Street were Lord Beaverbrook, proprietor of the Daily Express and Geoffrey Dawson, editor of The Times. The latter mouthpiece of British government policy had a neat trick played on it in the aftermath of Hitler's invasion of Prague. On 17 March it published a letter drawing a parallel between Hitler and Napoleon from a 'student of international relations' at LSE — a letter couched in such learned terminology that editor and readers alike must have assumed its author to have been an academic. This author who signed with the pseudonym Nicolas de Mont-Neuf was in fact the 19-year old German Jewish refugee student Klaus Neuberger, whose father had been taken to Sachsenhausen concentration camp by the Nazis. When the authorities at the London School of Economics discovered the true identity of the letter-writer they administered what he now describes as a mild 'ticking off'.

BOOK OF THE PLAY

Thomas Bernhard's *Heldenplatz* (Heroes' Square) was viewed by many of the playwright's compatriots as anti-Austrian. The huge controversy it engendered has provided *Burgtheaterdirektor* Claus Peymann with sufficient material to fill a book of 296 pages.



Dr. Kurt Schapira

Our lecturer
at the Annual General Meeting

**KURT SCHAPIRA, M.D., F.R.C.P.,
F.R.C.Psych.**

Of continental origin, Kurt Schapira completed his secondary education in wartime Britain before going on to university. He trained initially as a General Physician and Neurologist, working subsequently in the field of General Psychiatry, with a special interest in anorexia. At present he is Consultant Psychiatrist to the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and lectures at Newcastle University. He is a Member of the Court of Electors, Royal College of Psychiatrists, having previously been Sub-Dean of the College. He has presided over the Psychiatry section of the Royal Society of Medicine, and is current President of the North of England Medico-Legal Society. Dr. Schapira has been consultant to the Tyneside Samaritans for several years and is also National Adviser to the Counselling and Welfare Services for Sick Doctors.

His hobbies are music, especially opera, and fine arts — on an aspect of which he will be addressing us.

SOME BOOKS AND THEIR AUTHORS

A Brief Summary

Metal Men

Aaron Hirsch (1783–1842), eldest son of a Halberstadt rabbi, was the first and for a time the most influential Jewish metal trader in Germany. From small beginnings in the heart of the Harz mining district, the firm he established eventually had contacts in every country where metals were mined, processed or consumed. By the time Aaron Hirsch & Sohn was liquidated in 1932, the German metal trade had been firmly in the hands of orthodox Jews for more than a century.

In 1901 Julius Philipp (1878–1944) founded a small metal business in Hamburg where he was born (the family came originally from Sweden), and in 1909 his younger brother Oscar (1887–1965) moved to London to establish the first branch of Philipp Brothers. In 1919 he sent his apprentice Siegfried Bendheim to New York to establish an office there. Philipp Brothers prospered and went on to become a large international firm employing over 1,000 people in 25 countries. Oscar remained in London and was not only a highly esteemed businessman, but also an indefatigable communal worker. Together with a few friends, he established the Bachad Training Farm for young orthodox Jews in Thaxted in the thirties. Oscar retired in 1955 and moved to Switzerland where he spent his remaining years. Helmut Waszkis tells the story of the firm in his book *The History of a Trading Giant 1901–1958: Philipp Brothers* (Metal Bulletin Books 1987) giving considerable detail about its development, and trading methods, together with

interesting descriptions and anecdotes about the origins and lives of the individuals concerned.

Kabbalah

In the 19th century leading Jewish scholars viewed Kabbalah, the mystical doctrine concerning God and the Universe with bias and contempt, as being contrary to the simple rationalist approach that they had chosen to adopt. In 1941 Gershom Scholem published his famous work *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism* which destroyed this narrow concept, and established the existence of a long and well-developed tradition of an alternative approach to religion through mystical exercises and experiences.

Moshe Idel, associate professor of Jewish Thought at the Hebrew University, in his book *Kabbalah: New Perspectives* (Yale University Press, 1988, £30), has advanced beyond Scholem's basic work. He suggests that Jewish mysticism as preserved in the Kabbalah and developed in 19th-century Hassidism, is of very great antiquity, even prior to Gnostic theologies, and that it has an important role to play in understanding the general history and development of religious thought. This is an important work based on much unpublished material. Idel's case is well-argued but not easy reading. His book will undoubtedly influence the attitude of scholars towards the history of the Jewish religious experience.

WALTER MANFRED

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DE GUSTIBUS . . . (1)

Sir — The March issue was a further indication of the dramatic decline of *AJR Information*. The verbose editorial replies to readers' letters, the articles by Kurt Littner and Manfred Landau, the pathetic poem . . . surely one cannot let this debasement of what was once a good publication continue.

Fitzjohn's Avenue,
London NW3

H. G. HOLM

DE GUSTIBUS . . . (2)

Sir — First let me congratulate you on your success in transforming *AJR Information* into a publication of real stature. In the past, it used to be dangerously close to being a fairly boring news sheet, apart from a few really outstanding contributions. Touch wood, it has become a pleasure to read *AJR Information*.

The more regrettable is your slip in entitling Kurt Littner's reminiscences on the last page of the March issue 'another alien pioneer story' and, for good measure, adding a slighting and hurtful remark, aimed at saving your editorial reputation: 'Kurt Littner's reminiscences differ from others previously published both in content — as readers will see — and in style. As the result of a hard life he may not write the polished prose of our usual contributors.' I feel sure that quite a few of your readers have taken exception, too, at this supercilious attitude. You are catering to the sum total of former refugees among whom there are not only intellectuals but also many people who were unable to receive higher education.

GEORGE J. FLETCHER

Goldhurst Terrace,
London NW6 3ER

SCOUTING SAVED MY LIFE TOO

Sir — Having joined the Scouts Movement in Vienna in 1929, aged eleven, I was a Group Scoutmaster when the movement was dissolved in March 1938. Simultaneously I had to give up my studies at the University. So there I was, with no vocation or professional knowledge and no chance to emigrate, as my family had no connections abroad.

The situation looked pretty grim, when I heard that *Youth Aliyah* — then expanding rapidly — needed helpers with just our experience as Scouters. Accommodation had been found for hundreds of Jewish children, no longer allowed to attend State schools. I and a few more of my Scout friends found ourselves overnight teaching whatever we knew — First Aid, Morse Code, map reading — anything to catch the pupils' attention and interest.

Very soon we were able to run a regular *Youth Aliyah* School with Eichmann himself taking a great interest in our work; when some of our staff got arrested on 'Crystal Night' they were released on his personal instructions. After that we were issued with special identity cards which gave us a certain amount of protection.

But as time went on it became more and more important to find a way of leaving Austria. It was on the recommendation of the *Youth Aliyah* Bureau, that I and my co-worker Martin Goldenberg were found eligible for the Kitchener Transit Camp for Refugees. This gave us the chance to emigrate to this country and so our lives were saved.

Alington Crescent,
London NW9

FRED DUNSTON

AN OMISSION

Sir — An article in the *Jerusalem Post* about a reunion of Shanghai Jews has come to my notice less than a month before it takes place, making it impossible for me to make arrangements to go.

I have not read anything about this reunion in your journal. Jews from all over the world who found refuge from Nazi persecution in Shanghai are meeting for a *Seder* in Shanghai and a fortnight of activities with the cooperation of the Chinese government.

My father, Dr. Robert Berndt Michaelis, a lawyer, fled from Berlin in 1939 to Shanghai. He returned to Germany in 1948 and devoted the rest of his working life to *Wiedergutmachung* cases and hunting out former Nazis in the German legal profession, and died in 1973. He talked a great deal about his life in China, but I realised only fairly recently how much remained unspoken. Therefore I would like very much to get in contact with anyone who knew him in Shanghai.

Fortune Green Road,
London NW6

AMBASSADORS

Sir — After a visit to Austria last October, I cannot agree with Dr. Wilder-Okladek that Jews should visit Austria as 'Jewish Ambassadors'.

Austrian antisemitism is not only endemic, it is also quite open. It has become virulent since the role of the World Jewish Congress in the Waldheim affair has undoubtedly affected Austria's tourist trade.

Knowing Jews has never reduced antisemitism, which is not a personal hatred, but a matter of nationalism, religious bigotry and plain racism.

The only way we can make Austrians, and Greeks for that matter, alter their attitude to Israel and Jews is not to take our money there. Lastly, to ask people who want a quiet holiday to act as ambassadors and take insults from their hosts is hardly commendable.

Hawkshead Lane,
North Mymms

HENRY TOCH

STAMP COLLECTIONS and ACCUMULATIONS

We require all good philatelic material.
Very high prices paid for Third Reich stamps in
pristine condition (Immaculate/fully gummed).
Worldwide postally used envelopes (pre-1948)
also of interest.

ERIC ELIAS, 58 GREENACRES, HENDON LANE
LONDON N3 Tel. 01 349 1610

TOWNS REMEMBER 'THEIR JEWS'

Sir — You published an article on this subject in your March issue, the contributor, Hilde Davis, being my younger sister. When first approached by the author my reaction was equally negative; why reopen old wounds? But, on reflection, I, too, changed my mind. I agreed to meet Klaus Werner while in Offenbach and he taped the interview. — Here was a young German, deeply interested in the history and fate of the Jewish German population of his home district, and in the calamity which befell these people at a time when he was not yet born. He has produced a thoroughly researched historical work, in the introduction to which Oberbürgermeister Wolfgang Reuter writes:

'Möge diese Dokumentation mit dazu beitragen, dass das Verständnis für Menschen anderer Rasse und Religion wächst, Toleranz statt Intoleranz und Liebe statt Hass sich weiter ausbreiten.'

There is just one further point I wish to make, by way of comment on the sort of Judaism we, as a family typical of middle-class, emancipated German Jews, lived during the interwar period. We were 'German Citizens of Jewish Faith'. The fact that it did us no good, nor stem the tide, is beside the point. The description of 'a sort of Judaized Humanism' seems very apt to me — and I am proud of it.

'Clifton',

H. K. MEYER

Van, Llanidloes (Powys)

Sir — Hilde Davies, who received a book on the history of the Jews in Offenbach asks what is the purpose of such a publication?

I have received a book *Jews in Berlin, 1671-1945* sent out by the Lord Mayor of Berlin. In 350 pages it gives an excellent overview of Jewish history from Moses Mendelssohn via Max Liebermann to the ghetto, movingly described by Joachim Prinz, and then the deportations. I got more interested the more I read — but I would not ask all those hypothetical questions. I am just grateful to the Senate of Berlin for taking the trouble and paying the postage for such a valuable book.

Avenue Road, EVA R. EISENSCHITZ (Mrs.)
London N6

LEST WE FORGET

Sir — In this 50th anniversary year of the outbreak of war the many refugees who served in H.M. Forces will, I hope, be remembered. Information about them can be found in Norman Bentwich's *I Understand the Risk* (Victor Gollancz) and in Ian Dear's *Ten Commando* (Leo Cooper, London). (The Commando Association, 122 Brompton Road, SW3 1JE, 01-581 1831, can also provide information.)

Many men have since died, but others are still around all over the world. It must not be forgotten how much they achieved in their various ways; nor must we forget the many women in the ATS and the WAAF, who contributed a great deal to the war effort.

Wife of an ex-Commando

Ex-WAAF

We do not normally print anonymous letters, but felt an exception was justified in this case, because of the subject matter. Ed.

David Maier reports on Anglo-Jewish institutions

THE CHIEF RABBINATE

Immanuel Jakobovits is not the first German-born Briton to occupy the position of Chief Rabbi in this country. Rabbi David Tevele Schiff, having left Frankfurt for London, was the spiritual head of Ashkenazi congregations from 1765 to 1792. Dr. Nathan Marcus Adler came from Hanover in 1845, upon his election to a ministry which lasted for 45 years. He was succeeded by his son, Dr. Hermann Adler. The institution itself dates back to the beginning of the 18th century, when the religious authority of the Rabbi of the Dukes Place Great Synagogue in the City of London began to be acknowledged beyond his immediate congregation, reaching into other Ashkenazi synagogues in the capital, then into the provincial communities and, in due course, into those in British colonies and possessions overseas. Indeed, from 1845 onwards, the correct title was 'Chief Rabbi of the British Empire' until it was changed in 1953 to 'Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth of Nations'. Its jurisdiction in matters of Jewish law and ritual is accepted by some 250 congregations here and abroad. Of these, those belonging to the United Synagogue (created by Act of Parliament in 1870) constitute about one-third in number, although they make by far the largest contribution to its funding. All the congregations which subscribe to the Chief Rabbi's authority are entitled to representation on the Chief Rabbinate Council which has power to fill the office by election when it falls vacant. Tenure is for an indefinite term, subject to a notional retirement age of 70. Once he takes up his appointment, the Chief Rabbi also becomes head of the London Beth Din, the Court of the Chief Rabbi, to which he nominates fellow rabbis to serve as *dayanim*. He presides, too, over the governing body of Jews' College, the London institute of higher Jewish learning which offers degree and diploma courses for students preparing for the orthodox ministry. The Chief Rabbinate itself is responsible for the certification of those seeking rabbinical appointments. It currently shares with the College its library of Hebrew and other texts of Jewish theological interest, including a number of German manuscripts rescued from the ravages of the Nazi period.

The administration of the Office of the Chief Rabbi is carried out by a staff of ten, headed by Shimon Cohen, the Executive Officer and Private Secretary to Lord Jakobovits. There is also a cabinet of 12 rabbis, each of whom is entrusted with a specific portfolio upon the stewardship of which he renders regular reports. This enables the Chief Rabbi to address himself in the first instance to his Jewish constituency, offering guidance on all matters to which the teachings of Jewish orthodoxy may be applied. The most important of his key addresses, lectures and official pronouncements on relevant issues are regularly published in pamphlet form; and *L'Eyla, A Journal of Judaism Today* appears twice a year, aimed particularly at rabbis, teachers and com-

munal workers. But above all, the Chief Rabbinate has a unique representational function which, without being formally defined, carries substantial weight and affords the Anglo-Jewish community a significant measure of recognition as a cohesive religious and cultural entity irrespective of the actual synagogue affiliations of its individual members. 'We see ourselves', explains Shimon Cohen, 'as an instrument by means of which the Jewish people can be 'a light unto the nations'. The Chief Rabbi may not be accepted at all times and by all Jews as the ultimate authority in the interpretation of *halacha*, but he is without question the premier Jewish spokesman, able, as no other, to express the Jewish view on public affairs in this country. And he is heard and respected.' One example, among many, was the 'Statement of Jewish views drawn up by the Chief Rabbi in consultation with the London Beth Din' which was submitted by him to the 1984 Government Inquiry on Human Fertilisation and Embryology (the Warnock Committee) and the subsequent expression of opinion on the Committee's report offered to the Department of Health and Social Security, each based on 'principles, considerations and conclusions applicable in the first instance to Jews, but regarded by Judaism as of universal validity'. Again, when, on a recent occasion, journalists reporting an Old Bailey trial were puzzled by certain statements made by the judge, it was to the Chief Rabbi's Office that they turned first for an explanation.

It is obvious that the holder of any office of eminence impresses upon it his personality, his talent, his inspiration and his hope. The present distinguished incumbent's most lasting contribution may well prove to be his inter-faith work, his tireless endeavours to cement meaningful relations with representatives of other religions, notably the leaders of the two major Christian denominations in Britain, a process which culminated in the moving addresses delivered by Archbishop Runcie and Cardinal Hume on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of *Kristallnacht*. It is no mean achievement.

HEDI FISHER INTRODUCTIONS

45/46 CHALK FARM ROAD
LONDON NW1 8AJ

Tel: 01-267 6066]W/E & Eves 01-958 4973

•Professional
business
clientelle
•High success
rate



•Personal
caring service
•Guaranteed
introductions

BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE 51 Belsize Square, London, N.W.3

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

Tel: 01-794 3949



Religious appurtenances at the Museum

FIVE YEARS JUDAICA DEPARTMENT OF HOFGEISMAR MUSEUM

Next to the recently opened Frankfurt Jewish Museum the Hofgeismar Judaica collection is now the most important one in the Federal State of Hesse.

Its first public exhibition, in 1983/84, found a response well beyond the region. In 1985 this was followed by a comprehensive Judaica issue *Fremde im eigenen Land* (reviewed in *AJR Information* at the time). In 1986 the Museum moved to new more spacious premises, where the now very much enlarged Judaica collection found a permanent home. It currently attracts visitors and study groups from the region, as well as further afield.

Not only have the Museum's devoted staff done a great deal to reconstruct mementos of Jewish culture; the municipality displayed a sense of historic responsibility by undertaking the care of the two Jewish cemeteries, last witnesses of Jewish life in this area. The town itself in 1986 invited eleven former Jewish residents on the occasion of the formal opening of the new Museum as a gesture of reconciliation.

Finally the Museum is planning an enlarged edition of the now completely sold out special issue *Fremde im eigenen Land*, and also a bibliography of Jewish writers and historians of the wider district of Kassel.

Contact Vicar Michael Dohrs, Stadtmuseum, D - 3520 HOFGEISMAR.

THE DUTCH RABBINATE

Since Chief Rabbi Aron Schuster's retirement 16 years ago the religious leadership of Dutch Jewry has lacked a halachic expert. Now, with the induction of Oxford-educated Rabbi Frank Lewis, the community once again has a complete Beth Din.

REDESIGNING DAVID'S CITY

Town Planning in Jerusalem



Courtesy BIPAC

The late Arthur Korn titled his book on town planning, *History Builds the City*. The message is obvious, and nowhere clearer than in Jerusalem. Its nucleus was settled around 4,000 BC as one of many settlements along the mountain chain running north to south through Samaria and Judea, along the Road of the Patriarchs. Its singular fame started with its capture around 100 BC by David, who made it the capital of the united Israelite monarchy. And its turbulent history in the following 3,000 years has left readily definable marks.

In practice, history builds a city through man's myriad interlocking activities, in building and using houses, markets, roads, sanitary facilities, fortifications, etc. Each of these is planned in the sense that human forethought is applied. But some towns are planned in the wider sense: by human forethought being applied as a framework for the separate activities. As an art and a science, such planning goes back over much the same period, into selected settlements in Egypt, Asia Minor, Rome and thereafter. But hardly to Jerusalem itself. Here General Allenby commissioned a first town planning scheme in 1918 from William McLean, City Engineer of Alexandria. His scheme was followed by others, prepared under the British Mandate, till 1944.

With the creation of the State of Israel, and the division of Jerusalem, planning continued independently on both sides of the divided City. In East Jerusalem the Mandate Chief Planner, Henry Kendall, continued his work under Jordan. In West Jerusalem the new State approved plans in 1950 and 1959.

But something more was needed in the light of the post-State developments and changing concepts in town planning. This led to the commissioning of a Master Plan from Abiah Hashimshony, Joseph Schweid and Zion Hashimshony in 1962. Before this could be completed the 1967 War reunited the City, leading for the first time to an Israeli plan for the totality, published as the Master Plan of 1968, followed by the 1973 Plan by Arieh Sharan for the Old City and its Environs.

However, in terms of a formal Plan, history has not been so kind in the ensuing 20 years. For all kinds of not very compelling reasons the progress

towards a formal outline plan for Jerusalem, ratified at Municipal, District and National level, is so far incomplete.

Enough has been said to show that history in the building of cities may or may not use town plans. And even when it has the plans available it can be selective in the degree to which they are employed. So it has been with Jerusalem. But while the formal processes of achieving a firm statutory plan have been stultified, the importance of city planning in the development of the City has been recognised. Since the early seventies there has been an identifiable City Planning Department, coping with development pressures and possibilities on an everyday basis, and there exist contemporary informal plans. And while the planning fortunes have fluctuated, it continues as a force, as significant as in any other town of Israel.

But where will history be taking the City? Since 1967 it is no longer at the end of the cul-de-sac road from the interior, at the very edge of a desert of hostility. It finds itself en route to Judea and Samaria, and further north and south. It attracted hitherto unknown growth in population, economic activity and urbanisation. It became the national capital and its University expanded its second campus on Mount Scopus to the east. Its civic buildings and gardens have multiplied. Its tourism and hotel development has been phenomenal.

In these terms Jerusalem is typical of all the contemporary cities of its size and location. While very conscious of its special significance in Israel and the world, its people look for the urban qualities of other cities: transportation for private and public vehicles; adequate housing; places for employment of all kinds; centres for commerce, recreation, leisure, culture, etc. In these matters Jerusalem is not lacking; it offers the opportunities for a good life.

But like other cities Jerusalem has particular requirements in its development planning, and some are very special to this special City. Some examples are:

1. the relationships between East and West Jerusalem, which are divided in a way that has changed but not sufficiently since 1967;
2. the level of integration of the Jews and the

Arabs who, both keeping to their primary residential areas, nonetheless share certain functions, in kinds of employment, commerce, etc;

3. the relationships in West Jerusalem between the Orthodox Jews and the remainder, with the former growing at a much greater rate and expanding into non-orthodox areas;
4. the need to protect from urban encroachment the striking natural landscape in the surrounding hills to the West and the desert to the East;
5. the resolution of the traditional conflict between building on the hills and building in the valleys;
6. the protection of the largely homogeneous skyline from repetition of the few unfortunate significant intrusions of the early seventies;
7. the conservation and protection of the Old City in its 2,000 year old form, while at the same time carrying out modernisation facilities for those that live within each of the Quarters: Jewish Armenian, Christian and Muslim;
8. the protection of historic buildings, with which Jerusalem is not too well blessed, and the protection of historic areas, with which it is;
9. the realisation of the spiritual character of Jerusalem, both because it is the unique home of the three great monotheistic religions and also because in some magic way it has come over the centuries to represent the secular hopes of mankind.

It is in the identification and sympathetic, sensitive handling of both its general urban problems and these kinds of special issues that the success or failure of future planning in Jerusalem will be judged.

NATHANIEL LICHFIELD

The author of this article is a town planner and Emeritus Professor of Architecture at Naples and Jerusalem Universities.

STAINED GLASS

Panels for windows, screens, conservatories and the like, also glass hangings,

Designed in consultation with you,

Hand crafted by experienced and fully qualified stained glass artist.

Restorations undertaken.

Contact **M. Hoffner,**
B.A. (Hons), Fine Arts.
01 722 7461 Answerphone.

THOMAS BERNHARD: THE REVERSE OF THE AUSTRIAN IDYLL

Thomas Bernhard's Heldenplatz (Heroes' Square) premiered at the Burgtheater in the anniversary year 1988 is a scathing critique of Austrian institutions and personalities, and some Waldheim supporters wanted it banned. However, since Bernhard puts this indictment into the mouths of his Jewish characters. Austrian Jewry weren't happy with the play either.

Thomas Bernhard was born in 1931 in Holland of Austrian parents. His father was a farmer, and his mother the daughter of the Austrian writer Johannes Freumbichler. From 1932 he was brought up in the home of the latter, mainly at Seekirchen and then in Upper Bavaria. Many of his formative experiences proved devastating; they are described in five autobiographical novels. These are not autobiographies in the sense of being accurate and detailed chronological and factual accounts, but describe basic experiences and events of his own life — a form of *Dichtung und Wahrheit*. Interestingly even in his totally fictitious works he uses actual people and places, e.g. the pianist Glenn Gould in *Der Untergeher*, or the village *Amaras* in the longer story of that name.

Each one of these autobiographical novels describes and analyses a particular self-contained episode in his life. The first one concerns itself mainly with his life at a Salzburg boarding school from 1942 to 1947; at first under the domination of Nazism, then, after the war, of Roman Catholicism. He experienced little difference in the factors of indoctrination and the frustration of individuality. He experienced it as a dungeon, a *katastrophale Verstümmelungsmaschinerie* of inescapable hopelessness. Having rejected suicide, he simply left (not many of his characters escape suicide, death or disintegration). Dungeons or incarceration in remote towers or farm houses are frequent images in his works. Another traumatic event was the experience of bombing raids on Salzburg: the sight of dead bodies, the stench of burning flesh are permanent elements of his consciousness. Other episodes and powerful formative influences are: his relationship with and admiration for his maternal grandfather, his death as a result of a surgeon's misjudgment, his own 'escape' from school into an apprenticeship at a greengrocer's, his mother's slow and gradual death in 1950 (again a medical misjudgment), several stays in a sanatorium for tuberculosis, only just surviving, more through determination than treatment.

In 1957 he formally completed five years of musical studies at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, having also attended the *Akademie für Musik und darstellende Kunst* in Vienna. He travelled extensively, especially in Poland and England. In 1965 he settled in a somewhat remote farmhouse in Upper Austria as a freelance writer. He makes periodic appearances for interviews, and at receptions when receiving prizes — he has been awarded practically all the major German and Austrian literary prizes. His public utterances on these occasions are considered predictably provocative.

He and Peter Handke are the most eminent, discussed and debated Austrian writers today.

They share a highly critical and careful approach to the handling of language. Both have been linked to the *Neue Subjektivität* trend with its hypochondriac and narcissistic concern. His novels are not narrative, events are rare and normally viewed retrospectively, often through reported monologues. The reporting first-person narrator plays the role of a sometimes closely related and involved, sometimes more distanced investigator and observer.

There is a phenomenal mastery of complex and involved language structures which Bernhard manipulates with the craftsmanship of a musician. Recurring and accumulating patterns of words and phrases in the manner of musical motifs and their development create patterns of recurring thoughts and images. His characters may border on or topple over into insanity, but can articulate this process of disintegration or obsession most clearly.

The plays, too, consist predominantly of monologues, but more as statements than reflections, and again with musical motif like word patterns.

Many of his characters are incarcerated in their own world and react with venom against intrusions from an outside world they hate and despise. They frequently deliver iconoclastic tirades against the Catholic Church (*Zerstörer, Angsteinjäger, Charaktervernichter der Kinderseele*) and against Austria and its political and cultural heritage. Often his characters are at the end of a degenerate aristocratic line. Austria '(ist) zu einem skrupellosen Geschäft geworden, in welchem nur mehr noch um alles gefeilscht wird und in welchem jeder um alles betrogen wird'. The Austrian landscape pervades nearly all his work — not the idyllic landscape of Ganghofer and Trenker, but a gloomy, foreboding, even threatening world. '*Die Burgenländer sind Sträflinge, ihr Heimatland ist eine Strafanstalt . . . In Wirklichkeit ist das Burgenland fad und hässlich.*' Of Austria as a whole he writes '*Genie und Österreich vertragen sich nicht . . . In Österreich muss man die Mittelmässigkeit sein, um zu Wort zu kommen und ernst genommen zu werden, ein Mann der Stümperhaftigkeit und der provinziellen Verlogenheit.*'

HANS SEELIG

(Thomas Bernhard has died in the interim. See April issue p. 10.)

A RICH SEAM

Among the Franconian rabbis who wrote histories of the communities they served, Adolf Eckstein, District Rabbi of Bamberg from 1888 to 1926, occupies a special place. His *Geschichte der Juden im ehemaligen Fuerstbistum Bamberg* pioneered a new approach to German regional Jewish historiography.

The 'History' covers the period from the beginning of the Bamberg Community before the First Crusade to the end of the Princebishopric in 1802. It is based entirely on archival sources, of which Eckstein acquired a vast knowledge.

Eckstein overcame the relative paucity of material for some periods by eschewing a chronological account. Instead, he dealt with his subject by topics: the origins of the community, persecutions, 'protection' and 'protected' Jews, organisation and administration, ghetto, synagogues and cemeteries, special taxes and duties, social and commercial history, village communities, etc. The chapter on the Rabbinate includes biographies of all rabbis of Bamberg from 1220, together with appraisals of their responsa and scholarly works.

In a 'Festschrift' published on the occasion of the inauguration of the magnificent new Bamberg Synagogue in 1910, Eckstein continued the history of the Community from 1802 to 1861, the year the *Matricle* system ended — and with it, the restrictions on Jewish residence rights.

Both works were becoming ever rarer just when interest in local Jewish history and family research were reaching new heights, and by no means only among Jews. Chriss Fiebig earned our gratitude when she reprinted both in 1985. To everyone's surprise — not least her own — the relatively modest print runs sold out very quickly. The 'History' has already been reprinted twice, and a fourth reprint of the 'Festschrift' has recently appeared. This is an improved edition, containing illustrations of the new Bamberg Synagogue in its heyday and on the morning of 10 November 1938, as well as a view of the site after the building was dynamited a few months later.

Historians and family researchers will be able to mine rich seams of sources, many of which are still existing and accessible in the City and State Archives in Bamberg, in the Central Archives in Jerusalem and elsewhere, and in specialised libraries. The membership lists of the Bamberg Community of 1746 and 1763 in the 'History' and of 1803, 1818, 1831 and 1845 in the 'Festschrift' provide essential information for family research.

Both the 'History' (price DM 35 + pp) and the 'Festschrift' (price DM 24.80 + pp) are available from Chriss Fiebig, Viktor von Scheffelstrasse 32, 8600 Bamberg, West Germany.

DR. HERBERT LOEBL

NOLTE'S RANDOM THOUGHTS

Erich Nolte's *Der Europäische Buergerkrieg 1917-1945* (published in 1987 in Germany) describes Terezin as a place in which 'a number of old Jews lived a privileged, if somewhat isolated life that was bearable'. He mentions nowhere that this 'bearable life' led to the death of almost the entire ghetto population, either in Terezin itself or other concentration camps.

Annely Juda Fine Art

11 Tottenham Mews, London W1P 9PJ

01-637 5517/8

CONTEMPORARY PAINTING
AND SCULPTURE

Mon-Fri: 10 am-6 pm Sat: 10 am-1 pm

PAUL BALINT — AJR
DAY CENTRE

MAY

Monday 8th	'The Merry Month of May' — The Popocatepetls
Tuesday 9th	'Musical Memories' — Hans Freund & Guest Artistes
Wednesday 10th	Harp & Flute Recital — Hilary Williams & Clare Hinton
Thursday 11th	Violin & Piano Recital — Suzanne Pierrejean & Jeanette Lin
Monday 15th	'Dissidence & Dissidents' — 500 BC — 1989 — Talk by Peter Munk M.A.
Tuesday 16th	'The Melody Makers' — Kathy McCormack & Ken Penney
Wednesday 17th	The Beaufort Ensemble
Thursday 18th	'Les Chemins d'Amour' — Jonathan Price & Yvonne Edward
Monday 22nd	'The Sugarianos' — Jane Marciano & Roberta Sugarman — Accompanied by Daphne Lewis
Tuesday 23rd	Ronnie Bell on Keyboard
Wednesday 24th	Henry Welby Talks On His Recent Experiences in Russia
Thursday 25th	Estelle & Pamela Entertain
Monday 29th	CLOSED
Tuesday 30th	Alternative Medicine & How it may be of benefit to you — Gloria Raphael (Osteopath & Acupuncturist)
Wednesday 31st	'Love Songs For A Summer Afternoon' — Judith Baxter & Terri Smith

JUNE

Thursday 1st	Light Classics for Flute & Piano — Ian Bradford & Carol Kohn
Monday 5th	Hans Freund Entertains
Tuesday 6th	Trinity College of Music
Wednesday 7th	'Memory-Lane Past Lyons Corner House' — Arnold Rosenstrauch
Thursday 8th	A Demonstration & Teaching Session in Origami Japanese Art of paper Folding — Larry Hart
Monday 12th	'Jewish Life in Gibraltar' — Regina Lawton
Tuesday 13th	'Switzerland From A Different Angle' — Talk by Mariann Meier
Wednesday 14th	'Why We Should Live More Dangerously' — Talk by Professor Heinz Wolff



Three of our members on the Day Centre outing to York reported in the January issue. Courtesy Fred Dunston

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE RESIDENTIAL HOMES

In their endeavours to provide interest and stimulation for residents, the House Committee of Leo Baeck House has asked for volunteers to:

- 1) assist on Thursday afternoons at 4 p.m. with card games.
- 2) write interesting extracts from conversations with residents for future magazines.
- 3) discuss news and items of interest on TV and radio with residents.
- 4) take out residents to afternoon tea occasionally.
- 5) make video recordings of musicals or other items. Videos are shown on Friday afternoon at 4 p.m. and additions to the video library would really be appreciated.

If present or future volunteers could help in any of these areas, please let me know at the AJR office.

Laura Howe — 483 2536

AJR Club News

Sunday 21st May, 3.30 p.m.

KOL RINAH SINGERS

conducted by Johanna Metzger-Lichtenstern, accompanied by Paul Lichtenstern.

Also two young artists: Hannah Tausz (harp), Nicholas Brod (piano)

Sunday 11th June, 3.30 p.m.

A VISIT TO AFGHAN REFUGEE CAMPS

Talk by Karlheinz Guttmann

Entrance fee: 50p incl. tea

The AJR Club at 15 Cleve Road is open on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 6 pm for members to meet and talk to old and new friends or play cards, scrabble or chess. On Sundays, tea is served, on weekdays tea and a light supper. Guests are welcome. Membership fee: £4 p.a.

There is live entertainment one Sunday a month followed by tea and video films can be watched on most other Sundays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Club members may attend the Day Centre entertainment.

DORA SEGALL 85

On the 1 June Dora Segall will be 85. As Hon. President of the AJR Club, she continues, in word and deed, to put herself at the service of its members. As all her friends know, she is, to quote the late Margaret Jacoby, 'the very symbol of a true friend'. With undiminished vigour, she also goes on supporting the causes close to her heart and pursuing her many other interests.

We wish her many more happy returns.

A CHANCE TO TALK IT OVER

'I have often felt like talking to someone about all the things that have ever happened to me'.

'What sort of things would you like to talk about?'

'Oh, the whole business of being a refugee, what happened to me and my family before and since leaving the old country, you know, trying to come to terms with it all, how I dealt with being in a strange world where I had difficulties with the language and the customs. There are a lot of things that I would like to talk about'.

This is a fairly common type of conversation that I have with clients who feel that they have a need to talk about their life and all the things that happened to them, and have never been resolved. They always meant to do it, always planned to — just as soon as they had a little more time. Some have written about it, others found someone in their family or from their circle of friends who would sit and listen and try to make some sense of it all; but there are those who have put it all behind them, pretending that they have coped easily by using the lame explanation 'We learned

to live with it'. But have any of us really learned to live with it, or do we simply use it as the easy option of dealing with painful experiences? Have we explained to our children, and to their children, how we really felt and how we had really been affected by it all?

As a psychotherapist I deal more and more with those who are trying to make sense of it all, and who have the courage at last to speak out about what was done to them, and how they dealt with it. It is never easy to ask for help, for fear of giving an impression of incompetence or weakness; but the opposite holds good; it requires strength and guts to want to cauterize a scar in one's psyche. To discuss, explore, clarify and, hopefully, to find answers to the whys and wherefores, to be able to say that we are all a little bit *meshuga* because of it, but that we have also, maybe, gained a greater strength and understanding on that account. We all need to get the skeletons out of our cupboards and rattle them about a bit before we can free ourselves from our fears and anxieties, whatever they are.

LARRY MANDON MA

ART NOTES

The arrival of the new Bourbon dynasty in Spain in 1700 engendered a taste for French art, and subsequently Italian art, to the detriment of the native Spanish school. In 1744 the Royal Academy of San Fernando was founded, which eventually recreated respect and self-confidence in Spanish painters. Its first director, the Neapolitan painter Corrado Giaquinto, was succeeded in 1762 by a well-known German artist, Anton Raphael Mengs. (During Mengs's stay in Madrid, Casanova was his lodger; he subsequently vilified his landlord in his famous *Memoirs*.) The Academy attracted such notable artists as Tiepolo (1696–1770), three of whose works are shown in the *Painting in Spain during the later Eighteenth Century* exhibition at the National Gallery (until 31 May). Perhaps the most attractive pictures in this delightful exhibition are by Luis Melendez (1716–1780) who — with his father, also a painter — was expelled from the Academy, suffered great poverty during his lifetime and remained almost unknown. In recent years the National Gallery has acquired one of his paintings, *Still Life with Oranges and Walnuts*, which is being shown with other works by this artist at the exhibition.

There are two exhibitions worth seeing at the Barbican. The first is *Material and Form*, featuring over 200 works by 44 contemporary West German artists (until 10 July). These artists are all members of the Material and Form group which attempts to break down the differences between fine art and the applied arts. Thus the exhibition includes the work of silversmiths, ceramicists, glassmakers, sculptors, photographers and painters. Before showing at the Barbican the exhibition can be seen in Lincoln (29 April–30 May). The other exhibition at the Barbican is *100 Years of Russian Art 1889–1989* from private collections in the USSR (until 9 July). There are more than 250 exhibits, including sculpture, paintings, drawings, posters and ceramics, many of which have never been seen outside the USSR.

Lucien Freud is known as one of our most distinguished contemporary painters, but his etchings are not so well-known. Some of them were recently shown at the Bernard Jacobson Gallery, including a magnificent portrait of *Lord Goodman in his Yellow Pyjamas*. The exhibition was unfortunately of short duration, but some of the etchings can still be seen at the gallery (prices £1750–£6000).

The *Royal Treasures of Sweden* exhibition at the Royal Academy continues until 18 June. It will be followed by the Annual Summer Exhibition (10 June–20 August) where about 1500 works can be seen. This is always a popular exhibition and last year was visited by nearly 150,000 people. The Manor House is showing *Masterworks in Glass and Textiles* (until 31 May), including works by Peter Dreiser, Sam Herman, Peter Layton, Anthony Stern and Patrick Stern. Peter Dreiser was born in Cologne in 1936 and came to England in 1955 after training at the State School for Art Glass in Bonn. He lives in Kenton, Middlesex, and in 1977 became a freelance glass engraver with his own workshop.

There is still time (until 4 June) to see *Some Creative Children and What Became of them* at the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood. The work is really outstanding and shows what inspired teaching can produce from already talented children. At the Belgrave Gallery (until 26 May) there is an opportunity to see works by Alfred Daniels, the result of a recent visit to Israel. Everyday scenes in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Tel-Aviv are depicted in Daniels's individual style. Very well worth seeing!

There is also plenty to see at the Tate: the sculptures of F. E. McWilliam who celebrates his eightieth birthday this year (until 9 July), paintings and drawings by Cecil Collins who celebrated his eightieth birthday last year, and sculptures by Tony Cragg, born 1949, who won the 1988 Turner prize for his outstanding contribution to British art (until 25 June). And at the Hayward Gallery there is *Art in Latin America* (until 6 August), an enormous exhibition comprising some 400 works by 170 artists from the Argentine to Venezuela.

Portrait painting is a very specialised art and it is always interesting to see what is new to offer at the Annual Exhibition of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters (11–22 May). This year's showing includes a portrait of Mrs. Thatcher by June Mendoza, and the usual batch of portraits of royalty, including an informal picture of Prince Edward with other undergraduates at Jesus College, Cambridge. Another annual exhibition is that of the Royal Watercolour Society at the Bankside Gallery (until 14 May), comprising a selection of fine contemporary works by members of the Society. Most of the works are for sale. The *Goethe Institut's* John Heartfield exhibition continues until 20 April and then moves to Glasgow and Liverpool. At the *Institut* British Jewellery and German Jewellery is being shown (until 6 July) including items produced by 25 leading West German jewellers. The National Portrait Gallery is showing photographs by Brian Griffin, one of the most exciting young photographers in Britain (until 25 June), and a retrospective exhibition of photographs by Clarence Sinclair Bull (1896–1979), including many pictures of Greta Garbo who insisted on posing exclusively for Bull for all her portraits.

Two years ago our old friend Joe Rose showed his Hebrew Alphabet at the Sternberg Centre. Since then Joe has shown his English Alphabet in Sydney, Australia and also in Los Angeles. His work was so highly appreciated there that it is to be produced in book form by one of the leading American fine art publishers.

Alice Schwab

THEATRICAL EVENT

The prestigious Gate Theatre in Notting Hill has offered Pascal Theatre Company the opportunity to present the London English-language premiere of Thomas Brasch's *MERCEDES*. Brasch's family who were Jewish fled Hitler during the war. Brasch returned to Germany as a young man and now enjoys a considerable reputation in that country.

We shall be announcing details of the production, which deserves to be patronised by all members of the refugee community.

SB's Column

Operatic Events. London will stage several events during this summer which will enhance European musical connections: for the first time, the *Komische Oper* from East Berlin will visit Covent Garden and bring German-language performance of *The Bartered Bride*, *Orpheus and Eurydice* as well as Offenbach's *Bluebeard* to the Royal Opera House between 31 July and 12 August. *Die weisse Rose*, an opera by Udo Zimmermann, based on the student revolt against Hitler in 1943 which bore this name, and treating the subject of human dignity against tyranny and dictatorial power, can be seen at The Place, Duke Street, London WC1, from 14 to 17 June. The opera has been performed throughout Europe and America over the last years, and the production by the Mecklenburg ensemble (the one coming to London) has been acclaimed as sensational.

Personalities. Peter Ustinov, the British author, actor and raconteur, has been received into the French Academie des Beaux Arts, succeeding Orson Welles who died in 1985. He is thus one of the 'Immortals' of the academy whose number of foreign members is limited to 15. Daniel Barenboim, the conductor, internationally much in demand, has relinquished the post as musical director of the Paris Bastille opera amid mutual recrimination and will, as reported, take over from Sir Georg Solti as chief conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1991.

40 years ago saw the rebirth of the German film industry. One of the films made during the year, dealing with the aftermath of war and its unspeakable horrors, was *Liebe 47* (recently shown by the London Goethe Institute in Princes Gate). The female lead was movingly played by Hilde Krahl under the direction of her late husband Wolfgang Liebeneiner.

Birthdays. Hungarian soprano Sari Barabas, one of the best-known operetta singers of her generation, equally conversant with the light opera repertoire (Konstanze in Mozart's *Seraglio*, Glyndebourne 1953) is 75 years old. Also 75 is Alexander Trojan, ever-faithful member of the Vienna 'Burg', where he started playing child parts from 1925 onwards; since the Thirties he has been uninterruptedly active at that theatre, at present playing the Rittmeister in Horvath's *Tales from the Vienna Woods*.

Obituary. Günter Reich, the German baritone, has died in Heidelberg, aged 67. His rather belated first appearance on West European operatic stages was due to the fact that Reich, of Polish-Jewish origin, emigrated to Palestine with his parents in the Thirties, where the family became farmers. After moving to Germany in 1958 he studied music and became known as a gifted singer both on stage and on the concert platform, specialising in modern music, and receiving praise for appearing in Schoenberg's *Moses and Aron* and in *Karl V* by Ernst Krenek. A much admired Sachs in *Meistersinger* and Faninal in *Rosenkavalier*, Günter Reich joined the Stuttgart opera house in 1969 where he remained until his death.

BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

'A Living Community'

In the presence of distinguished representatives of local and national religious and civic bodies, several hundred members of Belsize Square Synagogue assembled on Sunday, 12 March, for a service of thanksgiving to mark the beginning of the congregation's Golden Jubilee Year.

After the recital of the *kaddish* in memory of founders, ministers and members now no longer alive, the Chairman, H. L. Davies, welcomed all present. He was anxious to lay emphasis on the achievements of the congregation as an integral part of Anglo-Jewry and, as such, of the larger society into which its founders had set new roots. Emeritus Cantor J. Dollinger then led the *mincha* prayers, which were followed by the ceremonial procession of two torah scrolls and the solemn pronouncement of the *shehechyanu* blessing. In his address, Rabbi Rodney Mariner referred to the biblical injunction to observe the fiftieth year as a jubilee. He clearly stirred the emotions of many when he recalled the birth of his congregation and the aims of those who gave it meaning by transplanting to another country the traditions of mainstream German-Jewish worship. He saw the congregation now as much committed to its present and its future as to its past, so that its members could with conviction give thanks for having been 'kept alive, supported and brought to this time'.

The service continued with the 111th Psalm, sung by Rev. L. Fine with the combined choir to a new setting by Choir Mistress Sue Straus, organist D. Lawrence and choir member A. Levi; and it concluded with a stirring rendering of the joyful verses of Psalm 150. At the subsequent reception, thanks were expressed to all who had helped to fashion the occasion into a worthy celebration of, in the words of Her Majesty The Queen Mother in her message of good will, 'a memorable anniversary'.

D.L.M.

OSMOND HOUSE

The Bishop's Avenue
London N2

OPEN DAY

Sunday, 2nd July 1989

Doors open at 2.30pm

Fabulous Raffle prizes
and
Delicious tea and cakes!

Please put the date in
your diary now.

BERTHA BRACEY REMEMBERED

On 11 March, members of the Society of Friends and others converged on the modest 240-year old Meeting House, at Banbury, not far from where Bertha Bracey lived during her last years, to remember her life and work.

In the calm, factual and undemonstrative way which is the hallmark of Quaker gatherings one speaker after the other rose to describe his or her experience of Bertha.

Bertha became known to us through her relief work during the dark years of 1933 to 1939. She organised, she raised funds, she pleaded with the powers that be on behalf of victims irrespective of race, creed or political affiliation. (It was, therefore, fitting that the speakers included one of the 10,000 refugee children she helped bring to Britain before the war.)

But her work had not finished during that fateful and tragic period; immediately after the war she arranged the rescue of 300 orphans from Theresienstadt, and continued with her work of collecting funds and providing relief of postwar refugees.

To the younger generation Bertha Bracey has already become a legendary figure; in the country at large her place as one of the great humanitarians of our time is assured.

THE LAST EMPRESS

Although the recently deceased Zita von Habsburg, ex-Empress of Austria-Hungary, was a near-recluse since 1918 she merits a footnote in the history books — not for what she did, but what she said. On her first-ever visit to the Republic of Austria, in the mid-80s, she advanced the theory that the death of Crown Prince Rudolph at Mayerling had been engineered by Clemenceau to destabilise Austria, ally of France's enemy, Germany. Since Clemenceau's closest contact in Vienna was his sister-in-law, daughter of the influential Jewish newspaper editor Moritz Szeps, ex-empress Zita's interpretation of the mystery of Mayerling did not lack antisemitic overtones.

KINDERTRANSPORTE 1938/39

A Commemorative Concert will take place at the Royal Festival Hall, London, on Sunday, 16 July, at 11 a.m., followed by a luncheon reception between 1 and 2.30 p.m. Additional activities, scheduled for the following Monday and Tuesday, are being organised by the Spiro Institute for the Study of Jewish History and Culture. For details apply to Mrs. Bianca Gordon, c/o AJR, 9 Adamson Road, London NW3 3HX.

CAMPS INTERMENT—P.O.W.— FORCED LABOUR—KZ

I wish to buy cards, envelopes and folded post-marked letters from all camps of both world wars. Please send, registered mail, stating price, to:
14 Roslyn Hill, London NW3
PETER C. RICKENBACK

OBITUARIES

HILDE HIMMELWEIT

Born Hilde Litthauer in 1917 in Berlin, she was educated there and in Britain, to which she and her parents came in 1935. After a double first in modern languages at Newnham College, Cambridge, she read for her doctorate in psychology at London University.

She then spent three years as a clinical psychologist at the Maudsley Hospital in London, before beginning her distinguished career at the LSE in 1949. She was appointed Reader of Social Psychology in 1954 and was Professor from 1964 to 1983, when she became Emeritus Professor.

Prof. Himmelweit served as an adviser to many groups and organisations, most importantly the Planning Committee of the Open University, and the Annan Committee on the Future of Broadcasting. Her chief books were *Television and the Child* (1958), and *How Voters Decide* (1981). She also participated in the work of the Institute of Jewish Affairs.

FREDERICK KRÄUPL TAYLOR

Born in Marienbad in 1905, Frederick Kräupl qualified in medicine at Prague, practising as a physician till the Nazi takeover. Arrested on *Kristallnacht* he was incarcerated in Sachsenhausen concentration camp before coming to this country. Here, debarred at first from practising as a doctor, he worked in the laboratory of the Quakers' psychiatric hospital in York.

The experience turned his mind towards the problems of the mentally ill, and on resuming practice in 1941 he decided to concentrate on psychiatry. In 1948 he was appointed consultant at the Maudsley Hospital in London, where he took on patients with deep-seated problems at which other practitioners had baulked. He also employed modern techniques of observation of patients and pioneered a new style of treatment based on a pragmatic application of Freudian techniques. His writings on psychotherapy and psychopathology showed a rare mastery of statistics and logic. He is survived by his wife, Natalie.

CBF RESIDENTIAL CARE AND HOUSING ASSOCIATION

In order to provide nursing care for some of the residents at **Heinrich Stahl House**, we are seeking S.R.N.s with several years experience, and preferably with relevant post-registration certificates.

Shift work, including weekends and night 'on call' duties will be required, Whitley Council salary.

Are you or do you know anyone who might be interested?

Contact Mary Copsey, Head of Care, CBF
Residential Care and Housing Association,
01 209 0022.

HIDEOUS STAIN

Helen Fein *THE PERSISTING QUESTION, Current Research on Antisemitism, Vol. I, de Gruyter, 1988.*

Throughout the two millennia since the dispersal of the Jews, they have been compelled to live as strangers within pagan, Islamic and Christian societies. Relations with the host culture varied with changes in social, economic and religious circumstances. Within Christendom the position of the Jews was particularly complex. The Jewish prophetic tradition, and the Israelite God, were both acknowledged by Christianity as the root of its experience. Yet the Jews were rejected, accused of deicide — the murder of Jesus — and hence the betrayal of that God. This anomalous condition goes far to explain both the acceptance of the Jews within Christian society — faltering and inconsistent though it was — and also the continuous history of antisemitism. For nearly two thousand years antisemitism has been endemic in Europe and throughout this time an accumulated store of myths, images and stereotypes have created a readily tapped resource for the effective projection of fears and the displacement of social conflicts and anxieties having their origin in conditions mostly independent of Jewish causation.

The provenance for the specifically Western version of antisemitism lies in a theological polemic, in particular on the part of the Church Fathers, who sought to justify the Church and to separate it from its embarrassingly close connections to its Jewish sources. In Rosemary

Ruether's view this polemic 'turns the Jewish Scriptures which actually contain the record of Jewish self-criticism into a remorseless denunciation of the Jews, while the Church, in turn, is presented as totally perfect and loses the prophetic tradition of self-criticism!' The Church is thereby represented as the legitimate fulfilment of the Mosaic Law and the Old Testament scrutinised for intimations of future Christian consummation.

An elaborate ideology thus legitimates the Church and provides a justification for a historical animus which solidifies the Christian in-group through venom directed at the Jewish out-group.

'The Medieval period ended' writes Rosemary Ruether, 'with the Jewish community reduced to political servitude, social ignominy and ghettoization, economic ruin, vulnerability to violence from below and arbitrary exploitation and expulsion . . . Above this whole development there reigned the theological image of the Jews'.

The Jewish condition remained thus, with no remissions, until the early modern age and the beginnings of democracy and emancipation.

What then is the contemporary, i.e. post-Holocaust condition? Examining this question Frederick Weil discerns three types of hostility towards the Jews: (1) traditional folk prejudice and religious defamation, (2) political antisemitism and (3) hostility produced by inter-group conflict.

Summarising recent survey data, Weil concludes that there has been a long-term decline in antisemitic attitudes in West Germany, both among elite groups (doctors, lawyers, etc.) and in the wider population. Comparing four countries, U.S.A., West Germany, Austria and France, Weil concludes that all these countries registered declining rates of political antisemitic attitudes with the following estimated percentages of each population registering such attitudes: U.S.A. — 22 per cent, West Germany — 37 per cent, Austria — 42 per cent and France — 22 per cent (1970). In general, the better educated tend to be less antisemitic than the less educated; and the young less than the old. However, variables other than the length of full-time education or age, appear to be responsible for the effect of education on attitudes: 'Thus education had the strongest effect of reducing political antisemitism in the United States, a long-term liberal democracy with a small traditional sector and important religious pluralism: the weakest effect in Austria, a short-term liberal democracy with a large traditional sector and a religiously homogeneous population; and a middling effect in Germany and France, which are mixed cases in this respect'.

Thus political culture, the degree of religious pluralism and the strength or weakness of traditionalist sectors (e.g. peasantry) are also significant.

An important factor in the W. European scene is that no major political party espouses, or dares espouse, political antisemitism. Unfortunately,

this is not necessarily the case elsewhere; official antisemitism has been a feature of Soviet policy since World War II. Two periods stand out: 1948-53, the time of the anti-cosmopolitan campaign; then, after 1968 the revival of nationalism within the U.S.S.R., the desire of Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel and Israel's victory in the Six Day War combined to intensify official antisemitism. Through cinema and television, indoctrination in the army, lectures, fiction and 'scientific' criticism of Judaism and Zionism, the Soviet public has been inundated with antisemitic propaganda. (Whether Gorbachov's Russia will be different is yet to be demonstrated.)

The other focus of contemporary antisemitism is in the Arab world. Here the genetic factors are somewhat different. 'The distinctive feature of Arab antisemitism is that from the beginning it was not directed against the Jews as a minority, whether as individuals or as a group living in the Arab countries, but against Israel and the Jews living outside the Arab world'. Arab attitudes are superficial, but intense and aggressive. In the consciousness of many Arabs Israel and the Jews have acquired the repulsive characteristics projected upon Jews in their European travail. The diminution of this hatred waits upon a settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict.

Antisemitism is a hideous stain on the history of the West and a persisting tragedy for the Jews. Recent events have made it a paradigm of human perversity. No further reason is required for giving it our attention. *The Persisting Question*, first of a projected five-volume series enables us to confront it with the rational intelligence it demands, and so to contribute toward its diminution.

HAROLD FREEDMAN



BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

51 BELSIZE SQUARE, NW3

We offer a traditional style of religious service with Cantor, Choir and Organ

Further details can be obtained from our synagogue secretary

Telephone 794-3949

Minister: Rabbi Rodney J. Mariner
Cantor: Rev Lawrence H. Fine

Regular services: Friday evenings at 6.30 pm,
Saturday mornings at 11 am

Religion school: Sundays at 10 am to 1 pm

Space donated by Pafra Limited

Israel's
Very finest Wines

SHIPPED BY

HOUSE OF HALLGARTEN

YARDEN and GAMLA
AVAILABLE NOW

Please write or phone for full information

HOUSE OF HALLGARTEN
53 HIGHGATE ROAD
LONDON NW5 1RR

01-267 2041

A SMOKING GUN

Sirhan Sirhan . . . it trips off the tongue like a battlecry, but it is the name of an assassin who will long be remembered. In the summer of 1968 the Palestinian teenager of that name shot the man who would almost certainly have been President of the United States, namely Robert Kennedy, the younger brother, and natural successor, to the assassinated John F. Kennedy. Since the election primary, in which Bobby Kennedy had been taking California by storm, Sirhan Sirhan has been imprisoned (his life saved by the almost simultaneous abolition of the death penalty).

Immured, and thus in oblivion — except for his ineradicable role in history — he was suddenly brought to the notice of the viewing public in March by the *Timewatch* programme, when for an hour he spoke his mind under the prodding of David Frost.

I found it absolutely fascinating viewing. One was looking at a terrific drama à deux, with Sirhan trying to explain and justify himself, while as the same time expressing remorse. I thought he was fully aware that he had his place in history to consider. He seemed to feel he had more in common with Gabriel Princip, the assassin of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, who helped trigger the First World War, than with the latter-day terrorism of his confrères in the Middle East.

The interplay between Sirhan and Frost was reminiscent of a game of chess.

Not that the viewer was in any doubt about what was being played for here. The programme had been introduced by the redoubtable Alistair Cooke. It was understood that Sirhan was chiefly trying to establish his right to parole; he was soon

to go before a parole board for the tenth(!) time. And so he spoke firmly and clearly. He presented an attractive picture, now in his mid-thirties, a nice-looking, well-spoken man (he might easily have been a Jewish American) who confessed his guilt, but pleaded for his right to the mercy of parole after 20 years 'like every criminal, political or otherwise'. In fact, in purely television drama terms he had the better of Frost; he simply seemed more likeable than the professional. (It says something for the U.S. prison service to have preserved a human being so well for 20 years.)

Robert Kennedy was one of Sirhan's great heroes. He saw him as a champion of all the oppressed. But the Presidential candidate had bitterly disappointed the Palestinian when he promised Israel fifty Phantom jets 'for killing Arabs'. 'For self-defence, as it was formulated', interjected Frost. Sirhan assented with an incongruously bland smile. And thus his gun found its target that day. . . . 'That's life', he said. 'That's death' was Frost's verdict. And again Sirhan assented.

No doubt it was great television. As to the question concerning the wisdom of putting it on at all — this was discussed next day in Open Air on BBC 1. Here, Alan Yentob, Controller of BBC 2, defended his decision, seconded from America by producer Daniel Goldfarb. Their standpoint: the testament of an assassin live on TV is a great historical scoop. So it is, but one must not overlook that it was also a propaganda scoop for Sirhan Sirhan. It must be admitted that he did not overtly bad-mouth Jewry or even Israel, and, again curiously, both Messrs. Goldfarb and

Yentob belong to the other side (from Sirhan's point of view).

Did the exposure help his case? I doubt it, despite the sympathy he might have engendered. He denied that he had any intention of playing the hero if freed. But one feels that such a role would be slapped on him even if he genuinely did not seek it. In the U.S. the programme elicited 200,000 call-ins; 75 per cent voted for continued imprisonment. Here reactions were muted, but one writer in the *Independent* advised the authorities 'to throw away the key'.

JOHN ROSSALL

UNCERTAIN FLAVOUR OF THE MONTH

In Bernice Rubens' novel *Madame Sousatzka* the piano teacher of that name was a Russian Jewess and the infant prodigy she coaches a German-Jewish refugee. In the screen version launched at a Royal Film Performance in March the teacher had become Russian-American and the pupil, more surprisingly, a young Indian immigrant.

This may lead one to surmise that German-Jewish refugee characters are *déjà vu* in show biz — a notion, however, contradicted by the TV series *Behaving Badly*, likewise transmitted in March. *Behaving Badly* featured two elderly refugee ladies one of whom, *incredibile dictu*, wore a Tyrolean hat with matching costume in Hampstead. The other was not only portrayed as an archetypal Jewish mother that made Mrs. Portnoy appear relatively normal, but the otherwise accomplished actress Gwen Watford endowed her with an accent that bore no resemblance to speech ever uttered within earshot of the Finchley Road.

WALM LANE NURSING HOME

Walm Lane is an established Registered Nursing Home providing the highest standards of nursing care for all categories of long and short-term medical and post-operative surgical patients. Lifts to all floors. All rooms have nurse call systems, telephone and colour television. Choice of menu, kosher meals available. Licensed by Brent Health Authority and as such recognised for payment by private medical insurance schemes.

For a true and more detailed picture of what we offer, please ask one of your fellow members who has been, or is at present here, or contact Matron directly at

141 Walm Lane, London NW2

Telephone 450 8832

HILLCREST LODGE

40 Shoot-up Hill
London NW2 3QB

HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

Beautifully furnished Double and Single Rooms at Reasonable Rates. Qualified Nurses always in attendance.

Please telephone Matron:
452 6201

BELSIZE SQUARE GUEST HOUSE

24 BELSIZE SQUARE, N.W.3
Tel: 01-794 4307 or 01-435 2557

MODERN ROOMS. SELF-CATERING RESIDENT HOUSEKEEPER. HOLIDAY MODERATE TERMS. NEAR SWISS COTTAGE STATION

ANTIQUE
FURNITURE
AND OBJECTS
BOUGHT

Good prices given

PETER BENTLEY
ANTIQUES

22 Connaught Street, London, W2
Tel: 01-723 9394

R. & G. (ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS) LTD.

199b Belsize Road, NW6
624 2646/328 2646

Members: E.C.A.
N.I.C.E.I.C.

WHY NOT
ADVERTISE IN AJR
INFORMATION?

Please telephone
the Advertisement Dept.
01-483 2536

FOR THOSE YOU CARE MOST ABOUT



Springdene

A modern nursing home with 26 yrs of excellence in health care to the community. Licensed by Barnet area health authority and recognised by BUPA & PPP.

cares . . . HYDROTHERAPY & PHYSIOTHERAPY provided by full time chartered physiotherapists for inpatients and outpatients.

SPRINGDENE 55 Oakleigh Park North, Whetstone, London N.20
01-446 2117

SPRINGVIEW 6-10 Crescent Road, Enfield. Our completely new purpose built hotel style retirement home. All rooms with bathroom en-suite from £305 per week. 01-446 2117.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES

FAMILY EVENTS	First 15 words free of charge, £2.00 per 5 words thereafter.
CLASSIFIED	£2.00 per five words.
BOX NUMBERS	£3.00 extra.
DISPLAY per single column inch	16 ems (3 columns per page) £8.00 12 ems (4 columns per page) £7.00

FAMILY EVENTS

Acknowledgement

Wilens:—Greta Wilens wishes to thank all her friends here and abroad for their sympathy on the death of her beloved sister Else Wilens.

Birthdays

Porta:—Mr Rudolf L. Porta, from Berlin, will be celebrating his 90th birthday on 8 May at his home in Wembley.

Reimann:—Elly Reimann. Happy 97th birthday wishes. With love from Irene, Egon, Barbara, John, Sharon and Nicole.

Segall:—Happy birthday to our Hon. President Dora Segall! Warmest congratulations to you on your 85th birthday on 1 June, all the very best wishes for your health and happiness and thank you so very much for all you have done for us for so many years. The AJR Club.

Deaths

Bett:—Eva Bett, widow of Lucian, died 29 March 1989. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Elboughan:—Siddy Joan Elboughan, widow of H. H. Elboughan (Hans Elbogen) and mother of Evelyn Cibula, died very peacefully on 14 April 1989, at Osmond House, where she had three years of devoted care.

Manasse:—Mrs Margaret Manasse, née Lewyn, passed away peacefully on 29 March 1989, aged 86, after a long and distressing illness. Sadly missed by her family and friends.

CLASSIFIED

Miscellaneous

ELECTRICIAN. City and Guilds qualified. All domestic work undertaken. Y. Steinreich. Tel: 455 5262.

REVLON MANICURIST. Will visit your home. Phone 01-445 2915.

I AM a collector who is looking for old Jewish and Palestine picture postcards. Even single cards purchased. David Pearlman, 36 Asmunds Hill, London NW11. Telephone 455 2149.

LICHTERFELDE! Anyone with interesting memories please contact-writer on Lichterfelde book. Box 1162.

OWNER of 3-bedroom bungalow, Ramat Gan, Israel, would like to

exchange for a flat in NW London July and August. Tel. 455 0776 8-9.30 am.

Situations Vacant

LADY CLEANER two hours per week. £5 per hour. Kilburn area. 328 7578 before 12 noon.

MATURE LADY required to cook and shop four days a week from 12.30 to 3 p.m. 722 0314 (office hours) 837 4948 (all other times).

WANTED help with cooking for one lady three times a week. Telephone 458 1836.

For Sale

'NIAGARA' massage bed for arthritis sufferers. Original cost £900, for sale at £300. Telephone 01-624 8098 (10 am-1 pm).

Personal

WIDOW, youngish 60, ex-Berlin, seeks compatible gentleman for shared outings and affectionate companionship. Box 1161.

Information Required

HAHN. Looking for Lore or Laura Hahn. Kurt Hahn, 57 Serra Way, San Rafael, California 94903.

HOFRICHTER. Would anyone having any information about family P. Hofrichter, of Köln, in 1920s, particularly about their son and daughter, please contact Sophie Caplan, 5 Woonona Road, Northbridge, Sydney 2063, NSW, Australia, Tel. 02 958 6317.

KAPORVITZ. Would anyone knowing the whereabouts of Mrs. Doris Kaporvitz and her daughter

Hannah from Königsberg, formerly East Prussia, sister and niece of Miss Marga Silberstein of London NW6, please contact Laura Howe, AJR office, 01-483 2536.

TISCHLER. Descendants of Daniel Khaimovich Tishler, born 1880, emigrated to England beginning of the century from Slutsk, Russia. Was a carpenter and lived in Liverpool or London. Please contact Jewish Refugees Committee 01-387 3925.

SUTTON HOSTEL. Would the following 'boys', formerly of the Sutton Hostel, Surrey, please contact the Jewish Refugees Committee 01-387 3925: Strik, Boehm, Strelzin and Metger, etc.

GOETHE SCHULE. Would the following, former pupils of the Goethe Schule, Berlin (Studienrat Gruber), please contact the Jewish Refugees Committee 01-387 3925: Warwar, Naschelski, Nelson, Trachtenberg, Steinberg, etc.

ALTERATIONS

OF ANY KIND TO LADIES' FASHIONS

I also design and make children's clothes

West Hampstead area
328 6571

'SHIREHALL'

Licensed by the Borough of Barnet
Home for the elderly, convalescent and incapacitated

- * Single rooms comfortably appointed
- * 24-hour care attendance
- * Excellent cuisine
- * Long and short-term stay

Telephone:
Matron 01-202 7411 or
Administrator 078 42 52056

93 Shirehall Park,
Hendon NW4
(near Brent Cross)

FOR FAST EFFICIENT FRIDGE & FREEZER REPAIRS

7-day service
All parts guaranteed



J. B. Services

Tel. 202-4248
until 9 pm

SATELLITE INSTALLATION SALES & REPAIRS

Television - Videos - Aerials - Radios - Stereos - Electrical Appliances

NEW & SECONDHAND TV's/VIDEOS FOR SALE

Tel: 01-909 3169 Answerphone
AVI'S TV SERVICE

A. EISENBERG

ORIENTAL RUGS
Bought, and Sold

● Saturdays and Wednesdays
Stalls outside York Arcade,
80 Islington High St, N1.
(Opp Jct Liverpool Rd and
Upper Street)

● Sundays
Stalls outside 21 Chalk Farm
Road, NW1.

● Mondays, Tuesdays and
Fridays
Visit our stockrooms any time
by arrangement.

DETAILS

01-267 1841
5-9 pm or
before 8 am

● Repairs undertaken

IRENE FASHIONS

formerly of Swiss Cottage

Sizes 10 to 48" hips

invite you to see the new Spring and Summer Collections of
Dresses, Coordinates, Jackets, Slacks, Shirts and a snappy
range of Blouses and Tops.

For that special occasion, something unusual, as always.

For an early appointment kindly ring before 11 am
or after 7 pm 346 9057.

ANTHONY J. NEWTON
& CO

SOLICITORS

22 Fitzjohns Avenue, Hampstead, NW3 5NB

INTERNATIONAL LAW AGENTS
with Offices in: Europe/Jersey/USA

SPECIALISTS in all Legal Work:
Conveyancing/Wills/Probate/Trusts/Company
and Litigation

Telephone: 01 435 5351/01 794 9696

GERMANY'S HOLOCAUST LEGACY

On 16 March, Eric Moonman, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, chaired a public meeting of the Yad Vashem Charitable Trust at which this journal's editor, author and historian Richard Grunberger, delivered the third and final lecture in the series 'Our Legacy?'. Dealing with 'the German Debate about the Holocaust', the speaker placed the Nazi treatment of the Jews into the perspective of post-war German politics, historical scholarship and public consciousness. Examining first the political aspect of the West German debate (East Germany having conveniently 'contracted out' of it), he considered, in turn, the major figures on the political scene in the Federal Republic since its establishment; and he reached the conclusion that only two, former Chancellor Brandt and President von Weizsäcker, could be regarded as wholeheartedly willing to accept the German people's Holocaust legacy: others were either cleverly ambivalent, like Adenauer, or clumsily so, like Kohl. Kiesinger and Lübke had a tainted past which shortened their tenure of office and reduced their influence. Historical scholars had for generations been involved in an internecine struggle between two schools of academic thought, with the traditionalist, nationalistic

camp locked in intellectual combat with liberal thinkers. Post-war teaching of history in West German schools remained for more than a decade under the influence of the dominant patriotic orthodoxy, which tended to describe the Nazi period as no more than a temporary aberration from which the true German national ethos could emerge unaffected and unstained by guilt. The German public itself was, in the late forties and fifties, too preoccupied with its immediate concerns for survival and reconstruction to take much interest in matters 'best forgotten'. Indeed, the latter part of that period saw the beginnings of the self-exculpation industry which sought to minimise the extent of the Holocaust and, even to justify it on various spurious grounds. Only the

publication of Fritz Fischer's 'Der Griff nach der Weltmacht' with its denunciation, among other myths, of the World War I *Dolchstoßlegende*, together with the 'student revolt' of the late sixties, brought about a significant change in public awareness and response, not least on the part of the young who now began to question the actions of their elders in a spirit of reproof. This was, however, followed before long by academic reaction, led by Nolte's 'asiatic atrocities' theory. More subtle than the crude denial of the Holocaust itself, and hence more dangerous, this 'school' soon found adherents among those anxious to revive among young Germans uncritical pride in their nation's past. Luckily, there are also scholarly opponents and, therefore, 'the debate goes on'.

After a spirited and informative discussion, during which the lecturer answered many interesting questions, Professor John Fox expressed to Richard Grunberger the thanks of an appreciative audience for a lucid and skilful exposition of a highly complex theme. D.L.M.

R & W CARS

(Russell Heymann)

Courteous and Friendly Drivers
No Distance too Small or too Great!

Please book in advance for a
Guaranteed Service

Tel. 450 3020
(Answering machine available)

'A HEAVENLY CALL'

A memorial plaque to Max Bodenheimer recently unveiled at Cologne that pays tribute to his pioneering work for Zionism in Germany bears the inscription 'A heavenly call rang in my ears: save our people lest it die!'

DAWSON HOUSE HOTEL

- Free Street Parking in front of the Hotel
- Full Central Heating ● Free Laundry
- Free Dutch-Style Continental Breakfast

72 CANFIELD GARDENS

Near Underground Sta. Finchley Rd,
LONDON, N.W.6.
Tel: 01-624 0079

AUDLEY REST HOME

(Hendon)

for Elderly Retired Gentlefolk

Single and Double Rooms with wash basins and central heating. TV lounge and dining-room overlooking lovely garden.

24-hour care—long and short term.

Licensed by the Borough of Barnet

Enquiries 202 2773/8967

WHY NOT ADVERTISE IN AJR INFORMATION?

Please telephone
the Advertisement Dept.

01-483 2536

C. H. WILSON

Carpenter
Painter and Decorator
French Polisher
Antique Furniture Repaired
Tel: 452 8324

MAPESBURY LODGE

(Licensed by the Borough of Brent)

for the elderly, convalescent and partly incapacitated.

Lift to all floors.

Luxurious double and single rooms. Colour TV, h/c, central heating, private telephones, etc., in all rooms. Excellent kosher cuisine. Colour TV lounge. Open visiting. Cultivated Gardens.

Full 24-hour nursing care.

Please telephone
sister-in-charge, 450 4972
17 Mapesbury Road, N.W.2

Buecher in deutscher Sprache, Bilder und Autographen

sucht

A. W. MYTZE

1 The Ridg, London NW11.

Tel: 01-586-7546

Ich bitte um detaillierte Angebote

ALTERATIONS

Carried out efficiently. Also customers own material made up.

Willesden area
Tel: 459 5817

WANTED

OLD BOOKS

pref. illustrated,
scholarly, or Jewish, any kind!

MRS. E. M. SCHIFF

Tel: 205 2905

B. HIRSCHLER— JEWISH BOOKSELLER

Jewish Books in any language
and Hebrew Books

Highest prices paid

Telephone: 01-800 6395

GERMAN BOOKS BOUGHT

Art, Literature, typography,
generally pre-war non classical

B. HARRISON

The Village Bookshop
46 Belsize Lane, N.W.3
Tel: 01-794 3180

DRESSMAKER

HIGHLY QUALIFIED
VIENNA TRAINED

St. Johns Wood Area
Phone for appointment:
01-328 8718

TORRINGTON HOMES

MRS. PRINGSHEIM, S.R.N.,
MATRON

For Elderly, Retired and Convalescent

(Licensed by Borough of Barnet)

- *Single and Double Rooms.
- *H/C Basins and CH in all rooms.
- *Gardens, TV and reading rooms.
- *Nurse on duty 24 hours.
- *Long and short term, including trial period if required.

From £180 per week
01-445 1244 Office hours
01-455 1335 other times
39 Torrington Park, N.12

RELIABLE & CAPABLE PLUMBER

offers a complete 24-hour
plumbing service. Small
jobs welcome. Please ring

JOHN ROSENFELD

on 837 4569

ADVERTISEMENT RATES

FAMILY EVENTS
First 15 words free of charge,
£2.00 per 5 words thereafter.

CLASSIFIED
£2.00 per five words.

BOX NUMBERS
£3.00 extra.

DISPLAY
per single column inch
16 ems (3 columns per page) £8.00
12 ems (4 columns per page) £7.00

ANOTHER ALIEN PIONEER STORY PART 2

(Continued from the March issue)

After the Americans and British landed in North Africa, we saw our chance of escaping legally. We left the coalmine and after 14 hours trainride, arrived in Algiers, our camp an old empty garage. I will never forget our first meals, white sugar, tea with milk (even if it was tinned milk) white bread and butter. The first time I had spam we all dug in like hungry wolves, and, pleasant surprise, we could eat as much as we liked.

I became Private 13809265 of the 331 Co. Pioneer Corps. The day after we received our uniform, a typical English gentleman — immaculate suit, shirt, tie and trilby hat — addressed us. He was Harold McMillan, the British Representative in North Africa, who later became Prime Minister. He discovered that none of us understood English, and immediately changed to faultless German. My active army life was unfortunately very short; after 29 days, as I worked (in a depot in Algiers) on one of the boxes of captured German war material, a booby trap — actually an anti-tank mine — exploded. My friend Oswald Grunewald who was 4 yards away, died instantly, and I, although only half a yard from the box, am still alive. I arrived in Maison Carré hospital at midday. As my temperature was well over the limit of 42° in theory I was dead, but after 11 hours they found out that I just would not crack up, so they started operating. I woke up in a ward, and for a few days I was blind; one of the most pleasant moments of my life came when they removed the bandages from my face and I could see a long ward with about 40 beds.

One of my pals visited me and said 'Do you know the long-distance jump world record of Jesse Owen?' I said 'Oh yes 1936, Olympiade Berlin, 8.13 metres'. He said 'You broke his record by 2 metres and you did not even run'. I said 'that's good news, the record should stand for a long time'.

Only very badly injured soldiers stayed in our ward. VIPs always visited us first. King George VI and Gen. Alexander paid a visit while I was a patient.

After 4 weeks something happened that changed my whole life. The sister gave me new bandages on both legs and a soldier brought me a uniform. I got dressed and a paper label was fixed on my left top pocket marked U.K. The whole thing was strange and meaningless; as I could not speak English I could not make head or tail of it. Somebody directed me on to a truck with about 40 others. We drove away about 1 mile from the hospital, I waved to one of my friends outside my company buildings. Next, I was directed onto a big passenger ship. Bewildered and confused, I could not figure out anything. In less than one hour we were out on the open sea. After Gibraltar we formed a huge convoy, difficult to count, maybe 100 ships. Escorted by many Royal Navy craft for 11 days, we had daily boat drills; the major in charge of our troop ship stuck to his own

rule book. After 5 days I cut out the boat drill, I stayed underneath the long table which was my bed. Strangely nobody noticed my absence. We had heavy storms for a few days, half the soldiers had white or green faces, they spent more time in the toilets than on deck.

England bound by mistake

We docked. I saw no skyscraper, so it could not be New York. Short drive to a dirty railway station, there I found the name Liverpool. My first shock came in the station: a woman pushing a big trolley in dark blue pants and a cigarette in her mouth. (In Vienna no woman ever smoked in the street or wore slacks). The next stop Prestatyn, Wales, an ex-holiday camp converted for army use. After finding my wooden hut with 4 beds, I went out to the toilet and had the shock of my life, I cannot describe the horrible state of it. In the Foreign Legion we had trenches with wooden planks across, but apart from the thousands of flies, most of them friendly, it was fairly clean in comparison. Next shock: as I tried to get out of the camp a 6-foot plus redcap standing on a rostrum called out 'eh you' and pointed out that I must polish the brass of my belt. I had never done any polishing. I rubbed it in the sand as much as possible, and when I tried to pass again, he found that my cap badge needed polishing. Anyhow I went back, found a spot in the fence, climbed over it and had some peace of mind. I walked to the station, I wanted to listen how the natives spoke. Strangely, they talked in a funny language which did not sound at all like English. Then at the Post Office I had a silly argument, I tried to explain that the clerk gave me too much money. I lost the argument. (How was I to know that a shilling had 12 pence and a pound 20 shillings). I entered a pub; in most countries in Europe they play cards, but here, strangely, in a corner, two men were throwing some sort of darts on to a round board from 2 yards' distance.

Next morning: march for breakfast at 8 a.m., left right, left right, but I had to fall out of the ranks because my leg caused me some trouble. As the sergeant screamed at me, I lifted my right trouser leg and when he saw my bloodsoaked bandage he almost carried me into the dining hall. Afterwards the same sergeant slowly walked me to the M.O. Instead of treatment, the doctor, who spoke fluent French, explained that I was entitled to 28 days' leave, with treatment twice a week. At the end of the leave, I would need to go to hospital and undergo 2 operations. In September 1943 I entered Hammersmith Hospital. One afternoon a Red Cross Sister tried to explain how difficult it was to get coupons for my wool. Wool?? Suddenly it clicked: the Chief Surgeon had decided I must make finger exercises and learn knitting. After the first few attempts I managed quite well. (For outings from that hospital I was given a light blue suit, white shirt

with the brightest of red ties. Wherever I went in this outfit they would not let me pay: bus, cinema, theatre, even teashops). 5 weeks later I was transferred to a military hospital in Hounslow, where I had a knee operation, then to a convalescent home in Kingston. There the P.T. instructor organised a game with 3 wooden sticks, a small one across on top, and 20 yards opposite the same set of sticks. Unknowingly I became a cricketer. Next day, although my leg was still bandaged, I seemed to be quite a success at football. Eventually I was sent to Buxton, where there were 3 camps. I stayed for 3-4 months in each of them and became one of the oldest members in Buxton, because within weeks everybody else returned to their company. I had no company, but settled in and made the best of the strange situation, I even learnt old-time dancing, the military two-step, the valeta, etc. After half a year my English had improved so much that I could say 'Do you come here often?'.

In mid-'44 I had an operation on my hand, and early in 1945 I left Buxton and was posted to Gretna Green, near Carlisle. Happy reunion: my Company from Italy had arrived 10 days before with all my pals in good shape.

Victory Day, demob in November 1945. Now comes the icing on the cake. Postwar, during 12 years in the Merchant Navy, I made friends with a fellow ship's steward who changed his name from Thomas Hicks to Tommy Steele. When he appeared in *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* at Liverpool, I worked for him as assistant stage manager. We were both nightbirds and often went to the Press Club opposite Liverpool's Lime Street Station. One night I told a balding journalist at the bar that I must be the only foreigner who came to England by mistake. When I finished my tale he burst out laughing: 'I know the drunken idiot who was responsible — myself! I was sergeant in the administration office at Maison Carré hospital. Have a drink with me, Kurt, and accept my apologies; yours was not the only muddle I caused'.

Well, all that is past history. The time will come when after the final command 'Stand at ease' I shall be lowered six foot down. Meeting my old army comrades in the hereafter lots of stories will be told; this is just one of them.

KURT LITTNER

Jackman Trisk

associates

Chartered surveyors,
valuers and estate agents

26 Conduit Street
London W1R 9TA

Telephone 01-409 0771 Telex 8814861

We buy sell let value survey and manage
commercial property for Clients