

AJR *Information*

Volume XLV No. 11
November 1990

£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss . . .

SA's loss is GB's
gain p. 2

The Volunteers
Department p. 8

The ability to
mourn p. 12

Concurrent crises

Hostages – temporary and permanent

As the Gulf crisis modulates into the stage of phoney peace the hostage issue has reached an impasse. The same applies to the debate about whether Saddam can be compared to Hitler. In as far as Iraq wants to be a regional superpower whereas Nazi Germany aimed at global domination, the comparison obviously doesn't hold – but it does in many other respects. Inside his country Saddam's combination of murderous ruthlessness, brainwashing and welfare statism has produced a pliable population, and in the wider Arab world his Herostratic potential for destroying the established order elicits the adulation of such would-be beneficiaries of chaos as fundamentalists and militant Palestinians. Then there are the parallels between Iraq's 'historic' claim to Kuwait and the

ein-Volk-ein-Reich chorus of the Nazis, and of oil-rich Iraq's self-image as a have-not nation and Hitler's depiction of Germany as 'proletarianised' by Versailles.

Then there is the ultimate overlap between Saddamism and Hitlerism: the demonisation of the Jew. As ever, historical truth is stood on its head. Baghdad portrays America as manipulated by the 'Jewish lobby' in the interest of Israel, whereas in 1957 the U.S.A. forced Israel to withdraw from Sinai. It likewise compares Western forces in the Gulf to medieval Crusaders, despite the fact that after capturing Jerusalem the Christians slaughtered Jews and Muslims alike. For all that, a section of Western opinion accepts the notion of Jewish – *recte* Israeli – part-culpability for the current turmoil in the Middle East, though Arafat's support for Iraq seems to provide retrospective justification for the Israeli cabinet's veto on contacts with the PLO.

Be that as it may, Israel, and by extension Jewry, is again in the focus of world attention. By unfortunate coincidence the opening round of the Gulf crisis vied for newspaper space with the concluding stage of the Guinness trial. The most distressing aspect of that Marathon affair was the well-publicised Jewish background of the four defendants (although the chief accused professed the Anglican faith, and had – a bizarre touch, this – transgressed the law in the service of a family connected with the far Right in British politics).

Miserabile dictu the Jewish dimension of the Guinness scandal even extended to the fact that the man whose evidence set off the DTI inspector's investigation of the firm's affairs was the well-known U.S. insider trader Ivan Boesky.

Although the nature of the offence committed may have eluded the layman – can there be a crime if there is no injured party? – in the public



Sabbath outside Fürth synagogue, 1800.

continued on page 2

Internalised Judeophobia

German TV recently broadcast a programme about the hundred and thirty German-Jewish children aged six to fourteen who were given asylum at the Rothschild chateau La Guette in 1939. Asked to write an essay with the title 'Why Hitler hates the Jews' many of them described Jewry as dirty, rich, devious and cunning. □

Casus belly

The Israeli Supreme Court has ruled that a belly dancer had the right to perform in Jerusalem despite a rabbinical ban on her. After the hearing a lawyer commented 'from now on the rabbis will only be able to inspect flesh that stands on four legs'. □

Straight-talking scholar

Alphons Silbermann, Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Cologne has turned eighty. In 1958 he famously introduced his inaugural lecture with the words *Jews have hook noses, curly hair, flat feet and they stink. Step up to the platform: you have never seen a Jew. Here I am.* □

Echo of 1919

The German film director Hans Jürgen Syberberg has published a book in which he describes the Bundesrepublik as dominated by an unholy alliance of Jews and Leftists. He dubs German postwar culture *Kunst ohne Volk*, and identifies Adorno, Bloch, Benjamin, Marcuse and Kracauer as its 'founding fathers'. □

History of German Jewry

An international team of nine historians, assembled by the Leo Baeck Institute, has embarked on a four-volume history of the Jews in German-speaking lands since the 17th century. Publication, in three languages (English, German and Hebrew) is planned for 1995, the 40th anniversary of the Leo Baeck Institute. Funding is provided by the Volkswagen foundation, the German Ministry of Research and Technology, the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and the Deutsche Bank. □

Waldheim syndrome

Research at Vienna's *Institut für Konfliktforschung* have concluded that the slow, but steady, diminution of antisemitism in Austria which got under way a decade ago came to an abrupt halt in 1986. □

Profile

SA's loss is GB's gain



Mr Werner Mattes. Chairman of the CBF Residential Care and Housing Association.

People who have worked genuinely hard all their lives have no time to be pompous about their achievements, and Mr Werner Mattes, Chairman of the CBF Residential Care and Housing Association, is not one to rest upon his laurels. This position requires a great deal of time and energy; Mr Mattes has plenty of energy and he makes the time.

Extensive forward planning is required to enable the Housing Association to continue to offer the best possible residential care facilities, so that the residents of its Homes (admissions to which are handled by the AJR) can live out their last years in comfort and dignity regardless of their ability to pay. No one is more aware of the magnitude and importance of this work than Mr Mattes.

Born in Neuwied am Rhein in 1924, he arrived in England, aged twelve, with his parents in 1936. The family had been en route for South Africa, but Mr Mattes senior changed his mind after a brief trip to London.

Although financial restrictions put a temporary end to his education at the age of 14. Werner Mattes was to spend nine of the next ten years taking part-time courses in the evenings. Upon leaving school he entered the hotel trade, often working 'split shifts' from 12 a.m. until 12 p.m. During this period he spent his spare time learning French. He continued to follow this heavy schedule until his sixteenth birthday, when he was interned on the Isle of Man.

When he was released he joined his father in the meat trade, from which the

Mattes family had been earning a living for 300 years. For some seven years Werner and his father were in the employ of E. Barnet & Co. Kosher Butchers. During this time the young Mr Mattes studied commerce and economics at evening classes where he made many friends; he retains fond memories of his fellow students.

In his spare time he discovered that he had a natural entrepreneurial flair. Having noted the considerable difference between prices in the antique shops of Hampstead and those in the junk shops of Chalk Farm, he decided to enter the world of commerce. Investing in a tin of metal polish he scoured the junk shops for silver cigarette cases. By applying the polish to the items and transporting them to Hampstead he increased their value considerably. Through this complex system he supplemented his income.

In 1946 Mr Mattes Senior bought a small business manufacturing meat products. The business expanded, slowly at first, but very rapidly in the period following the de-rationing of meat in the mid-fifties. By 1958 the company had become large enough to attract the attention of the giant Unilever Group. They purchased the company. Werner stayed on to administer it. By the time he retired from Unilever in 1986 he was the Chairman of their U.K. meat division (which incorporates household names like Lawson's, Richmond, Wall's and, of course, Matteson's Meat Products). He is now a Commissioner and Deputy Chairman of the British Beef and Livestock Commission.

In 1958 he married his wife, Susan, they have three children.

Some three years ago he succeeded Ludwig Spiro as Chairman of the CBF Residential Care and Housing Association. He continues to work hard with good humour, warmth and considerable charm. □ M.N.

continued from page 1

perception the stereotype of the rapacious Jew was undoubtedly reinforced. Thus, while the issue of the hostages in the Gulf agitated the British government and public alike, the Jews re-learned the age-old painful lessons that *we are all hostages for one another*. Is one being cynical in offering up thanks for the fact that the Guinness trial took place between the collapse of Barlow Clowes and that of Polly Peck – two scandals that, mercifully, were totally *judenrein*?

Reviews

A 'belated diary'?

Frederick G. Cohn: *SIGNALS. A Young Refugee's Flight from Germany in the Thirties. United Writers 1990. £13.95*

All of us could write a book. Refugees more so than most. But few can have quite the story to tell, nor the gift to tell it quite as vividly, as passionately, as the author of this autobiographical account of a Jewish boy's escape from the Nazis and his adventurous journey to safety in England.

Martin, as he calls himself in the book, leaves his native Breslau in 1937, together with his parents and his elder brother. They hope to start a new life in Czechoslovakia: the brother to study medicine in Prague, the father by building up an export business in Brno. But the Germans come after them before very long and they have to move on. Poland is near and seems relatively safe, and, overcoming the hazards, they are able to cross the border to Kattowice – en route, they hope, for England. But only the parents' visas arrive and the two boys have to stay behind to wait for theirs. And so they are overtaken by the outbreak of war and the invasion of Poland. They set out on foot and come to Radom, only to find that the town has been bombed by the Germans. They move on, are picked up as spies by Polish soldiers and imprisoned in Lublin. A German air raid helps them to escape and they are on the road again. Again they are arrested; first by the Polish police, then by the Germans. Against all expectations they are allowed to go. They hear that the Russian army has moved into Poland from the East and set out for that part of the country. They manage to cross the River Bug into Soviet-held territory. Lifts

in Red Army lorries and free rides on trains bring them to Vilna in October 1939.

They stay there for five months. The fact that their parents are already in England entitles them to be included in a group of refugees 'with relatives resident in Britain' to be flown out of Lithuania to Stockholm; and, via Oslo and Bergen, they reach London in March 1940 to be reunited with their anxious parents – and interned as 'enemy aliens' in May.

This is the bare outline of the basic story. But while it can, and does, speak for itself, the author uses it as a framework into which he weaves his reminiscences up to the time of his flight through Central Europe just one step ahead of the Holocaust. We are given an insight into the two brothers' typical German-Jewish middle-class background. Scenes from their childhood and schooldays are recalled, as are friendships and enmities. Childish dreams and youthful ambitions are remembered, and doubts and fears and embarrassments relived. The kaleidoscope of memories is shaken, and the pieces float and swirl and come to rest.

Unfortunately, this esoteric ebb and flow of narrative, for which the author disarmingly apologises in advance, tends to distract and confuse. When all is said and done, flashback storytelling is a device which requires a subtle technique and a skilful touch. There are other, minor irritants. But then, the book is not, nor is it meant to be, a literary masterpiece. It is, though, an interesting account of an uncommon (if, possibly, not unique) refugee experience and, as such would make a splendid play or TV drama, a medium which might well suit the author's talents rather better. But the question still remains: why was the book written? Why now? Is it, as the author seems to suggest, a 'belated diary'? Or is it a cry from the heart which should have been answered long ago?

□ David Maier

Exploring the Waldheimat

'CONQUERING THE PAST' *Austrian Nazism Yesterday & Today.*

F. Parkinson, Ed. Detroit 1989, Wayne State University Press.

This is an impressive publication, in which Dr Parkinson has enlisted the co-operation of some 17 learned contributors in an attempt to present what seems to be the first compilation of its kind in English. The title is the best available translation of the German technical term

'Vergangenheitsbewältigung', an activity in which many Germans and Austrians are said to have failed. Whether the title is a deliberate description of the editor's own attempts in this direction, is not clear. What is clear is the impressive amount of learning and research that has gone into this book, and the fact that nearly 20 co-authors are involved not only adds to the breadth of expertise, but also to the amount of source material and the references to it. [Even if this is a truism, so many authors can read more source material and literature on it than any single writer.]

A reviewer of a non-fiction work is in a dilemma if he considers himself familiar with the subject. As an eye witness he may feel specially qualified to comment, but he may also be conscious of prejudice in himself; whether Dr Parkinson is an eyewitness of any of the events in the book, at least between early 1933 and May 1945, I cannot know, but there is no doubt that he has strong views which colour his interpretations. The unfavourable view of most of one's former compatriots, shown by so many refugees [from the Austria of over 50 years ago] is understandable. But what may be open to question is the way in

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which so many, [largely of Jewish middle class and social-democrat background] view the Dollfuss and Schuschnigg régimes as just as objectionable as the Nazis. Which not only overlooks the fact that the atrocities blamed on the *Kleriko-Faschisten* are not nearly comparable with those perpetrated by the Nazis, (Woellersdorf was neither a Gulag nor an extermination camp), but that this régime fought as long as it could against the Nazi takeover. B. F. Pauley's chapter does refer to the July 1934 putsch as failing largely because of the successful resistance of the Austrian army and *Gendarmerie* but their heroic defence against superior forces from the German Legion in Styria is largely unremembered [except by eyewitnesses such as this reviewer]. It is almost as if there were a reluctance to admit that the murder of Dollfuss by Nazi terrorists makes him a fellow Nazi-victim, a mentality shared by Bruno Kreisky. Part of his explanation for a political [and even personal] friendship with an ex-Nazi like Friedrich Peter, was that, having been imprisoned under Dollfuss and Schuschnigg together with illegal Nazis as well as social democrats, he found it easier to sympathise with them than with former 'clerico-fascists'.

It is difficult to comment on a book by so many authors of different nationalities and backgrounds, except to pay tribute to the features which constitute a common denominator – a meticulous gathering of information and putting it between one set of covers, and a painstaking assembling of the evidence.

Despite any criticisms of detail it is difficult to reject some of the main theses of the book. The complete moral, not to say mental, collapse of the Austrian civilian population on 11/12 March 1938, which surprised Austrian Nazis and Germans alike, cannot be explained away, though this reviewer would place gradual disillusionment as early as mid-1938. The scandalous behaviour of many Viennese on 9/10 November of the same year was no better than that of the worst instances in Germany. The implication that not only Dr Waldheim but very many Austrians were like the Vicar of Bray in conforming with the majority of the day, is justified; and that the unenviable record of Austrian anti-semitism from before the war survives into an atmosphere of *Antisemitismus ohne Juden* is only too true. More might have been said on the other side about the courage of a minority such as those who sheltered 'U boat Jews'

throughout the war, but on balance the evaluation is probably fair. A story has been assembled and published which had not been told in this form before; and for this the reading public must be grateful to the Editor and his team. □ F.M.M.S.

How different it is over here

From the contribution of 95 year old Gretel Salinger, a long standing member of the AJR, to Them, a book about U.K. immigrants by Jonathon Green. Secker and Warburg £16.99. □

When the war was over, in 1945, everybody in England who did especially notable war work was invited to Buckingham Palace. Out of each borough of London two people were chosen and I was one of the ones from Paddington. I had collected hundreds and thousands of pounds. I went off to Buckingham Palace for this garden party.

The King and Queen, now the Queen Mother, and the two princesses went around talking to people at random. Maybe 5,000 people there. I said to myself: 'I'm not here to be talked to. That's out of the question'.

So I followed the King. But he spoke only to men, so that was no use. And I didn't want to speak to the princesses, I wanted to speak to the Queen.

So I set my heart and mind on meeting her. I said to myself, 'You have to talk to me, you have to talk to me!' And she stopped. She turned to me and said: 'Where have you come from?' I ought to have said: 'From Paddington', but what did I say? I said: 'I come from Germany'.

She looked at me and said 'And you are invited here to this party?' Very strict with me. I said: 'Yes, Your Majesty. I worked very hard during the war and I have collected millions of pounds for the war effort'.

'Oh', she said, 'you mean you are a refugee from Germany'.

'Of course, Your Majesty.'

'That's different, my dear child. I'm

glad you have escaped and made your way here.' Where I took my courage from I still cannot say, but I said: 'Yes, Your Majesty, but may I tell you what happened to my family?' She said: 'Yes'.

'All my family have been killed in Auschwitz.' She made a gesture, like shielding herself. She said: 'If only I hadn't asked you'. I said: 'On the contrary, Your Majesty, this is my *kaddish*, the prayer we Jews have for the dead, that I could tell their fate to my Queen'.

She took both my hands and she pressed them and said 'My darling child, I hope nothing else bad will happen to you and that you will enjoy your life and God bless you'. I stood there crying, crying.

X-ray of the other Germany

The following are extracts from DDR Identifikation by Freya Klier:

It was sheer opportunism that made the Party discover its affection for the Jews.

As late as 1986 we dissidents had to collect signatures to prevent the bulldozing of Weissensee cemetery under a road building scheme. Two years later Honecker pinned the *Grossen Stern der Völkerfreundschaft* to the chest of WJC President Edgar Bronfman.

At the moment it is not merely that the pent-up energy of adolescents threatens an explosion; the worthy DDR burgher lives in his backwater in fear of the black bogeyman . . . DDR citizens have never learnt coexistence with other cultures. What faces them is a steep learning curve. They will have to learn that an extended Turkish family picnicking in the open does not endanger public order . . . They must learn that non-Germans, too, are entitled to work, a dwelling place and social services. And when the uptight DDR family at last sits down to scampi and pizza in the *ristorante* – instead of, as previously, humbly queuing for the *Stadrestaurant* – it is possible that the first stones of the internal wall will come down.

Bring on the uninvited strangers, above all the chefs! □

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NOTICE

The English language version of Carl F. Flesch's book: . . . UND SPIELST DU AUCH GEIGE? (reviewed in the September issue) is now available. (. . . And do you also play the violin? Toccata Press.)

Cause for congratulation (mostly)

Received through the post on the same day: an invitation for *AJR Information* to take part in a worldwide exhibition of the Jewish Press at Berlin in 1992, and the preview issue of *new moon*. This publication, a Jewish version of *Time Out*, displays insouciant candour; its spoof on the War Crimes Bill debate in the House of Lords features Lord Sieg-Hailsham and Lord Mayhe-Neverbe-Forgiven, and has the Speaker declare 'The ayes have it – the noes is a bit big for my liking'. *New moon's* detailed listing of the events of the Jewish Film Festival at the NFT and the Israel Festival at the Barbican, as well as of the transmissions of Radio Spectrum, provides evidence of a resurgence of Jewish culture.

So did the screening of an hour-long TV programme on Yiddish in September. With its appeal straddling the ethnic divide *The shlemiehl*, *the shlemazel* and *the doppess* earned plaudits from the TV critics of the quality press (even if they

made too much of *schmeckeldecker*, the Yiddish term for condom). The spirit of the language – its humour, geniality and self-deprecation – came through movingly; only the most stony-hearted viewer could have failed to warm to the enthusiastic Yiddishists on camera, from bewhiskered patriarchs trailing intimations of *der heim* to a young American librarian who made it his life's mission to rescue Yiddish books from oblivion, and the *kletzmer* amateurs (in the true sense of the word).

But *The shlemiehl* etc. also had its less satisfactory aspect. The University of Oxford's tenured Yiddish scholar should know better than to make sloppily inaccurate statements about there being millions (sic!) of Hasidim in the world, each of whom has twenty children. Nor, talking of inaccuracies, should the *Jewish Chronicle's* recent *faux-pas* in illustrating the review of a Schnitzler biography with a photograph of someone totally different be passed over in silence.

Custodians of Jewish culture – to whose number *AJR Information* aspires to belong – really have to be more rigorous than these slips of the tongue (or pen) indicate. □

League table

Publishing data on the 400 richest people in Britain the *Sunday Times* states 'About 40 per cent inherited their wealth, but a growing number are immigrants who fled either Hitler's Germany or Idi Amin's Uganda'. The one Jewish refugee – alongside three other 'immigrants': Swedish Gad Rausing, Canadian Garfield Weston and American John Paul Getty II – among the top ten is Robert Maxwell.

The ten Jews among the 50 richest men in the U.K. include Sir James Goldsmith, Gerald Ronson, property tycoon Sigismund Berger, Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, the Saatchi brothers and Paul Hamlyn.

Jews number 33 among the paper's 'top 400' – which, given our half per cent share of the U.K. population, means that we are over-represented by a factor of 16. (Would that the AJR Residential Care Appeal reflected this fact!) □

Small talk

'The Palestinians are in the doghouse', a high U.N. official said. 'Nobody speaks to them anymore except the Libyans, the Yemenis and the Cubans'. □

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Letters to the Editor



PARADOXYMORON

Sir – I was amused by Mr Alexander's excellent translation *Paradoxymoron* in the September issue and think he may be interested to hear of two further stanzas I knew as a child:

'Und auf einer gruenen Bank die rot
angestrichen war sass ein blond-
gelockter Juengling mit kohlraben
schwarzem Haar
Neben ihm 'ne alte Schrulle die schon
17 Jahr alt war
in der Hand 'ne Butterstulle die mit Fett
bestrichen war'.

No doubt other readers will have other additions to this piece of 'poetry'!
Elm Park Road T. Doctor (Mrs)
London N3

A BOUQUET

Sir – My husband and I are very keen supporters of the AJR and particularly enjoy and appreciate *AJR Information* – we think it quite excellent, with an enviably high standard.
Bristol Road Mrs R. Gerson
Birmingham

THERE'S NOWT SO QUEER . . .

Sir – Earlier this summer I was riding in the Hampstead Hopper on my way to the Heath, when a group of young Italians got on at Golders Green. They were looking for a youth hostel and, as I speak their language, I tried to help them. After an exchange of a few sentences I heard the friendly, elderly lady sitting behind me say, half to herself: 'I've been learning Ivrit for years, but I still can't understand a word'.

In Finchley Road, likewise this summer, I met a lady who loves talking about her family. 'My sons are all doctors', she informed me proudly, 'all except one, who is a computer. His father was much against it because he wanted him to be a doctor like his brothers, but he wouldn't listen and is actually earning more as a computer than his brothers who are doctors'.

College Crescent Margarete Stern
NW3

BENEFIT OF CLERGY

Sir – Thank you for your note 'Benefit of Clergy'. It is right that 'Christian culpability for Jewish suffering' should be recalled time and again since it is not just a memory.

From the Pope downwards, especially Roman Catholics are seemingly unable to rid themselves of arrogant prejudice against Jews. There are, of course, exceptions. We have all met people who are genuinely anxious to make amends. But for each one of those who have liberated themselves from prejudice, there are millions who are indifferent, if not openly hostile.

Outrage at Israeli 'brutality' barely disguises anti-Semitism. There are plenty of 'bleeding hearts' among us – some of whom can be found among your correspondents – who are themselves dupes of vicious press campaigns.

I, for one, congratulate you on your highly critical attitude and wish you more power to your elbow.
PO Box 16085 E. S. Schwab
Jerusalem 91160

INFORMATION WANTED

Sir – The Wiener Library has a limited collection of material on the famous Austrian comic actor, Paul Morgan (Morgenstern), and his wife, Josa Morgan Ruffner. This forms the basis of a small exhibition at the library.

Paul died in Buchenwald concentration camp in 1938, and Josa was held for a short period in the French concentration camp of Gurs. She died in England in the 1980's. I wonder if any of your readers have any information about either of them, as the library would be glad to have any further details to expand its collection.

Wiener Library Ralph Bergman
4 Devonshire Street
W1N 2HB

A KINGDOM FOR A TOOTH

Sir – John M. Davis' letter of August is an attempt to fudge the issue.

It is not the skill of British dental

surgeons which is being questioned. However, some of the top dentists' mathematics are based on a 'get rich quick' philosophy.

I would draw Mr Davis' attention to an article in the *Sunday Independent* of the 9 September which specifically deals with the problem facing adults in London and the South-East . . . how to get NHS dental care. This is due to dentists leaving the NHS in large numbers since the introduction of the new NHS contract.
Holland Park Avenue J. Rotter
London W11

INTERMENT REMEMBERED

Sir – In Prees Heath Camp we kept our spirits up with:

*Wem Gott will rechte Gunst erweisen,
den sperrt er hinterm Drahtzaun ein,
den laesst er ohne Visum reisen,
der braucht kein permit und kein Geld*

We also kept ourselves busy; I ran a clothing repair service, with a poster outside our tent designed by Henrion, later a celebrated commercial artist, who recently died. It read:

*Ist's ein Riss, ist's ein Loch,
flickt und buegelts Schneider Toch*

North Mymms Henry Toch
Hatfield, Herts

INFORMAL GATHERINGS

Sir – Thank you for publishing in *Letters to the Editor* our request for more people to join us. There was some response which we are following up.

Our group is informal, free and meets once a month in each others homes. There are no specific issues just a friendly gathering of people with similar backgrounds over a cup of tea and cakes.
Granville Road Helen L. Ryman
Eastbourne

PERTINENT QUESTION

Sir – I noticed the article about Nazi war criminals in *AJR Information*. I wondered whether there is any hope of further information about negotiations with the Nazis, as a result of which certain people were promised immunity.

Teignmouth Road T. L. Lukes
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CCD

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Decoding Saturn

If scholars as a breed are expected to spend their lives browsing, secluded from the public gaze, in the groves of academe, otherworldliness must be *de rigueur* for those who teach medieval philosophy. Raymond Klibansky started his academic career in pre-Nazi Heidelberg as editor of Meister Eckhart's writings, and has been exploring adjacent areas of knowledge ever since.

He has nonetheless, despite years spent under Oxford's dreaming spires, never lapsed into the mentality of an ivory tower dweller. He caused a flutter in academic dovecotes last year by demanding that Wolfson College disinvite the German 'revisionist' historian Ernst Nolte. (Inviting Nolte to Oxford had threatened to confer respectability on his spurious contention that the Holocaust was no more than one in a chain of large-scale 20th century atrocities.)

Almost simultaneously Professor Klibansky's profile has been raised by the encomia he received in France and Germany – the countries, respectively, of his birth and his scholarly prentice work.

The occasion was the publication of a collaborative study – by Erwin Panofsky, Fritz Saxl and Klibansky – of late-medieval cosmology entitled *Saturn and Melancholy*. Preliminary drafts for this work, extant in print since the 1930s, had provided source material for Thomas Mann in delineating the figure of Adrian Leverkühn in *Doktor Faustus*.

A leading French critic called the book a monument of art history and a treasure house of erudition. The reviewer of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, Dieter Borchmeyer, Professor of German Literature at Heidelberg, dubbed it an exemplar '*jener einzigartigen Symbiose deutscher und jüdischer Kultur, die 1933 vernichtet wurde*'. □

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Havel's deep insight

'Love' in the words of the song 'makes the world go round'. Tin Pan Alley philosophy, of course – but who would gainsay the power of emotions at work in world affairs. Let us consider the alternatives. Marx seized on class as the motor of historical development; this, as recent events have amply borne out, bore little relation to the facts. Hitler saw race as *the* driving force. Though his Neanderthal gut approach was sounder than Marx's intellectually derived hypothesis, it was still wide of the mark. The factor of race cannot begin to explain what happened in 1930s Spain, 1950s Korea or 1970s Cambodia.

So we are back with emotion as a prime mover in the historical process. The emotion that seems to govern human affairs more powerfully than any other is, alas, the negative one of hate. For up-to-the-minute corroboration of 'Hate rules O.K.' one need only look at Arab adulation of Saddam Hussein, or Black-on-Black violence in South Africa. Awareness of the paramountcy of negative emotion has prompted Elie Wiesel – predestined by his personal experience (and talent) to act as spokesman for a people perennially beset by hate – to convene a conference in Oslo devoted to 'The Anatomy of Hate'.

This gathering attracted an array of outstanding personalities: Presidents Mitterrand and Havel, ex-President Carter, Nelson Mandela, Adam Michnik, Conor Cruise O'Brien. Out of that remarkable *galère* the playwright-turned-President Vaclav Havel made – in conformity with Shelley's definition of poets as 'unacknowledged legislators of mankind' – the most insightful contribution. 'In the subconscious of haters' he said 'there slumbers a perverse feeling that they alone are the true possessors of truth, that they are some kind of superhumans or even gods, and thus deserve the world's complete recognition, even its complete submissiveness and loyalty'.

Conor Cruise O'Brien added an equally valuable gloss: 'Hate is resentment raised to the highest level and is therefore inherently impressive to the merely resentful. When a hater talks, the merely resentful listen respectfully. Hate confers authority'.

Elie Wiesel having identified hate as a root problem of humankind, Havel and

O'Brien have helped deepen our perception of the phenomenon. But where do we go from Oslo?

To quote Marx again: *The philosophers have tried to understand the world – it is our task to change it.* □

40 Years Ago this Month

Outlook Unsettled

An unusually sombre picture of Anglo-Jewry was drawn by the President of the Board of Deputies. Though the threat from outside had passed – Mosley's Fascists, he said, were dwindling and their meetings ineffective – our cultural and educational position, Dr Cohen thought, was deplorable in the extreme. There were not sufficient teachers, ministers and rabbis, and it was a most heartbreaking task to get Jewish parents to realise their responsibility. Today the vitality of Anglo-Jewry was drawn mainly from the first or second generation of the Eastern immigrants. But now immigration had stopped, and we simply could not afford to lose any more of our people through drifting, assimilation or baptism. Unhappily, Dr Cohen declared, the wastage was going on, even at an alarming rate, and unless it was checked, the outlook was very gloomy indeed.

On the conditions in the once famous Jewish quarter of the East End, a poignant remark was made by the new Chairman of the London Board of Jewish Religious Education, Mr Alfred Woolf. There were many Jews down there, he said, but very little Judaism: 'As a centre of Jewish life, Jewish practice and Jewish observance, the East End no longer exists'.

From *AJR Information November, 1950.*

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15 Cleve Road
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Tel. 071 328 0208

Morning Activities – Bridge, kalookie, scrabble, chess, etc., keep fit, discussion group, choir (Mondays), art class (Tuesdays and Thursdays).

Afternoon entertainment –

NOVEMBER

Thursday 1	Autumn Serenade – Ian Bradford (Flute) accompanied by Carol Kohn (Piano)
Monday 5	'Songs From Around The World' – Lola Rand and Jack Davidof accompanied by Rosa Butwick
Tuesday 6	'Let's Be British' – Songs & Stories of Ivor Novello, Noel Coward & Vivian Ellis – Presented by Audrey Samson
Wednesday 7	'Desert Discs' – Rabbi Hugo Gryn Talks About His Life & Favourite Music to Denis Snowman
Thursday 8	Band Of The Metropolitan Police
Monday 12	'Melody Makers' – Kath McCormack & Ken Penney
Tuesday 13	'Continental Cocktail' – Helen Mignano accompanied by Sylvia Cohen
Wednesday 14	Trinity College of Music Recital of Classical Music – Susan Marrs accompanied by Hui Ming Tan
Thursday 15	'On Tour' – Talk by Otto Deutsch
Monday 19	'The Music Makers' – Elizabeth Winton, Stan Longmire and Ken Stow
Tuesday 20	Band Of The Metropolitan Police
Wednesday 21	Trinity College of Music Recital of Classical Music – Sara Miles accompanied by Satoko Hasegawa
Thursday 22	'Four Strings Each' – Violin & Piano Light Musical Entertainment – Lucy White & Juliet Davey
Monday 26	'The Dulcet Tones'
Tuesday 27	(a) Outing to Shaw Theatre (b) Guitar Recital – Rose Andresier
Wednesday 28	'French Fancies' – Siobhan Grealy (Flute) accompanied by Karen Suter (Piano)
Thursday 29	'Those You Have Loved' – Musical Miscellany – Yacov Paul
DECEMBER	
Monday 3	Musical Entertainment by 'The Ex-Directory Group'
Tuesday 4	'The Habsburg Duo' – Tessa Storey (Piano) and Juliet Kaufman (Violin)
Wednesday 5	Joyce & Godfrey van Leer Entertain You With Magic & Illusion
Thursday 6	'Musical Extravaganza' – Valerie Hewitt

The AJR at Work

The Volunteers Department – Working for the community



Laura Howe.

Photo: Newman

Our Volunteers Department plays an extremely important role in the provision of the package of AJR services. There are volunteers at every level of the organisation. They

perform various tasks at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, entertaining the visitors and looking after their needs. The volunteer clerical workers at the AJR's offices in Adamson Road have become an integral and indispensable part of the organisation, as are the volunteer drivers who transport our members around London from the homes and on shopping expeditions and other outings. Of a lower profile, but of vital importance, are the home visitors.

Home visitors deal on a one-to-one basis with people who need assistance with even the minor difficulties of everyday living, like doing the shopping, filling in various forms which, at first glance, appear extremely complex and convoluted. Some of the visitors simply go along to read to clients who experience difficulties with their sight.

This, then should give some indication of the amount of work which has to be processed, monitored and administered by the Volunteers Department. This work is done by Laura Howe, Head of the Volunteers Department, aided by one part time volunteer.

Laura is responsible for recruitment, client liaison and all the other tasks which this work engenders. She tries to 'match-up' clients and volunteers in such a way as to encourage a harmonious relationship between them: 'Volunteers are encouraged
continued

WHO IS WHO IN THE AJR OFFICE

Administrator	Lydia Lassman
Editor, AJR	Richard
Information	Grunberger
Publications and	Maurice
PR Manager	Newman
Assistant to	
Administrator	Carol Rossen
Sheltered	
Accommodation	Katia Gould
Head of Homes	
Department	Ruth Finestone
Head of Social Services	Samuel Wolf
Welfare Rights Advisor	Agnes
	Alexander
Day Centre Organiser	Sylvia Matus
Volunteers Co-ordinator	Laura Howe
Membership/Reception	Nora Gittins/ Sadie Hannen

AJR

'DROP IN' ADVICE SERVICE

Twice weekly advice sessions offering help with filling in forms, checking benefits received, checking entitlements, claiming benefits, fuel problems, money matters, etc., etc., are being held as follows:—

**TUESDAYS 10 am–12 noon at
15 Cleve Road, London NW6**

**THURSDAYS 10 am–12 noon at
Hannah Karminski House, 9 Adamson
Road, London NW3**

No appointment necessary but please bring along all relevant documents, such as Benefit Books, letters, bills, etc.

to develop a friendly relationship with their clients. It is a two-way thing, a learning process for both parties, and it should be enjoyable for all concerned', says Laura.

Every couple of months Laura organises an informal get-together for her volunteer force, where they can chat and compare notes on what they have learned about new welfare regulations, benefits or even where to get the best bagels. Organising and ensuring the harmonious continuation of this department requires a great deal of skill and patience, as well as a dogged determination to get the job done. Laura Howe has all these qualifications, and more.

If you are interested in finding out more about volunteer work with the AJR contact Laura Howe on 071-483 2536 during office hours. □

Dial-a-ride

AJR members who are disabled or frail and find it difficult to get out to do their shopping may be interested to learn of the Camden Sainsbury's Shopper Service. If you live in Camden and have a Dial-a-Ride pass, you can phone 071 284 0820 to book a place on a mini-bus which will collect you from home, take you to the local Sainsbury's shop and return you to your home.

Bookings have to be made a week ahead and it is not a quick trip as about eight people are collected, helped and taken home. Help is given with trolleys, lifting down of goods and pushing of shopping to the mini-bus. Camden residents only. □

TEA DANCE

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre presents the first Sunday afternoon Tea Dance on

SUNDAY 2nd DECEMBER
at 3 p.m.-6 p.m.

Admission will be by ticket only.
(cost £3.50 including refreshments)

Please contact Mrs Sylvia Matus
071-328 0208

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'Excitable breed'



Mrs Tichauer (right) with some of her students.

Photo: Newman

It's never too early, or too late, to try something totally new. This axiom is illustrated by the members of the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre's twice weekly art classes.

The classes, supervised alternately by Resi Liebmann and Hilde Tichauer, have unearthed a wealth of hitherto undiscovered talent.

The new students – many of whom, until only a few months ago, professed an inability to produce a straight line on a piece of paper – are now exploring all aspects of fine drawing and painting.

Expert copies of the works of the great painters are produced on a regular basis, as are some exciting original works.

The classes investigate many different artistic techniques using various materials and applications.

As Resi Liebmann puts it: 'Artists are an excitable breed, and here there is a lot to get excited about'.

The classes take place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Enquiries about joining the Day Centre should be directed to Mrs Sylvia Matus at the Day Centre. Telephone 071-328 0208. □

You can contact the AJR on

Phone 071-483 2536
Fax 071-722 4652

AJR CLUB

15 Cleve Road, London NW6

SUNDAY 18TH NOVEMBER at 3 p.m.

'Myself in London'

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you can talk – play cards – play games.
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Our Annual Membership fee is only £4.

The Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

NEEDS

- (1) Drivers to take people to and from the Centre.
- (2) A Volunteer with First Aid training.

Please contact Mrs Sylvia Matus:

071 328 0208
15 Cleve Road, NW6

ATTENTION

The final date for submitting claims regarding property in the former DDR has been put back to 31 March 1991. □

New flightpath

Under an arrangement with El Al Christliche Reisen of Oberammergau are going to fly Catholic and Protestant clergy from the former DDR to Israel on short study visits. □

Baltic watch

Ephraim Zuroff, director of the Wiesenthal Centre's Israel office, whose researches inspired the British war crimes legislation campaign, is currently engaged in tracking down an additional batch of Lithuanian Nazi collaborators currently resident in the West. Another current concern of Zuroff's is the attitude adopted by the new semi-independent Lithuanian government towards their own war criminals. □

Pioneer remembered

A plaque is to be affixed to the house in Berlin-Charlottenburg where the famous sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld had his apartment. Hirschfeld fled Germany at the Nazi take-over and died in 1935. □

French mayors' initiative

Stung into action by the desecration of Carpentras cemetery the mayors of several communes near Gurs are planning the erection of a memorial on the site of the former concentration camp. □

The Wiener Library in London

The Wiener Library is pleased to announce that the Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History for 1990 has been divided and the following will share the prize:

Professor Richard Breitman, U.S.A., for his work 'The architect of genocide: Himmler and the plans for the Final Solution' and Mr Tillmann Krach, Federal Republic of Germany, for his work on Jewish lawyers in Prussia.

In 1991 there will be two distinct Fraenkel Prize awards, both for unpublished works in the field of contemporary European history, one of \$5,000, open to all entrants and one of \$3,000, open only to those under 30. Candidates should specify for which of the two prizes they are competing. For more details, please write to the Administrative Secretary, Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1N 2BH. □

KOOK'S TOUR**IRELAND**

The hedge priests, asked what country this is,
Speculate that here Ulysses
Made the landfall of his choice
Naming it land of Strength through Joyce.

NORWAY

Southerners think it mighty droll
That each house has a live-in troll,
But in the gloom beside a fjord
One can so easily grow bored.

POLAND

Before the last war's final volley
Joe put this country on a trolley
And shoved it hundred miles to West,
Quoth he 'That's what the Poles like best'.

PORTUGAL

Her coast abounds in men-of-war
By whom no admiral sets much store
They much prefer the sleek sardine;
No wonder she's a might-have-been.

ROMANIA

A place that turned a local failure,
A chap called Vlad, nicknamed Impaler,
Into a bloody national hero
Deserves a rating close to zero.

OLD OR NEW

There is something for you at another exhibition of paintings and other crafts by Ruth Gee on November 17th at the Lancaster Hall Hotel, 35 Craven Terrace W2 (near Paddington Station) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Alice Schwab

Art Notes

The John Denham Gallery is showing works by Wolfgang Meyer-Michael (9–23 December). This artist was born in Berlin in 1890, into a liberal Jewish family, and studied at the Kunstgewerbeschule, where one of his teachers was Hermann Struck. Later he had a studio in the Berliner Akademie as a pupil of Professor Louis Tucillon. After war service he continued working as a sculptor; one of his best-known works, *Dream of Zion*, was exhibited in New York at the Palestine Exhibition in 1939. Meyer-Michael emigrated to Palestine in 1935 and this piece of sculpture now stands in the Gan-Ha-Em park in Haifa. In 1963 Meyer-Michael moved to London where he branched out in other directions, making glass pictures in shallow box-like frames and casting miniature figures, mainly animals, in silver. Examples of all aspects of the work of this gifted artist are to be seen at the exhibition.

The *Avant-Garde British Printmaking 1914–60* exhibition at the British Museum (until 6 January 1991) should not be missed. There are so many magnificent things to see that it is difficult to make a selection. One of the most attractive exhibits is the blue series by John Banting, perhaps the only true British Surrealist. An excellent catalogue by Frances Cary and Antony Griffiths is available at the Museum bookshops (price £12.95).

The Raab gallery at Millbank is showing works by Karl Horst Hödicke (until 17 November). Hödicke was born in Nuremberg in 1938 and, after living in Vienna, returned to Germany to study at the Hochschule der Künste where he is now a professor. Hödicke is an innovative artist and his figurative works focus on reflections and fragmentary or blown-up views.

The Goethe Institute is showing works by Jürgen Partenheimer, Norbert Prangenberg and Fritz Klemm. The exhibition is titled 'Free Abstraction' and emerges from the idea of abstraction as a universal language.

The Catto Gallery (100 Heath St NW3) has recently shown works by five artists from the Royal Watercolour Society (until 14 October). One of the artists exhibiting was Christa Gaa, born in Hamburg in

1937. She moved to England in 1980 and has exhibited in several London galleries and also in Cologne. The Ridley Art Society (founded in 1889) recently held its 93rd exhibition at the Hyde Park Gallery. It was nice to see three very good pictures by Marika Eversfield, and also works by Hannah Moser and Iris Blain.

In her spacious new gallery Annelly Juda is showing works by Alan Green (until 10 November). Alan Green was born in London in 1932 and has had many one-man exhibitions; his work is represented in public collections all over the world. Maureen Gardner and Peter Ringel have again had a show at Burgh House. Ringel mainly works in water-colours and with simple lines manages to achieve delightful effects.

The Tate Gallery's retrospective exhibition of works by William Coldstream (1908–87) continues until 6 January 1991. Coldstream was both an important artist and teacher. He founded the Euston Road School of Drawing in 1917 with Claude Rogers and Victor Passmore. The exhibition includes many portraits, nudes, landscapes and still lifes.

Finally, a short note of exhibitions already mentioned which should not be missed: Monet at the Royal Academy (until 9 December), Solomon J. Solomon at the Ben Uri (until 16 November), and the plethora of exhibitions on Israel at the Barbican (most end at the end of November, but the *Modern Art and Jewish Identity* exhibition continues until 6 January 1991). □



Self-Portrait at the Easel, Felix Nussbaum. 1943. From the exhibition *Chagall to Kitaj: Jewish experience in the art of the twentieth century*. Barbican Art Gallery. 10 October to 6 January.

SB's Column

From German theatres. In unified Germany, Leipzig seems set to regain its pre-war cultural eminence: the Opera house has chosen composer Udo Zimmermann (whose anti-Nazi opera *Die weisse Rose* was well received) as its director. The new chief initiated the season by announcing close co-operation with the Bonn opera house and will take part in the 200 year Mozart celebrations in 1991. Leipzig Opera started under its new direction with a revival of Ernst Krěnek's Jazz opera *Jonny spielt auf* in honour of the composer's 90th birthday. – Plans of Berlin's Schillertheater include some classics: Goethe's *Faust I* appears on the list of forthcoming productions together with Schiller's *Die Räuber*, the latter seemingly a trifle daring. (Some years ago, an English translation called *The Highwaymen* was not exactly a success in this country.) – Erich Kaestner's fairy story *Der 35. Mai* has been made into an opera for children by Violetta Dinescu and will be performed at the Theater am Gaertnerplatz Munich during its present 125th season. This will also feature the Sondheim musical *Into the Woods*, which had its European premiere at London's Phoenix theatre.

1991 – Austria's Grillparzer year. Many productions of works by this important Austrian dramatist are planned for his 200th birthday celebrations. *König Ottokar* is the Vienna Burg's choice and *Libussa* the Volkstheater's; *Der Traum ein Leben* will be staged at the Landestheater, Linz. Anticipating the event, Salzburg contributed a somewhat unusual *Jüdin von Toledo* at this year's annual festival, the 70th since its inception in 1920.

Birthdays. Jean Louis Barrault, one of the great personalities of the French stage, collaborator with Ionesco, Jean Cocteau and André Gide, married to actress Madeleine Renaud, longtime director of the Théâtre des Nations, and author of many books on theatre, celebrated his 80th birthday. Also 80 years old is composer and theatre Intendant Rolf Liebermann, who in the 1960s raised the standard of Hamburg Opera to world level and subsequently led the Paris Opera to great public acclaim. – Lore Lorentz, German writer, satirist and cabaretist, co-founder with her husband Kay Lorentz of the *Kom(m)ödchen*, Düsseldorf, has reached the age of 70.

'Jews for Jesus'

In Eastern Europe the demise of the pseudo-religion of Communism has created a vacuum which is partly being filled by Christianity. Opinion differs as to whether this is a good or a bad thing. Jews with long memories can only incline to the latter view; after all, Cardinal Hlond promoted the anti-Jewish boycott in 1930s Poland, Father Hlinka made jewbaiting a component of Slovak patriotism, and the Romanian Legion of the Archangel Michael prefigured the Iron Guard. In Czarist Russia, too, Christianity connoted Judeophobia. Pobodonostsev, Head of the Holy Synod, had this solution for the Jewish Question: massacre a third, expel a third, and convert a third.

Despite the entwining of Russian Orthodoxy with antisemitism some leading Jewish intellectuals – Nadezhda Mandelstam, Boris Pasternak – espoused it. A few went even further and actually became Orthodox priests. One such was Aleksandr Men, who died in September. Men possessed outstanding gifts – being a theologian, author and teacher – but never fell into the trap of confusing intellectual and moral excellence. Though a long-term dissident, he likewise resisted the adulteration of religion by politics. In this he departed from age-old Orthodox practice. Untouched by Renaissance or Reformation, the Russian Church had purveyed a 'crown-and-altar' ideology before 1917, and allowed itself to be used as an adjunct of the Stalinist state afterwards.

What Aleksandr Men strove for was 'Christianity with a human face'. His liberalism (for want of a better word) – which elicited a great deal of enmity from the Orthodox Establishment – made him welcome innovations in art and music; more crucially, it prompted him to combat the ingrained strain of antisemitism in Russian religiosity.

Nothing indicates the esteem in which Men was held as clearly as the comparison with Andre Sakharov drawn by some of his obituarists. As a Sakharov figure of the Russian Orthodox Church he belongs to a whole *galère* of Jews who contributed notably to the propagation of Christianity. One thinks of Simone Weil, philosopher 'on the threshold of the Church', of Gustav Mahler, composer of the *Resurrection Symphony*, of Franz Werfel, author of *The Song of Bernadette*, and of Hugo von Hofmannsthal, adaptor

of the medieval morality *Jedermann*. To these must, of course, be added Archbishop Lustiger of Paris, Bishop Kohn of Olomouc and Suffragan Bishop Montefiore – as well as ecumenicists like Canon Paul Österreicher of CND fame, and Rabbi Lionel Blue of BBC TV. □

The ability to mourn

Gitta Sereny, a non-Jewish Hungarian, has over the years made valuable contributions to Holocaust literature in such works as *Into that darkness* and her biography of death camp commandant Franz Stangl. Recently she has been investigating the more contemporary topic of how the children of the perpetrators of the Nazi crimes have come to terms with their 'inheritance'.

The way postwar Germany as a whole came to terms – or rather failed to – with its past was summed up in the phrase 'the inability to mourn', the title of a sociological study Alexander Mitscherlich published around 1960. This inability found expression in the widespread syndrome of repressing memories of the Nazi horror, or to put it more succinctly, a collective sweeping of guilt under the carpet.

Several of the offspring of the main perpetrators of Nazi crimes suffered acutely in the conspiracy of silence, but did not know how to break it. Then, in 1985 a visiting Israeli academic at the University of Wuppertal, the (German-born) psychologist Dan Bar-On, put advertisements in German papers asking 'persons whose parents were in the SS or took an active part in persecution and extermination' to contact him. He received a surprisingly large number of replies and eventually set up a self-help group from among some of his correspondents.

The story of one female member of the group is particularly revealing. Monika was an illegitimate child sired by an SS 'sperm donor' and brought up in a *Lebensborn* home. (Hitler's so-called Bourne of Life was an incubating agency for eugenically valuable Aryans). At the end of the war she returned to her mother, who regaled her with stories of her absent hero father, missing in action, but hopefully soon to return from Russian captivity. At the time she was told this, Monika later discovered, her progenitor – an SS general in charge of *Einsatzgruppen* murder squads responsible for half a million Jewish deaths – had already been hanged at Riga. She spent lonely childhood years being coldshouldered by her mother's family who kept their distance not because of the father's crimes, but because she had been born out of wedlock.

It is this German sense of propriety which, according to Professor Brendler of Wuppertal University's Faculty of Education (a co-sponsor of the Bar-On's self-help group) helps to explain the self-induced amnesia concerning the country's past. 'Propriety-mania' says Brendler 'both dictates and exalts conduct at the price of conscience.'

Other members of the group include Martin Bormann's son of the same name, and Reinhard Heydrich's nephew and godson Thomas. The former became a Catholic priest; Thomas Heydrich is a well-known actor who reads and sings all over Germany, mainly from works by Jewish poets. Sad to relate, his three cousins have refused to join the group and take part in the mourning called for by their father's deeds. □

Figures revised upward

The Polish-Jewish weekly *Folks-shtyme* estimates that 450 Jewish members of the Polish Army officer corps were murdered in Katyn forest by Stalin's NKVD. The victims included the chief Jewish chaplain to the Polish Army. □

Second language poets

The Hutchinson Book of postwar British Poets, edited by Dannie Abse, features work by German-born Michael Hamburger and Czech-born Gerda Mayer, both of whom came to this country as children. □

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL RABBI DR. GEORG SALZBERGER LECTURE

Sunday 2nd December 1990, at 3.30 p.m.
in the Synagogue Hall.

REV. CANNON REGINALD ASKEW
Dean of King's College, London
will speak on:

'Christian Awe of Judaism'

Everybody is welcome

Outlook variable

In June the Institute of Jewish Affairs held a one-day symposium about Jewish perspectives on events in Central and Eastern Europe in which several academic and communal personalities gave papers, or took part in the discussion. In the morning session, which considered the implications of a United Germany, the prevailing view was one of qualified optimism (although the Chief Rabbi warned that economic recession could once again trigger German ultra-nationalism). Professor Richard Evans (Birkbeck College) enumerated a number of crucial differences between the Germany of today and of yesteryear. Above all, he said, there had been an important shift in public consciousness since the 1960s when Fritz Fischer demonstrated the similarity between the Kaiser's and Hitler's war aims. During the *Historikerstreit* most historians had rejected Nolte's 'relativisation' of Nazi evil; by the same token the rising generation was too conscious of Wehrmacht involvement in wartime atrocities to identify with the spirit of militarism.

No less crucially, in the 1930s there had been millions of irredentist (i.e. Reich-minded) Germans in Poland, Czechoslovakia and, above all, Austria.

Nowadays Austrians have a distinctive separate national identity, and there are few ethnic Germans left anywhere in Eastern Europe. Dr Siebenmorgen (Bonn University) defined the ideal of the West Germans after the war as being as like Americans as possible – and today's East Germans he said, were following suit. Chris Cviic (Keston College) both reassured and alarmed his audience by warning that many East Europeans see a greater likelihood of Fascism erupting in Russia than in Germany. The afternoon session, concerned with the future of East European (though not Russian) Jewry, produced interesting differences of opinion. Some speakers dubbed Chief Rabbi Rosen of Romania a propagandist for the Ceausescu regime, while his biographer, Joseph Finkelstone, praised the rabbi's role in overseeing massive *aliyah* to Israel while maintaining viable communal institutions inside the country.

There was also disagreement about whether financial resources urgently needed elsewhere should be channelled to what Dr Jonathan Eyal (United Services Institution) described as the 'skeleton communities' of Poland and Czechoslovakia. Dr Antony Polonsky (London School of Economics) stressed the valuable work these communities could still perform in Jewish historical research, and by conducting a dialogue with openminded fellow citizens. The

prospects for the 80,000-strong Hungarian community likewise aroused disagreement. One speaker described the majority as profoundly Magyarised while another listed impressive manifestations of Jewish revival.

Your reporter left the symposium persuaded that the future outlook in Central and Eastern Europe was – like the curate's egg in the famous *Punch* cartoon – 'good in parts'. □

Retiring – at 90

1900 was a musical 'red letter' year which saw the birth of several important composers: Ernst Krenek, Kurt Weil, Aaron Copland. Their exact contemporary, the music publisher Hans Walter Heinesheimer, has just celebrated his 90th birthday in New York. Born in Karlsruhe, Heinesheimer worked for Universal Edition in interwar Vienna, publishing the scores of Krenek's *Johnny spielt auf*, Alban Berg's *Wozzek* and Lulu, Weil's *Dreigroschenoper* and Arnold Schönberg's *Moses und Aron*. As a refugee in the U.S.A. he worked for Boosey & Hawkes, wrote for *Musical Quarterly*, and published the autobiographical *Best Regards to Aida* (which also appeared in a German translation). Until earlier this year he contributed regular features on American musical life to the *Frankfurter Zeitung*. □

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FAMILY EVENTS

Deaths

Bluhm. Walter Bluhm died on 28 September 1990 (Kol Nidrei 5751). He is remembered with love by his family and friends.

Cohn. Dr. Fanny D. Cohn, formerly of Breslau, died peacefully in Glasgow on October the 1st 1990, in her 91st year. Missed by relatives and friends, at home and abroad.

Laquer. Anna Marie Laquer died October 10 1990, aged 91 years. Greatly missed by her family here and in Israel and very many friends.

Rosenberg Kaethe Rosenberg (née Ehrenstein), born in Hanover, formerly of Tel Aviv and London, passed away peacefully 18 August, aged 96, at home in Littlemore, Oxford. Much loved and greatly missed by her daughter Inge, grandsons, their families and many friends.

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Obituary

Alberto Moravia

Alberto Moravia who died, aged 83, was the outstanding Italian writer of the mid-20th century. Son of a Venetian Jewish architect (the family name Pincherle probably derives from *pinkel* the sack in which Jewish pedlars carried their wares) he achieved early fame with a novel castigating middle class corruption, which could also be read as an attack on Fascism. After the fall of Mussolini he hid from the Gestapo in an isolated mountain hamlet – an experience on which he based the classic novel *Two Women*.

Postwar, Moravia combined authorship of frequently erotic work – the Catholic Church placed all his books on the INDEX – with a prominent left wing role in public affairs. □

The whirligig of time

In 1911 the 200-strong Jewish community of Salzburg had twofold cause for celebration: elevation to an autonomous *Kultusgemeinde*, and publication of a scholarly *Geschichte der Juden in Stadt und Land Salzburg*. The moving spirit behind this double achievement was Rabbi Adolf Altmann. After service to the Salzburg *kehillah*, and a wartime chaplaincy, Altmann became rabbi in Trier; he remained there until emigrating to Holland, whence he was deported to Auschwitz.

Now his history of Salzburg Jewry has been republished. A work of impeccable scholarship, it assumes a local Jewish presence already in Roman times, but asserts it only for the thirteenth century, when documents refer to one Ortolph Judäus (presumably a convert). Subsequent documents enumerate Church-inspired discriminatory measures, such as the obligatory wearing of distinctive 'Jewish dress'. Worse was to follow: the Black Death prompted the public burning of Jews, and, when others drifted in thereafter, Archbishop Leonhard expelled them 'in perpetuity' in 1498. His decree remained valid for close on four centuries. Until the 1860s Jews could not reside in Salzburg, or even stay there overnight.

Then came the progressive transformation leading up to above-

A. J. P. Taylor

Alan Taylor, who died at the age of eighty-four, was the best-known English postwar historian. He owed his fame to great industry, a highly readable style and a penchant for public appearances which earned him the sobriquet 'telly don'.

To say that Taylor was no stranger to controversy would be an understatement. His *Origins of the Second World War* denied that Hitler pursued a systematic plan leading to European catastrophe; he simply reacted to circumstances and exploited the weakness of other powers in the tradition of German foreign policy.

It has been said in Taylor's defence that he exculpated Hitler simply to ascribe greater guilt to the Germans – but, whatever his subjective intent, the thesis advanced in *The Origins of the Second World War* has been seized upon by 'revisionist' historians. □

mentioned 'red letter year' 1911. After the Great War the burghers of Salzburg inaugurated – on the suggestion of the Jews Hugo von Hofmannsthal and Max Reinhardt – the famous Festival, while simultaneously providing an eager readership for the antisemitic gutter sheet *Der Eiserne Besen*. Two decades later Salzburg was *judenrein*; then, after 1945, it served as a collection centre for Jewish Displaced Persons. Though *en masse* the Salzburgers had not undergone a change of heart in the interim, some decent elements were emerging, notably *Landeshauptmann* Dr Katschtaler, the main speaker at the launch of Adolf Altmann's re-published history. Another force for good is the regional newspaper, the *Salzburger Nachrichten*, which has ploughed a lonely anti-Waldheim furrow since 1986.

And talking of newspapers: what must former subscribers to the *Eiserne Besen* think of the present-day Salzburg Festival – with George Solti as chief conductor and Hans Landesmann as administrator! □

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Becher. The London based 'europäische ideen' wishes to reprint the letters of John T. Becher to his father Johannes R. Becher (Minister of Culture of the GDR from 1951) which were first published in the early 1950's. Does anyone know the whereabouts of Becher junior? His last known address was in Bracknell. Information to: 1 The Riding, London NW11.

Information is sought for academic publication about: Dr Margareta Goldstein, born approx. 1885, daughter of Julius Goldstein, founder of 'Der Morgen'; Anna Heimann, née Morberger, born Vienna 1890; Emilie Sigmund, née Karger, writer under the pseudonym Ellyn Karin, born 1879; Victor Hahn, writer, publisher of '8-Uhr Abendblatt', Berlin, born Vienna 1869; Leo Fleischer, born Vienna 1887, publisher (wife – Margit, son – George); Marie (Mimi) Schereschewsky, née Schlesinger, born Vienna 1876 (husband – Arnold, children – Vera, Martin); Lisette Schiff, née Kanitz, born Vienna 1874, widow of chemist Felix Schiff (son – Walter). Box No. 1186.

Ilse Rosenduft née Durst would like to hear from Charlotte Joseph, who left Munich in 1937/8 to join a *kibbutz* in Israel. She was then 15/16 years old. Box No. 1188.

Zwecks Einleitung des Verfahrens auf Rückerstattung des Eigentums, werden die Erben des Bankiers Herbert M. Guttman aus Potsdam bei Berlin, Bertinstraß 16/16 a – gesucht.

Er soll etwa 1939 vor der Judenverfolgung nach England (London ?) geflüchtet sein. Antwort ist an Rechtsanwalt Franz Rosenzweig Ansbacher Str. 54, 1000 Berlin 30, Tel. 211-91-78 zu richten.

Nadja Wintrop A classmate from the Lichtwarkschule, Hamburg is looking for her. She emigrated to England in 1933. Fred Lauer, Panoramaweg 15, D-7263, Bad Liebenzell, W-Germany.

I am working on an article of former concentration-camp inmates in exile in Great Britain. One of the people I am interested in is the writer and journalist Bruno Heilig. He came to England in 1939 after being released from Buchenwald and was interned briefly on the Isle of Man at Mooragh Camp. Before he returned to Berlin in 1947 he worked as an engineer at some firm in London. I would be most grateful for any further information on Heilig's Exile in Great Britain. Please write to Dr. Andrea Reiter, 57 Kitchener Road, Highfield, Southampton SO2 3SF.

Herbert Goldschmidt who left Bremen in November 1938 on the 1st Childrens Transport to England would like to make contact with any others who were on that transport. Please Phone: Day – 071 328 7233 Home – 071 435 8880.

Frau Hilde Henlein geboren am 22.2.1907 in Schotten/Hessen Am 28.2.1939 konnte Frau Henlein aus Gevelsberg nach Cambridge auswandern. Von Beruf war Frau Henlein Hausangestellte. 5820 Gevelsberg, Bredderbruchstrasse 91, Germany.

(S)loan(e) words

Every so often, when someone bemoans Britain's indifferent trading performance, Micawberish voices point out that the country's greatest invisible export – the English language – is achieving worldwide market penetration. Examples of this abound; German, for instance, has recently incorporated words like *test*, *design*, *marketing* and *frust* (derived from frustration), to name but a few.

Linguistically at any rate, this is not a two-way traffic: few German loan words have entered the English language of late. This was not always so. Thanks to a century-long peaceful symbiosis before the Kaiser's War, music-loving Englishmen know about *sprechgesang*, mountaineers practise *abseiling*, daytrippers visit the *kursaal*, critics pillory *kitsch*, and Oxbridge types experience *sturm-und-drang*.

The largest single bloc of German linguistic imports derives – appropriately – from warfare: *blitz*, *blitzkrieg*, *flak*, *panzer*. (Others, like *ersatz* and *kaputt*, are indirect spin-offs from the same

activity; *lager* lout, on the other hand, owes nothing to *konzentrationslager*.) Now, it seems, these loan words are going to be supplemented by a German-derived 'Sloane word'. The dialogue of the TV series *Portrait of a Marriage* – the marriage being that between the equally homosexually inclined Harold Nicolson and Vita Sackville-West – is liberally sprinkled with the term *bedint*, connoting low-class or common. *Bedint*, of course, stems from the German word *Bediente*, i.e. servants. It entered the private language of the snobby ill-matched couple who languish so exquisitely on the screen because Harold (subsequently Sir Harold) Nicolson had served at the British Embassy in pre-1914 Berlin. □

Member with astigmatism

Robert Adley, M.P., is a backbencher with a pronounced dislike for the Jewish state; he is also – although he would not thank me for saying so – of Jewish descent. As the Gulf Crisis intensified he called the poison-gas dispensing dictator Saddam Hussein an 'apt pupil of Shamir'. Israel, the M.P. further asserted, had 'illegally invaded' Jordan's West Bank.

This is roughly on a par with Goebbels' *Sprachregelung* that Britain and France had started World War Two. The West's declaration of war in 1939 had been a

response to Hitler's attack on Poland; in 1967 Israel had gone into the West Bank in response to King Hussein's artillery bombardment of Jewish Jerusalem.

The M.P.'s Israelophobia lends support to the theory that Torquemada may have been of Jewish descent. □

Words that conceal – instead of reveal

The Unity Treaty of the two Germanies has been criticised by Heinz Galinski, head of the German-Jewish community. The preamble to the treaty avoids specific mention of the country's historic responsibility for Nazi atrocities; it merely stresses a specific responsibility resulting from the German past, which, in the words of the Jewish spokesman, could equally well refer to the Kaiser.

In defence of the wording the Bonn authorities have argued that a specific reference to Jewish suffering might have prompted a similar demand from the twelve million Germans forced to flee the Eastern territories in 1945.

What further angered the Jewish community was that the text of the full treaty lumps together Nazi crimes, the expulsion of Germans from the East, and the unjust regime of the DDR, as representing 'the continuity of German history'. □

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