

# AJR Information

Volume XLVI No. 6  
June 1991

£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss . . .

**One way channel crossing** p4

**Once famous now forgotten** p12

**Human singer, godlike song** p13

## Our Celebration Dinner

Some of the most significant occasions in the history of any organised community, from ancient Athens to modern Britain, have involved individual members sitting down to break bread and drink together. It is a tradition evoked in Plato's *Symposium*, and reenacted annually at London's Mansion House. Half a century on from the founding of AJR we feel entitled to claim that we have established a tradition of our own. To celebrate that fact we are holding a Golden Anniversary Dinner which promises to be a memorable occasion. Eschewing hyperbole we can guarantee all participants a congenial mixture of good cuisine, conviviality and – with Sir Claus Moser as guest speaker – culture. Please see announcement on page 3.

Politics – the art of the possible

## A new world order

Lloyd George, in a phrase that came to haunt him, called the 1914–18 conflict the 'war to end all wars'. In fact the only – theoretically – good thing to come out of the Great War was the League of Nations. That the League achieved so little was primarily due to American non-involvement, though the equal standing accorded to great and small powers at Geneva also played a part.

The architects of the United Nations in 1945 had learnt their lesson. America was prominently involved from the start and the world's five most powerful countries were invested with the right of veto at Security Council deliberations. Despite such improvements over the old League the U.N. failed to fulfil the high hopes it had given rise to. The two chief reasons for this were the Cold War-induced superpower rivalry and the rise of a Third World bloc which

boosted dictators of the ilk of Egypt's Nasser, Indonesia's Sukarno and Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

Developments over the past few years, such as the demise of Communism in Eastern Europe, the emergence of America as the only real superpower and, most recently, the humbling of Saddam, have now allowed the world, as it were, to turn over a new leaf; President Bush has even grandiloquently projected a 'new world order'.

However, there's many a slip twixt cup and lip. The unfolding Kurdish tragedy demonstrates just how difficult it is – especially in the Middle East, the world's worst trouble spot – to bring what is desirable into accord with what is possible. The President's initial indifference to the plight of the Kurds shows how strong isolationist reflexes are in the American national psyche.

Since then there has been some change in Washington's stance but one should never underestimate the strength of the 'bring-the-boys-home' lobby in America. Should the U.S.A. ever relapse into isolationism hopes for Middle East peace – or indeed world stability – would be set at naught. In the final analysis America, however black it is painted, is the only power capable of discharging the role of world umpire-cum-policeman.

To project the U.N. as a potentially effective supreme world authority is either unrealistic 'globaloney' or an all-purpose catchphrase mouthed by inveterate anti-Americans.

Nor do the arguments bandied about before the Gulf War – that the Arabs, or the Muslims, are the best people to settle Mid-Eastern conflicts among themselves – possess a shred of validity. The chimera of Arab solidarity has been exposed by the mayhem the Iraqis first visited upon Kuwaitis, and Kuwaitis then visited upon Palestinians. As for Islam, faith of Allah the Merciful, one need only look at the Sudan, where a fundamentalist government will not let food aid reach the starving to maintain the fiction that the country is free of famine.

The achievement of a new world order, particularly in the Middle East, has to start from the premise that few countries in the region have evolved beyond the political equivalent of the Stone Age.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on

**THURSDAY 6 JUNE 1991, 7.30 p.m.**

at

**15 CLEVE ROAD, LONDON NW6**

#### AGENDA

Annual Report 1990  
Hon. Treasurer's Report  
Discussion  
Election of Executive Committee  
Amendment to AJR rules  
Followed by a talk by **Rabbi Hugo Gryn** entitled  
'Revisiting the past'  
Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

## Surreal estate

A Dublin road building scheme threatens the demolition of the last remaining 19th-century buildings in Clanbrassil Street. Here, at number 52, James Joyce's hero Leopold Bloom would have lived, had he existed. The tourist authorities put up a plaque to him in what was formerly the centre of Dublin's Jewish community, a slum area boasting 17 kosher butchers and bakers settled by refugees from East European pogroms. □

## United nations exhibition

To celebrate its 40th anniversary the United Nations High Commission for Refugees is holding an art exhibition and auction in July. This will take place in the exhibition halls at Selfridges in Oxford Street.

The UNHCR is looking for artists, especially those from the refugee communities, who may be willing to contribute to this event. Anyone interested in supporting it should contact: Catriona Pike, United Nations Association, 22 New Quebec Street, London W1H 8DH. Telephone: 071-402 9029/9020 □

## Justice delayed

Austria has held no war crimes trial since 1975, when a jury acquitted two men accused of building the gas chambers at Auschwitz. Now the authorities are contemplating action against Innsbruck-resident Mikulas Polhora who, Simon Wiesenthal alleges, was commander of the largest wartime Slovak concentration camp and responsible for the deportation of 8,000 Jews. □

## Profile

### Man of parts



David Maier.

Photo: Newman.

Master of many trades and Jack of none would be an apt description of this month's profilee, David Maier. Interviewing him another catchphrase – about writers being 'engineers of the soul' – vaguely came to mind, though only in a very special sense: as a young man David wanted to exercise the cure of souls, i.e. become a rabbi, before switching to the study of engineering.

Born in Freiburg, S.W. Germany, in 1921, he grew up in an acculturated, and at the same time traditionally Jewish, household – his science teacher father served as community chairman – and came to England at sixteen. Living in a hostel close to Sigmund Freud's last abode, he took matriculation and enrolled at Jews' College. He thus escaped *Kristallnacht*, when his father was sent to Dachau in a cattle truck. Permission to come to England secured a life-saving release in spring 1939; when the family were reunited David had already foresworn rabbinics for engineering (which he studied at Regent Street Polytechnic).

A year later, David was interned, and his father – exempt by some bureaucratic oversight – went along with him rather than endure another separation.

Released, David worked in a press-tool factory that produced seamless copper tubing for Spitfire engines. After that he did research in agricultural engineering before becoming a sales engineer. As export manager of Standard Motors he attended trade fairs throughout the Soviet Bloc from

Leipzig to Moscow, and Poznan to Plovdiv. At the Leipzig Fair he sold a red Triumph sports car to Frau Grotewohl, wife of the East German prime minister, which got her into some trouble. At Poznan he got into trouble himself when riots erupted. The return of the British sales force from riot-torn Poland to the DDR took place in several vehicles, one of which needed towing. The tow rope snapped outside Frankfurt on Oder. David asked a passing farmer with a horse and cart for help. The other ruminated '*wie können wir den Genossen helfen?*' – a question, David realised, addressed to the horse – before proffering a chain for which he would take no payment.

From selling David went back to production, as manager of a factory manufacturing power units for refrigerated lorries. In his mid-fifties, having much earlier become a Chartered Engineer through evening study, he took a Law degree by the same means. His original intention to practise at the Bar was set aside when he became director of the Youth Enterprise Scheme (for acquainting young people with industry and business). In January 1987 he published an article about the scheme in *AJR Information* – and the rest is history!

Of the 50-odd issues of the journal that have appeared since there has hardly been one without a contribution by D.L.M. In addition David is involved in the B'nai B'rith business start-up scheme, and takes an active part in the affairs of Belsize Square Synagogue, whose monthly bulletin he edits. Truly a man of parts!

□ R.G.

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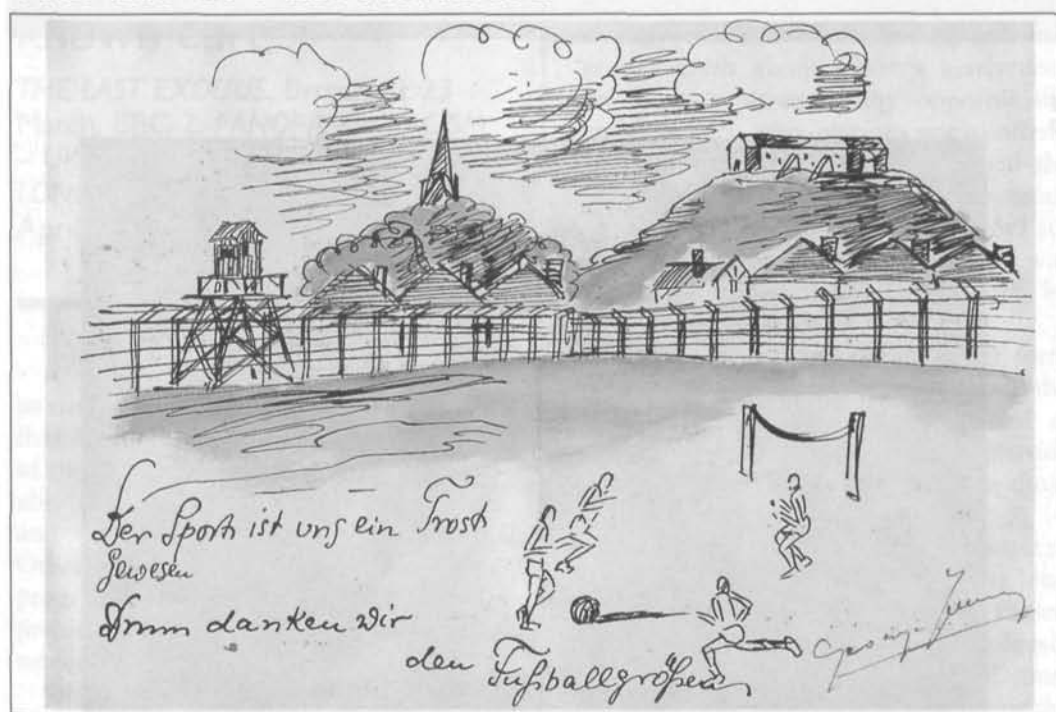
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## The Isle of Man Revisited



A sketch by one of the island's internees.

Soon a permanent exhibition entitled *Internment in Two World Wars* will open in the newly enlarged Manx Museum in Douglas, Isle of Man.

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of internment the museum had invited me to give an illustrated talk on Art in Internment.

At the same time a Newcastle-based film company was shooting a documentary for Border TV about the internees' cultural and artistic life, for which I had supplied a certain amount of material. Some of this had reached me from a most unexpected source: a few years ago after a radio talk about being interned together with Kurt Schwitters, I had received a letter from the son of the Commandant of Hutchinson Internment Camp. He asked me to identify a large number of drawings, woodcuts, linocuts and even oils given by all the Hutchinson artists to his father (who had indeed been helpful to them). The collection, kept in a leatherbound album, included works by Ernst M. Blensdorf, Georg Ehrlich, Hermann Fechenbach, Paul Hamann, Fritz Kraemer, Erich Kahn, Kurt Schwitters, Fred Solomonsky, Fred Uhlman, Helmuth Weissenborn and many others – a unique collection. He also had over a hundred photographic negatives taken on his father's instruction inside the camp, but never printed. This was a sensational find, and he allowed me to use some of his collection for my talk.

Sixth Formers taking History for A-level were bussed in from all corners of the

island. Their questions showed an amazing awareness of the subject and its relevance to the internment of Iraqis in Britain.

The staff at the Manx Museum were young and enthusiastic and eager to show me and Wolf Salinger around. One morning we were driven to historical and beauty spots; having been confined to three streets in 1940 I had no idea how varied and full of historic monuments the landscape was.

How did it feel to be back? 'My' house seemed larger than remembered, but the beautifully-proportioned and well-kept terraced lawn was exactly as in 1940. Only the trees had grown and now obstructed the view of the red roofs of the town towards the Irish Sea and the little castle in the harbour which had been so often drawn and painted by the interned artists.

But the silence was eerie. And the emptiness. No guards with mounted bayonets, no barbed wire, no roll-calls, no small groups of men seated on the grass listening to eminent academics.

Looking down from an attic room at the Commandatura I thought of all the friends who for so many months had peopled this small area, and recalled the emotions – from despair to hope – experienced there 50 years ago.

□ K. E. Hinrichsen

### Bonn chance

During the Gulf War a group of German public figures took newspaper space to disseminate a *Helft Israel* appeal. The text of the appeal highlighted the Germans' special responsibility for the fate of the Jewish State, and charged German suppliers of arms to Iraq with criminal actions. Signatories to the appeal included the former Federal Chancellors Willy Brandt and Helmut Schmidt, ex-Bundestag Speaker Annemarie Renger, the Mayor of Berlin Eberhard Dietgen, and the writer Siegfried Lenz. □

# AJR

## 50th Anniversary

### A Celebration Dinner

Tuesday 15 October 1991 is the date when the AJR will celebrate its Golden Anniversary with a celebration dinner.

Guest of honour and speaker at the dinner will be Sir Claus Moser, prominent academic, Government advisor and statistician.

Full details and a booking form for this special event (£65.00 per person) will be issued with the July issue of AJR Information.

Please note this important date in your diary. It will be an unforgettable occasion.

## Reviews

## One-way Channel crossing

Co-ordinating ed. Werner E. Mosse  
**SECOND CHANCE.** Two centuries of  
 German-speaking Jews in the United  
 Kingdom, illustrated. Published by  
 Mohr, Tübingen, Germany. 668 pp.  
 Hardback. Special U.K. subscription  
 price until the 30 June 1991 (from Leo  
 Baeck Institute) £36. From 1 July, 1991  
 DM 128.

Jewish immigrants entered this country in two waves from German-speaking Central Europe – ‘a business community in the 19th century, with a fringe of scholars, artists and political exiles, and the post-1933 refugees who were more of a mix’. The latter group, has for some time been systematically researched by the Leo Baeck Institute, which has now published a volume of essays of remarkable scholarship and literary quality.

Jews first came from Germany to Britain in small numbers under the Hanoverians, poor people mostly. They arrived in greater numbers in the 19th century, predominantly middle-class and secularly educated, thus able to combine, *pace* C. C. Aronsfeld, ‘commerce with culture as well as philanthropy’. They brought entrepreneurial skills to existing industries and helped to create wealth through the development of new technologies.

But, in spite of individual successes, they failed to impress themselves collectively on Jewish life in Victorian England or on British society in general. Already largely assimilated before emigration, many were prepared to abandon Judaism altogether, by intermarriage and, in quite a number of cases, conversion.

Also, when strong anti-Germanism spread before and during the First World War it seemed a wise precaution to anglicise German-sounding names.

Thus, when the first refugees arrived in Britain in the thirties, they could identify few Jews of obviously German origin to whom they might have turned for help. At first this country was sought out by academics and the liberal professions, followed by merchants and such industrialists as were attracted by incentives to the depressed areas of the north of England and South Wales. In 1938 the *Anschluss* changed the situation in respect of ease of entry. Now visas to land and stay were (with few exceptions) only granted to German and Austrian refugees ‘likely to be

an asset to the U.K.’. For many this meant either transmigration or employment in domestic service, so that by 1939 the age and occupational structure of the refugees was anything but a mirror image of their original communities. By the end of the war the majority had managed somehow to re-establish their lives and careers, but many were rescued from genteel poverty, not least in their retirement, by timely restitution payments.

This, in rough outline, is the theme of the first section of *Second Chance*. The next, larger, part of the book looks at the social and cultural impact German-speaking Jews have made in the two centuries of their presence in this country. Substantial contributions can be claimed in such fields as psychology and psychoanalysis, linguistics, the writing of history, publishing, law, medicine, science and the arts, as well as commerce, industry and banking.

National politics, it might be thought, would be completely closed to those of foreign descent but ever since Lionel Nathan Rothschild entered the House of Commons, Britain has admitted enough contributions to political theory and practice from German-Jewish immigrants to demonstrate a ‘degree of openness to outsiders... unparalleled in the European context’. Rather less ready to accept their Continental colleagues were members of the medical profession. Requalification requirements (and, for a time, internment) were serious obstacles for the newcomers. Notwithstanding the Nobel Prizes of Ernst



‘Stage and concert platforms were less readily conquered’. Ballets Jooss ‘The mirror’, 1935

Joos Archiv, Wiesbaden.

Chain, Hans Krebs and Bernhard Katz, first generation doctors and dentists did not have an easy time of it. Nor was re-entry to the legal profession free from difficulties, albeit more for technical reasons than any other, and ‘scholars remained more prominent than pure practitioners’.

It could be said that the Fine Arts offered greater scope, Sir Ernst Gombrich and Sir Nikolaus Pevsner being outstanding examples of achievement in this area. Stage and concert platforms were less readily conquered. Individual stories of unqualified success – such as the Amadeus String Quartet – do not abound, and, of composers, one at least was ‘lost’ for many years until he was at last accorded much delayed acclaim.

It was, of course, in trade and industry that Jews of German origin found opportunities to bring prosperity not only to themselves but in large measure also to the country of their second chance. Some started modestly, others arrived with means at their disposal and a few laid foundations to vast empires, like GEC and ICI.

*Paths to Acceptance*, the final section of the book, deals with the fundamental problem of all immigrant minorities: the need to come to terms with the socio-cultural matrix within which integration takes place. They encountered ingrained hostile attitudes of the indigenous majority, often reflected in official policies and procedures, but also instances of organised support and individual generosity.

□ David Maier

## Disease with no known cure

*THE LAST EXODUS*, Broadcast 23 March, BBC 2; *PANORAMA: RACISM - UK*, Broadcast 8 April, BBC 1; *THE LONGEST HATRED*, Broadcast 9 April, ITV.

This spring's TV schedules seemed more crowded with programmes about Jews than ever before. Some of us considered this a mixed blessing, arguing that *Panorama's* spotlight on the activities of the British National Party may conceivably inspire interest in *Holocaust News*, and copycat desecration of cemeteries. Others held that there cannot be enough programmes about Jew-hatred if the fog of prejudice and ignorance surrounding the subject is to be lifted.

Of course, there are programmes and programmes. However good the intention, the execution often leaves something to be desired. The *Panorama* exposé of the Tower Hamlet-based BNP, for instance, completely omitted the historical background: today's neo-Nazi skinheads infest the same area of the East End that was the prewar stamping ground of Mosley's blackshirts.

The chief weakness of *The Last Exodus* was its diffuseness. Although ostensibly about Russian Jewry, it digressed lengthily into Polish-Jewish history and the rise of Nazism in Germany. The programme, nonetheless, offered several minor coups: clips from a silent Soviet film version of Isaac Babel's *Odessa Tales* of Jewish gangsters, as well as an interview with a 92-year old Jewish ex-pathologist, who remembered seeing his father killed in the Simferopol pogrom, and himself almost fell victim, 50 years later, to Stalin's Doctors' Plot.

*The Longest Hatred*, though less diverting, followed a firmer line of exposition. It pointed up the linkage between Christianity's monopoly claim to the

'saving' truth and its focussing on the Jews as 'accursed of God' for denying that claim. Several academics demonstrated how the 'gospel' truth about Christ's martyrdom had been 're-arranged' by opportunistic gospel writers, who, anxious not to offend Rome, exculpated Pilate and blamed the Jews. *Le plus ça change*: The poisonous antisemitism of the seminal Catholic St Paul ('Judaism is the synagogue of Satan') was echoed, one and a half millenia later, by Luther, the first Protestant.

What made Christianity in either form substantially different from Nazism was the 'escape clause': Jews were permitted a, frequently leper-like, existence to provide an object lesson of what happens to those who deny the Saviour.

Post-religious racist antisemitism arose to counter the civic emancipation of the Jews in the 19th century. It culminated in Hitler, who, through the greatest - and credulously believed - propaganda hoax of all time, took on the image of a Messiah purging the world of the Jewish spawn of Satan.

*The Longest Hatred* deployed impressive scholarship to shine the light of reason onto a miasma of atavistic superstitions. However, even post-Hitler, reason still has an uphill struggle. This was made depressingly clear by some 'Christian' spokesmen caught on camera. An archetypal Tyrolean interviewed outside the church commemorating the alleged ritual murder victim Anderl von Rinn for instance, stated with blithe conviction 'It is a well known fact that a Jewish sect drinks the blood of Christian children'. There is, clearly, a lot of mileage in the longest hatred yet.

□ R.G.

## Death - a German master

The DM 25,000 Schiller Prize of the city of Mannheim has been awarded to Lea Rosch for her study, written jointly with the historian Eberhard Jäckel, *Der Tod is ein Meister aus Deutschland - der Mord an den Juden Europas*. Lea Rosch is currently director of radio services at Hanover. □

## A Stranger No More

Irene White, *I CAME AS A STRANGER*. Hazelwood, 122 Sunningfields Road, London NW4. 1991. Paperback. £5.



Irene White.

Photo: Newman.

There are many refugee stories. All strike a chord of sympathy and recognition. None more so than those told in clear, unadorned, straightforward language.

One such is Irene White's slim volume, a daisy-chain of memories, strung together with charm and sincerity. It is, as author James Herriot says in his Foreword, the story of the remarkable life of 'a brave woman who survived tragedy and persecution yet kept her sense of humour'.

She takes us, with her stories, into her childhood days in Germany, then to the kibbutz life of her adolescence and on to her arrival as a refugee in pre-war London. We see her as a nurse in peace-time and in war, and follow her into marriage and motherhood. We share her grief when after 40 blissful years her husband dies and she finds solace in bringing comfort to others.

The stories in this book are Irene White's reflections on human nature, its frailties and its strength. They are, not least, a mirror of a life full of compassion and feeling. And if the book bears witness to her character, so does her decision to devote the proceeds of its sale to the AJR for the Homes and Belsize Square Synagogue.

□ David Maier

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# Letters to the Editor

## SIR YEHUDI AT 75

Sir – Whatever the personal tragedies, shortcomings or failures of any man, Sir Yehudi has given so much pleasure to so many in his life that he deserves a better birthday present.

AJR Information should, in my view, have shown more generosity. Live Music Now providing live music for old people, hospitals and other charities, founded and nurtured by Sir Yehudi, is just one of many ways in which he has helped young and old. I also recall, personally, his generous response in 1956 to the needs of musicians who escaped from Hungary. He was one of the first to donate instruments.

How could Sir Yehudi further his many causes without PR? It is a small price to pay for the pleasure he provides. It is a pity that more of the famous musicians do not give equally generous help to musicians of the future and to those for whom music is a lifeline.

I felt ashamed when I read your article, but this will not deter me from continuing to appreciate the wonderful work which AJR and Sir Yehudi are doing in their different ways.

Haverstock Hill  
London NW3

Marion F. Bieber

## DEPORTATION DATES

Sir – I must correct the statement in your April issue that deportations of Jews from Hamburg started on 7 November 1941. The first deportation occurred on 25 October 1941. I know this from the official City Archives, which showed that both my parents and my brother were among those deported to Lodz on that day. The second transport took place on 8 November 1941.

Most victims' names are recorded in a special memorial volume published by the Hamburg authorities in 1967.

Parliament Hill  
London NW3

Ruth Hingston

## CRI DE COEUR

Sir – Hans Hammerschmidt (Letters April) asks why the Christians hate the Jews who provided Jesus. Easy: plain social psychology (primate group dynamics). Groups follow younger leaders and leave the old man to die. Humans have not sorted it out properly; putting the old man into heaven

works only for theology. Jews make the mistake of cleaving to the living god and of seeing the youngster as impostor to the title. It might be a joke; the reality reveals our ape mentality.

St Swithun Street  
Winchester

Gertrud Walton

## GUARDING THE GUARDIANS

Sir – It is a pity that the March editorial is splashed with a big blot of intellectual snobbery by stating that the Conservatives conferred leadership 'first on a woman and then on a quasi-prole'.

I, for one, found this phraseology extremely objectionable and unworthy of an AJR publication.

Vallance Road  
London, N22

M. Maynard

*Beauty, they say, is in the eyes of the beholder. The same, alas, holds good of irony.* Ed.

## HORROR AND HOPE

Sir – We participated, in Poland, in the 'March of the Living' whose itinerary included Auschwitz, Majdanek, Treblinka and Jewish Warsaw. Nothing brings home the horror more clearly than seeing with one's own eyes the mountains of shoes, shaving brushes, spectacle cases, tallitim and suitcases – each clearly marked with the owner's name, town of origin and date of birth.

But it was heartwarming to commemorate Yom Hashoah together with 2,000 youngsters from Israel, U.S.A. and Britain, at which one of the six torches (to commemorate our six million victims) was lit by a 'righteous gentile'.

It was physically and emotionally an exhausting trip, but one, we felt, that HAD to be made.

Earlham Road  
Norwich

E. & M. Friedman

## BILINGUAL SPEEDCOP

Sir – Caught speeding on the M5 motorway some years ago I was interviewed by an officer who deduced my origin from my first name on my driving licence. He told me that his wife, too, came from Germany, which he considered his second home. He then stammered a few words in pigeon German on which I complimented him in the – mistaken – hope that he would let me off with a warning.

Recently I was caught in a speed trap – again on the M5 – and interviewed by the same officer. Recognising me he addressed me in near-fluent German. This time I said, in all sincerity, 'Sie haben aber ganz fantastisch Deutsch zugernt', to which he replied 'Es ist nur sehr bedauerlich, das man nicht Gleiches behaupten kann, was ihr Auto-fahren betrifft'.

Sutton Coldfield  
West Midlands

W. E. Abraham

## STAY SINGULAR!

Sir – You are entitled to your opinion under the principle of freedom of expression, but this does not give you blanket authority to speak on behalf of your readers by adopting an editorial 'we'. By pre-empting another person's opinion, you deprive that person of his or her right to freedom of expression.

Wembley Park  
Middlesex

Ruth Willers

## RAYS OF LIGHT

Sir – As volunteer co-ordinator for the Otto Schiff Housing Association I should like to thank the many volunteer visitors who come regularly to the homes. Their visits bring light and pleasure to the many who otherwise have few contacts with the outside world. I hope that some of the many people who read this letter, and have not yet come forward, will call, in the first instance, Laura Howe at the AJR on 071 483 2536 to enrol and make the necessary arrangements for visiting the residents in the homes in the Bishops Avenue.

Volunteers Co-Ordinator

Darli Neale

Otto Schiff Housing Association

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## 'Aryanizing' music

In January 1990 the *Musical Times* published an article by Eric Levi on the Nazi Aryanization of music. Levi, currently engaged on a book, *Music in Nazi Germany*, deals with three aspects: the devaluation of Felix Mendelssohn, the attempt to replace non-Aryan texts set by German composers, and the Old-Testament subjects of Handel's oratorios.

Naturally, the regime promoted Aryan substitutes for Mendelssohn's Shakespeare music. But even among Party members and Nazi sympathizers such attempts met with disapproval. Thus, Hans Pfitzner, not exactly a philosemite, confessed that he felt unable to surpass Mendelssohn's *Sommernachtstraum* score. Another problem was posed by settings of Jewish poetry by German composers. One case was Beethoven's song cycle *An die ferne Geliebte*, based on poems by Jeitteles. Then came settings of Heine, including even one by Wagner (a French version of *The Two Grenadiers*). More conspicuous were the Lieder by Schubert and Schumann; here the beneficiaries were the Jewish musicians of the *Kulturbund*, whom Nazi edicts normally banned from performing German music.

Problematic operatic librettos included Mozart's *Figaro*, *Don Giovanni* and *Così fan tutte*, whose author was Lorenzo da Ponte, a converted Venetian Jew. Nazi attempts to substitute German translations did not remove the problem, since the available ones were by Hermann Levi, who was even blamed for introducing Wagnerian concepts!

Richard Strauss' favourite librettist, the half-Jew Hofmannsthal, who died before 1933, could not prompt a ban on *Elektra*, *Rosenkavalier*, *Arabella* etc. When Strauss, President of the *Reichsmusikkammer*, composed *Die schweigsame Frau* to a libretto by the Jewish emigrant, Stefan Zweig, Hitler and Goebbels were prepared to permit the performance; yet when the composer tried

to persuade Zweig to further collaboration and expressed detestation of all racist ideology in a letter – which the Gestapo passed on to Hitler – Goebbels forced Strauss to give up his office and the opera was prohibited.

Rosenberg, the enemy of the Churches, was the driving force behind the attempt to reshape the texts of Handel's oratorios; he even claimed that the Messiah, in the final instance, had nothing to do with the Messiah of the Jews. Goebbels, who despised Rosenberg, forbade any alteration of Handel's text, yet did not persist in this attitude.

*Judas Maccabeus* posed a particular problem. Its London premiere, in 1747, had attracted many of the city's Jews, who already then enjoyed much tolerance. For the Nazis the text was ruled out, and their rewritings culminated in *Wilhelm von Nassauen*. A similar revision befell *Israel in Egypt*, which became transmogrified into *Mongolensturm!*

It all seems rather ridiculous, but if one remembers the policy of which it was but a minor aspect, it ceases to be a cause for ridicule!

□ H. W. Freyhan

## Honorary Doctorate

Dr Ernest Foulkes CBE, an eminent and long-standing member of the AJR, was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine by Newcastle University on 10 May 1991. The degree has been awarded in recognition of his role in the Foulkes Foundation, a charitable trust established to enable scientists to take medical degrees in order to undertake future research with a dual background. Dr Foulkes' work over the years has encouraged the University to establish a new degree course with a dual approach. The Foulkes Foundation will make funds available to individuals undertaking this course. □

## Sixty years ago

*Browsing through the Jewish Directory of Berlin, 1931*

A weighty tome of 600 yellowing pages; the bulk of them, arranged telephone directory fashion, lists 70,000 names and addresses.

The preface states 'German Jewry is going through difficult times. Political and economic clouds darken the horizon. The weapon of Jew-hatred is used ever more recklessly. In last September's Reichstag elections over six million cast their votes for antisemitism – but however much enemies want to deny our *Deutschtum*, it exists. No power on earth can sunder our attachment to the German people'.

The list of communal functionaries is headed by *Gemeinderabbiner* Dr Leo Baeck; Joachim Prinz and Wilhelm Levi are listed as preachers. The rubric 'Outstanding Jewish personalities in Berlin' comprises 127 names headed by James Simon, industrialist, collector and philanthropist. The section on Jewish organisations devotes five columns to the Centralverein, and six lines (!) to the Zionist Association; much more space is given to *Adass Jisroel*, the Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Association and the Prussian Landesverband.

ORT and OSE head the list of social welfare organisations. Also listed are 27 charitable associations – from the *Volksküche* to the *hachmassat kallah* providing dowries for brides from poor families – 10 Youth movements, 7 sports organisations (Maccabi, rowing club Ivria, etc), 8 associations of graduates, 11 professional and 12 women's groups. The 'Yellow pages' section enumerates painters, decorators, carpenters, parquet floor fitters, car sprayers, builders, plumbers, glaziers, orthopaedic boot-makers, pest exterminators, engravers and printers.

Such was the profile of the largest German-Jewish community on the eve of destruction. □ R.G.

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### Afternoon entertainment –

#### JUNE

- Monday 3* Crime Prevention – Be safe, be secure – Talk and Video presented by West Hampstead Police Station Crime Prevention Officer
- Tuesday 4* Making the best of Old Age – A Chat with Irene White
- Wednesday 5* Hans Freund: That Reminds Me
- Thursday 6* Around the world in 50 Minutes – Helen Lothian (Soprano) accompanied by Philip White (Piano)
- Monday 10* Merrill Dresner entertains with Songs and Guitar
- Tuesday 11* Henry Kissin entertains with Johnny Walton at the Piano
- Wednesday 12* Songs of the Sea, the Shows and Other Stories – Katy Geary (Soprano) accompanied by Robert Wilson (Piano)
- Thursday 13* (a) Outing to Theatre  
(b) The Magnificent Seven – Lorenzo Marks with Piano accompaniment
- Monday 17* Musical Entertainment by the Sugar Rianos – Jane Marciano and Roberta Sugarman accompanied by Daphne Lewis (Piano)
- Tuesday 18* Jack Harris sings for you accompanied by Happy Branston
- Wednesday 19* Making the best of Old Age – A chat with Irene White
- Thursday 20* Music for a Summer Afternoon – Terri Thomas (Soprano) accompanied by Lynda Ann (Piano)
- Monday 24* Philippa Caller entertains with Israeli Songs and Guitar
- Tuesday 25* Crime Prevention – Be safe, be secure – Talk and Video presented by West Hampstead Police Station Crime Prevention Officer

# The AJR at Work

## Balint House open



The Balints at Balint House.

Photo: Newman.

More than 100 guests attended the official opening ceremony of Balint House, the Otto Schiff Housing Association's new residential home in the Bishops Avenue, on Sunday 21 April.

Mr W. Mattes, Chairman of the Housing Association, in his welcoming speech, paid the staff of Balint House a well deserved compliment: 'A building is not a home, but Balint House is. For this we must thank the Head of Home, Miss Rieger, and all the

staff for their magnificent work'.

Mr C. T. Marx, Chairman of the AJR, thanked the many members and friends who had contributed to the AJR Residential Care Appeal while emphasizing that much more substantial funds were needed for the Appeal to reach its target. He paid special tribute to the Paul Balint and Andrew Balint Charitable Trusts, whose most generous donations to the Appeal Fund, complementing the Housing Corporation's subsidy, had helped to realise the completion of the new Home.

Among the distinguished speakers at the gathering was Mr John Marshall, MP for Hendon South. In his short address, lightly spiced with humour, he spoke highly of the quality of the new accommodation and its scenic location. He also praised the Organisation's work in the field of residential care.

Mrs J. Levinson, Deputy Mayor of Barnet, expressed admiration for the way the architect had incorporated the most up-to-date ideas into the new building.

Rabbi Mariner, of Belsize Square Synagogue, made the benediction, after which all the guests moved to the lounges for a delicious buffet lunch.

The opening ceremony was short and sweet – the buffet long and savoury. A perfect combination. □ M.N.

#### JUNE

- Wednesday 26* The Music Makers – Elizabeth Winton and Stan Longmire accompanied by Ken Stow
- Thursday 27* Opera You Love – Sara Meadows (Soprano) accompanied by John Feild (Piano)
- Sunday 30* Open Day

#### JULY

- Monday 1* Young Ones – Music from the Light Classics by the Purcell School of Music – Mateja Marinkovic with Students
- Tuesday 2* Music for a While – Wendy Duke (Piano) and Anita Vedres (Violin)
- Wednesday 3* The Dulwich Piano Trio – Bridgete Hurst, Myrtle Bruce-Mitford and Michael Freyhan
- Thursday 4* Me – My Music and You – Linda Roth (Mezzo) accompanied by Daphne Lewis (Piano)

You can contact the AJR by

Phone 071-483 2536

Fax 071-722 4652

## Spoilt for choice

June 1-7 is Volunteers' Week. One Volunteer Bureau sent me information about it and asked if AJR would like to nominate one or two outstanding candidates for the title of 'volunteers of the year'.

I thought about this very carefully, but for me every week is Volunteers' Week and how am I to choose one or two above all others? *Pace* Prince Charles and to quote Shakespeare, 'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?' In other words, do we commend specially the people who regularly drive members to their great lifeline the Day Centre? What about the volunteers who turn out in all weathers, who serve at table, run bingo, clear up, cheer up those who are sad?

Some people have been visiting members in the residential Homes, or in their own homes, for years. They have helped with hospital appointments, shopping, listened to sadness and joy, helped with forms and 'phoned dentists about false teeth. Office helpers work as hard as paid staff.

No, I do not think I can choose one or two volunteers but at least I have been reminded that we do not say 'Thank you' enough to those who work with us for no financial reward. I hope there are other rewards. Thank you all very much.

□ L.H.

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071-483 2536

### RESIDENTIAL CARE

We would like to remind our readers that, from time to time, vacancies arise in the residential care Homes administered by the Otto Schiff Housing Association.

If you, a relative or friend, need residential care, please apply in confidence to:

**Ruth Finestone**  
AJR Homes Department  
Hannah Karminski House  
9 Adamson Road  
London NW3 3HX  
Tel: 071-483 2536

## Pension advice

If you are on *Income Support* and are also receiving a *German or Austrian pension* Agnes Alexander and her team of social workers would be interested in hearing from you with a view to checking your *Income Support* to ensure that you are receiving the maximum due to you.

When DSS calculate a person's *Income Support* most types of income are taken into account in full but some are disregarded or ignored in part.

A pension from Germany or Austria paid to the victims of Nazi persecution who are also in receipt of *Income Support* can have £10 per week discounted as income - e.g.: If a person on *Income Support* gets £40 per week pension from Germany or Austria, only £30 will be taken into account as income when DSS make the *Income Support* calculation for that person.

Our Social Services Department has found that the DSS have not applied this rule in a number of cases. When this was pointed out to the DSS substantial arrears were paid to our members.

Please remember that this *only* applies to you if you are in receipt of some *Income Support* and a *German or Austrian pension*. □

## Volunteers meetings

Volunteers who visit elderly AJR members were invited to meetings at Hannah Karminski House by the volunteers coordinator, Laura Howe, on the 5th and 12th of March.

At both meetings Mrs Rita Marmorek, herself a volunteer, spoke about her work as a child care officer for Barnardo's, the voluntary child care agency. In her talk she outlined the ways in which Barnardo's has evolved within a changing pattern of State responsibility for children in need over the last 125 years.

Mrs Marmorek believes that many of the guiding principles of her child care work remain very relevant to her voluntary work for the AJR. After much thought she has drawn up a list of qualities which she feels are essential for potential volunteers. These include: respect for the individual, a readiness to listen, an understanding that it takes time to build up trust, an awareness that promises must be kept and an abiding respect for confidentiality.

Both meetings were followed by lively discussions and all present agreed that the time spent together was very worthwhile. □

## OPEN DAYS IN THE HOMES

*Balint House*  
Sunday 9 June  
at 3 p.m.

Entrance £2.00 and £1.00 children

*Leo Baeck House*  
Sunday 30 June  
at 3 p.m.

Entrance: £2.20

*Osmond House*  
Sunday 23 June  
at 2.30 p.m.

Entrance: £2.00

*Heinrich Stahl House*  
Sunday 1 September  
at 2.30 p.m.

Entrance £2.00 and £1.00 children

## URGENT CHANGE OF DATE THE PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE OPEN DAY

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**FAMILY EVENTS**

**Diamond Wedding**

Congratulations to James J. Walters, formerly Walschaur, and Ellen, nee Cahn, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary on 5th May, 1991.

**Birthday Greetings**

Ison Klompus Wishing you good health on your 85th birthday, and many happy years to come. All our love, brother George, Helga and many friends.

Emmi Simson On her 84th birthday much love from daughter Eva and her grandchildren.

**Deaths**

Lowenberg Irma Lowenberg (nee Marx) died April 22, aged 96, at Sutherland Nursing Home.

Marcus Mrs Charlotte Marcus died, aged 89, on May 10, 1991. Much mourned by her family and friends.

Oppenheimer Margaret Oppenheimer died 25 April, aged 87, at Heinrich Stahl House, Bishops Avenue, London N1. Mourned by her many friends.

Tietz Annemarie Tietz, widow of Ulrich, died peacefully on 2 May, aged 91. Deeply mourned by all her family.

Weigl Erna Weigl died 30th March in her 89th year at Osmond House, where she had been a popular resident for many years. Fondly remembered by her niece and nephew in Vienna and her cousins in London, who join in our gratitude for the loving care of the nursing staff at Osmond House.

area. More details from Laura Howe, AJR Office, 071-483 2536.

Elderly lady requires lady for companionship and light duties, no cooking, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Phone 071-722 5731 after 5 p.m.

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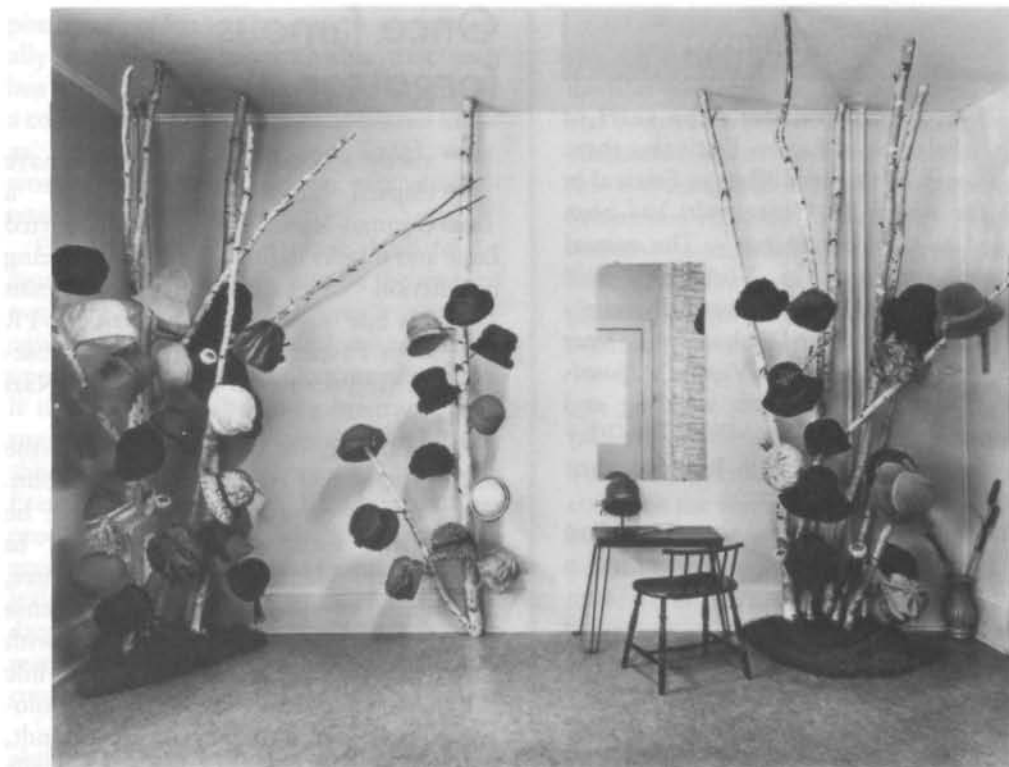
# Art Notes

**J**ohn Denham is adept at seeking out unrecognised or forgotten talent and has achieved notable success with his exhibition of works by two Russian artists (2–16 June). The principal artist shown is Boris Ivanovitch Pastoukhoff (Kiev 1894–London 1974). Pastoukhoff, as a true patriot, joined the Russian army in 1914, suffering severe leg injuries in his first engagement. Before World War I, he attended the Kiev Art School. After the war he studied in Zagreb. In 1931 he settled in Paris where his talent was quickly recognised. In 1942 Pastoukhoff married his second wife Julia Warwick who, despite her name, had a Russian father and French mother. John Denham's exhibition shows the more intimate side of these two artists' work. Julia's work includes several portraits and still-life subjects.

*The Ben Uri* is showing works by two Israeli artists (7–28 July). Yaacov Boussidan, born in Egypt in 1939, emigrated to Israel at the age of 10. In 1959 he was awarded the First Prize as a Youth Aliyah Graduate Artist. Boussidan now lives in London and has won an international reputation for his prints, lettering and illustrated books. Ayala Friedman was born in Israel and teaches art in Tel Aviv. Her sculptures, mostly cast in bronze, are mainly figurative, but she is also showing some ceramics. This is the first major exhibition of her work.

*Photographs by Lee Friedlander*, the well-known American photographer, are being shown in the 'Like a One-Eyed Cat' exhibition of his work at the Victoria and Albert Museum (until 25 August). 150 photographs are on display, including some unpublished and previously unexhibited works. 'Lee Friedlander – nudes' are being exhibited at the Zelda Cheatle Gallery, London (31 July–13 September).

'*The True North: Canadian Landscape Painting 1896–1939*' and 'Un-natural Traces: Contemporary Art from Canada' exhibitions at the Barbican (until 16 June) are well-worth visiting. There are fine landscapes by J. E. H. MacDonald (1873–1932), A. Y. Jackson (1869–1952) and many others. The most outstanding artist is Emily Carr (1871–1945) whose colours remind one of Franz Marc. In the Contemporary Art section there are fine prints by Lynne Cohen (b. 1944 and now



*Hat trees* (c. 1989). By Lynne Cohen.

Photo courtesy of the Barbican Art Gallery.

living in Ottawa). Lynne recently showed her work at John Denham's gallery and also at Canada House.

*Sir Edward Paolozzi* was awarded the Goethe Medal in 1991 and, to mark the occasion, the Goethe Institut, London, is presenting an exhibition of his sculptures and graphics (until 6 July).

*Peter Nahum* at Liberty is showing 'Romantic Landscapes from the war and after' by Norman Town (1915–1987) and 'Illustrations from the Flower Book' by Sir Edward Burne-Jones (1833–1895), the well-known pre-Raphaelite (until 15 June).

*The Annual Summer Exhibition* at the Royal Academy opens to the public on 9 June and continues until 18 August. The Academy is showing 'The Fauve Landscape: Matisse, Derain, Braque and their Circle 1904–1908' (until 1 September). The galleries have been extensively refurbished and will be officially opened by H.M. the Queen, accompanied by H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, on 10 June.

*To celebrate the 400th* anniversary of the birth of Giovanni Francesco Barbieri (1591–1666), known as Guernico (the Squinter), the British Museum is holding an exhibition of over 200 of his drawings (until 18 August). The centrepiece of this display will be 100 works from the Royal Library, Windsor Castle. Barclays Bank has sponsored a 'John Constable (1776–1837)' exhibition at the Tate Gallery (until 15 September). This exhibition focuses on Constable's landscapes and not only provides fresh settings for such masterpieces

as 'The Hay-Wain' and 'Stratford Mill', lent by the National Gallery, but also many other well-known works including 'Wivenhoe Park' from the National Gallery of Art in Washington, which has not been seen in England for 50 years.

*The theme of this year's* Grosvenor House Antiques Fair (12–22 June) will be the art and influence of Japan. The Oriental Department of Spink & Son will be showing an important group of Japanese works of art on their stand at the Fair, including a series of scroll paintings by the celebrated monkey painter Mori Sosen (1747–1821).

*The Grob Gallery* is showing works by Grégoire Müller (until 15 June). A major exhibition of some forty paintings by the great 19th century French painter Jean Baptiste Camille Corot has been arranged by the South Bank Centre and will be shown at the Manchester City Art Gallery (until 30 June), after which it will go to the Norwich Castle Museum (6 July–18 August). □

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## SB's Column

**N**ews from Austria: After years of Salzburg's Easter Festivals, there will be the first Whitsun Festival in 1992 for which Sir Georg Solti has been engaged as chief conductor. — The annual Schubert festivities in Vorarlberg will feature the Alban Berg Quartet and recitals by Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau. — *Leas Hochzeit*, a première at Vienna's 'Josefstadt', focuses on a Jewish wedding and illuminates generation problems. The play is by the stimulating Dutch-Jewish author Judith Herzberg.

**Birthdays.** Berlin-born actor-comedian Curt Bois had his 90th birthday. After a career in Germany and Austria he emigrated to the States where he succeeded against heavy odds playing small parts in more than 40 films. Back in Berlin after 1950 he acted under the direction of Fritz Kortner in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and as Molière's *L'Avare*. His autobiography *Zu wahr um schön zu sein* appeared in East Berlin in 1980.

Camilla Spira who had her stage education at Max Reinhardt's Schauspielschule, mainly worked in Berlin. She emigrated on account of Jewish ancestry, but the Nazis caught up with her in Holland. She performed in *The White Horse Inn* at Westerbork Camp, whence Dutch Jews were sent to Auschwitz. Returning to Berlin in 1947, she continued her stage and film career into the Eighties. Having attained the age of 85, she last appeared in public during a discussion on East-West relations just before German reunification. — Peter Ustinov who needs no description, turned 70 in April. — American film actor Gregory Peck, star of numerous films, unforgettable in Hitchcock's *Spellbound* and John Houston's *Moby Dick* had his 75th birthday.

**Obituary.** Only a few months after the death of Friedrich Duerrenmatt, Switzerland lost its second most important dramatist, Max Frisch, who died in Zurich, aged 79. The death, at 96, is announced of Martha Graham, internationally renowned American dancer and choreographer. Her dance company travelled the world and was last seen in London in 1979 — Maria Reining, who died in Bavaria at the age of 87, was one of the last Austrian sopranos to make her name between the wars. She sang with Bruno Walter, Knappertsbusch and Toscanini in Munich, Vienna and Salzburg. Occasionally accompanied by Richard Strauss at recitals, she was a charming and accomplished Lieder singer. □

## Once famous — now forgotten

**E**xactly a hundred and ten years have elapsed since the birth of a German-Jewish writer who courted fame and infamy in turn; fame by producing non-fiction bestsellers on a one-man assembly line — and infamy by acting as PR man for a Fascist dictator (even if, subsequently, he became an effective anti-Nazi publicist).

Emil Ludwig was born in Dresden as the son of the oculist Hermann Ludwig Cohn. With an eye on a career in academe he change his surname and converted to Christianity. Becoming a freelance writer, he achieved overnight fame — to the intense chagrin of conservative critics — with *Goethe*, a psychological biography, while still in his late twenties. Similarly psychologising studies of Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Beethoven, Napoleon, Lincoln and Lassalle followed and found eager readers. Eventually Emil Ludwig's reputation was such that almost all important political personages of the 1920s (Roosevelt, Stalin, Nansen, Masaryk, Briand, Rathenau, Venizelos, Lloyd George, Hindenburg, Wilhelm II) granted him interviews in the belief that this would ensure them a measure of immortality.

Mussolini, too, craved immortality — in the long term. What he wanted of Emil Ludwig in the short term was a full length portrayal that might make him acceptable in polite society. Flattered to be taken into the confidence of a 'man of destiny', Emil Ludwig duly obliged. Worse was to follow: when Italy invaded Abyssinia, the writer trivialised that act of naked aggression.

But not all of Ludwig's forays into areas of controversy were as maladroit. Examining, in *Juli 1914*, the highly contentious issue of responsibility for the Great War, he identified Imperial Germany as the chief culprit; his interpretation has since been corroborated in Fritz Fischer's classic study *Der Griff nach der Weltmacht*. *Juli 1914* earned Ludwig, in addition to his largest ever sales figures, the undying enmity of the German Right. Never one to avoid controversy, he also raised hackles by writing a study of Jesus entitled *Son of Man*.

It is widely known that Hitler's accession to power in 1933 drove prominent Christian converts like Arnold Schoenberg and the ICI's Lord Melchett back to Judaism. Ludwig had already reconverted 'to express solidarity with my Jewish brethren in their hour of need' after the murder of Rathenau in 1922.

As an emigré after 1933 he continued to express such solidarity, inveighing powerfully against Nazi antisemitism on the occasion of the Berlin-sponsored 'Deutscher Tag' in New York in 1936, and writing a spirited defence of David Frankfurter, Jewish assassin of the Nazi *gauleiter* of Switzerland, Wilhelm Gustloff.

The Holocaust turned him into a bitter hater of all things German. He faulted the Morgenthau Plan, which advocated the total postwar dismantling of German industry, for not going far enough, and demanded that no Jew should ever set foot on German soil again. But Ludwig's sense of Jewish identity was always more in the nature of defensive reaction than positive affirmation. One of his last books, published in 1945, was *The Mediterranean*. Interviewed about it he told a reporter 'I am a European attracted to the Mediterranean probably because I am a Jew... On the other hand I visited Palestine, but did not feel at home there'.

Emil Ludwig died in 1958 in Ascona, Switzerland. □ R.G.

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## Human singer, godlike song

Throughout the year preceding the 200th anniversary of Mozart's death we are already being overwhelmed by hype of exorbitant proportions. The scribes are working overtime to make the man fit his gigantic work. The re-hash of almost 200 years of biographical invention and speculation is being dished up to millions who never gave a thought to the little man from Salzburg until they saw Milos Foreman's film *Amadeus*. Now all the old clichés are being revived.

### Cruel blow of fate

According to Wolfgang Hildesheimer most biographers depict Mozart as a man 'conscious of his destiny, a profound thinker who had not only come to terms with life but also with Death, whom he regarded as man's best friend'. (He refers to the composer's letter to his father, dated 4 April 1787.) Mozart succeeded, mainly by correspondence, to create an image of himself as a man who trusted in God and honoured his parents, whose death has frequently been described as 'a cruel blow of fate'. By and large this is the picture that was presented to

posterity of Mozart the man. It was generally regarded as inconceivable that such heavenly music could have been written by a composer whom his contemporaries knew as an inveterate joker who loved wine, women and song, and who was also extremely fond of his food.

Even his wife Constanze had to be moulded into a woman fit to be the mate of a genius. Lately, as illustrious a musicologist as H. C. Robbins Landon has taken it upon himself to defend Constanze's virtue. It is pure slander by some biographers to suggest that the wife of a genius like Mozart should have deceived him with his pupil, Franz Xaver Süssmayr. If Mozart had no proof of Constanze's infidelity, he may have good reason to be at least suspicious, even jealous. This is obvious from a letter to her dated August 1789, when she took the water in Baden, near Vienna, in Süssmayr's company. He writes:

'... a woman has to guard her respectability, otherwise people will gossip. My dear, forgive me for being frank. ...' At the beginning of October 1791, two months prior to Mozart's death, Constanze is again in Baden in Süssmayr's company. On this occasion the two are partnered by her younger sister Sophie. Mozart makes no bones about his distrust of Süssmayr when, on 8 October 1791, he requests both women in his letter 'to box his ears good and proper on my behalf'. He gives no reason for this unusual request, put forward half jokingly with an undertone of rage.

Constanze went quite frequently to Baden to take the waters. It has never been proved that her state of health warranted the expense. Nevertheless, the question arises: For what purpose did Süssmayr have to keep her company during the last two years of Mozart's life? Mr Robbins Landon's approach to this affair may strike us as somewhat naive, although he had no compunction whatsoever to report Josef Haydn's affair with Italian soprano Luigia Polzelli.

### Heartrending grief?

In his Mozart biography Wolfgang Hildesheimer expresses the opinion that the circumstances of the composer's death are described by highly unreliable accounts credited to a considerable number of people. The heartrending grief demonstrated by family and friends at the dying man's bedside quickly evaporated, and by the morning none of them followed the coffin to its final destination.

Hildesheimer speculates that Mozart may have died of a virus infection. Of course, it

sounds much more impressive when we read, as a contribution from an Australian medical source, that 'the beginning of the end occurred when, as a boy, Wolfgang had contracted a streptococcal infection, and this was complicated by the development of Schoenlein-Henoch Syndrome. Further, immune complexes were deposited in Mozart's kidneys ... so as to cause chronic glomerulonephritis, the disease which was eventually to cause his death'.

### Poppycock

This is the kind of poppycock that will confront the general public in ever increasing volume until 5 December 1991 and probably far beyond. Mozart would have loved this diagnosis. Particularly the term *glomerulonephritis*, which he could easily have used in one of his letters to *Baesele*, his young cousin in Augsburg. He would probably have explained to her that it was medical jargon for flatulence.

□ J. Rotter



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## 40 Years Ago this Month

1851-1951

"The purpose of the Festival of Britain", said Mr Morrison, its proud begetter, "is to enable the British people to pat themselves on the back and say to themselves, 'Bravo, the British go ahead'". This, too, was the purpose of the earlier Festival, called the Great Exhibition, in 1851, which displayed the bulging confidence of the age that progress lay securely in the mechanism of science. That confidence now looks rather the worse for the wear and tear of a most unorthodox century, and perhaps the *Manchester Guardian* of such Liberalism as still survives, is right in feeling that what we have to offer today is faith in social and economic invention - "the application of the scientific attitude to the organisation of human society".

Jews above all have cause to reflect on the changes. A hundred years ago they were struggling for their civil emancipation which was not won till 1858. In the very year of the Exhibition, Alderman David Salomons, having been duly elected for Greenwich, audaciously entered the House without taking the oath 'on the true faith of a Christian', and to the great scandal of one half and the evident delight of the other, managed to vote in the division before the Sergeant-at-Arms removed him.

AJR Information June 1951.

## Quotes of the month

Oddly, after watching the anti-racist film *The longest hatred I found myself, in the end, struggling against some rising prejudices of my own: against the complacent ignorance of the Austrians (one third of whom harbour some anti-Jewish feeling, according to a recent survey) and the apparently impenetrable old hatreds of the Poles.*

Thomas Sutcliffe, TV critic of  
*The Independent*

'We Britons seem to care more about animals than we do about people' a Conservative MP said yesterday when asked about his postbag. 'Kurds? No, Kurds aren't a hot issue. Badgers, whales, pigs and horses, now you're talking.'

*The Independent*, 20 April 1991

'My family fled to Gaza in 1948 and I was born in a tent' says Abdel-Bari Atwan, editor of the London-based Palestinian newspaper *El-Quds*. 'Then we were allowed to build cell-like homes of breeze-blocks, with nine to fifteen people per room. We made a great mistake. If we had stayed in our villages and lived in Israel, we would be in a much better situation now.'

*Daily Telegraph*, 18 April 1991

### Just published!

#### Rettet Ossietzky! Dokumente aus dem Nachlass von Rudolf Olden

Rudolf Olden, well-known barrister, journalist and human rights activist, was one of the team defending Carl von Ossietzky when he appeared before the 'Reichsgericht' on the charge of high treason. Having fled soon after the Reichstag fire via Czechoslovakia and Paris to England, Rudolf and Ika Olden were prominent in efforts not only to secure Ossietzky's release but also his nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. The book documents their involvement in this unprecedented campaign conducted by the exiles in Britain against the Nazi regime.

UK retail price £15.00  
Available from: The Secretary,  
Institute of Germanic Studies,  
29 Russell Square, London  
WC1B 5DP.

## Polishing up the image

During last year's presidential election campaign Lech Walesa did not scruple to use antisemitic innuendo against his opponents in a bid for votes from an ill-educated, bigoted electorate. Having won the election he has switched to wooing another constituency: Western, especially American, public opinion. He accordingly announced, on a recent U.S. trip, the creation of a Polish government committee to combat anti-semitism. Whatever Walesa's motives, his appointment of such doughty anti-racists as Jerzy Turowicz, editor of the Catholic weekly *Tygodnik Powszechny*, and the historian Ladislaw Bartoszewski on to the committee holds out the promise that the Polish public may at last, 50 years after the Shoah, undergo some re-education on a subject that has stained the country's reputation for centuries.

President Walesa has also announced that Polish Jews living abroad would be able to petition for a return of their property in Poland. □

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### THE MANDELAS

As on Winnie's 'football team'  
Nelson turned his purblind eye,  
While *verkrampste* loudly scream,  
Into nightmare turns a dream  
And the world can only sigh

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She was Berchtesgaden's Liesel  
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## Obituaries

## Max Frisch

Max Frisch who has died, aged 79, was one of the outstanding dramatists of the post-war period. His experience as an observer of the Nazi phenomenon from the proximity of neutral Switzerland inspired his two internationally best known plays, *The Fire Raisers* and *Andorra*. *The Fire Raisers*, with its hero Biedermann—a name connoting blinkered philistinism—could be read as a domestic allegory of Chamberlain's appeasement of Hitler. *Andorra* has found a place in the repertory of world theatre as a moving allegory on the Shoah. Even so the play lacks a positive Jewish dimension; its hero-victim is only a Jew in the sense that others think him one.

It can be said that at a time when, thanks to the Third Reich, German (in the narrow sense) letters had dwindled into sterile provincialism, Frisch and his fellow-Swiss Friedrich Dürrenmatt helped maintain the high standards of the German-speaking literary tradition. □

## Graham Greene

Graham Greene was a man of prodigious literary talent and output – and no less prodigious contradictions. Conversion to Catholicism in his twenties turned him into a doubter, rather than a believer. The chief protagonist of his 1930s novel *The Power and the Glory* was a priest operating perilously under a left-wing Central American dictatorship that had outlawed religion. Several decades later Greene hobnobbed with Fidel Castro and General Torrijos of Panama.

*Brighton Rock* had a 'hero' whose unmitigated evil Greene, by his own admission, found more appealing than tepid goodness resulting from obedience to convention.

Despite having served in wartime British Intelligence Greene felt no revulsion against Kim Philby, to whose autobiography he wrote a sympathetic introduction. Most notoriously, standing on the Eastern side of the Berlin Wall – where would-be escapers were routinely shot – he once said he would rather be there than in the West.

An equally notorious fact, though one strangely omitted from most obituaries, was the antisemitic undercurrent of *Stamboul Train*, the novel which consolidated Greene's fame half a century ago. Though the author never repeated this lapse he evidently saw no need to disown the work as a youthful aberration. □

## Bertl Goldstein

The death, at 72, of Vienna-born Bertl Goldstein brought to an end a life generously devoted to the welfare of others. Bertl's work for her fellows took two forms: entertainment – she had trained as a singer – of old and blind members of the community, and regular voluntary service at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre. We extend heartfelt condolences to her husband. □

## Search Notices

**King William's College**, Isle of Man is seeking information about the following ex-internees to update their records:

**Fuchs**, Alfred Peter. 25 November 1932.

**Rosenberger**, Gerhard Hermann. 8 July 1933.

**Van Issum**, Bernhard Ernst. 12 November 1934.

**Pleher**, Paul Hermann. 26 June 1929.  
Replies to: Brian Crookhall, Alumni Office, King William's College, Castletown, Isle of Man.

**Marcel Reiner/Rainer**. Born Cracow 1924/5. Lived on Syrokomla Str. School friend of Alexander (Olek) Spatz (now resident in Israel) he left for school in England, Isle of Man or Isle of Wight, in 1937 (approx.). Please contact Mrs S. Mencer, 10 Ackland Crescent, SE5 8EQ in order to contact A. Spatz.

**Mario Herrlich** is working on a dissertation about Jewish doctors in Dresden, Zwickau and Chemnitz during the Weimar and Nazi periods. Please send any relevant information to him at: Claus von Stauffenberg Strasse 31, Hoyerswerda, Deutschland 0-7700.

**Meyer** I am looking for friends of Mr Felix Meyer and Mrs Lena Meyer (nee Buxbaum) who were deported from Erfurt, Germany to Theresienstadt in September 1942 and died there. Please contact: Walter J. Reis M.D., 226 South Maple Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601 U.S.A. Telephone 412-837 0900.

**Piatowski** Victor Piatowski escaped Majdanek camp 28/3/1944. Please contact Ruth Green (nee Kosky: 081-886 0651. 25 Arnos Grove, Southgate, London N14 7AE (Possible family).

**Eva-Maria Ballo**, born 25/8/25 (probably in Hamburg) and Hans-Joachim Ballo, her brother, born 8/9/24. Please contact Gisela Jackson, 12 Margate Road, St Annes on Sea, Lancs FY8 3EG. Mrs Jackson seeks information on behalf of Frau Ilse Herzog, who is resident in Hamburg.

**Tishler** The Jewish Refugees Committee is still trying to locate descendants of Daniel Tishler. Would Michael Tishler, who telephoned in May 1989, please telephone again.

## Upside-down world

Our March editorial drew attention to a series of paradoxes: Germans detesting war, and saving Russians from starving, Gorbachev exchanging perestroika for repression, and the Tory Party crowning first a woman and then an early school-leaver. Meanwhile there has been a competition between the leaders of the main political parties as to who has the haziest recollection of the number of O Level passes gained. It looks as if soon the University of Life will challenge Oxford's claim to be the alma mater of most occupants of 10 Downing Street.

In the House of Commons, too, topsyturvidom is rampant, with Labour left-wingers beating their ploughshares into swords. While Claire Short once warned the Coalition against imposing a tyrannous regime on Iraq, Dave Nellist roared 'betrayal' at ministers reluctant to intervene in Kurdistan. Correspondingly the government benches beat their swords into ploughshares with MPs who had eagerly backed the Gulf War counselling respect for the principle of inviolate national frontiers.

Reports from the United States compounded the general confusion. It appears that the last 'first lady' was no lady. Also, despite having been no more than a starlet herself, she put all her faith in the stars. What is worse, the President, while flying Air Force One when off terra firma, was actually 'Number Two' in the White House.

But the most mindboggling examples of topsyturvidom come from Gogol's homeland, Russia. In the Soviet Union Communists represent conservatism and striking workers are anti-Communists. Georgian and Moldavian independence fighters adamantly oppose demands for independence of others within their territory. To cap it all the going rate for forged Jewish identity papers varies from between one and five years' average salary. To think that 50 years ago our hunted coreligionists all over Europe would have given anything for forged non-Jewish identity papers!

□ R.G.

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## Treason of the clerks

Everybody knows what the term clergy connotes, but few are *au fait* with clerisy. The latter are 'a body of scholars, or learned men'. In the Middle Ages clergy and clerisy overlapped; given the Church's monopoly of learning, the only intellectuals extant were 'clerks in holy orders'.

Julien Benda's 1920s polemic *Le trahison des clercs* was aimed not at the priesthood, or even office employees; he charged intellectuals with funking their duty to society by non-involvement in the burning political and moral issues of the day.

Today Benda's strictures no longer apply; some would even say that the opposite holds good (and are not too happy about it, either!)

Interestingly enough Benda was Jewish – as are some of the most vocal intellectuals involved in the current political debate.

No one personifies the politicised scholar more eye-catchingly than MIT's Noam Chomsky, the 'father' of modern linguistics. America is a country whose strength – or, as he would say, weakness – lies in the agreement of Democrats and Republicans on crucial questions such as the Cold War and the Gulf Crisis. Not only is Chomsky critical of consensus politics – he has produced a version of American history which amounts to a catalogue of crimes: near-genocide of Red Indians, enslavement of Blacks, napalming of Vietnamese, exploitation of Hispanics, and so forth. To say

that the war in the Gulf hinges on oil doesn't satisfy Chomsky; he sees it as part of Washington's design to subjugate the entire Third World and siphon off its wealth.

The British counterpart to Chomsky is Harold Pinter, who, though no scholar, enjoys considerable cachet as a playwright. Sharing Chomsky's world view, Pinter gets additional mileage out of an anti-Americanism that is second nature to many intellectuals in the U.K. Graham Greene, for instance, was so Americophobe that his New York agent had to travel to Canada for face-to-face meetings with the author.

Whereas Greene was a lapsed antisemite – vide *Stamboul Train* – Pinter and Chomsky are lapsed Jews. Neither shows any concern for the survival of the Jewish State, which they see merely as an instrument for the West's subjugation of down-trodden Third World Arabs.

*Le trahison des clercs* has thus acquired a meaning quite opposite to the one intended by its author. In Chomsky's and Pinter's case one could talk of twofold treason – to Jewry and to the countries of their birth. Fortunately for us – and them! – the U.S.A. and Britain are democracies where *outré* posturings which would be regarded as treasonable elsewhere are permitted.

□ R.G.

## Out of the ashes

Hofgeismar, North Hesse, may be a comparatively small town near Kassel, West Germany, but it shares with Frankfurt/Main the distinction of being the only other place in Hesse with a Judaica museum. In an area where today's youth grows up without Jewish neighbours, where school children regularly express the desire to learn something about Jews and Judaism, the Hofgeismar museum provides a facility to help to close this gap. In conjunction with the *Jahrbuch Kassel*, a local history magazine, a number of important Jewish contributions relevant to the district have been published which in 1985 were re-issued in a special edition *Fremde im eigenen Land* (Strangers in their own Country). A sequel is planned for the not too distant future.

In order to further historical research a regional Jewish bibliography was published in December 1989 comprising no less than 971 titles; some of the listed authors such as Franz Rosenzweig and Rudolf Hallo are of general importance considerably beyond merely local interest. The growing library of the Hofgeismar museum can provide most of the books in question. In their totality they are indeed a record of *Verbrannte Geschichte*, incinerated history, the title of this well produced booklet of 83 pages. It is obtainable from the publishers:

Verein für hessische Geschichte und Landeskunde e.V., Zweigverein Hofgeismar near Kassel, Germany. Cost DM 9. □

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