

# AJR *Information*

Volume XLVII No. 1  
January 1992

£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss . . .

Speak memory  
p2

A 'demo' in  
Frankfurt p3

AJR and the  
Residential  
Homes – Special  
Announcement  
p3

The Road  
from  
Damascus

Since President Assad is a mafioso who sees an advantage in going 'legit' Syria now appears readier to conform to international standards of conduct than Iraq and Iran. This impression is, however, belied by Assad's expulsion of Beate Klarsfeld and continued protection of Alois Brunner. A country sheltering the worst Nazi mass murderer still at large must remain anathema to the civilised world. Natural justice demands that Brunner stand trial for crimes that can know no Statute of Limitations! □

Reflections on the Quincentenary

## 1492 and 1933

The story of the Jews, it has been remarked, is not so much history as martyrology. In the second millenium of the Dispersion four events mark sanguinary turning points in the chain of Jewish experience: the start of the Crusades in 1099, the expulsion from Spain in 1492, the Chmelnitzki pogroms of 1648 and Hitler's accession in 1933.

In each instance the consequences were the same: extinction of once flourishing communities, massive loss of life and the dispersal of survivors. However, looking back over the intervening five centuries, we discern in the tragedy that befell Spanish Jewry the closest parallel to our own. Before 1492 Jews on the Iberian Peninsula had lived in a culturally fruitful symbiosis with their neighbours that bears comparison with the situation in early twentieth century

Germany. In both cases a long period of coexistence was abruptly terminated by the edict of an unspeakably cruel ruler. (The mindset of Isabella the Catholic prefigured Hitler's in its fanatical bigotry.)

Soon after the expulsions the two Iberian states went into a steady decline, that of Portugal, *pace* Hugh Trevor-Roper, being directly attributable to de-Judaisation. The stagnation that overtook the Spanish economy, likewise, owed a great deal to Ferdinand and Isabella's ejection of Jews and Moors.

If we look at the postwar German economy such a parallel obviously breaks down. On the other hand, no less an authority than Bertolt Brecht remarked on how the absence of Jews had impoverished the cultural life of postwar Berlin. The people whom Brecht missed in Berlin had (if fortunate enough to survive) gone to London and New York, thereby turning Germany's loss into Britain's and America's gain.

Surveying the centuries since the expulsion we find that the descendants of the refugees of 1492 likewise made a massive contribution to their countries of asylum. Some of this occurred in the decades immediately following the expulsion. In Italy Sephardi newcomers enriched Renaissance art and scholarship, particularly in the spheres of music and philosophy. In the Ottoman Empire, then reaching its apogee under Suleiman the Magnificent, they infected commercial and financial expertise into a still underdeveloped economy. An intrepid minority even went to the New World to form part of the European pioneering element.

But the greatest flowering of the Sephardi genius occurred several centuries later. Disraeli 'created' the British Empire, while Mendès-France helped dismantle the French one. Spinoza was the glory of Dutch philosophy, Fermi that of Italian science. Others in the Sephardi pantheon are the painters Pissaro and Modigliani, the composers Halevy and Milhaud, and the writers Canetti and Primo Levi.

In the person of Levi the post-1492 Sephardi tradition intersects with the post-1933 Ashkenazi one. That Levi could write *after* Auschwitz testifies to the enduring strength of Sephardi Jewish civilisation. We have much to be proud of!



The pillaging of the Ghetto – 1614.

## AJR members honoured

The German Order of Merit has recently been awarded to Ilse Wolff, ex-librarian of the Wiener Library and sometime head of Oswald Wolff Publishers, (who was profiled in the May edition of *AJR Information*) – and to Dr Maria Grossmann, who, after many years as physician and radiologist at University College Hospital, is still medical consultant to the German Embassy. □

## Literary prize

AJR member Bertha Leverton was co-recipient of the 1991 H. Wingate prize for Non-Fiction for her compilation, jointly with Shmuel Levenson, of *I came alone*, The story of the Kindertransports. The other recipient of the prize was Anthony Rudolph for his study of Primo Levi. The prizes were awarded at a ceremony by Judge Israel Finestein, President of the Board of Deputies. Bertha Leverton from whose home address 50 London Road, Stanmore, Middx, copies of *I came alone* (£16.50) are available, donated her prize money to ROK. □

## Heinrich Heine unerwünscht

The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* reports that Heinrich Heine-Strasse in Lübben, in the former DDR, has been renamed Ernst von Howaldt-Damm (the name it bore prior to 1945). Apparently Ernst von Howaldt started a local Savings Bank, a home for midwives and similar useful institutions. In brief, he was an honourable man. Heinrich Heine, on the other hand, has again become *unerwünscht* in this part of Germany. □

## COMPANIONS OF LONDON

A specialist home care service to assist the elderly, people with disabilities, help during and after illness, childcare and household needs.

For a service tailored to your individual needs by Companions who care – Please call

071-483 0212  
071-483 0213

110 Gloucester Avenue,  
Primrose Hill,  
London NW1 8JA  
(Emp Agy)

## Profile

## Speak memory



Vera Gissing.

Photo: Newman.

The Czech-Jewish refugee experience differed in several respects from the German-Jewish one. The brief span between the Fall of Prague and the outbreak of war meant that far fewer Czech Jews were saved. (For instance, Nicholas Winton's 'children' numbered some 600 compared to over 9,000 German/Austrian *Kinder*.)

On the other hand, once in Britain, Czech Jews were classified as friendly aliens – thus avoiding internment – and many youngsters received a proper education at a Czech government-run boarding school. (The ex-Labour MP Alf Dubs was one of them.)

Vera Gissing (née Diamantová) was born near Prague in 1928. Aged 11 she experienced the Nazi take-over, and saw a Wehrmacht officer spit in her father's face. Placed on a transport by Mr Winton she came here with her sister. At Liverpool Street they were separated, the sister bound for a South coast boarding school, and Vera for Methodist foster parents near Liverpool. At 12 Vera had sufficient Czech patriotic consciousness to write to President Benes hailing the successful evacuation of Czech forces from France. This contact eventually led to her being placed in the Czech School in mid-Wales. Among the school's 150-strong student body she formed friendships that have lasted a lifetime.

In spring 1945 she was the first of her

schoolmates to receive news of relatives: her mother had survived Belsen! Cruel disappointment followed when, just days later, the mother succumbed to typhoid.

Soon after, Vera, still only 17, returned to what she considered her country in search of the rest of her family. She was to suffer renewed disappointment, finding only the aunt who had buried her mother at Belsen, and encountering the lasting legacy of Nazi-inspired antisemitism. Native Czechs blamed her for having spent the war in the comfort of England, and fellow matriculation students expressed resentful envy of her wardrobe. The turning point came when, on a river trip, she heard the captain laud Hitler's genocide of the Jews.

## Slipping the leash

Her second flight to England was fraught with difficulty. With the new Communist rulers holding her aunt hostage, as it were, she was only allowed out on the understanding that she would supply information about illegal escape routes to the West.

Once back in Britain Vera managed to slip the leash of the Czech KGB by taking on a new identity through marriage to an Englishman and settling in the provinces. Except for an (anonymous) radio broadcast about the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia she spent the next 30 years raising a family, and helping her husband in his business ventures.

The 1980s finally brought her the leisure needed to record her life story – an enterprise for which she drew on the diary that had been her father's leaving present to her. The result was *Pearls of Childhood*, which was published in 1989 to uniformly good reviews (including one in this journal). A TV adaptation starring Claire Bloom was mooted, but dropped for financial reasons.

In the interim the book has appeared in paperback, and been put on the reading list of a number of schools. Even more gratifyingly, it is about to come out in Czech, and will be read in instalments on Prague Radio.

Today Vera Gissing lives in rural Berkshire, still in touch with Nicholas Winton who helped save her life all those years ago. Planning more books, she derives satisfaction from her work for the Akim Homes for handicapped Israelis – and from the knowledge that her own bitter-sweet childhood reminiscences help educate youngsters in her original, as well as her adopted, homeland. □ R.G.

## A 'demo' in Frankfurt

arrived in Frankfurt at the beginning of October, at a very interesting time. The East German town of Hoyerswerda had just expelled all foreigners and declared itself 'immigrant-free', followed by other towns, to the accompaniment of beatings, destruction and arson. There had been attacks on immigrant hostels with two small Lebanese girls recovering in hospital from severe burns.

Thanks to friends, I got a chance to see the powers of good reacting in force. They took me to a demonstration against the xenophobes and rabble-rousers, held in the main city square, the Römer.

My hosts and I set out at lunchtime and encountered a band of youths with a loud-hailer, bearing a large sheet inscribed with a complicated and obscure slogan. We were actually under the impression that they were inviting people to the rally, but it turned out that they were *Chaoten*, militant anarchists opposed to the respectable progressive establishment.

Over a thousand people assembled on the square. This, about a third of the size of Trafalgar Square, is surrounded on three sides by beautiful half-timbered houses which have arisen from the ashes of war-time destruction; on the fourth side stands the historic City Hall, and in front of this was a large open truck on which the speakers and organisers were assembled. Among the latter there stood a legendary figure from the past: Daniel Cohn-Bendit, the 'Red Danny' of 1968 Paris student uprising fame, now a middle-aged, solid, respectable Social Democrat leader.

A well-known churchman spoke first, with gravitas and emotion, condemning the outrages of the xenophobe hoodlums and

setting out the arguments in favour of the immigrants in much the same terms as are used by their defenders in Britain. The trade union leader who followed spoke along the same lines. Housing shortages and unemployment, especially in the east of the country, were demonstrably not caused by the influx. Sinister forces, some of them connected with the Kohl government, were using the immigrants as scapegoats for the troubles arising from reunification. The government was criminally tardy in taking action. Both speakers used a quiet, moderate, very West European approach. From Red Danny, we heard a different tone: urgent, passionate, hoarse. He rode into the attack with old-fashioned fervour, much more traditionally German than the others. He may be middle-aged now, but he has been badly mauled, and is fierce and battle-hardened. He had not spoken very long when the *Chaoten* arrived with their sheet and loud-hailers. They had been lurking on the fringe of the crowd trying – not very hard – to cause trouble by playing pop-music. Now they began to parade up and down in front of the tribune chanting, *Heuchler, Heuchler, Heuchler!* (hypocrite).

Cohn-Bendit flew into a terrible, tearful rage. His voice broke. 'How dare you! My parents were murdered here because they were Jews! I know what I am talking about when I condemn intolerance and race hatred! How is it possible that such monstrous vices can stalk German soil once more? We must crush the heirs and imitators of the Nazis!'

Looking around at my fellow demonstrators, I noticed a great deal of sympathy and admiration. Unlike me, they had not been put off by the Goebbels-style oratory of Red Danny. I sensed the underlying guilt which their kind of Germans, the best kind, feel when confronted by Jewish survivors. A ripple of indignation greeted the *Chaoten*. The audience was genuinely moved by Danny's tears and by the mention of his murdered parents. The *Chaoten* finally marched off amid protests at their intervention. The rally unrolled as planned, finished on the dot at the advertised time, and everyone dispersed peacefully to their homes for late afternoon tea. Fathers carried their toddlers home on their shoulders, mothers led their children by the hand. People looked thoughtful. It had been a civilised gathering. Police presence had been minimal.

Obviously it was the converted who had been preached to. I realised that Good had not decisively routed Evil, but was left with a good feeling.

□ Elisabeth Houlton

## AJR AND THE RESIDENTIAL HOMES

In our August and September issues we referred to the relationship between AJR and the Otto Schiff Housing Association (OSHA), responsible for the administration of the homes for residential care and sheltered accommodation for elderly Jewish refugees.

New arrangements have now been worked out under which AJR will continue to be involved in the procedures for the selection and admission to the homes in a manner similar to that practised since their inception over 30 years ago. The staff of both organisations will be strengthened to take account of the fact that applicants are now of a much greater age than in years past.

The AJR Homes Department team will continue to be led by Ruth Finestone. Members of the department will not only assist intending residents while their applications are being dealt with, but maintain contact with them once they take up residence. AJR welfare work among all residents of the homes will be extended. In this the cooperation of the house committees will be sought.

Further, the AJR plans to arrange for a substantially increased financial contribution to be made from the AJR Charitable Trust towards reducing the deficit which OSHA expect to incur during 1992. □



### John Denham Gallery

50 Mill Lane, West Hampstead  
London NW6 1NJ 071-794 2635

I wish to purchase paintings and drawings by German, Austrian or British Artists, pre-war or earlier, also paintings of Jewish interest.

### JACKMAN SILVERMAN

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

26 Conduit Street, London W1R 9TA  
Telephone: 071 409 0771 Fax: 071 493 8017

## Reviews

## Looking for values

Ray Monk: *LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN THE DUTY OF GENIUS* Vintage 1991, £9.99

The philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein was a key figure in the Modernist movement which decisively changed European culture. Wittgenstein, born in 1889, was one of the younger members of that central European generation who delineated the modern cultural crisis – the generation of Kraus, Rilke, Buber, Spengler, Weininger, Heidegger and others. The factors which produced the cultural shift were various, but at its centre lay a value crisis due to a loss of faith in traditional sources of value, such as God, nature, reason and, most latterly, history as progress. Thus the sensitive mind, seeking a focus that lent it coherence, shifted inward into 'inner certainty', sexuality, the unconscious, the dream-world. Some, for example Lukas and Walter Benjamin, passed to a new version of history and espoused a faith in various types of Marxism. All these writers expressed a sense of loss; they detested modern society and discerned a catastrophic cultural decline. Their work revealed the vacuum which was later filled by the charismatic obscenity of Hitler.

Like many others of this desperate generation, Wittgenstein was of Jewish origins. His paternal great-grandfather was Moses Maier, a land agent who, taking the surname of his princely employer, became Wittgenstein. His paternal grandfather, Hermann Wittgenstein, was a convert to Protestantism, called himself Hermann *Christian* Wittgenstein and acquired a reputation as an antisemite. By Ludwig's generation the family was completely assimilated, and their largely Jewish origins entirely suppressed. He thus grew to maturity without traditional sources of identity, and ill-equipped to cope with the massive changes in society and culture

resulting from the impact of science and industry.

Within this uncompromising environment Wittgenstein faced the tasks of making sense of modernity and of his own wayward temperament. Thus he came to espouse a doctrine of the absolute impersonality of science and personal ethical faith derived solely from an inward certainty, a faith about which nothing could be 'said' but which could be 'shown' (i.e. by conduct). Wittgenstein is therefore to be understood as a Modernist thinker. *The Tractatus* is a metaphysic for a world from which objective value has withdrawn. Like other Modernists, he insists that values come from within. The modern must make his own world of meaning, for there is no other source, neither God, Nature nor Reason. And the later, more linguistic, philosophy is still concerned with setting the limits to what can and cannot be said. Wittgenstein's attention to language – the formal languages of logic and mathematics, and ordinary language – is a concern for the limits of the 'sayable'.

Monk's fair-minded and thorough biography successfully relates the life, the times and the thoughts of this hugely influential figure. The life of a thinker is not often externally eventful, but in Wittgenstein's case there was research in early aeronautics; a spell as an architect; military service in the First World War (for which he was highly decorated); a stint as a primary school teacher; his Second World War service in various hospitals, and his years as a reluctant university lecturer. All this was punctuated by periods of sought-after isolation in the remote fastnesses of Norway. His inner life oscillated between the poles of absolute moral perfectionism, and desperate self-loathing. Wittgenstein's desire for purity of soul made him ill-fitted for a world of moral compromise that most humans have to accept in the normal course of events.

□ Harold Freedman

## Physician, heal thyself

Bernice Rubens, *A SOLITARY GRIEF*, Sinclair-Stevenson, 1991, £13.95

Not since *The Elected Member*, for which she received the Booker Prize, has this distinguished Jewish author written so stringent, moving and, certainly in novelistic terms, successful a book. On this occasion her protagonists are not of the Jewish faith – they are, in fact, only loosely connected with any faith – but the chief ones are nevertheless outsiders, even outcasts.

The sad anti-hero of the story is psychiatrist Alistair Crown. If ever there was a physician in need of healing himself, he is that man. Even before his own personal crises overwhelm him he deprecates his profession which, deep down, he regards as 'a swindle.' Yet he coasts along, a foil for the mind-impaired patients who resent him but need him to listen to their agonies.

His Calvary is the birth of a Down's Syndrome child. Right from the start he acts erratically, bringing his wife a bunch of flowers stolen from a cemetery. That theft remains a potent symbol to the end of the novel. This scientist, who roots about in other people's souls, cannot get himself to look at the face of his unfortunate daughter, Doris, who, passionately loved by her mother, develops into a lovable little creature.

Dr Crown leaves home and goes to live in his consulting room. But secretly, and at night, he returns to his house and in the dark touches the child. He does not even realise the peril of this course of action. He also draws her unknown face compulsively, creating a whole portfolio. But he will not come to her birthday party, nor to see her act in a play at her special school. The child always expects him to meet her one day and the mother has to keep on promising that dad *will* do so.

### BELSIZE SQUARE APARTMENTS

24 BELSIZE SQUARE, N.W.3  
Tel: 071-794 4307 or 071-435 2557

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

### DAWSON HOUSE HOTEL

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

72 CANFIELD GARDENS

Near Underground Sta. Finchley Rd,

LONDON, N.W.6  
Tel: 071-624 0079

### CZECHOSLOVAKIA, PRAGUE

Holidays, W/end breaks.  
Central accommodation.  
£30 double, £20 single.

Telephone George Czaban:  
(0626) 770211

### DAY CENTRE

Can you spare an hour to entertain?

Music – talks – demonstrations etc. Any day of the week. If so please contact Hannah Goldsmith on Wednesdays between 9.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

071-328 0208

or evenings 081-958 5080.

Then Doris disappears . . . while her mother is making love with another man. From then on the novel changes pace as the search for the handicapped child gets under way. That part is as excellent as the 'deficient doctor' section. For once the police are described as caring, kind and sympathetic, though helpless in the face of tragedy.

□ John Rossall

## Irresistible

*THE RESISTIBLE RISE OF ARTURO UI* by Bertolt Brecht. The National Theatre.

Brecht's famous satire on the development of Nazi power in Germany during the period 1929-1939 has been revived at the National Theatre, in a new translation by Ranjit Bolt. It is a stunning production, with Anthony Sher starring as the Ui/Hitler figure, ably supported by an excellent cast.

The play is set in Chicago, where Arturo Ui's gang of small-time criminals are engaged in a protection racket, taking over the business of the Cauliflower Trust and subsequent similar activities in neighbouring Cicero. As the enterprises grow the uncouth Arturo Ui has to be trained to improve his speech, his gait and appearance. In a mere 10 minutes on the stage Anthony Sher changes from an unmemorable slob from the Bronx into Adolf Hitler from Braunau - brilliantly done and hilariously funny, it sends a cold shiver down one's spine.

Between scenes a ballad singer tells us about events in the 1930s, the Reichstag fire, the 'Night of the Long Knives', the Anschluss. On the stage we watch similar events in Ui's world, such as the warehouse fire and the gang shoot-out. It is not a historical play, nor was it ever meant to be one. Brecht intended to ram home the message that if people stand by when evil is afoot they have only themselves to blame when they are overwhelmed by it. The satire 'bites' because he reminds theatre-goers that such events do happen in real life, as we know only too well. As is usual with Brecht, it is all presented with acid sharp wit.

□ Paul Samet

### NOTICE

In the 50th anniversary dinner brochure and concert programme the message of congratulations from Mr and Mrs R. Freeman was misprinted as Ralph and Eva Freedman. We would like to apologise to Mr and Mrs Freeman for any irritation this misprint may have caused.

## Fathers and Sons

Since Turgenev wrote a novel with that title and Freud delved into the Oedipus legend problematical father-son relationships have formed a staple of literature. Interestingly enough literati have not merely written about the theme, quite a few of them - Thomas and Klaus Mann, Evelyn and Auberon Waugh - have actually acted it out in their own lives.

To what extent does Oedipal conflict figure in the work, or the lives, of refugee writers? Hans Habe, whom one could compare to Jeffrey Archer - large print-runs and ego to match - showed no Oedipal tendencies. On the contrary, he replicated in his own person many characteristics of his father, the scurrilous 'press baron' Imre Bekessy.

Though it is a far cry from a crowd-pleaser like Habe to the poet-translator Erich Fried the two did share near-instant recognition and celebrity status, while differing hugely in their filial attitudes. Fried's autobiography is shot through with hostile references to his father. The latter, who may well have had the faults ascribed to him, suffered a horrible death in a Gestapo jail.

In the case of playwright Tom Kempinski the situation is even more complex. The elder Kempinski has acted on the Hampstead stage of the Communist-inspired Free German League of Culture while his toddler son, a war-time evacuee, grew up in the States. Over there Tom grew so attached to his foster parents that having to return to his real father and mother in 1945 left him an emotional wreck; forty-six years on he is an 18-stone agoraphobic.

The relationship between Harry and Peter Sichrovsky, though not quite as neurotic, is also fraught with problems. A Communist idealist, Harry has returned from Britain to postwar Austria, causing Peter to be born in that benighted country. How Sichrovsky junior feels about the *Waldheimat* emerges from the title of his book *Strangers in their own country*. In this and other works the author lets the reader feel his resentment of the father - incidentally, also something of a writer - for having gone back to the place where his, i.e. the father's, own parents had been murdered.

### Seeing eye to eye

I end with an instance of father and son seeing eye to eye - which nonetheless only adds to our discomfort. Friedrich Wolf practised as a doctor in 1920s Germany, where his social conscience prompted him to write plays attacking the anti-abortion laws, and to join the Communist Party. A post-1933 emigré in Moscow he wrote *Professor Mamlock*, a Soviet anti-Nazi film which became an international success. The playwright's son Markus grew up in the U.S.S.R., entered the KGB and became head of the DDR's Intelligence Service. (He also entered literature as 'Karla' in John le Carré's *The Spy who came in from the Cold*.) He was the most accomplished spy master of the Eastern Bloc: by placing an agent in the Bonn Chancellery he brought down Willy Brandt. By the time you read this he may either be in the dock - or still in the headlines. In neither case will he have helped to promote the cause of philosemitism.

□ Richard Grunberger

### Annely Juda Fine Art

Has moved to  
23 Dering Street (off New Bond Street),  
London W1R 9AA  
Tel: 071-629 7578  
Fax: 071-491 2139

### CONTEMPORARY PAINTING AND SCULPTURE

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

### THURLOW LODGE and HAMPSTEAD HOUSE (Residential Homes)

for the elderly and retired, situated in an exclusive part of Hampstead. Both homes provide luxurious accommodation with 24-hour nursing care in a homely atmosphere. Strictly kosher cuisine. Long and short stays welcome. Many bedrooms have en-suite facilities. Moderate fees.

For further information and brochure:  
Tel. 071 794 7305/071 435 5326.  
11/12 Thurlow Road, Hampstead,  
London NW3

### RELIABLE AND CONSCIENTIOUS HANDY MAN

Decorating, garden clearance, general repairs.

Reliable and friendly service.  
Phone Andy Wilson on 081-346 3186

### GOLDMAN

Curtains made to measure.  
Select material in your own home.  
Rail, blinds supplied and fitted.

Telephone: 081-205 9232



## Letters to the Editor

### ART AND POWER

Sir – Your description of Furtwaengler as 'career-obsessed', implying that he sacrificed moral principles to his career, is wholly incorrect.

I possess a number of his letters to my father which would have been sufficient to vindicate him even if no other material had been available. His efforts to help Jews, thereby incurring the displeasure of high-placed Nazis, including Hitler, are too well documented to need repeating here. I will, however, quote two letters showing his feelings towards the regime.

On June 4 1933 he writes from Paris 'I am glad to be rid of Berlin for a fortnight in order to forget.' And on April 28 1934 he expresses his disappointment at the voluntary resignation of two leading Jewish members of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, adding 'All I can see is that in the long run living and working in freedom is becoming more and more difficult for musicians who are transcending average.'

He was already the most outstanding German conductor with no fresh peaks left to conquer. Had he been 'career-obsessed', there would have been every reason for him to go abroad to receive a hero's welcome, more money and even greater worldwide fame. But he preferred to continue work to which (as he writes in the same letter) he applied his 'efforts namely to preserve for German musical life performances and quality of the highest standard'.

Furtwaengler was not only a great artist, but an outstanding and courageous personality. It is only fair that posterity should recognise and appreciate this.

Fortune Green  
London NW6

Carl F. Flesch

*Since music transcends frontiers it is not insuperably difficult to act as Casals and Arrau have done in living memory.*

*Famous musicians like Furtwaengler and Richard Strauss who remained in Germany helped Goebbels project the Third Reich as a Kulturstaat and, however indirectly, conferred legitimacy on Hitler. The fact that the world failed to treat Hitler Germany – unlike Lenin's Russia – as a pariah from the outset had many reasons. One, admittedly minor one, was that whereas the absence of Stravinsky, Rachmaninov, Prokofiev and Schaljapin from 1920s Russia made the*

*place appear a cultural desert, the presence of Furtwaengler, Strauss, Orff et al in 1930s Germany created the opposite impression*  
Ed.

Sir – In your search for a *roshe* under every bed you alight on Duff Cooper Lord Norwich. You quote him as saying that the persecution of the Jews was not the only thing Hitler had done wrong. That is not antisemitic. It is true.

I quote from his autobiography (*Old Men Forget* – pages 258/9). After an altercation he had had with somebody who said that the Jews were guilty of the war he wrote: 'I have always been a friend and admirer of that great race, and since the hideous persecution they suffered in a Christian country, I felt strongly that it was not for the Christians to despise the Jews, who had far better grounds for despising Christians'.

New Cavendish Street  
London W1

R. H. Hellmann

*Persecuting the Jews was not Hitler's only crime – but the worst. Furthermore, as Britain's postwar Ambassador to France Duff Cooper would invite former collaborators to Embassy functions, thus paving the way for their rehabilitation.* Ed.

### A BENEDICTION OF BENITO

Sir – I would like to remind G. Schmerling that after the Axis Pact of 1938 all German Jews were expelled from Italy within six months and their bank accounts frozen. I myself was one of them.

Selwood Road  
Sutton, Surrey

H. Leyser

### A CALL TO PROTEST

Sir – The German government has recently announced its intention to reduce by 50–65% the modest pensions payable to citizens in the former GDR who were either victims or active opponents of Nazism.

In contrast to former West Germany these pensions were the only form of compensation paid to GDR citizens who had suffered under or opposed the Nazis. The effect of the reduction on those entitled to such payments (whose number does not exceed 5,000 and is rapidly declining) will be devastating.

Perhaps even more worrying is the fact that this decision may well be read as a sign

of encouragement to neo-Nazi elements. If it was the intention of the German government to raise doubts about their genuineness in opposing racism and neo-Nazism, they are going the right way about it.

It is still not too late to reverse the signals, but only if organisations such as the AJR, and individual members, protest in the strongest possible terms.

Lings Walk

Peter & Ursula Rosenfeld

Manchester 22

### NO REUNIFICATION EUPHORIA

Sir – Were you in Germany on the 9 November and did you witness 'the euphoric recollection of 9 November 1989 overlaying and blotting out the shameful memory of 1938'? I was, and I did not.

What I did see in Hesse on that date was a peaceful demonstration against harder entry conditions for would-be asylum seekers. It was felt that 9 November was an appropriate date. Similar demonstrations had been organised in other towns and villages throughout Germany.

I, as a survivor, had been asked to speak at the unveiling of a memorial to a synagogue that had been active until 1936.

Are you aware that there are many in Germany, especially among the young, who rail against their elders and want to know? One cannot keep on telling them that they are all dyed-in-the-wool Nazis. Your sweeping generalisations damage them and us.

Shanklin Drive

Ruth Finch

Leicester

### NOT GUILTY

Sir – I am mystified by Henry Mortimer's letter referring to a conversation in Germany 1935(!), when the Nazis' criminal intention of genocide was not even visible. Robbing Jewish people of their livelihood and driving them from their homes, practised in Christian and Moslem countries since times immemorial, is immoral, but not criminal. Genocide is criminal. First foreshadowed in Germany in November 1938, it was implemented all over occupied Europe from 1940. The German people knew nothing of this criminal undertaking, and had no complicity in the Holocaust.

Bishops Close

G. Schmerling

Old Coulsdon, Surrey

### HASTENING TO THE HUSTINGS

Sir – Prematurely affected by election fever, Mr Victor Ross sees fit to use AJR information for party political propaganda. As a fellow Jew I can assure Mr Ross that, at the

end of the day, most of us are quite capable of taking a step in the right direction, towards the light at the end of the tunnel.

Holland Park Avenue  
London W11  
J. Rotter

### RESEARCH PROJECT

Sir - I am a tutor at the University of Adelaide and am conducting research into the rise of the extreme right in contemporary western society. This is evinced by the support skinheads have received in Germany and the success of racist electoral candidates throughout the west, including Le Pen in France and Duke in Louisiana.

Unfortunately, few academics seem concerned with this ugly problem. In order to remedy this I wish to contact other academics with similar interests to myself who would like to establish links and promote the study of neo-Nazism.

University of Adelaide  
Politics Department  
GPO Box 498, Adelaide  
South Australia 5001  
Pierre James

### TREASON OF THE CLERKS

Sir - Maire Sackin and I have at least two things in common. We are both members of the AJR and ex-German refugees.

She writes of the great Jewish traditions of justice and compassion. It might be revealing for her to read the Bible again to learn how our ancestors conducted themselves vis-a-vis other tribes and nations.

The last 2,000 years of riding the moral high horse have brought us nothing but suffering and sorrow.

Now we have a Jewish state again I sleep better for knowing that Mossad has a long arm where Jew persecutors are concerned - backed by Jewish bayonets, or their modern equivalents.

I can already hear the cries of 'Fascist Hyena'.

Greenford  
Middlesex  
Ernest G. Kolman

### BOUQUET

Sir - All praise for the great number of very stimulating articles contained in *AJR Information*.

Wavertree Road  
London SW2  
Victor Spencer

### CAR HIRE

Comfortable, air conditioned car with helpful driver.

Airports, stations, coast, etc. Fully insured.

Tony Burstein 081-204 0567.  
Car 0831 461066.

## The Sperber brothers

In recent years the actor Milo Sperber has gained a reputation for reading from the works of his writer brother, Manes; there were three such occasions in London during 1990/91.

Their family originated from the orthodox Jewish shtetl of Zablow in East Galicia. Manes was born in 1905 and his brother four years later. Neither ever tried to deny their Jewish heritage, though childhood doubts were later translated into conscious scepticism, even rejection of the theology. In his autobiography Manes movingly recalled liturgical ceremony and ritual, earning the soubriquet 'a pious atheistic Jew' from Friedrich Heer.

If their first great experience was Judaism, the second was Vienna, where the family sought refuge in 1915. Here for Milo the dominant attraction was the theatre, a sphere in which Max Reinhardt soon realised his talents, directing him as Puck in *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Manes gravitated firstly towards the Individual Psychology of Alfred Adler (to whose circle he soon belonged) and secondly the Communist movement. In 1927, at twenty-two, he moved to Berlin to teach and practise Adlerian psychology. His communist activities led him through much of Europe. Eventually he broke with both movements,

his main concern always being the human individual, not an abstract concept.

With Hitler's accession he lost his post in Berlin; in 1934 he emigrated to Paris, where he briefly teamed up with Arthur Köstler, and which became his permanent home until his death in 1984. (Except for war years spent firstly in unoccupied France and then, after a dangerous escape, in Zurich.) Unable to resettle in a Vienna contaminated by its ready surrender to Hitler, he returned to Paris immediately after the war.

From the late 1930's writing had become his principal activity. His oeuvre includes *Wie eine Träne im Ozean*, the three-volume autobiography *All das Vergangene, Zur Analyse der Tyranis, Churban oder die unfassbare Gewissheit, Geteilte Einsamkeit* and *Alfred Adler oder das Elend der Psychologie*.

Milo Sperber emigrated to England where he worked as teacher and director at RADA; here he produced, among others, *Faust* with Tom Courtenay, John Thaw as Mephisto, and Sarah Miles. He broadcast anti-Nazi propaganda for the BBC, and wrote for, and acted in, many schools programmes which German teachers still regard with admiration. He first read from his brother's work in 1983, when Manes felt too ill to perform himself. Since then he has frequently appeared in public, and on the radio, in many European countries.

□ Hans Seelig

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

Our communal hall is available  
for cultural  
and social functions.

For details apply to:  
Secretary, Synagogue Office.

Tel: 071-794 3949

Michael Frenzl of

### MICHAEL ANDRÉ FURS LTD

wishes to inform his customers of  
the re-location of his premises to:

134 High Street, Edgware HA8 7EL

Tel: 081-951 5949 (Business)  
081-958 4483 (Private)

Strictly by appointment

Specialists in fur-lined raincoats,  
fur and leather.

Why not convert your existing fur coat  
into a raincoat lining?

## East-Germany and Berlin

We give immediate attention.  
We process and buy properties/claims.

## We pay cash.

We have proven track records and furnish  
documentation.

Write to:

**Nagel & Partner**

Kurfürstendamm 182 · 1000 Berlin 15

Phone: 030-882 56 31

Fax: 030-881 39 16



## PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

15 Cleve Road, London NW6 3RL  
Tel. 071 328 0208

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

*Afternoon entertainment* –

### JANUARY

Wednesday 1	CLOSED
Thursday 2	Youth Takes A Bow – Miriam Arton (Violin) accompanied by Sheila Games (Piano)
Monday 6	Solo Piano Recital – Debbie O'Brien
Tuesday 7	The Rousel String Trio – Bridgete Hurst, Myrtle Bruce-Mitford & Owen Little
Wednesday 8	Cantámen Piano Trio
Thursday 9	Piano Duets – Debbie O'Brien & Gemma Nisbet
Monday 13	The Songmakers – Joanna Campion (Contralto) accompanied by Susan Allan (Piano)
Tuesday 14	Chabrier Piano Trio – Debbie O'Brien (Piano), Kerry Heffer (Violin) and Lisa Heffer (Cello)
Wednesday 15	Merrill Dresner Entertains with Songs and Guitar
Thursday 16	One-Man Music Hall Show – Mickie Driver
Monday 20	'Zapateado' – Guitar & Mandolin – Music from around the World – Alison Stephens & Martin Byatt
Tuesday 21	Hans Freund: A New Year Begins
Wednesday 22	Recital for Cello & Piano – Richard Jenkinson (Cello) accompanied by Paul Lewis (Piano)
Thursday 23	Jerusalem Songsters conducted by Margot Landes
Monday 27	Jack Harris & Yetta Mendelsohn Sing for You – accompanied by Happy Branston
Tuesday 28	Arias & Songs from Operetta & Other Classical Music – Susan Coombes (Soprano) accompanied by Malcolm Miller (Piano)

## Tribute

Three other names should be added to the list of honour on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the AJR:

Dr Adelheid Levy, the devoted social worker, who for 15 years was in charge of the Social Services Department of the AJR. It was she who came across so many lonely members of our Community – with no restitution payments at that time – in badly paid jobs and living in small, cheap rooms. This gave her the idea of founding a Club where they could meet people in similar circumstances in pleasant surroundings (with afternoon tea and sandwiches at night provided at very low cost.)

The AJR was extremely fortunate in finding two women who took up the idea enthusiastically: Margaret Jacoby-Orgler and Gertrud Schachne. They worked together and saw the Club grow from a small beginning to a membership of over 400. The Club was open on 5 days a week until 9 p.m. and became for many a home from home.

Times have changed, but at a recent function of the AJR Club, when Dr Arnold Horwell gave a most enjoyable talk on his experience as an officer during the last war and his encounter with Marlene Dietrich in Belsen, about 90 members attended.

It should also not be forgotten that it was Mrs Jacoby who persuaded the AJR to buy the house in Number 9 Adamson Road. She named it after Hannah Karminski, the wonderful woman who, although she had a visa for England, a job offer in Switzerland and could have gone to Israel, wanted to

stay behind and help. And help she did until she herself was murdered.

□ D.S.

## This is Your Life

David Berglass, the stage magician and President of the Magic Circle who rejoices in the title 'International Mystery Man', is well known to members of the AJR Club. When he was honoured by having a *This is Your Life* programme dedicated to him I was among the guests invited along.

We first met in Germany in 1946, where we were stationed together as members of CCD, U.S. Army. Few people then could have predicted that this young man experimenting with conjuring tricks would become a world famous artiste and president of the Magic Circle.

It was at the first CCD reunion in, January 1991, that we met again. When we spoke on this moving occasion he generously agreed to appear at the AJR Club, in June. The large audience was spellbound and Mr Berglass can now number many AJR Club members amongst his fans. We wish him well.

□ Hilde Baban

## AJR Bouquet

Sir – At the start of the new year I would like to take the opportunity of thanking the AJR for their support at this difficult time.

Otto Schiff House  
London

I. Guttmann

### JANUARY

Wednesday 29	Chabrier Piano Trio – Debbie O'Brien (Piano), Kerry Heffer (Violin) and Lisa Heffer (Cello)
Thursday 30	Harmony and Humour – Tessa Newman (Piano) and Isabel Barry (Soprano)

### FEBRUARY

Monday 3	Hans Freund: An Afternoon of Music in February
Tuesday 4	Dorei Duo with Piano accompaniment
Wednesday 5	WIZO Ladies Choir
Thursday 6	The Melody Lingers On with Jack Harris and Happy Branston

## WHO IS WHO IN THE AJR OFFICE

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

# The AJR at Work

## Day Centre – Tea Dance



Out together dancing cheek to cheek.

Photo: Newman.

Sir – What a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon we all spent at the Tea Dance at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre on Sunday 17 November. None of us who attended will forget what a lovely time we had. Of course, a major reason for the success of the afternoon was the ambiance created by the musical talents of Shelly Weldon and the well-chosen nostalgic music she played and sang.

It was magical, everybody joined in, happily forgetting for a while their everyday

cares and woes, giving themselves a much-deserved break.

A big thankyou to all who worked so hard to provide the wonderful afternoon tea (better than the Ritz) and to Sylvia and Renee for their organisation and thoughtfulness.

□ Claire Sicher

### AJR CLUB

15 Cleve Road, London NW6 3RL  
Telephone: 071-624 3079

SUNDAY 19th January  
WHEN I WAS A CHILD REFUGEE  
A talk by OTTO DEUTSCH  
Club members 50p – Guests £1

We welcome you and your friends on  
TUESDAYS – THURSDAYS – SUNDAYS  
2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

You will enjoy the friendly atmosphere  
you can talk – play cards – play games.  
One Sunday a month live Entertainment.

Our annual membership fee is only £4.

### HELP

WILL YOU OFFER CLERICAL HELP TO A  
BLIND AJR MEMBER LIVING IN LONDON  
NW10?

Offers please to Laura Howe  
AJR office 071-483 2536.

### AJR DAY CENTRE

NEEDS A HAIRDRESSER!  
CAN YOU SPARE TIME TO GO TO  
15 CLEVE ROAD NW6?  
PLEASE RING  
Mrs S. Matus 071-328 0208.

You can contact the AJR by

Phone 071-483 2536  
Fax 071-722 4652

## Day Centre – Weekend trip

As well as organising gala social events at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, Sylvia and Renee put a great deal of time and effort into making sure members get much further afield than West Hampstead.

On one weekend in October a group of 50 members went on a coach-trip to Bournemouth. The outing included an excursion to Poole on the Saturday. Saturday night was enlivened with a dinner-dance at which the food, service and entertainment were all of a very high standard.

The following morning, after a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast, the group boarded the coach for home. En route there was a stop at the 'Shell House', a museum containing many pre-historic marine fossils. This outstanding collection took years to gather and is an absolute delight for the eyes.

The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who came along; our thanks go to Sylvia and Renee for all their hard work.

□ W.S.D.

## Making a will? Remember the AJR

Something that none of us should avoid is making a will and keeping it up to date.

We know we cannot take our worldly possessions with us but we can – at least – see that whatever is left behind goes:

- (a) where it will be appreciated,
- (b) where it will do some good,
- (c) where it is needed.

Many of our former refugees have found their association with the AJR a rewarding one. This is an opportunity to support the AJR Charitable Trust. Your solicitor will be able to help you; alternatively you can consult with our welfare rights advisor, Aggie Alexander, on 071-483 2536 (Tues, Weds, Thurs) or the social workers at the Day Centre 071-328 0208.

If you have already made a will, it is quite easy to add a codicil.

Whatever amount you are able to leave to the AJR, it will be well received, carefully applied and remembered with gratitude.

**FAMILY EVENTS****Birth**

**Nelki-Göpfert** Maximilian Theodor Nelki-Göpfert, born 12 August, son of Michael Göpfert and Julia Nelki of 12 Egremont Promenade, Wallasey, Wirral L44 8BG, grandson of Erna and Wolfgang Nelki.

**Birthday Greeting**

**Lawrence Martin** Lawrence (formerly Klaus Lachmann) of 2 Marlborough Avenue, Edgware, Middx, will celebrate his 70th birthday on 12 January 1992.

**Reichmann** Eva Reichmann has been guide, philosopher and friend to the Leo Baeck Institute for over 35 years. She only retired from our Board recently and to us she still represents the founder generation, with her wisdom, critical judgement and understanding of the German-Jewish past. We think of her with affection on this, her 95th birthday. Professor Werner E. Mosse, Chairman, Dr Arnold Paucker, Director, Dr Hans Feld, Hon. Treasurer.

**Deaths**

**Lederman** Werner Lederman (born in Berlin) died on 4 November, 1991 in San Diego, California, aged 71. Sadly missed by his wife, family and friends.

**Marcus** Hildegard Marcus (née Heymansohn), formerly of Cologne, died, aged 80, on 5 October, 1991, at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich. On leaving Germany in 1939 she settled in London and subsequently married Paul Marcus, journalist (better known, internationally, as PEM), for many years a popular contributor to AJR Information, who died in 1972. In 1981 she moved to Mundesley, Norfolk. Hildegard Marcus was an

extraordinary and wonderful person who radiated vitality. Her zest for life and special interest in the theatre, film industry and contemporary authors made her a delightful companion. She is deeply mourned by her sister, Lottie Berk, niece, Esther Fairfax, partner, Don Henning and many friends.

**Süsser Leopold (Poldi)** Süsser, born Tarno, 1895, died New York 1991. Lived in Vienna until 1939, Shanghai '39-'46, New York '46-'91. Son of 'Minca' Süsser/Kannengiesser/Samet, brother of late Olga Samet, brother in law of late Adolph Samet - who all went to Shanghai in 1939.

**Wallach** Eva Wallach died on 17 October 1991, at Osmond House, The Bishop's Avenue, London N2, after a long illness. Sadly missed by her family in England, France and the USA.

**CLASSIFIED****Companion/Carers**

Elderly lady requires part-time companion 5-6 hours per day, 5 days per week. Light duties, no housework. Car owner preferred. Excel-

lent pay. Modern flat in NW London. Phone afternoon/evening 081-458 1396.

**Miscellaneous**

**Electrician** City and Guilds qualified. All domestic work undertaken Y. Steinreich. Tel: 081-455 5262.

**Manicurist** visits your home. Phone: 071-328 1176.

**The Leo Baeck (London) Lodges** welcome visitors at their open meetings. Wednesday 15 January, 2.30 p.m.: Mrs Mickey Yudkin MA speaks on 'The Shtetl and the Golden Medinah - The two worlds of Isaac Bashevis Singer'.

Wednesday 29 January, 8 p.m.: 'Scholars evening'. Reports by post-graduate Jewish students on their work. Chaired by Prof. Felix Franks of Cambridge University.

Venue: 11 Fitzjohn's Avenue, London NW3.

**Pianist** wishes to borrow music for entertainment programme: Pre-war German/Austrian popular songs, operettas etc. Suitable for AJR-type audiences. Safe keeping and return of all material guaranteed. Tel: 081-747 3471.

Medical body massage, reflexology, aroma-therapy, manicure and pedicure. Home visits by qualified practitioner. Phone: 071-328 1176.

**ALTERATIONS**

OF ANY KIND TO LADIES' FASHIONS

I also design and make children's clothes

West Hampstead area  
071-328 6571

**SHELTERED FLAT**

to let at Eleanor Rathbone House, Highgate, comprising bed-sitting room, kitchenette, bathroom and entrance hall. Resident warden.

Enquiries to:-

**AJR**  
**HANNAH KARMINSKI**  
**HOUSE**  
9 ADAMSON ROAD,  
LONDON NW3 3HX  
071-483 2536/7/8/9

**DAWSON HOUSE HOTEL**

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

72 CANFIELD GARDENS

Near Underground Sta. Finchley Rd,

LONDON, N.W.6  
Tel: 071-624 0079

**SATELLITE INSTALLATION SALES & REPAIRS**

Television - Videos - Aerials - Radios - Stereos - Electrical Appliances  
NEW & SECONDHAND TV'S/VIDEOS FOR SALE

Tel: 081-909 3169 Answerphone  
**AVI'S TV SERVICE**  
A. EISENBERG

**RELIABLE & CAPABLE PLUMBER**

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

**JOHN ROSENFELD**  
on 071-837 4569

**C. H. WILSON**

Carpenter  
Painter and Decorator  
French Polisher  
Antique Furniture Repaired  
Tel: 081-452 8324  
Car: 0831 103707

**FREEDMAN NEIFELD**

SOLICITORS

19/20 GROSVENOR STREET, LONDON W1X 9FD

Wills/Probate/Conveyancing/Commercial/Litigation undertaken promptly and efficiently

Telephone 071-499 1185

**ANTHONY J. NEWTON & CO**

SOLICITORS

22 Fitzjohns Avenue, Hampstead, NW3 5NB

With offices in: Europe/Jersey/USA

**ALL LEGAL WORK UNDERTAKEN**

Telephone: 071 435 5351/071 794 9696

**TORRINGTON HOMES**

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

For Elderly, Retired and Convalescent

(Licensed by Borough of Barnet)

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

From £250 per week  
081-445 1244 Office hours  
081-455 1335 other times  
39 Torrington Park, N.12

**AUDLEY REST HOME (Hendon)**

for Elderly Retired Gentlefolk

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

24-hour care—long and short term.

Licensed by the Borough of Barnet  
Enquiries 081-202 2773/8967

**FOR FAST EFFICIENT FRIDGE & FREEZER REPAIRS**

7-day service  
All parts guaranteed

**J. B. Services**  
Tel. 081-202 4248  
until 9 pm

**MAPESBURY LODGE**

(Licensed by the Borough of Brent)

for the elderly, convalescent and partly incapacitated.  
Lift to all floors.

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

Full 24-hour nursing care

Please telephone  
sister-in-charge, 081-450 4972  
17 Mapesbury Road, N.W.2

Alice Schwab

## Art Notes

**C**entenarian Richard Ziegler, lives once again in his birthplace Pforzheim after an eventful career during which he spent the years 1937–1962 in England. During the 1920s and early 1930s he had a number of successful one-man shows; a member of the *Novembergruppe* he worked closely with Arthur Segal, himself to become an emigré. During his stay in England he produced a book of anti-Nazi drawings *We make History*, (Allen & Unwin 1940). An exhibition of Ziegler's pastels and drawings, is at Runkel-Hue-Williams, 6/8 Old Bond Street, W1 until 31 January.

**Mark Gertler (1891–1939)** was one of the prominent Anglo-Jewish artists in the early part of the century. An exhibition of his paintings and drawings is being held at the Camden Arts Centre from 17 January until 8 March. It comprises familiar works, including his important *Merry-go-round* (now in the Tate Gallery and formerly owned by the Ben Uri Art Society).

There is still time to visit the great Hokusai exhibition at the Royal Academy (until 9 February).

**Leonora Carrington**, an ex-debutante, was just 19 years old in 1937 when she met



Self-Portrait by Gwen John c. 1900.  
Courtesy of National Portrait Gallery.

the painter Max Ernst. Her affair with him only lasted a few years and since then she has lived mostly in Mexico, where she paints and writes. One of her novels has just been published by Virago and an exhibition of her surrealist paintings is at the Serpentine Gallery (until 26 January).

## SB's Column

**C**ity without Jews. It was nothing short of a sensation when the original of Hugo Bettauer's film *Stadt ohne Juden* turned up in the Amsterdam Nederlands Filmmuseum. Subsequently sent to the Austrian Film Archive, where its importance was realized, the film was eventually screened 67 years after its first showing. Bettauer's novel of the same name, which provoked much antagonism in 1920s Austria, foreshadowed things to come, though not their terrifying brutality. The cast list includes Austrian celebrities Mizzi Griebel, Ferdinand Maierhofer, Armin Berg, Gisela Werbezirk and a young Hans Moser.

**A changing Germany** Unification has brought about a new aspect in German film production: under the heading 'Germany—year 2 after unification', a number of topical films were recently shown at London's Goethe Institut. They included the short films *Dresden, Oktober '89* and *Leipzig im Herbst*; both discreetly overlooked the radi-

cal political factions which emerged in the two cities.

**News from Vienna** The resignation of Claudio Abbado, musical director of the State Opera, made headlines. Whether it was a surprise or not, his departure was not without precedent: Gustav Mahler, Herbert von Karajan, Lorin Maazel et al were admired and applauded at first but left disappointed and exhausted, after having enduring biting criticism by sections of the public and high echelons of the administration. — Film star Anthony Quinn, a painter of considerable reputation, visited Vienna (where an exhibition of his paintings was held) and appeared in Vienna's English theatre.

**Birthday.** Kurt von Ruffin, Munich's well-known actor, celebrated his 90th birthday.

**Obituary.** Baron Donald von Hirsch, who has died in Munich, aged 90, was a familiar figure in London, where he arrived in 1938. Having worked at the German section of the BBC, he became first director of the German Kulturinstitut (later Goethe Institut) in 1958, and stayed in this position for the following 11 years. □

**The Contemporary Art Society**, (established in 1910) aims to acquire works by living artists for public collections. An eightieth birthday exhibition has been mounted in the Hayward Gallery, South Bank Centre, until 19 January. Artists represented include Augustus John, Sickert, Roberts, Bacon, Alan Davie and Stanley Spencer. Accompanying the exhibition there is an illustrated book *British Contemporary Art 1910–1990*.

**The Portrait in British Art** exhibition is at the National Portrait Gallery until 9 February, covering nearly four centuries. It features portraits of Elizabeth of Bohemia by Dieussart, a marble bust of Shakespeare by Rysbrack, the Ladies Waldegrave by Reynolds, Churchill by Sickert and Augustus John by Orpen.

**Anyone visiting Hamburg** in January can see an interesting exhibition at Hauswedel & Nolte, *Bilder, Zeichnungen, Graphik aus eigenen Beständen*, including works by Feininger, Heckel, Kirchner, Klee, Kollwitz, Liebermann, El Lissitzky, Nolde, Picasso, etc.

**A major retrospective** exhibition of paintings and drawings by the Russian Jewish artist Yefim Ladizhinsky (1911–1982) is at the Barbican Centre's Concourse Gallery until 11 February. When Ladizhinsky emigrated to Israel in 1978, he was forced to destroy some 2,000 of his paintings because of the customs duty demanded by the Soviets. The exhibition includes a series *Growing up in Odessa*, as well as still-lives and meditations on Jewish life and personality. □

### Worried about computers or are computers worrying you?

*Linktag Associates are independent computer consultants who specialize in helping businesses, from a small company to a large corporation. Let us help you today to solve tomorrow's problems.*

**CALL US ON 081-883-2690**

**SALES, INSTALLATIONS,  
TRAINING, PROGRAMMING &  
SOFTWARE MODELLING.**

## Let them not be forgotten

I want to add to Rabbi Harry Jacobi's *In a grey area* (October 1991) with regard to Pfarrer Detlev Riemer.

I, too, replied to his request for details of Jews in Luckenwalde, a small industrial town in East Germany, printed in *AJR Information*, summer 1988.

I had been living in a room above the Luckenwalde synagogue in 1938. Apprenticed at a local factory, I was arrested on Crystal Night and sent to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Fortunately a training position was found for me in Britain. I was released, obtained a passport

stamped with the big red J from the Luckenwalde police, and left for England in January 1939.

I related this story to Detlev Riemer, and supplied further details as requested. Through extensive correspondence I came to know him as a man who intended to remind fellow Luckenwalders of a time when Jews lived amongst them, what they had contributed to the town, and how their existence had been extinguished.

### Dedication

Following contacts with former Luckenwalde Jews in many countries, he organised an exhibition *Our Jewish fellow citizens in Luckenwalde* at the parish church throughout most of November. He also published a

114-page catalogue containing reprints of letters, documents and texts appearing in the exhibition, as well as the names and histories of all those Jewish people about whom information had been collected. *Wiedergutmachung* not having been officially deemed necessary in East Germany, the entire immense effort was due to the dedication of Detlev Riemer and his helpers.

Thanks to their information I learnt about the fate of people lost long ago, and met a friend last seen in Sachsenhausen concentration camp in 1938!

People like Detlev Riemer give us firm hope for improved human relations throughout the world; therefore, let me say 'Thank you' to this very remarkable man.

□ Henry Warner

## Fearful symmetry

In a perverse 'equal opportunities programme' U.S. Jews are the butt of attacks by Black racists in the North and white supremacists in the South. The recent minipogrom at Crown Heights, Brooklyn was followed by the Hitler devotee David Dukes running for the governorship of Louisiana.

In his demagogic bid for power the pragmatical Dukes targeted the local Blacks ahead of the Jews. He lost the election because Louisiana's politically conscious Afro-Americans mobilised and exerted their numerical strength through the ballot box.

This inspiring example of democracy in action deserves to be copied by Northern Black spokesmen. To date, alas, no single Black leader - from Senator Jackson to Mayor Dinkins of New York - has dared put his head above the parapet and denounce Dr Jeffries' antisemitic myths for the poisonous rubbish they are.

America's ethnic inter-group tensions have now receded from the headlines. Their place could conceivably be taken by French ones. In France, too, the Jews might find themselves caught in crossfire as Le Pen's racist bandwagon gathers strength.

Like Dukes in Louisiana, Le Pen puts the more visible aliens - in his case Arabs - into the firing line while still keeping the Jews in his gunsight. Mirroring New York's Crown Heights, Paris contains slum areas like Belleville where poor Jews live in close proximity to Arabs, thus providing tinder for an inter-ethnic flare-up.

Though France's disaffected Arabs have not yet thrown up a Rev Sharpton their Algerian origins and Muslim fundamentalism predispose them towards antisemitic anti-Zionism.

In matters Jewish, alas, all is not quiet on the Western front.

□ R.G.

Simon P. Rhodes M.Ch.S.

### STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST

Surgery hours:

8.30 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday  
8.30 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday

### Visiting chiropody service available

67 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (opp. M&S)

Telephone 071-624 1576

**HILARY'S AGENCY**  
Specialists in Long and Short-Term Live-in Care

RESPIRE AND EMERGENCY CARE  
CARE FOR THE ELDERLY  
HOUSEKEEPERS  
RECUPERATION CARE  
MATERNITY NURSES  
NANNIES AND MOTHER'S HELPS  
EMERGENCY MOTHERS

Caring and Experienced Staff Available

We will be happy to discuss your requirements

PLEASE PHONE  
081-559-1110

## THE SPIRO INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE

### A KIND OF LOVING

One day conference on Jewish food

Sunday January 26, 10.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.  
Including Sephardi kosher lunch

Also in January:

### ALL LINES ENGAGED

Acclaimed scientist Prof. John Nichols FRS (University of Basle) gives exciting facts on the brain and nervous system.

Refreshments.

Saturday January 18. Admission £4.

### MEET THE WRITER

With Clive Sinclair

Thursday January 30. Admission £4.

Above events will be held at Spiro Garage, Dennington Park Road (entrance from Kingdon Road), NW6. Tel: 071-431 0345.



## BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

51 BELSIZE SQUARE, NW3

### TUESDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

#### TUESDAY CIRCLE

Entertainment in the form of a variety of interesting and topical talks given by guest speakers on the first Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm followed by refreshments

#### SEW & SO

A social group of people meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm to participate in making knitted, crocheted and embroidered items for synagogue and charitable functions

#### BRIDGE CLUB

All bridge players are welcome to join the Bridge Club which meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm.

Space donated by Pafra Limited

## He took the Emperor's shilling

Last year I received in the mail, from Vienna, a large, heavy envelope which contained documents concerning my father's career in the Austro-Hungarian Army. He had died in 1920, when I was two years old. All I knew of him was what my mother had told me and some old photographs. I remember hazy details: playing with his medals, the gold pommel of his sword, his parade-hat with a green cockade and a silver cigarette case with the regimental crest, inscribed by his fellow officers on the occasion of his twenty-fifth year in the army. All were subsequently lost, the last being stolen in a burglary some years ago.

The envelope contained the history of my father in Gothic script on large pieces of paper from the archives of the Austrian Ministry of Defence. This is his story:

Leon Goldenberg was born, in 1864, in Czernovitz (Bukowina), a locality made familiar through George Clare's *Last Waltz in Vienna*. The only son of a gent's tailor, he had two sisters who became his responsibility after the parents' death.

His army records contain many references to his lack of private means. According to my late mother, this was why he did not continue his education beyond the second year of secondary school and is also the reason for his re-enlistment – initially for a 12-year engagement – as a private soldier, after completing his compulsory national service. He must have felt that this step, which put him beyond the pale of polite Jewish society, was a way of fulfilling his family responsibilities. The army, for its part, must have believed in the genetic basis of Jewish financial wizardry, and posted him to the Regimental Paymaster's Office. Starting as a Private in 1886 he rose rapidly through the ranks. By 1895, after a unanimous vote by the Officer Corps of his regiment, he was duly gazetted as a Second Lieutenant.

This achievement must have vindicated his choice of career. In that era the Officer Corps outranked all civilians, except the aristocracy, in social status. (One remembers *Leutnant Gustl* by Arthur Schnitzler.) My father had achieved something; his pay was modest, but adequate, for a man of simple and orderly habits, as recorded in his service records. His officer's rank opened the doors of respectable Jewish society for him. This, too, was remarked upon in his record, where it was stated that his social life was conducted in reputable company.



Leon Goldenberg and wife.

In the following years he rose steadily, becoming Captain in 1907. His knowledge of languages was noted: excellent spoken and written German, good knowledge of Polish, sufficient Ruthenian for communicating with the soldiers and some Romanian. His prowess as an athlete is also frequently mentioned. In 1890–91 he was posted to Army Paymaster's Headquarters in Vienna. According to my mother, it had been intimated that, provided he would enter the Catholic Church, he could continue his career at the centre of the Empire. Though quite non-observant, my father would not contemplate taking such a step. His contempt for such a suggestion landed him back in Galicia.

In 1910 he received his last service posting: Stanislau, a small town near Lemberg (Lwów) with a very large Jewish population. There, clearly being welcome in 'good social circles', he met my mother, and they were married in 1915. My mother was one of a family of two brothers and three sisters. Their parents had died some years previously. She was an elementary school teacher, several years younger than her suitor. A photograph shows her, as I remember her many years later, elegant, fashionable, eager for life. Her husband stands proud and protective, his sword at his side, the Gold Cross of Merit glinting on his uniform tunic.

His posting to that place later conferred various benefits on me. As a small boy, I sometimes spent summer holidays in Stanislau, where the town's premier café gave me the freedom of its sandwich bar, on account of the owner's pleasant memories

of his military service under my father. For the same reason I was also offered as many haircuts as I wished in the most fashionable hairdressing salon, I liked the sandwiches, but not having my hair cut.

My mother went to Vienna for my birth in July 1917 and then rejoined my father in his garrison near Cracow, I believe. When the Empire collapsed she managed to get to Vienna. My father arrived there eventually, exhausted and in poor health. He had been caught up in the brutal war of the Ukrainians and Poles for the possession of Galizia, and been interned by them in turn. Ill-health, age and unwillingness to serve a Republic after having spent all his life in the service of the King-Emperor made him ask for his discharge.

What makes this career noteworthy, in my opinion, is not that Leon Goldenberg finished it with a fairly high rank. It is rather that he, a poor Galician Jew, had enlisted as a private soldier, at the rock-bottom of the army, and rose without any of the advantages conferred by education or wealth, solely through integrity and ability. In his proud loyalty to the House of Habsburg he represented those who, according to A. J. P. Taylor, were the last true Austrians in the twilight of the Empire: Austria's Jews.

□ Martin Goldenberg



**On behalf of all kinder.**

Our book – *I Came Alone: The stories of the kinder transports* – contains the moving reminiscences of 240 kinder on 416 pages, each story filed under name, former name and town of origin.

A wonderful present for young and old, a piece of history for every bookshelf.

**Edited by Bertha Leverton and Schmuel Lowenson. Price £16.50 (Incl. postage) Cheques with orders payable: Mrs B. Leverton, 50 London Road, Stanmore, Middx HA7 4NU**

## VERSE AND WORSE

**TERRY WAITE**

A Cyclops weeping for the loss  
That's felt in mosques and the bazaar  
Onto the Crescent grafts the Cross  
To dim the light of David's Star

**MAXWELL**

'The chap's a boulder' gasped the City  
As Icarus approached The Sun  
The headlong plunge aroused scant pity  
Though reading the obits was fun

**OSBORNE**

His Fulham mum was odious and  
couldn't even spell  
Most women are viragos with whom to  
live is Hell  
Yanks can't speak the King's English  
Foreigners truly smell  
— It's all too angry-making. Besides the  
stuff does sell (Though those who live by  
*kvetching* forfeit the chance to *kvell*)

### PARTNER

in long established English Solicitors (bilingual-German) would be happy to assist clients with English, German and Austrian problems. Contact

Henry Ebner  
at

Myers Ebner & Deaner  
103 Shepherds Bush Road  
London W6 7LP

Telephone 071 602 4631

**ALL LEGAL WORK UNDERTAKEN**

## Let your body take a holiday

Whilst enjoying good quality hotels and excellent cuisine, why not ease your aches and pains with the famous Fango mud treatments or Thalassotherapy as well as Health, Beauty and Fitness Courses.

ABANO, MONTEGROTTO, ISCHIA,  
IN ITALY

YVERDON IN SWITZERLAND

BIARRITZ IN FRANCE

Scheduled flights from Heathrow or Gatwick and regional airports.

Prices with or without treatments.

Private car transfers included.

FOR FREE COLOUR BROCHURE CONTACT:

**Edwards**  
of Westminster Limited

276 PRESTON ROAD, HARROW HA3 0QA

TEL: 081-904 2202

24hr answerphone 081-908 1515



## 40 Years Ago this Month

### Anti-Semites' Decline

Organised anti-Semitism is definitely declining, though the Archbishop of Canterbury properly remarked that between Christians and Jews the danger is always present. The Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen found so little public interest has been shown in Mosley's Union Movement that no counter-meetings will be held.

It seems also that the new Government is effectively endeavouring to achieve greater national unity. A remarkable move was Mr. Churchill's tribute to his predecessors, but particularly to Mr. Shinwell with whom he often had quarrelled. Now, with that generosity which he himself once described as "one of the noblest impulses in human breast," he testified to his Jewish opponent's "sterling patriotism," to the "fact that his heart is in the right place where the life and strength of our country is concerned."

*AJR Information January 1952.*

### CAMPS INTERNMENT—P.O.W.— FORCED LABOUR—KZ

I wish to buy cards, envelopes and folded post-marked letters from all camps of both world wars. Please send, registered mail, stating price, to:

14 Rosslyn Hill, London NW3  
PETER C. RICKENBACK

### Israel's

Very finest Wines

SHIPPED BY

## HOUSE OF HALLGARTEN

YARDEN and GAMLA

AVAILABLE NOW

Please write or phone for  
full information

DALLOW ROAD  
LUTON BEDS  
LU1 1UR

0582 22538

## Lucca, Giardino Botanico

Klausur der Bäume. Alte Mauer  
verrät nichts. Krieg; und alles irrt.  
Die Kreatur, die ihn verliert,  
bewahrt die Kindersonntagstrauer.

Von totem Sonntag, toten Kindern  
ist dieser Garten noch gefärbt.  
Das totgesagte Aug erbt  
den Schmerz, den nicht am Grünen hindern

der Winter und die mit ihm kamen,  
Soldaten, Zeder, einmal sangst  
du Helden: sing der Kinder Angst  
und auch die Anmut ihrer Namen.

Die Sprache lern ich später Schüler,  
die, taub der Zeit, vergessenes Maß,  
vergessene Leiden nicht vergaß.  
Vom Steinklang ihrer Keime kühler.

Kann meiner Schwester ich begegnen.  
Die Apfelstirn, gelöscht von Kalk,  
hat Schatten, Laub zum Katafalk.  
Ach, Gartenruhm der Unterlegenen!

Ludwig Greve

*Ludwig Greve, a German-Jewish poet who died by drowning in 1991, wrote the above poem in memory of his sister, a child victim of the Holocaust.*

### Deutsche Bücher, Bilder, Autographen und Asiatica

sucht

A. W. MYTZE

1 The Riding, London NW11.

Tel: 071-586 7546

### ZAHNARZT/DENTAL SURGEON

Dr H. Alan Shields, MB ChB, BDS, LDS RCS(Eng)  
46 Brampton Grove, HENDON, London NW4 4AQ

### ALL TYPES OF DENTAL

Home visits for the disabled  
Dentures and cosmetic dentistry  
Emergencies

### TOP QUALITY DENTAL TREATMENT AT PRICES YOU CAN AFFORD

Phone: 081-203-0405 for appointment

Deutsch wird auch gesprochen

**CARING AND PERSONAL SERVICE**

## A personal tribute Eva Reichmann 95

Dearest Eva,

We both were born in the tiny town of Lublinitz – Upper Silesia, you 95 years ago, I not much later.

Between out two families existed that kind of intimate friendship which was so typical within small Jewish communities three generations ago.

### Moses Mendelssohn Prize

Congratulating you on your 95th birthday, I shall not enumerate your achievements in life which have been widely praised and evaluated so often before. But I would like to pick out from your large literary output your most important work *Die Flucht in den Hass* (Hostages of Civilisation), which has been such an overwhelming success in Germany. It is worth reading, now more than ever. Your untiring striving for reconciliation after the war has been acknowledged in many ways – especially by the bestowal of the Moses Mendelssohn Prize, presented to you by the German Bundespraesident, Richard von Weizsaecker (then Oberbuergermeister of Berlin).

In these lines I want to pay tribute to your humanity and your charismatic personality. A visit to you is always a festive event for me. We talk of Judaism, philosophy, politics, music and art, and often of your unforgettable husband Hans. You have told me of your close relationship with your father, the influence of Leo Baeck on your formative years, and the happy time at the Liegnitz High School for Girls, where you became *prima omnium*.

### Inner harmony

Your mental alertness and lucidity could be the envy of someone a quarter your age. And with all your thoughtfulness and seriousness you combine the gift of a great sense of humour, counting the lighter muse among your friends. You know innumerable hit songs and operetta texts, especially of the golden twenties, by heart and still sing many of them in tune with the gestures of a *disease*.

With your happy laughter, wisdom and inner harmony you now embark on the second half of your tenth decennium. We all want to celebrate with you five years from now. Until then, my dearest Eva, all my heartfelt wishes. I thank you for the wonderful present of your friendship.

□ Karl Wongtchowski

## Obituaries

### Ernest J. Magnus

The recent loss of Ernest J. Magnus, an early member of AJR, from our ranks will be felt sorely by many.

A Berlin-born dentist's son he lost his father early on and, with his younger sister, soon faced family responsibilities he continued to carry willingly through many years.

He graduated in Dental Surgery. In the process he made many friends in his students' fraternity, friendships he maintained world wide after he came to England.

Here he met Margot and soon shared his life with her. Together they brought his grandfather, mother and sister and Margot's brother to safety and set up a hospitable home. Their children formed a close bond around them and found many occasions to celebrate the fact.

Add to that the success of his dental practice, activity in the Anglo-Continental Dental Society, of which he was Hon. Treasurer, and, membership of the Jerusalem Lodge of B'nai B'rith (which elected him President), and we have a measure of the man who will be missed for a long time.

□ A.R.

### Search Notices

**Dr Hans Ehrlich** last heard of in Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanganyika (1940) Ehrlich – Ernst (Landgerichtstrat a.D), last heard of in Koog an de Zaan, Holland (1940); Ehrlich – Dr phil. Walter, died Ragaz, Switzerland 1968.

If any of the above, or their heirs, contact Dr G. Leon c/o AJR Offices they may learn something to their advantage.

**Arthur David Heller** born 4/8/1891, Prague. Died 27/10/1958 London. Became a member of Poale Zion 1908 and became one of its leading members. Left Prague 1939. Lived 1940–44 in Grays, Essex. 1949–50 in Colchester. Later worked as a physician at the Prudhoe Hospital near Newcastle-upon-Tyne in which area he is buried.

Could anyone with information about the life and works of this once important, but now neglected, writer, or his wife, Elsie, who died in Newcastle 1957, please contact: Helmut G. Haasis, Tannenstr. 17, D741 Reutlingen-Betzingen, Germany.

**Franz Prager**, Austrian-born doctor. Studied medicine at Vienna University 1931–37 (approx). He went to France before 1940, deported to Auschwitz Sept. 1942. Anyone who knew, or studied with, him please contact his daughter, Danielle James, 89 Old Mount Barker Road, Stirling, South Australia 5152.

### J. P. M. Stern

J. P. M. Stern was a product of the unique Prague-based Jewish symbiosis with German and Czech culture which gave Kafka to world literature, and the likes of Erich Heller to the world of scholarship.

Born in 1920 into a well-educated family of converts (his initial M stood for Maria) he escaped, via Poland, to Britain just before the war. Here he volunteered for the Czech squadron of the RAF and was seriously injured. Later he studied at Cambridge and, financially helped by his father, gained a doctorate that inaugurated a long fruitful academic career terminating in the Chair of German at University College London.

J. P. M. Stern was one of the outstanding U.K.-based critics of German literature, with studies on Lichtenberg, Ernst Jünger and Nietzsche to his name. In 1975 he published a study of the 'German ideology' entitled *Hitler: the Führer and the People* that gained him a readership far beyond the confines of academe. □

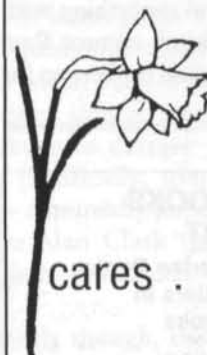
### BRAHAM LASSMAN

We buy, sell, collect, deliver and restore second hand and period furniture.

5 Hatton Place, Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8RU

071-405 5674 – Daytime  
081-907 1252 – Eves and Weekends

### FOR THOSE YOU CARE MOST ABOUT



### Springdene

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

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

SPRINGDENE 55 Oakleigh Park North, Whetstone, London N.20

081-446 2117

SPRINGVIEW 6–10 Crescent Road, Enfield. Our completely new purpose built hotel style retirement home. All rooms with bathroom en-suite from £305 per week. 081-446 2117.

## Naming places

The first month of the quinquennial year 1992 seems an appropriate moment to look at how Spanish (and Portugese) explorers went about naming newly discovered places. Though the impulse behind the journeys of exploration can be summed up in the triad 'gospel, glory and gold' name-giving had a mainly religious flavour.

Natal (in South Africa) commemorates its discovery on Christmas Day, i.e. Christ's natal day; Ascuncion (in Paraguay) was discovered on 15 August, Ascension Day. Dozens of places bear the names Santiago (St James), Vera Cruz (the True Cross), and Santa Fe (the Holy Spirit). But there are also non-religiously derived place names. Venezuela means little Venice on account of the many-channeled Orinoco estuary, Rio de Janeiro was discovered in January, and Argentina denotes the hoped-for presence of silver.

### Fitting coincidence

Interestingly enough, while Spain named half the world, from America (after Amerigo Vespucci) to the Philippines (after King Philip II), it was indebted for the name of a key city - Burgos - to the Germans. Burgos, capital of Castile, land of castles, derives from the German word for castle, i.e. *Burg*. By a fitting coincidence, when General Franco, with Hitler's help, launched his assault on the Spanish Republican government at Madrid, he did so from Burgos.

Hitler himself was born in the German-Austrian border town of Braunau. He put his followers into brown shirts, thus making brown synonymous with Nazism the way red connotes Marxism. The choice of colour, however, had nothing to do with the name of his birthplace, and everything with the preference of his *völkisch* mentor Paul de Lagarde. Lagarde plumped for brown for

the mystical reason that it was the colour of earth, and absent from the colour spectrum of the rainbow.

Braunau is, metaphorically speaking, twinned with Gori, Stalin's birthplace. Gory is certainly an appropriate term for the career of the grim Georgian. The former U.S.S.R. contained another appropriately named town: Gorki, which in Russian means bitter. It was in Gorki that Andre Sakharov spent the bitter, life-shortening years of his internal exile.

### Positive associations

But not all 'meaningful' place names need necessarily have negative associations. Independence, Missouri, was the hometown of Harry S. Truman who, as President of the U.S.A. 1945-52, helped more than any other non-Jewish individual to bring about Israeli independence.

The sad truth is, however, that place names with negative associations predominate over others. Take the Dalmation port of Spalato, a Venetian outpost that took its name from the *palazzo* of Diocletian. When incorporated into the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1918 Spalato was Slavified into Split - and split is exactly what Yugoslavia is currently doing.

A place name with even stronger negative associations is East Timor. Formerly Portugese, it was overrun by the Indonesians in 1975. Since then Indonesia has held down the hapless Timorese through a blood-stained regime of fear. *Timor* happens, by coincidence, to be the Latin word for fear.

□ R.G.

## Kindertransport exhibition

An exhibition entitled *The Last Goodbye - the Rescue of Children from Nazi Europe* will run at the London Museum of Jewish Life, Sternberg Centre for Judaism, 80 East End Road, London N3 from 12 January to 23 February. The exhibition will be opened by Richard Grunberger, editor *AJR Information*, on Sunday 12 January at 3 p.m. Readers interested in attending the opening should phone 081-349 1143. There will be a panel discussion 'The Kindertransport; memories and reflections' at 4 p.m. on Sunday, 2 February, at the Museum. □

## Peter Weiss remembered

A comprehensive exhibition of the work of the German-Jewish dramatist, poet and painter Peter Weiss at Stockholm's *Moderna museet* in late 1991, attracted great publicity in the Swedish national media. □

## Western Jews in the East

Of the many thousands of Jews who fled to India and the Far East (Shanghai) in the 1930's about 2,000 came to Bombay, and a considerable number to Calcutta. The great Indian leader Nehru supported their entry. Bombay is India's New York - the first port of call, and the largest commercial and industrial centre. The German newcomers were largely in the professions and in business.

In the mid-thirties several joined the Bombay Zionist Association founded earlier by Baghdadi Jews; they included Dr E. Petzal, Mr F. W. Pollack, a businessman, and Dr H. G. Reissner, a scholar and historian. They had been preceded in pre-Hitler days by Mr Gerhard Gabriel, who had played such a prominent role in the development of ORT. But perhaps the best-known European Jew in India was Odessa-born Dr Waldemar Mordechai Haffkine who, after studying under Louis Pasteur, had discovered an antidote to the Bubonic Plague. There is a hospital in Bombay named after him, and a special stamp was issued in 1964 to commemorate the centenary of this birth. Haffkine was a scholarly, Orthodox Jew who left his estate to Zionist and communal institutions. Insufficient attention has been paid to his achievements by Western Jewry.

A. W. Rosenfeld, from Berlin, founded the Jewish Relief Association specifically to assist refugees fleeing from Nazi Germany, including those in internment camps.

One refugee doctor, Dr Weingarten, became the personal medical adviser to a Rajah in one of the Princely States. He later married Ruby Meyer, a famous Indian Jewish actress. (Bombay was, and still is, the centre of the Indian film industry - now the world's largest.)

European Jews also played a part in the Central Jewish Board of Bombay, established in 1943 to counter pro-Arab and anti-Zionist propaganda put out by the Muslim League and its then President, M. A. Jinnah, who, in 1947, founded Pakistan.

In 1948 F. W. Pollack founded the monthly magazine *India and Israel* which was widely circulated. Later, he became Israeli Trade Commissioner in Bombay till 1953, when he went on *aliya*.

However, the full story of European Jews in India remains to be told.

□ Percy S. Gouragey

### GERMAN BOOKS BOUGHT

Metropolis Antiquarian Books  
Specialist Dealers in  
German Books

Always Buying  
Books, Autographs, Ephemera

Eric Brueck  
115 Cholmley Gardens  
Fortune Green Road  
London NW6  
Tel 071-435 2753