

AJR Information

Volume XLVII No. 6
June 1992

£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss . . .

**From Galicia to
Granada p8**

**Berlin 1920-1992
p12**

**Part of Ireland's
history p16**

Delay and haste

The authorities' maintenance of the 100-years secrecy rule on wartime documentation about the Channel Islands could well help keep Kurt Klebeck, Nazi slave labour boss on Alderney, out of jail and thus impede a long overdue process of justice.

Complementing Whitehall's excessive delay is the Vatican's unprecedented haste in the beatification of Jose Escriva. The *Opus Dei* founder looked upon General Franco – and by extension Hitler – as anti-Bolshevik crusaders, and not as lethal opponents of democracy. The Pope seems blind to the lessons of history. □

Red white and red all over

From postwar to post-Waldheim Austria

Paradoxes abound in every society; in April's British general election, for instance, working class Basildon voted Tory and middle class Hampstead Labour.

For all that it would be hard to find another country as productive of paradox as Austria. At a time when Mahler and Schönberg made it the centre of the musical world the Vienna Philharmonic were anti-semites to a man. The fact that Viennese popular culture owed even more to Jews – from the *Fiakerlied* to the *White Horse Inn* – did little to assuage popular Jew-hatred.

Although, as a country, Austria had a proportionately higher membership of the Nazi Party than Germany it was declared Hitler's first victim by the wartime Allies. Postwar it 'endured' a lighter Occupation regime than Germany, resulting in even less thorough Denazification.

The greatest postwar paradox was that the Austrian government, which could not bring itself to invite former Jewish citizens to return to their country of origin, eventually had the Jew Kreisky at its head. Nearly as odd was the fact that the country provided the United Nations with a Secretary-General who, despite the intense scrutiny customary during the Cold War, managed to conceal his unsavoury past.

By the time Waldheim became the 'prisoner in the Hofburg' (i.e. Austria's housebound President shunned by the international community) Jörg Haider was consolidating his hold on the Austrian Freedom Party. The freedom he has in mind is, in the first instance, the freedom to deny impoverished East Europeans entry into a country enjoying one of the highest living standards on the continent: Freedom Party spokesmen in Parliament warn of *Umvolkung* (mongrelisation) of the native population. Such recourse to Nazi phraseology is all of a piece with Haider's praise of Hitler's 'orderly employment policy', and his description of an independent Austria – i.e. an entity detached from Greater Germany – as an abortion.

But, Austria being Austria, even the renascent Anschluss ideology is not immune to paradox. Though Austrian xenophobes hate Slavs and Jews they are not enamoured of Germans – dubbed *Piefkes* – either. They resent German control of sections of industry and the media and complain about the Schilling being tied to the D-Mark. A *Piefke* who arouses special animus is Claus Peymann, director of the Burgtheater; Peymann's offences range from not wearing Austrian national costume to staging *Heldenplatz*, Thomas Bernhard's play about fictitious Jewish returnees to Vienna.

One real-live Jewish returnee is the anti-nuclear campaigner Robert Jungk, author of the 1950s best-seller *Brighter than a Thousand Suns*, and leader of the Austrian Greens. Devising the ultimate paradox, the Neo-Nazi Haider has accused the Jew Jungk of pro-Nazi sympathies on the strength of a newspaper excerpt quoted out of context.

This provocation, characteristic of the *chutzpah* of Europe's neo-Fascists is on a par with Le Pen's
continued on page 2 col. 3

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Will be held on

Thursday 11 June 1992, 7.30 p.m.

at

15 CLEVE ROAD, LONDON NW6

AGENDA

Annual Report 1991

Hon. Treasurer's Report

Discussion

Election of Executive Committee

Followed by a talk by **Richard Grunberger**
entitled "In My Own Write"

Refreshments will be served after the
meeting.

Composer's success – in Germany

In spite of the recognition, albeit shamefully belated, which refugee composer Berthold Goldschmidt received when Simon Rattle and the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra performed his *Ciaccona Sinfonica* as part of the 1987 Berlin Festival (see *AJR Information*, January 1988), and the premiere of his opera *Beatrice Cenci* at the Queen Elizabeth Hall nearly forty years after its composition, and the subsequent Channel Four TV broadcast, 'the lost composer' is still relatively unknown in this country.

Gesprächskonzert

It is, therefore, the more encouraging to note his recent success when, earlier this year he returned to his native Hamburg to make an appearance in a '*Gesprächskonzert*' (musical conversation piece) at which his Second and Third String Quartets were performed. The earlier work was composed in 1936, soon after Goldschmidt's arrival in England. The Third Quartet is his latest. It was commissioned by the provincial government of Schleswig-Holstein as a result of the composer's presence as guest of honour at the opening ceremony of the Jewish Museum in Rendsburg.

Subjective statement

Berthold Goldschmidt describes this work as a personal, entirely subjective statement of his feelings towards the country of his birth. In an interview with the *Hamburger Morgenpost* he stresses the difficulty of putting these into words. Instead, he has given them musical form, reflecting his 'uncertainty and sadness'. The quartet has now been released as part of a CD recording (op Largo 5115), made in Berlin in his presence. His first opera *Der gewaltige Hahnrei* ('The Mighty Cuckold') will be recorded next year on the Decca label in a performance by the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra under Lothar Zagvosek; and further recordings of his chamber music are in preparation.

In two years time, Berthold Goldschmidt will celebrate his 90th birthday. Perhaps by then he will have attained that which has so far eluded him – sustained success and due appreciation of his outstanding talent and remarkable achievement by the country where he has lived and worked for well over half-a-century and to whose musical development he has contributed so much.

□ David Maier

Profile

Matron of honour



Loni Rieger.

Photo: Newman.

Miss Loni Rieger is, undoubtedly, one of a kind. Her acerbic wit and occasionally sharp tongue never fully disguise her warmth – a fact attested by her popularity or, as some would have it, notoriety, within the community which she has served so well over the last 29 years.

Miss Rieger was born in Darmstadt to parents of French extraction. She describes her childhood as happy and free. 'I was a bit wild, really', she says of herself, 'and I probably had the biggest mouth in Darmstadt'. In 1944, when Loni was only 12 years old, her parents were killed in an air raid. Although her sister was old enough to look after herself, Loni was taken in by an order of nuns. In the cloistered world of the convent she was 'smothered with love' and treated very much as a daughter of the house. 'They showed great kindness, gentility and understanding'. She was to remain in the convent until she was 20 years old.

In 1957 Loni Rieger went to Lugano, Switzerland, as a fully qualified surgical nurse, learning French and Italian whilst working.

Miss Rieger spent six and a half years nursing in Lugano, until she met a sometime resident of Otto Schiff House named Schlesinger. Mr Schlesinger was so impressed by Loni's efficiency that he recommended her to the then Head of Home at Otto Schiff House, Mrs Gravi. In 1963 Miss Rieger started work in England, at Leo Baeck House. Two years later she moved to the Otto Hirsch House in Kew to train as a matron under Mrs Rosenthal. By 1967 she had been appointed matron of Otto Schiff

House, Hampstead, a position she was to hold for the next 24 years. In 1991 residents of Otto Schiff House were moved to the new Balint House in The Bishops Avenue; Miss Rieger went too.

This summer, after 29 years of service, Miss Rieger is retiring. She will be spending more time at her Bedfordshire home where, she quips, 'the bit of Yiddish I have picked up over the years is bound to come in handy'. Not content to spend her retirement introducing the good people of Beds. to *Mammeloschen*, Miss Rieger intends to do a great deal of travelling as well. She plans to visit her older sister in Peru, and has long wished to travel to Madagascar.

Wherever Miss Loni Rieger goes, she will be remembered with gratitude for almost 30 years of dedicated service.

□ M.N.

continued from front page

dismissal of the Holocaust as a *bagatelle*. But the New Right has not had it all its own way. The Socialist-cum-Catholic majority in the Austrian Parliament have recently passed a law making the denial of the Holocaust a punishable offence. Like Chancellor Vranitzky's earlier avowal of Austrian complicity in the Final Solution this law was long overdue – but we should nonetheless welcome its enactment.

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From Galicia to Granada



Leopold Weiss/Muhammad Asad.

Muhammad Asad died on 20 February 1992 in Mijas (Malaga). His grave lies in the small Muslim cemetery in Granada. The place of his birth, on 1 July 1900, was Lemberg, today Lwow in the Western Ukraine, then in Austro-Hungary. He was born Leopold Weiss – and he was my stepbrother. He had gone from *cheder* to preparing and publishing the most up-to-date, scholarly translation into English of the Koran, accompanied by erudite commentary. He had become a devout Muslim, a scholar, famous throughout Islam. Apart from the monumental *The Message of the Qu'ran* (1980), his works included *Principles of State and Government in Islam* (1978), and *The Road to Mecca* (1954), an incomplete autobiography.

In this space I intend to dwell less on his public persona, but rather to recall the man I knew.

Amazing career

Asad's father, was the lawyer son of the orthodox Chief Rabbi of Czernowiz, and his mother the daughter of a wealthy banker. Dr Weiss established a law practice in Lemberg where his children were born. Leopold-Poldi had an elder brother who became a physician, and a younger sister, Hella. In 1914 the family moved to Vienna, where their mother died in 1919. In the same year, as I have described in *He took the Emperor's Schilling* (see January issue)

my mother became a widow. She and Karl Weiss married in 1920, making me the stepbrother of the Weiss children. A short time afterwards Poldi left home and started his amazing career.

After briefly studying at university he departed for Berlin and journalism. In no time he was sending dispatches to the *Frankfurter Zeitung* from Palestine. He argued with Weizmann and Ussishkin against Zionism, and published, in 1924, a collection of his articles under the title *Unromantisches Morgenland*. He rode with the Senussi of Cyrenaica during their rising against the Italians and sent accounts of their battles and the Italian repression.

Occasional letters

For many years we could never quite catch up with news from him. Occasional letters, reports from family members in Jerusalem, and an account of an expedition to Arabia in the *National Geographical Magazine*, gave some vague idea of his peripatetic life. We heard that he was the friend of kings and princes, of Reza Shah, Afghan chieftains and the Nizam of Hyderabad. He was a man of impressive presence, over 6 feet tall, and able to gain immediate attention by his arresting conversation. The profound turning point in his life came in Berlin in 1926, when he completed his conversion to Islam and adopted the name of Muhammad Asad.

Why did he take this step which estranged him from his father for years and caused some of the family to turn against him?

Well-ordered society

He explained his motives in his autobiography and in conversation with my wife and myself. Of religious temperament, he had found the spiritual indifference of his companions during the Berlin days unsatisfying. Though he had a good knowledge of Torah and some Talmud he rejected what he considered the narrowness and exclusiveness of Judaism. He found Christianity obscure and based on myth and faith alone – but the revelation of God's will transmitted in the Koran clear and consistent, and the Shariah law based on it a perfect model for a harmonious, well-ordered society. Also in Islam a person's origins and nationality become of secondary concern (at least in theory).

Even so, his translation of the Koran was attacked by Muslim theologians in Saudi Arabia and Egypt for 'excessive' rationalism and lack of deference to received authority. (I took his thinking to be not unlike that of the *misnagdim*, the opponents of mystical Chassidim in Eastern Europe.)

A romantic at heart he was drawn to Arabia, where King Abdul Aziz ibn Saud befriended him. He criss-crossed the deserts of the Interior, the Empty Quarter, on camel back, led his horse through the snow over the mountain passes of Afghanistan, and settled for a time in India.

Anschluss

External events brought the family closer again. The Anschluss alerted Asad to the danger we were facing and he exerted himself to help. He sent us badly needed money and set in motion the slow process of obtaining entry visas to British India. Alas, only I managed to escape by being sent to England to help with the reception of 'Kindertransporte'. His father, my mother and Hella were dragged off to Terezin and Auschwitz and death.

During his stay in India Asad had become a friend of the Muslim poet Iqbal and of Ali Jinnah. At the partition of India he moved to Pakistan, became Minister for Religious Coordination and finally entered the Pakistan Diplomatic Service. In 1951, as Pakistani Ambassador to the UN in New York he represented the case of the North African countries struggling against French rule. On his official passage through London, he occupied a suite at Claridge's, where he and I met for the first time since 1924.

He did not stay a diplomat for very long. The wanderer in the desert was too strong in him.

Disillusioned with the turn Islam had taken in Arab lands and then Iran, he withdrew from public life and threw himself into his writing again. His health deteriorated steadily, particularly after a fracture of one hip, having been thrown by his horse. He moved again and again, to Portugal, to Spain, he came to London, went to Gibraltar, and finally came to rest in Spain.

Withdrawal

His increasing withdrawal from direct involvement in events had enabled him to devote himself to the monumental task of translating the Koran. It has proved to be of historical proportion by any measure.

From Leopold Weiss to Muhammad Asad his life spanned two worlds. When he made his decision, he embraced Islam and the life and culture of the Arabs wholeheartedly and gave his new spiritual home his total allegiance. I think it fitting that his body rests in Granada, where Jews and Muslims had jointly created a world of incomparable spiritual and aesthetic splendour.

□ Martin M. Goldenberg

Reviews

Muddying the wells of truth

Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh, *THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS DECEPTION*, Jonathan Cape, 1991, £14.99.



A portion of a scroll telling of a battle between the leader of the Dead Sea community and two opponents; the 'Liar' and the 'Thief'.

This book is the story of the unconscionably long-delayed publication of archeological finds of the profoundest importance to Judaism and Christianity. It uses the methods of serious scholarship and yet reads like a tale of conspiracy and detection which started 40 years ago and is still going on.

The book clearly consists of two parts: the struggle with the 'hidden hands' which prevent the public from fully learning what has been discovered, and the authors' conclusions of what CAN be gleaned so far.

The putative villains are a group of Roman Catholic scholars – consensus men – at the *École Biblique* and the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem. They are allegedly motivated by fear of the impact on the Faith by revelations in the Scrolls (the first of which were discovered by Bedouin in the Qumran caves near the Dead Sea). Since the book appeared the renowned Oxford Scholar, Professor Dr Geza Vermes, has publicly deprecated the mention of conspiracy. Nevertheless, several of the Catholic scholars involved revealed themselves as virulent antisemites. One, Father de Vaux, had been a member of the fascist *Action Française* and another, John Strugnell – since dismissed – made utterances that would have rejoiced the Nazis.

When the Scrolls first came on the scene, Qumran was in Jordan; now all the locations are in Israel. The Israeli Government could deport the Catholic scholars and take over their 'finds', but Israel wished to remain on terms with the Vatican where two Popes have ruled against traditional anti-Jewish anathemas. The authors claim that the consensus scholars are under the direct orders of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, also known as the Holy Office or the Inquisition.

Jews are concerned with the light the documents throw on the factions within Judaism in the 1st century AD. The material may even include a letter from Simon Bar Kochba, the Jewish warrior who all but defeated the Roman Emperor Hadrian in the 2nd century.

And that is what Baigent and Leigh believe is making the 'consensus men' so unwilling to reveal what they are studying; the evidence of the utter Jewishness of early Christianity and the involvement of Jesus' followers in the Zealot cause which led to the destruction of the second Temple, the mass suicide of the defenders of Massada, and the ultimate dispersal of the Jewish people.

For both Christians and Jews there are further unpleasant surprises: Saint Paul could have been 'the Liar' depicted in Essene writings and a Roman informer rather than an apostle, and the High Priest of the Jews, Annas, another collaborator with the Romans, may well have been the same source's 'Wicked Priest'. The Essenes themselves, claimed by the Christians as the first monks and by the Jews as the first kibbutzniks, are revealed as non-celibate, non-pacifist Jews, militant fundamentalists closely linked to the Massada warriors.

□ John Rossall



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The Jews of Ulm

Stadtarchiv Ulm (publ.) *ZEUGNISSE ZUR GESCHICHTE DER JUDEN IN ULM: Erinnerungen und Dokumente. 1991, 271pp, illustrated.*

In recent years, a number of German cities, whose Jewish inhabitants were, until the Nazi period, able to lay claim to a sense of historical 'belonging', have sponsored research projects on this theme. Several of these have now been completed and the results published in book form.

One of these is the cathedral city of Ulm whose mayor handed copies of the present title to members of a group of Jewish visitors, staying at his invitation in their native town.

The volume is divided into two sections. The first consists of recollections and reminiscences by or about Jews who had lived in Ulm until their emigration or, more tragically, their deportation and death – a collection of 54 articles testifying to the fate of a typical community in a South German town.

The accounts vary in length, form and style. There are straightforward records of facts baldly stated and left to speak for themselves. There are also some very detailed narratives recalling personal experiences – a treasury of autobiographies, of life stories told briefly or at length. And for all their predictable similarities, these recollections and reports differ, at times in quite significant respects. Thus, the declaration of one returnee to Ulm that he, a committed Socialist, decided to live in the Bundesrepublik in preference to Israel stands in sharp contrast to the story of another left-wing activist whose Communist affiliations did not prevent him from playing a full part in the development of the Jewish state, as did those others who sought, found and adopted kibbutz life, or those who settled happily in Tel-Aviv and elsewhere.

One of the most interesting aspects of a number of contributions is the light they throw on the reactions, thoughts and feelings of those who accepted one of the three official invitations to return as visitors to their hometown. Two brothers, for example, interviewed on one of these occasions, gave distinctly different responses: one did not feel 'at home' in Ulm in any way at all, while for the other hearing pure 'schwäbisch' once again was music to the ears.

The second part of the book is devoted to an illustrated overview of the history of the Jews of Ulm. First settlement appears to have been recorded in the 13th century. Then came the persecutions of the 15th and 16th centuries, when German cities banned the presence, other than by strictly controlled daytime business visits, of Jews within their walls. Emancipation saw a return; and there is much interesting material illustrating the integration of Ulm's Jews from the early 1800s onward and their contribution to the cultural and commercial life of the city. The end, as elsewhere, came in 1939 and those who had not emigrated when there was still a chance were deported to the camps. Few survived.

In his Preface, the former citizen of Ulm at whose initiative the project was undertaken points out that its objective was to 'build a bridge into the future across the ruins of the past'. For the sake of those who, like his mother, perished in Auschwitz, or, like his son, made the supreme sacrifice defending Israel, the volume must, as he concludes, achieve its purpose.

□ David Maier

To thine own self be true

Anna Elisabeth Rosmus *EXODUS - IM SCHATTEN DER GNADE* Aspekte zur Geschichte der Juden im Raum Passau. Verlag Dorfmeister 1988.

If the resurgence of antisemitism in Germany and Austria alarms us, the endeavours of Anna Rosmus should go some way towards restoring one's faith in the humanity of German youth.

The film *The Nasty Girl* (reviewed in *AJR Information* February 1991), was based on Mrs Rosmus' experiences whilst researching the history of her home town Passau during the Third Reich. Overcoming seemingly insuperable obstacles put in her way by pillars of Passau society, she managed to ferret out the truth.

Rosmus's activities earned her retribution from the townsfolk: they killed her pet cat and set fire to her family home. Finally her husband, who could no longer stand the harassment, left her. None of this made her abandon her efforts. *Exodus - im Schatten der Gnade* makes absorbing reading. From the author's introduction we learn that she gave her daughter the Jewish name Salome to symbolise German-Jewish understanding and atonement.

The book traces the lives of Jewish families who largely settled in and around

Passau during the 19th century. We read how these families pursued their professions and trades and were integrated into Passau society until the rise of Nazism.

The life stories are carefully researched and much use is made of original records and photographs.

□ Inge Trott

Where no good deed went unpunished

Michael Burns *DREYFUS A Family Affair 1789-1945*, Chatto & Windus, 1992, £20. Alexander Stille *BENEVOLENCE AND BETRAYAL. Five Italian Jewish Families under Fascism*, Jonathan Cape, 1992, £20.

Two new books have their foundations in societies of advanced assimilation and both end in the tragedies of the Holocaust.

One is, at its core, an 'old' tale, namely that of Captain Alfred Dreyfus, who, falsely accused of treason, spent nearly five years as a prisoner in a tropical hell. Although many books have been written on *l'affaire Dreyfus* none is as comprehensive and conclusive as Michael Burns'. It has the power of the great tragedies of Shakespeare, as though Hamlet, or perhaps King Lear, had been forced into the role of Shylock.

Stille's study shows the impact of anti-semitism in a fivefold mirror, as it were; it unfolds as a group tragedy interlaced with heartening deeds of compassion and bravery.

The Italian Jews were so integrated in the host community (some of them for 2,000 years and more) that even the advent of Mussolini made no difference. The *Duce* gradually changed from a friend of the Jews into an imitator of Hitler.

Not so the vast majority of Italians. Everywhere Catholic laity as well as clergy hid the Jews. (Nevertheless, far too many were picked up when the Nazis took over Rome and Northern Italy.)

The five families on whom Stille focuses resided in Turin, Milan, Rome, Genoa and Ferrara.

The greatest similarity between the French and Italian subjects of these books lay in their burning patriotism. Both Alfred Dreyfus and Ettore Ovazza of Turin were pole-axed by their blind faith in what they regarded as their native countries.

Ettore was a Great War hero and ardent fascist, who attacked any Jew less loyal to the *Duce* than himself; his reward was a private execution and cremation in a central heating furnace. More consoling is the story of the Genoese Rabbi Pacifici who would not forsake his community, and was kept alive by a local Catholic priest with the help of his Archbishop.

The Dreyfus clan were descended from Rhenish pedlars who, emancipated by the French Revolution, grew affluent and opted for France after the Franco-Prussian War, Alfred's advancement to staff captain was the family's crowning glory. But Alfred's dry manner, pedantry and wealth made him unpopular with his fellow officers. A document betraying French secrets came to light and who but the outsider, the supercilious, dry Jew could be the culprit?

Burns makes the personalities and events come wonderfully alive. He shows Alfred to have been a sensitive soul incapable of expressing himself; the true hero is his brother Mathieu who formed shifting alliances of 'Dreyfusards' and finally succeeded in having Alfred rehabilitated.

L'affaire let loose a flood of antisemitic filth but also gave rise to Emile Zola's immortal *J'Accuse*. The real traitor, Esterhazy, fled to England. Patriotism undimmed, Alfred, his son and several other Dreyfuses fought for France in the First World War; in the Second they fought in the Resistance, and some, male and female, suffered the common Jewish fate.

□ J.R.



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Busch babies

R. S. Lenk, *RUDI'S TIERBÜCHLEIN*, published by the author, with illustrations by Barry Charman. Price £8.

As the title makes clear, the verses in this charming little book are written in German, and those of us who remember what is, after all, our native tongue, have a treat in store – if they like that sort of thing.

I add the caution advisedly: non-aficionados of Wilhelm Busch, or of Edward Lear's nonsense rhymes might be less than amused. For the 'poetry' offered by Rudi is versification, and I know how annoying Busch can be to non-fans.

That said, I would stress that the aforementioned similarities are superficial. The author's love of animals comes through in every poem, and the instructive and equally charming illustrations clinch the matter. Nowhere is this more striking than in *Tobi, der Dobi* (doberman), the lovable 'wolf' on the author's sofa ... an enemy's fierce enemy and a friend's true friend.

What also emerges is Mr Lenk's philosophy of life. He wants humans to respect animals, and to remember that we – apes with less hair – are creatures of the same world. (Though, when it comes to the likes of mosquitoes and tapeworms, he is less than sympathetic.)

Even the realms of Art and Scripture are drawn upon, namely in *Das Pferd* (George Orwell's *Animal Farm*), *Die Seekuh* (believe it or not, the possible origin of *Lorelei*), *Die Fledermaus* (Johann Strauss) and *Die Kudus in der Arche Noah* (obvious). He places crocodiles in the Nile; alas, when I travelled that great river they had vanished.

As a final warning to Man, the book's back cover portrays the vanished world of the dinosaurs, once the long-lived, triumphant masters of Earth.

□ J.R.

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ALL LEGAL WORK UNDERTAKEN

Letters to the Editor

A LESS-THAN-SPLENDID RECORD

Sir – I cannot let the article in your February issue go unchallenged: as one of the Kinder placed in December 1938 with a fine Liberal/Non-Conformist family in Bath, I am only too glad to report my experience. The local Committee – all voluntary – were a caring group of people, who regularly kept in touch with my new family, with me, and even with my father back in Berlin. They certainly had no 'impure motives that bring social workers into disrepute ...'

Incidentally in spite of happily joining my new family's Sunday Church/Chapel activities, religious (Christian) instruction and Church Boy Scouts, I had a strong enough Jewish background to insist on Bar-Mitzvah later. I do not believe that my psyche was scarred.

As for Bloomsbury House: for us kids at the time, it was a sort of Mecca from which much wisdom and support flowed.

Oatlands Mere

Vernon Saunders

Weybridge

(formerly Werner Schwarz)

HAGADA

Sir – The illustration from a Frankfurt Hagada on the front page of your Passover Edition evoked 'past echos in the present' for me. I write with this very Hagada – inscribed 'Ihrem 1. Enkel Max zum ersten Auftragen der Mah Nishtanah von ihren Grosseltern Sulzbacher, Frankfurt, 1936' – in front of me. Battered and soiled, it was rescued from the house in which my grandparents were killed in 1940 in the London Blitz. This Pesach I evoke their memory, as I have just returned from Israel, where I was Sandek at my own grandson's B'rith, just as my late grandfather was Sandek at my B'rith all those many years ago.

Golders Green Road

Max Sulzbacher

London NW11

IDOL WORDS

Sir – The issue is not whether you or I are 'right wing'.

The issue is whether the designation Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is 'a lie', which is, of course, not a statement of fact but an expression of emotion. To quote the Concise Oxford Dictionary:

1. Union: A whole resulting from combination of parts or members, e.g. the U.S., the U.K., or the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. (There is no question of voluntary or otherwise.)

2. Council: Advisory of deliberate assembly, a body of persons chosen as advisers. (There is no question of election.)

3. Notion: Idea, conception, view, vaguely held or insecurely based. There is no question that what I wrote was a notion. It is not vaguely, but firmly, based on English usage.

I do not expect you will publish this rectification. It would be far too embarrassing for the Editor.

Callestick,

Dr D. J. Salfield

Truro, Cornwall

STREET THEATRE REPRISED

I am mystified by Dr Lukes' comments on Israeli foreign and arms policy as 'immoral'. The Israeli Government is charged with the awesome responsibility of preventing the country from being overrun and the entire Jewish population massacred. The military balance with the hostile Arab states only is 16:1 population ratio, 9:1 armed forces ratio, 3:1 combat aircraft and tanks ratio. Israel must therefore adopt defence policies which her experts consider the most efficient, and 'morality' does not come into it. There is nothing more immoral than betraying one's country's defence secrets.

Bishops Cleeve

G. Schmerling

Old Coulsdon, Surrey

TAKE A STAND

Sir – This country, can take pride in the centuries-long tradition not only of giving asylum to the persecuted, but also absorbing waves of immigrant minorities and making them full and useful citizens. Unlike G. Schmerling, I feel that it is just because of the 'pioneering role' of our group in the last half century along the road from refugees to fully contributing, self-reliant citizens, that we should speak out against narrow-minded xenophobia and injustice.

Fitzjohn's Avenue

Dr M. Kogut

London NW3

Sir – We venture to assume that having succeeded, with the generous help of the crew, in clambering aboard the life-raft, to prevent others who are in danger of drowning from following is not an attitude which would commend itself to a majority of our members.

Alongside the Chief Rabbi, the Arch-

bishop of Canterbury, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, the Board of Deputies and the Labour and Liberal-Democrat Parties, we state our objection to certain features of the proposed bill. Like them, we do not 'demand' unregulated settlement of foreign nationals.

Wood Lane Martin and Eva Goldenberg
London N6

Sir - G. Schmerling who exhorts us to show intolerance towards genuine asylum seekers, has turned his back on his own past. For AJR members this is both unseemly and repugnant.

Many of us put our heads on the line during the last war to fight for 'Freedom from Fear'. Some of my best friends, Jews and gentiles, never returned and we would betray their sacrifice if we failed to reject National Front sentiments.

Mangotsfield Rd John Stanleigh
Bristol (Ex. Para. Regt.)

Sir - Just because we have been refugees ourselves we should stand up for others who are in a similarly unfortunate position. I am sure the founders of the AJR would have agreed with the Goldenbergs and not G. Schmerling.

Southwood Lawn Rd Eva Trent
London N6

WHERE DO YOU PUT YOUR CROSS?

Sir - The writer of this article (March issue) assumes, in all probability correctly, that more Jews will vote Tory than Labour. This seems to be proof of the truism that most people vote essentially with an eye on their pocket. Others may be less lucky, as mentioned in the article *Appeal to drivers* (also in March), which informs us that 'There will be less in the way of cheaper travel for the elderly'.

Government giveth, and Government taketh away! With hardly any impact on the economy.

Holland Park Avenue J. Rotter
London W11

ENQUIRY

Sir - The Wiener library has had enquiries about Jewish members of the Pioneer Corps. The only information we could give was that a book on this subject was published by Gollancz. If anyone can supply the name of this book, or further information about this subject could they please contact us?

Wiener Library R. Bergman
4 Devonshire St, W1

World Re-union Berlin March 1992

The Berlin Senate invited former pupils of Jewish Schools after 1933 to a World Re-union in March 1992. Over 240 attended, including spouses or children and were accommodated in three hotels, according to their former schools. Two packs awaited them on arrival. One contained the detailed programme, printed visiting cards of the two guides allocated for each hotel, as well as concert and opera tickets. The other contained an enormous amount of background material, including the book *Jüdische Schulen in Berlin* by Willy Holzer, himself a former pupil.

A champagne reception was followed by an address of welcome by one of the guides, mainly for the purpose of orientation after 50 years' absence. Tuesday was highlighted by a Luncheon at the 'Haus der Kulturen der Welt'. The guests were welcomed by a representative of the Mayor and by Herr Jacob Rabau for the Jüdische Gemeinde. The reply on behalf of the guests was given by Sam Berg of the U.S.A., the instigator of the project. The microphone was then made available to the floor, and some people came forward to inquire of the whereabouts of

DISADVANTAGED GROUP

Sir - Whilst appreciating the concern shown in retrospect over the fate of the 'Kinder', I am surprised no mention at all has been made about the teenagers who arrived here with ten Marks in their pockets.

They found themselves frequently in thoroughly degrading domestic jobs with very little remuneration. What is more, they had to fend for themselves entirely under the restrictive Alien Regulations then prevailing.

Harrow Mrs G. Kaufman
Middlesex

DAS FRÖHLICHE ALTER

Sir - I would like to thank Leo Hirtz for the charming poem *Das Fröhliche Alter*, which appeared in the February issue, and you for publishing it.

Thanks to your tape recorded reading of the paper for the blind I could hear it and asked for it to be read at my 80th birthday celebration. My son read it amidst great laughter. A friend translated it for the younger members of my family - sometimes it is 'Fun to be 80'.

Highgate E.K.
London

some of their former school pals. Remarkably few people recognised each other, because they were either too young or too old or were in parallel classes. But there were some successes. A teacher was able to re-acquaint herself with two or three of her former pupils. The writer met the mate he shared the schoolbench with; we embraced one another, as if we had only parted yesterday.

We also heard an address by Yitzchak Schwarsenz, who survived in Berlin and whose exploits are well documented. A brother and sister, who survived Auschwitz recalled the fact that they were arrested in the Staatsoper in 1943 during an identity check. Never could they have imagined that they would one day return to the place of their arrest. Wednesday saw the highlight, which began with a reception by the Governing Mayor Herr Eberhard Diepgen at his new residence. In his welcoming speech he thanked the audience for their difficult decision to return to the place where they suffered so much sorrow. After the reception they were taken to their former schools and through the areas where most of them used to live. Filled with emotions and saturated by old/new impressions they returned to their hotels.

In the evening some people availed themselves of the opportunity to hear the *Megilla* in one of four Synagogues. Thursday saw an early start with a tour through Berlin which included Plötzensee prison and the former Levetzow Synagogue, now marked with a Memorial recording the dates of all deportation transports from Berlin. The tour ended at the Academy of Arts, where an exhibition *Der Jüdische Kulturbund 1933-41* has been mounted. Friday was a rest day to absorb and digest the events and impressions so far experienced. Some took the opportunity to visit the cemetery at Weissensee. There was another exhibition *Jüdische Lebenswelten* (Jewish Lifestyles) at the Martin-Gropius-Bau, which again was very impressive. A Sunday evening visit to the Deutsche Opernhaus for a performance of *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* concluded a week of deep emotional experiences.

Berlin is not so much a Tale of two Cities as a City of two tales.

□ Martin Teich-Birken

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PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

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

Open 9.30 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday to Thursday. 2 p.m.-7 p.m. Sundays.

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

Afternoon entertainment - JUNE

Monday 1	Summertime Serenade - Elizabeth Fletcher and Brian Fletcher (Piano)
Tuesday 2	Little Bits of Music - Jeremy Henderson
Wednesday 3	Light Classical Music - Stuart McIntyre and Elizabeth Mucha
Thursday 4	Flute & Piano Recital - Debbie O'Brien & Gemma Nisbet
Sunday 7	CLOSED
Monday 8	CLOSED
Tuesday 9	A Mid-Summer Recital for Cello & Piano - Richard Jenkinson and Paul Lewis (Piano)
Wednesday 10	Solo Piano Recital - Debbie O'Brien
Thursday 11	Recital by Students from the Trinity College of Music 3.30 p.m. CLOSED until AGM at 7.30 p.m.
Sunday 14	The Sugarianos - Jane Marciano and Roberta Sugarman
Monday 15	The Flutelles Entertain - Siobhan Grealy & Susan Thomas
Tuesday 16	Fun With Music - Sue Parker (Piano)
Wednesday 17	Chopin & Liszt played by Pauline Palmer
Thursday 18	The Romantic Selection - Richard Moody and Robert Douglas
Sunday 21	Ronnie Goldberg Entertains with Song and Guitar
Monday 22	Piano Recital - Short Pieces by Liszt & Strauss & Other Light Classics - Maja Elliot (Piano)
Tuesday 23	Popular songs & arias - Judi Merri Frowde & June Moore (piano)
Wednesday 24	Magic of the Musicals - Leonie Page and Lesley Paul (Piano)
Thursday 25	The Music Makers - Elizabeth Winton & Stan Longmire with Piano accompaniment
Sunday 28	Big Moe's Big Prize Bingo

The AJR at Work

Open all hours



Paul Balint AJR Day Centre members can now use the facilities on Sundays and weekday evenings.

Photo: Newman.

On Sunday 10 May the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre opened for business on the first day of its extended timetable. Whereas previously members had been unable to use the facilities on weekends or on weekday evenings, they can now come to meet friends, old and new, and enjoy an excellent light supper.

Sunday entertainment and a programme of activities are currently being arranged by

evenings organiser Sarah Hannan. The timing of the introduction of the longer hours means that the centre's large garden can be fully utilised during warm summer afternoons and evenings.

The members present this Sunday enjoyed each other's company in a very relaxed atmosphere, reminiscent of a large family gathering. The serious bridge and kaluki players got down to business in the conservatory area, the more garrulous gathered around the refreshments to chat and banter. The lively piano playing of Gerard Tischauer provided music for everyone, and song for those who wished to join in. The Day Centre Shop, which has extended its range substantially, provided a mixture of essential daily items and treats for members to take home.

If the relaxed, family atmosphere and cheerful mood which were so apparent this Sunday are any indication - the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre's future success in extending its opening hours is assured. It is bound to become a home from home for all its members.

□ M.N.

JUNE

Monday 29	London Ladies Choir
Tuesday 30	Popular Classical Music - Maurice Isaacs and Isobel Isaacs (Piano)

JULY

Wednesday 1	Solo Piano Recital - Debbie O'Brien
Thursday 2	'ZAPATEADO' - Guitar & Mandolin - Music from Around the World - Alison Stephens & Martin Byatt
Sunday 5	Gerald Benson Entertains at the Piano
Monday 6	Music for a Summer Afternoon - Heather Brown (Flute) & Rachel Dale (Harp)
Tuesday 7	Classical & Evergreens - Gitte Sorensen (Flute) & Vegard Lund (Guitar)
Wednesday 8	(a) 'CAMERATA TRIO' - Maureen Lawton, Stephen Paisley and Stephen Salter (Piano) (b) Outing to Theatre Duo - Judy Magnus & Gillian Sonin
Thursday 9	

AJR MEALS TAKEAWAY SERVICE

Members can purchase reasonably priced 3 course meals to take home from 15 Cleve Road

Available from Tuesday June 9th

For further details please contact

LYDIA LASSMAN AJR 071-483 2536

Putting volunteers in the picture



Just some of the small band of volunteers who do so much for members of the AJR.

Photos: Newman.

It is now over six years since the inception of the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre. To mark the advances made during this time, and to hear about future plans, more than 60 members of the AJR's volunteer force attended an afternoon tea at 15 Cleve Road.

Changing times

They were welcomed by AJR Vice-Chairman and Hon. Treasurer Max Kochmann who, in a short address after refreshments, thanked the volunteers who have done so much towards making the Day Centre such an overwhelming success. AJR Administrator Lydia Lassman spoke of the changes

which have taken place over the years. Many of our visitors are now older and frailer and we have had to respond to their particular needs. Far more require transport to and from Cleve Road so there is an increasing demand for volunteer drivers.

Recent legislation concerning food preparation and safety standards has necessitated the purchase of various items of catering equipment and the upgrading of the kitchen.

Meals on wheels

Our social workers have consistently reported a growing need for a meals on wheels service. The provision of reliable transport for this service has always presented a problem. However, we are considering the purchase of a minibus, which could also take some members to and from the centre. In the meantime, in response to repeated requests, a takeaway meals service will be available from the beginning of June. Members will be able to collect three-course meals, suitably packaged and reasonably priced, from 15 Cleve Road.

Many members have requested an extension of the opening hours at the centre and, as from 10 May, Cleve Road will open its doors until 7 p.m. Monday to Thursday and from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays. We are delighted that Sarah Hannan (ex AJR

membership secretary) will be organising the additional hours whilst working very closely with Sylvia and Renee.

Time to spare?

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who can spare a few hours during the week or on a Sunday.

The expansion of our services will engender new tasks for both staff and volunteers. However, judging by the enthusiasm of those attending the tea party, it will all prove to be 'a piece of cake'. □

A report on the first day of extended hours at Cleve Road appears on page eight.

PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

The day centre has extended its hours and will remain open until 7 p.m. Monday to Thursday and on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED

To help with a variety of tasks – including driving members to and from the centre, serving refreshments, helping on reception, running the shop etc.

Please ring Laura Howe on 071-483 2536 between 9.30 a.m. & 5.30 p.m. on Monday to Thursday and 9.30 a.m. & 1.30 p.m. on Friday.

ERRATUM NOTICE

In the May issue the dates between 21 May and 31 May were omitted from the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre events calendar.

Also in the May issue: In the section of the Annual Report headed 'Election of Executive Committee' the name of Mrs Madelaine Brook was misprinted as Mrs M. Brooks.

Apologies for any irritation, annoyance or confusion caused.

□ M.N.

VOLUNTARY VISITORS & SHOPPERS NEEDED FOR:

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Volunteers Co-ordinator on:
071-483 2536

FAMILY EVENTS

Deaths

Eisner Anneliese Eisner passed away suddenly on 23 April shortly after her 86th birthday. Sadly missed by her son Alan, daughter-in-law Kay, grandson Adam, brother Kurt, sister-in-law Isabel, relations and friends.
Mass Erwin Mass, formerly of Vienna, died on 3 May 1992. Mourned by his wife, children and grandchildren.

Miscellaneous

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Piano needed for communal functions at Eleanor Rathbone House. If

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Alice Schwab

Art Notes



Bernard Shaw by Augustus John 1915.
National Portrait Gallery.

The work of Yossi Stern, the Israeli painter and illustrator, who recently died at the age of 69, will be well-known to many readers from his delightful illustrations for Youth Aliyah New Year Greeting Cards. Born in Hungary, he came to Israel at 16 and studied at the Bezalel School in Jerusalem. Subsequently he taught at the Bezalel School, where many of his former pupils became Israel's leading artists.

The Rembrandt exhibitions at the National Gallery finished on 24 May, but his drawings can still be seen at the British Museum (until 4 August). The National Gallery's latest exhibition is *Brief Encounters: Vermeer to De Hooch* (until 31 August) and well worth seeing. The Manor House Society has an exhibition of paintings and works on paper by Natalia Schneider (until 25 June). Natalia is a Russian artist, whose early work was for the theatre, but since 1972 she has devoted herself entirely to painting.

The Royal Academy 224th Summer Exhibition, in association with Guinness plc, will run from 7 June to 16 August. This is the largest contemporary art exhibition in the world and attracts works from new as well as from established professional and internationally acclaimed artists.

From 3 July to 18 October the Royal Academy will be mounting the first major retrospective exhibition of works by Alfred Sisley (1839–1899).

On visits to this country he painted riverscape scenes of the Thames at Hampton Court, several of which are in the exhibition (which has been sponsored by Fondation Elf).

Zadok Ben-David came from the Yemen to Israel, which he represented at the Venice Biennale in 1988. New works by Ben-David, on show at the Benjamin Rhodes Gallery (until 13 June), include theatres or landscapes where sorcery occurs and mundane objects are made absurd.

Rediscovering Pompeii at the Accademia Italiana, 24 Rutland Gate (until 21 June) should not be missed, since there is much new material including a whole painted room and some fine carved marble furniture to see.

The Fine Art and Antiques Fair is at Olympia (4–14 June), where some 350 leading dealers will be showing jewels, enamels, furniture, paintings, prints, clocks, pottery, silver, glass, carpets, toys, etc. All the exhibits are vouched for and for sale. The rival Grosvenor House Antiques Fair runs from 10–20 June.

Spinks are showing a wide variety of objects at the Grosvenor House Antiques Fair, but are also mounting their own exhibition of 20th Century British Paintings, Watercolours and Drawings (3–30 June). These include the Vorticist watercolour *Protection* by Wyndham Lewis, as well as works by Gaudier-Brzeska, Duncan Grant, Ginner, Lucien Pissarro, Piper, Bomberg, Stanley Spencer and Ivon Hitchens.

25 Years of Carving is the title of an exhibition of stone and wood carvings by Suzanne Lackner at Burgh House, Hampstead from 4 to 14 June.

Finally, *In Close Up: Bernard Shaw* (at the National Portrait Gallery until 5 July) includes a bronze of Shaw by Rodin, a portrait by Felix Topolski and a delightful close-up by Augustus John lent by H.M. Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. □

GERMAN BOOKS BOUGHT

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SB's Column

A truly international musician. Argentine-born Daniel Barenboim lives in Paris, but is equally at home in many other cities. Having given piano concerts in France, Britain and in the United States at a very young age, he is now chief conductor of the Chicago Symphony orchestra, and head of the Staatsoper, Berlin. He has recorded all of Beethoven's piano concerti. Here in Britain, we fondly remember the collaboration with his late lamented first wife Jacqueline du Pré, the great cellist with whom he had formed a unique bond based on youthful musical idealism.

Robert Stolz deservedly included. Vienna's Volksoper, staging a repertoire of operettas of Johann Strauss, Kalman, Lehar and Oscar Straus, has now added a collage of Robert Stolz items under the title *Servus Du* to its programme. This will comprise all the evergreens from the composer's pen: *Salome*, *Klingelfee*, *Im Prater blühn wieder die Bäume*, *Zwei Herzen im Dreivierteltakt* and *Gardeoffizier*. Stolz, the only non-Jewish emigrant among the operetta composers, returned to his native country after the war and died at the age of 95.

Birthday. Vienna's 'Burg' actress Gusti Wolf, who acted at that theatre as a child and rejoined it in 1946, is still an active member. Remembered as a lively youngster in Bekeffy's *Unentschuldigste Stunde* (with Gusti Huber), the variety of her parts has ranged from Shakespeare's Puck to the grandmother in *Tales from the Vienna Woods* by Horvath. She has just turned 80 and does not contemplate retirement.

Obituary. The death, at 84, of Paul Henreid, who acted at the 'Josefstadt' in Vienna under Max Reinhardt and later in London and Hollywood, ends another link between continental beginnings and America's dream factory. Minor parts in British films (*Goodbye Mr Chips*, and opposite Anna Neagle in *Victoria the Great*), led onto a splendid career during the heyday of American movies in the Forties and Fifties. His performance in the classic *Casablanca* with Ingrid Bergman brought him lasting fame. — Molly Picon, the veteran actress who was born in New York of immigrant parents, and performed both in English and Yiddish, has died at the age of 93. She was also known in Europe when, after the war she sang Jewish songs to an audience of concentration camp survivors; visiting Britain in 1960, she played opposite Robert Morley at the Phoenix Theatre. Molly Picon remained closely associated with the New York Yiddish theatre right up to the end of her career.

Berlin 1920/1992



Lissi Newman. Photo: M. Pope.
Reprinted with permission of Hendon Times Group.

In 1920 Lissi Edler graduated from art school in Berlin and was soon working as a freelance artist, selling original designs to the fashion houses and magazines of the day. She married in 1926 and had two sons. By 1935 her husband barely escaped the Nazis and she followed him to England, her children and some other family members managing to follow two years later.

Lissi Newman is now 90 years old. Six years ago she answered an advertisement in the AJR from a young German researching the history of Jewish culture in pre-Nazi Germany, and especially the history of haute couture. They met in London, her work was featured in a book that was subsequently published, and Uwe Wesphal is now my son-in-law, having married my eldest daughter, Lissi's eldest granddaughter.

Extraordinary exhibition

On 8 April 1992, Lissi returned to Berlin on the invitation of the Berlin Senate, since she had agreed to provide examples of her original work from the 1920s. These had been selected to form part of an extraordinary exhibition on *Jüdische Lebenswelten* mounted in the Martin-Gropius-Bau by Berliner Festspiele, an agency of the Berlin Municipal Government. An added pleasure for her was to find some more of her original drawings, that had been published and preserved in the archives of the Berlin Museum, hung in the exhibition.

One generation is often too short to witness historical cycles, yet people granted health and great age may do so. The visit could be experienced as a return to her

beginnings as an adult in pre-Hitler Germany, with the added poignancy of being accompanied by the next two generations, myself, my wife Ruth, daughters and son-in-law. We experienced a city with many signs of firm intentions and considerable success in attempting to rediscover its history and seeking to achieve a continuum of culture after the excision of a period of psychosis.

Place names persist

My mother experienced very few echos from the actual places where she spent her early adult life – little save the street and place names persist, while relics from a former age, such as the Prussian palaces at Sans Souci and Charlottenburg and early cultural experiences such as the incomparable antiquities in the Pergamon Museum remain. Only a few buildings remain from the 1930s, islands in a rapidly changing modern city.

The exhibition itself was remarkable for its ambition, its scope and its setting. An astonishing wealth of priceless artefacts from ancient times, the Middle Ages and some from more recent years have been collected from all parts of the world where Jewish communities have flourished. There was a Dead Sea Scroll, 13th Century Bibles, Maimonides, the Mendelsohn family, Einstein and much else. There were models and photographs of synagogues from the past, paintings and photomontages of history and costumes through the ages. My mother's work was in good company!

For once the emphasis was on a cultural experience and achievement rather than on suffering and persecution, though these are remembered and recorded in accompanying texts. The fact that the exhibition coincided with the Wannsee Conference anniversary was intentional. It was well attended and opening hours had to be extended because of demand. Coinciding with the exhibition there were a number of film, theatre and concert performances, as well as symposia and lectures, all relevant.

Welcome counterweight

My initial reflex uneasiness at the open, enthusiastic discussion of Jewish achievement in a public place with one of the Curators who took us around the exhibition, soon dissipated and it became apparent that there is much happening in Germany that is positive and constructive as a welcome counterweight to the much publicised neo-Nazi demonstrations.

The extensively illustrated catalogue starts with a 40 page framework of Jewish

teaching, philosophy, culture and history from biblical times to the modern world. It then describes the 20 main areas of the exhibition in detail subdivided by subject and geography.

Perhaps the wealth of material in the exhibition might prove somewhat daunting to anyone not already familiar with Jewish history and culture, but this is not a real criticism. It was a great achievement to have been able to gather all the material from many parts of the world, and fitting that this celebration of Judaism was placed at that time in that City.

Rewarding life

For my mother it was a unique way of turning the clock back to a period of youth, creativity and optimism before the onset of the Nazi years. However, her life in England has been rewarding and thoroughly fulfilled. Throughout their first difficult years in England, Lissi helped her husband first by selling her fashion sketches, and later by helping him to build up a large general medical practice in North London. After a few years she took up her first love of painting again, and now spends many hours painting in her studio, attends classes and enjoys a full creative life.

□ Claus Newman

OPEN DAYS IN THE HOMES

Leo Baeck House
Sunday 21 June
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Entrance £2

Osmond House
Sunday 12 July
2.30 p.m.
Entrance £2

Clara Nehab House
Sunday 19 July
2.30 p.m.
Entrance £2

Balint House
Sunday 2 August
3.00 p.m.
Entrance £2 (Children £1)

Heinrich Stahl House
Sunday 30 August
3.00 p.m.
Entrance £2 (Children £1)

All entrance prices include refreshments

Counterweight to Keynes

It is less than universally known that Vienna – Hitler's 'mongrel city' on account of its racial admixture – spawned not only largely Jewish schools of psychology, music and philosophy but also of economics. The names of the Jewish Neo-Classical economists Gumprowicz, Böhm-Bawerk and von Mises are only known to specialists nowadays. This is unlikely to happen to the recently deceased Friedrich von Hayek, the last man to have had the baton handed on by his illustrious predecessors.

Hayek who was not a Jew, had grown up in what he dubbed the philosemitic ambience of the declining Habsburg Empire. He was brought to London in 1931 as the only debater of weight available to oppose the employment theories of Maynard Keynes. In faltering English he so

impressed the authorities that they revived the dormant Tooke Professorship in Economics, and offered it to him. He held the post until 1950, when he accepted a Chair at the University of Chicago.

He first came to public notice with his *Road to Serfdom* which, published during the Second World War, became a main plank in the Conservative election campaign during the 1945 election. *Road to Serfdom* warned against the potential for creeping totalitarianism, which he saw as the logical result of the reforms advocated by the Labour Party, and based on the Beveridge Report of 1944. Clement Attlee made a withering reference to the work having been written by the 'Austrian' Friedrich August von Hayek, though Hayek had become a naturalized British subject before 1939.

Hayek returned to Europe in 1962 accepting the Chair in Economics at Freiburg, where he stayed until his retirement in 1969. His following around the world had

grown and Ludwig Erhard, the successful German finance minister, applied his theories in practice. In Great Britain he came into prominence again under Mrs Thatcher. The Institute of Economic Affairs and the Adam Smith Institute were founded to propagate his ideas. Mrs Thatcher recognized the intellectual debt she owed Hayek, by making him a Companion of Honour in 1984.

Hayek was a non-observant Catholic, whose view of Jews was shaped in the antisemitic environment of inter-war Austria. He believed in market forces and not in social justice – a term, he thought, that should be banned from the English language. Social justice has been defined as 'the social sense of justice in the Old Testament'. The concept which Hayek rejected is 4,000 years old.

□ Henry Toch

Simon P. Rhodes M.Ch.S.

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40 Years Ago this Month

AJR GENERAL MEETING

At the AJR General Meeting which took place on May 12 under the chairmanship of Mr. H. J. Feist, Mr. W. Rosenstock reported that the work of the AJR was now mainly centred around four major tasks: representation in general questions of restitution, Social Services, advisory activities and production of "AJR Information." The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. M. Pottlitzer, stated that the income from subscriptions and donations has remained unchanged as compared with the preceding year. On the other hand the liabilities have increased. Mr. Pottlitzer appealed to members to adapt voluntarily their subscriptions which had been assessed as long ago as 1946.

The new Executive was elected as proposed by the outgoing Executive. Three members of the previous Executive did not stand for re-election: Dr. H. Capell, who emigrated to Israel; Dr. E. G. Lowenthal, who holds a temporary appointment abroad; and Dr. F. R. Bienenfeld who, in view of his manifold other commitments in Jewish life, felt unable to co-operate regularly with the Executive. Their Chairman paid tribute to the invaluable services of these outgoing Executive members. Two Executive members were elected for the first time: Mr. S. Bischheim and Mr. L. Schurmann. The new Executive thus consist of: Mr. A. Schoyer (Chairman), Dr. H. Reichmann (Vice-Chairman), Mr. M. Pottlitzer (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. W. M. Behr, Mr. S. Bischheim, Dr. H. J. Feist, Mr. P. Goldschmidt, Mr. A. Horovitz, Mr. L. Schurmann, Mr. L. Ullmann, Mr. A. Wechsler, Dr. W. Rosenstock (General Secretary).

After the election of the Hon. Officers, Mr. F. Goldschmidt gave a report on the Claims Conference at the Hague.
AJR Information June 1952.

VERSE AND WORSE

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The Muslim muezzins of Brent
Called for a Member of their own
But, canvassed by Ken Livingstone,
Made him their voice in Parliament

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And takes The Sun for gospel true
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No. 3 CHICKEN A LA MAURICE

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INGREDIENTS:

2 chicken breast fillets, skinned
2 cloves garlic
Teaspoonful of oregano (dried or fresh)
1 small cup fresh orange juice (freshly
squeezed, bottled or tinned)
¼ teaspoonful ground black pepper
2-3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

METHOD

Slice the chicken breasts lengthways into
strips.

Finely chop the garlic.

Heat olive oil in frying pan. When hot add
the chicken, garlic, pepper and oregano.

When the chicken is cooked through pour in
the cup of orange juice.

Simmer for 1 minute.

Serve with steamed broccoli and fresh white
rolls on the side.

□ M.N.

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Search Notices

Vienna 3. Researcher, assisting the
curator of the Bezirksmuseum,
Sechskruelgasse, Vienna 3, with the
compilation of a record of individual
residents of the third district in 1938 who
suffered persecution during the Holocaust.
The work is part of history of the district
which is on display in the museum, and is
also intended to produce learning materials
for schools. Please contact P. Waldman:
0223-62631.

Mascha Damelin (ca. 82) left Schaulen,
Latvia, ca. 1927 for England. Any
information to: Idel Frid, Alterszenter,
Bornheimer Landstr. Frankfurt/Main
Germany.

John Jackson, formerly Hans Josephy,
son of Richard Josephy. Lived in Glasgow
and moved to London about 2-3 years ago.
Sought by Marion and Nanny Josephy, New
York. Contact: Katz, Oxford: 0865-59974.

Alfred Jendricke, formerly Schillerstrasse
17, Halle/Saale, Germany. Arrived in
England ca. 1936, or any member of his
family. Information to: Mrs P. L. Beimbom-
Taylor, 17 Hardaker Lane, Nr Pontefract
WF7 FJS.

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Birthdays

**Dr Ernest M. Foulkes CBE,
Hon. FRCP, Hon. MD**

On 24 May 1992, Dr Foulkes celebrated his 90th birthday. Born in Frankfurt, he gained his Doctorate in Engineering in Berlin in 1929. With the rise of the Nazis he left Germany and, after a brief period in Spain, arrived in Britain with his wife, Senta, in 1936. In partnership with a compatriot, he set up a company producing machine tools, which were urgently required by British industry. By the end of the war the firm was well established and beginning to branch out into other fields. Following a Ministry of Health approach in 1946 the factory turned to the development and production of medical equipment, particularly centrifuges, an important piece of hardware needed for medical research.

The company prospered and expanded into new premises in Crawley New Town, from which location its reputation continued to grow, becoming a world leader in centrifuge production. In 1966 it became one of the first ever to receive the Queen's Award to Industry for export achievements.

In 1972, in order to safeguard his company, and protect his employees' liveli-

hoods, he sold it to Fisons Ltd, remaining on the Board of their Scientific Division as Vice-Chairman and Consultant. It was in the same year that he first conceived the idea of the Foulkes Foundation.

His wide experience had made him very aware of the need for cross-training post-graduates in both science and medicine to enhance their ability to make significant contributions to medical research. With this aim in mind he established the Foulkes Foundation as a Charitable Trust in 1974 and endowed it with substantial funds.

In the 1979 New Year's Honours List Dr Foulkes was awarded a CBE. Other honours he has received include Fellowships of the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal Society of Medicine. Newcastle University presented him with an Honorary Doctorate of Medicine in May 1991. In recognition of the Foundation's work in Israel he has also been awarded the Independence Coin of the State of Israel.

Dr Ernest Foulkes has led a long and distinguished life, and in the 55 years since his arrival has made a great contribution to his adopted homeland. We take this opportunity to wish him many more active years with his wife Senta by his side. □

Dr Franz Gumpert, 85

Dr Franz Gumpert will celebrate his 85th birthday on June 29, 1992.

Brought up in Breslau, he joined the FWV fraternity during his student days. Shortly after passing his legal examinations his career was interrupted by the rise of the Nazis. He emigrated first to India, coming to Britain after the war.

Dr Gumpert is best known amongst AJR members for his tireless work with the United Restitution Office (URO) in London, where he was appointed Legal Advisor in 1964. For some years he was the only qualified lawyer on the staff. This was a heavy burden, but Dr Gumpert dealt with every claim with meticulous care and his patience and humanity earned him great trust and gratitude.

We wish Dr Franz Gumpert a happy birthday and thank him for all the work he has done on behalf of his fellow refugees. May he enjoy many more years of active life in vigour and good health! □

Obituaries

Maximilian Egon Rosner

Vienna-born Egon Rosner, who died in his 71st year, came to this country at 17. He worked in a machine-tool factory and studied Engineering in the evenings. After internment in Canada he continued his studies, and eventually entered Higher education. He advanced steadily from lecturer, via departmental head at Mid-Essex Technical College, to Vice-Principal, and finally Principal, of Twickenham College of Technology. Simultaneously active in the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, he served on its executive. After retirement he was Vice-Chairman of the Board of Wandsworth Technical College. Despite all these pre-occupations he was an ever-attentive *paterfamilias*. □

Peter Crawshaw

Peter was born in Vienna in 1923, the only child of Irene and Alfred Kraushaar. His parents used their resources to send their son to England in July 1939. They like so many others, died in the Holocaust. Peter

had to make his own way in his adopted country and was rightly proud of his achievements as a qualified accountant.

In 1974 Peter married Pat who has shared his on-going interest in the AJR for which she organised a collection at her church after his death. Home was very important to Peter and he died there in February after losing his fight against cancer. □

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A part of Ireland's history



Mrs Esther Hesselberg.

Photo: Newman.

The Jewish community in Ireland was established in the late 16th century when three Spanish Sephardi families entered the country. In the 400 years since then the size of the Jewish population has fluctuated widely. An influx of Lithuanian Ashkenasi Jews in the late 19th century increased the Jewish population substantially. By the turn of the century thriving Jewish communities were established in Cork, Dublin and Limerick. (In Dublin the

area around Clanbrassil Street became popularly known as 'Little Jerusalem'.) Their numbers peaked in the 1920's and 30's when the population was estimated to be over 5,000. The present figure is in the region of 1,200. This reduction is largely due to the economic situation in Ireland. A huge proportion of the younger generation are being forced to look abroad for work. For Irish Jews the main destinations have been America and Israel. However, those who remain continue to make a substantial contribution to the country. This is, perhaps, best illustrated by the fact that three members of the Jewish community are members of the Irish parliament (The Dáil).

Part of the fabric

Mrs Esther Hesselberg, now aged 92, a resident of the Jewish Home of Ireland, Dublin, remembers her childhood in Cork as being: 'Like belonging to a huge family, with 500 members'. She is saddened at the declining number of Jews in Ireland, but not too downcast. She believes they are too much a part of the country's fabric to disappear. This fabric extends into Irish literature. The best-known Jewish character in modern fiction is probably Leopold Bloom in James Joyce's *Ulysses*.

Joyce had known no Jews in his native Dublin; the inspiration behind Bloom was Italo Svevo whom he met in Trieste. Later his Parisian secretary and legal adviser was Paul Leon, who rescued valuable manuscripts before perishing in Auschwitz. Joyce's fellow giant in Irish letters, George Bernard Shaw, was a patient of Mrs Hessel-

berg's dentist brother. When his surgery was completed Shaw enquired about the bill. He was told that there would not be one since the dentist considered it an honour to be of service to such an eminent writer. Some months later Mrs Hesselberg's brother received a first edition of *Back to Methuselah*, bearing the inscription: 'A friend in need is a friend indeed, G.B.S.' The book, of course, remains in the family.

A striking feature of the Irish Jews is their similarity to British Jews. They have the same body language, similar speech patterns and, in general, do not look at all different to their contemporaries in London or Manchester. It is only when they speak that they can be placed. The accents are pure Irish and a delight to listen to.

But what of the wider Irish population? What do they, the vast Roman Catholic majority, think about the tiny Jewish community?

Given that there are few Jews, a relatively small number of the Irish population have actually come into contact with them. But there is some antisemitism. Luckily, however, it is usually abstractly based on ancient, and squalid, received opinions – from which racial stereotypes antisemites have always drawn – and some vague ideas about the Jews as 'Christ-killers'.

The rest seem more than tolerant. As one taxi-driver, who had had fleeting contact with Jews, put it: 'Aaah, the Jewmen, they're not the worst in the world y'know. And they let the Irish soccer team practise up at the Maccabi ground – you can't say fairer than that!'

□ M.N.

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