

# AJR Information

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Don't miss...

**Consecration of the house** p.5

**Hitler and the Holocaust** p.13

**Left right and wrong** p.16

## Two echoes

A vicious incident of 'Paki-bashing' in Bethnal Green, that left its victim permanently disfigured, raises two disparate echoes - one local and the other universal. The local echo evokes the 1930s when Bethnal Green was a stamping ground for Mosley's Jew-baiters. Of more universal significance is the fact that one of the above mentioned 'Paki-bashers' was himself part Bengali. How very human to try to escape victimhood by joining the perpetrators of the evil! And, at the same time, how very Jewish - if we recall the chief prosecution witness in the Tisza-Eszlar ritual murder trial, self-hating Jewish intellectuals like Otto Weiniger, and assorted members of the Soviet *Jevsektia* and the Nazi ghetto police!!

## Reflections on Austria's election results

# Freud's psychotic compatriots

In 1988, fiftieth anniversary year of the Anschluss, Austria featured prominently in the columns of *AJR Information*. An editorial, critical of postwar Austria, likened combating antisemitism in that country to the labours of Sisyphus. Readers' reactions were quite mixed. One letter termed the editorial "unnecessarily venomous", another said it magnified "negative aspects", a third dubbed it "a mirror image of *Der Stürmer*"; others, however, echoed the editor's harsh words.

At the time OVP-backed President Kurt Waldheim was the bone of contention in Austrian politics, while the FPÖ's Jörg Haider buzzed as an irritating gadfly somewhere on the periphery. In the interim - a mere six years(!) - Haider's FPÖ has advanced to attract over a fifth of all votes while the OVP's electoral support has shrunk to just over a fourth. During the next few years, Cassandra-style forecast-

ers predict a seismic shift of the tectonic plates in the Austrian political landscape: the OVP rightwing will prise the party loose from its fraught coalition with SPÖ Chancellor Vranitsky and link up with Haider.

This is a doomsday scenario. If it were to come to pass, Austria would be the first country in postwar Europe to have an avowed Hitler admirer in government. It might be thought that something analogous has already happened in Italy, where the Mussolini fan Gian-Carlo Fini sits in the Berlusconi cabinet. However, Berlusconi's scope for shifting the country in an authoritarian direction is - still - restricted by the constitution.

In Austria Haider is openly advocating the abolition of the parliamentary constitution. He talks dangerously of electronic referenda - where voters push "yes" or "no" buttons on all contentious issues - as a replacement for messy parliamentary debate. He likewise advocates the merging of the offices of Austrian President and Federal Chancellor (Prime Minister), which would create a single, powerful authority figure.

Even more contentious, as if that were possible, is Haider's denial of Austria's right to exist as a separate country. In his estimate, Austria is purely German - impurities are presumably to be removed by ethnic cleansing - and should be incorporated in the Fourth Reich. On no account should the country belong to the European Union, with its hotch-potch of inferior nationalities.

Meanwhile 1995, Austria's hoped-for year of accession to the European Union, is almost upon us. However, in the recent election the EU-minded SPÖ-OVP coalition government lost its two-thirds majority in parliament, and this puts a big questionmark over the issue of accession. The West may need to ask itself if the country that happens to be the geographical heartland of the continent really has its heart in Europe.

Other, even more worrying, questions arise. Interwar Austria experienced dire poverty - a fact often adduced in extenuation of its pro-Nazi sentiment. Postwar Austria has, however, been riding a consistently rising tide of prosperity - so what objective



Joshua riding into battle, Rudolph von Ems, 1250.

Continued on page 2

## Freud's psychotic

compatriots *continued*

reason has over a fifth of the electorate to register a neo-Nazi protest vote? And what is the logic behind the psychotic xenophobia that Haider is so adept at mobilising? Austria's outstanding general was Eugene of Savoy, her national anthem composer, Haydn, had Hungarian antecedents, her comic playwright, Nestroy, was part Polish, her top sculptors bore the names Wotruba and Hrdlicka and her greatest modern luminary was Moravia-born Sigmund Freud.

How can it be argued that many Austrians merely vote FPO to register their protest at the cosy – and occasionally corrupt – partnership of the two government parties. If that were all, they could as easily support the Greens or the Liberal Forum. No, the pro-Haider vote is definitely a throwback to the 1938 *Zeitgeist* and the world is fortunate that the German electorate, at least, has outgrown such recessive tendencies. □

## Profile

### Pillar of the community



Walter Stranz.

If the subject of October's profile scored a "first" by being himself the son of a previous profilee, our current man of the month bears a no-less considerable name: Stranz. Older readers will remember Rudolf Stranz as a restitution lawyer heavily involved in the work of URO.

His son Walter was born 70 years ago in Berlin. As a Great War veteran, Stranz senior was spared the full rigour of official antisemitism in the early Nazi years – only to be arrested on *Kristallnacht* and carted off to Sachsenhausen concentration camp. By great good fortune, his sister in England procured a guarantor for him, so that the immediate family found itself in the UK by the outbreak of war.

The purely nominal guarantor happened to be Sir Stafford Cripps, a fellow lawyer (and, coincidentally, like the Stranzes a Christian Socialist). During the early part of his stay in this country Walter lived in a home for Christian-Jewish refugee children. Then, after taking the Higher School Certificate, he – though still a teenager himself – taught mathematics at a private preparatory school. In the mid-1940s he took a wartime Honours Degree in History at Durham University and subsequently gained an M. Litt. He then did schoolmastering in various parts of the country arriving in Redditch (south of Birmingham) in the early 1950s. Here he joined the local Labour Party, which was so thin on the ground that all branch members had to contest council seats at election time.

The second time round, Walter was

elected and a few years later became Chairman of the Planning Committee. This happened at a crucial juncture; Redditch had just been designated a New Town and earmarked to take the overspill population of Birmingham. The resultant transformation nearly trebled the number of Redditch inhabitants and required most painstaking preparation. This provided Walter with such a wealth of experience that he – meanwhile promoted to Training College lecturer – went into town planning professionally.

1983 became his *annus mirabilis* (and, alas, *miserabilis*). *Mirabilis* because he was elected Leader of the Council and appointed Head of Planning and Landscape at Birmingham Polytechnic; *miserabilis* because he was diagnosed as suffering from Parkinson's disease.

Soon after, aged sixty, he retired from teaching and spent the next years purely on local government activity. By now he has had to bow out of public life completely. However, Walter Stranz can look back on a near-lifetime of service to his local community – which has reciprocated by making him a Freeman of the Borough. □

## UK Taxation of Dutch WUV pensions

A number of individuals have claimed, or may in future claim, entitlement to a pension under the provisions of the *Wet Uitkeringen Vervolingslactoffers* 1940-1945 from the Dutch Government. Broadly speaking, these pensions relate to damage to health during the wartime occupation of The Netherlands.

Although such pensions do not qualify for relief under the taxation provisions relating to German and Austrian pensions paid to victims of National Socialist persecution ICTA 1988 Section 330, the United Kingdom Inland Revenue have agreed that such pensions may, in certain circumstances, qualify for exemption from United Kingdom tax under the provisions of Extra-Statutory Concession A24 (on the grounds that they are payments by a foreign government which correspond to those United Kingdom Government Social Security Benefits from which exemption from Income Tax is provided under Section 617(1), ICTA 1988. □

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## My second second language

As a typically Viennese Jew – Hungarian father, Czech-descended mother – I did not grow up in a Yiddish-speaking environment. For all that, my family's discourse included some colourful Yiddishisms, such as *mieser baldover* (nasty fellow) *bovel* (rubbish) *dalles* (penury) and *tachinieren* (idleness). I remember the glee with which I picked up additional Yiddish catchphrases from contemporaries living in the (Jewish) Second District. On one occasion our summer-camp-bound train made a false start, stopped and started, causing my stock of Yiddish to be enlarged by the phrase *eftsche, eftsche tomma doch!*

When I came to England, Yiddish became my second second language, as it were. Not only were the family who took me under their hospitable roof East End residents, but the husband had himself arrived from Poland at the age of 18. He worked in the rag trade, and I, too, went into a sweatshop.

When I told my new colleagues that I came from Austria, something mysterious happened. They dubbed me an *estreicher mit papierene hoisen*. I gleaned that *estreicher* meant Austrian, but the paper trousers remained a total enigma. Enlightenment came eventually via a variation on the paper trousers theme. One elderly mantlemaker's talk of Franz Joseph *mit papierene hoisen* gave me the clue I needed. Obviously, if the Emperor wore such trousers they couldn't be a sign of poverty. The penny dropped when I realised that the said trousers were white and formed part of the military gala uniform Franz Joseph wore on a royal progress through Galicia.

Another, rather less puzzling but equally "historic" phrase was *di schwartse busy*. This referred to the huge demand for black mourning apparel after Queen Victoria's death in 1901; on that occasion veteran colleagues of mine had toiled round the clock, snatching a few hours sleep on worktables or the floor, to meet the rush for orders.

A favourite form of wordplay for people with more than one language is punning. Since many elderly garment workers were foreign born (and possibly illiterate) they were given to rather unsophisticated puns. For instance the

question whether somebody owned a vehicle would prompt the answer "The only car he's got is a hoi-car". (A pun on *hoiker* – hump – derived from *höcker*).

But lest it be thought that the rag trade was entirely staffed by proles, I must relate an exchange between a felling hand and a tailor I once overheard. "Hymie, have you finished the green sleeves?" "Me finished Greensleeves? Who do you take me for – Henry the Eighth!"

This English exchange put me in mind of a gem of Yiddish theatre. In *Tevye* by Sholem Aleichem, the milkman, hearing his daughter's scribbler-boyfriend described as *der zwejete Gorki* retorts: "*Ich weiss gur nischt wer es is der erschte Gorki!*" (I don't even know who the first Gorki is!)

Today, alas, Yiddish has fled from the rag trade and the popular stage, but it has found foster homes in specialised university departments and in show biz. At a London performance of *The Sisters Rosenzweig*, a far from all-Jewish audience simply fell about at each mention of the Yiddish term for bonking. Were all the punters American, I wondered? Apropos of America, in Hollywood Barbra Streisand's star-studded fundraising event for presidential candidate Clinton was hyped as the "ultimate shmoozerama". And talking of university departments, could a learned reader explain to me why I have never heard Anglo-Yiddish speakers use the above-listed Austro-Yiddish terms – *mieser baldover*, *bovel*, *dalles*, *tachinieren*, etc. that I grew up with?

□ R.G.

### DO YOU LIVE IN THE MIDLANDS?

You may welcome the chance to participate in AJR activities in your own area.

AJR member Edgar Glaser (Tel: 021 777 6537) has kindly agreed to investigate the possibilities for action and what form it could take.

A preliminary meeting has been arranged to discuss the needs and wishes of members in the Midlands. This will take place on Sunday 11 December from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Birmingham Progressive Synagogue, 4 Sheepcote Street (off Broad Street) Birmingham B16 8AA.

If you plan to attend please phone Mr Glaser. Transport will be made available where possible and appropriate.

## 'The Hidden Child'

### First international conference in Europe

The first European conference of the "The Hidden Child" organisation is to take place on Sunday 30 April and Monday 1 May 1995, in Brussels. The conference will follow the very successful first gathering, held in New York in 1991, of children who were hidden from their persecutors during the Second World War. More than 1,600 people attended the New York conference, representing 12 different countries, among them family and friends as well as survivors.

As a direct consequence of the New York meeting, there are now 75 "Hidden Child" associations active throughout the world. The planned European meeting in 1995 is being organised by the Belgian and Dutch Associations.

During the two days of the conference a number of eminent speakers from Belgium, France and The Netherlands will address the participants, and workshops will cover topics such as Intergenerational Dialogue, Spouses of Hidden Children, Still in Hiding?, and Asking the Second Generation to Speak Up. The conference is to be held at, and by courtesy of, the Free University of Brussels.

A meeting of Hidden Children held on the continent of Europe where they were hunted, hidden and rescued is highly symbolic; it will also provide opportunities for those who emigrated far from Europe to return to the places of their childhood, and for those from Eastern Europe to make contact with their compatriots in the West and freely to express themselves.

Details of the Brussels meeting and reservations may be obtained from either:

The Belgian Association of the Hidden Child,  
Av. Ducpétiaux, 68, B-1060, Brussels, Belgium.

or from:

Mrs. N. David,  
4, Oakfields Road, London NW11 0HY, England.

Registration by 15 January 1995. □

## Reviews

## Jewish Film Festival Update Heading in the opposite direction

AUFWIEDERSEHEN AMERIKA, Dir. Jan Schutte, Germany 1994

A fussy woman customer purchases a handbag at a shop in Brighton Beach, an immigrant-populated insalubrious New York suburb. The shopkeeper is Jewish, the customer Gentile. Their entire transaction is conducted in Polish. As the customer leaves, the shopkeeper's wife calls out to her, "Welcome to America". She replies (in Polish) "I've lived here for thirty years."

This opening sequence sets the tone for what happens throughout the next hour and a half. The film is suffused with ribtickling, but also bittersweet, humour. If after living in America for three decades someone still constantly uses their native tongue, then that person is in a state of limbo, or as some would say, permanent exile. The sense of being exiled – not only from a homeland but also from the past, from a meaningful existence and from love itself – affects all three protagonists of *Bye, Bye, America*.

The Polish woman has a Yiddish speaking husband with whom she leads a loveless marriage. The objects of her affection are, in the short term, a litter of pampered cats and, in the long term, the handsome village priest whom she served as housekeeper – or more? – thirty years ago. The husband has displaced affections of his own. He also has a buddy, Viennese-born Isaac – the accountant who speaks and reads German but objects to ever setting foot on German soil.

The latter point arises because the three of them have to cross Germany on their way to Poland. Each has a different, yet compelling, motive for the trip. The wife yearns to see "her" priest again, the husband wants to say *Kaddish* for his parents and Isaac thinks the FBI are after him for fraudulent accounting.

Events in Poland engender a more-sweet-than-bitter ending that gladdens the cinemagoer's heart. Re-meeting her priest, the wife is so disappointed that she looks at her husband with more loving eyes – and romance likewise comes to

bumbling, sixtyish Isaac in the shape of the German-speaking widow with whom he lodges.

I nominate this the most heartwarming film of 1994. The last offering of the Jewish Film Festival, it played to a full house at the National Film Theatre but deserves far wider distribution. Phone or write to your local cinema manager.

□ R.G.

## Two tinseltowners from the silent days

By a strange coincidence the same autumn week saw the death of two nonagenarian film actors – a German and an American – whose lives had been touched by the malign aura of Adolf Hitler.

The German, Heinz Rühmann, was a comic who started his career in the theatre working for, among others, Max Reinhardt. From his first (silent) movie *Das deutsche Mutterherz*, 1926, onwards he climbed towards stardom, which he gained with the anti-depressive Depression film *Die Drei von der Tankstelle*, 1930. Sound film was becoming hugely popular in the slump years, and in the subsequent decade the Nazi regime made optimum use of it. The canny Goebbels, realising that purely propagandist fare would leave movie-goers dissatisfied, ordered UFA to keep churning out apolitical entertainment films. Rühmann could thus twinkle on the Nazi screen without compromising himself – unlike his "serious" fellow stars Emily Jannings and Werner Kraus who appeared in poisonous propaganda epics. One compromise he was, however, compelled to make was to divorce his half-Jewish wife Maria Bernheim, who emigrated to Sweden before the war.

The actor continued to be a longlasting comic institution in postwar Germany. On one occasion, however, in 1965, he expanded beyond comedy – as well as beyond his previously purely German ambit – by playing the lovable Jewish passenger in Stanley Kramer's *Ship of Fools* (based on Anne Porter's best selling novel about life aboard a Germany-bound ocean liner in 1933). In it Rühmann, the archetypal comic, spoke the most tragic

lines of his 100-film career: "There are a million Jews in Germany. What are they going to do – kill all of us?"

The American, Lina Basquette, was a Californian dancing child prodigy who got into movies on the ground floor, as it were. Having danced for Florence Ziegfeld and been directed in a film by the great Cecil B. deMille, she married one of the four (Jewish) Warner Brothers, Sam, with whom she made a curious premarital agreement: if she had a boy he would be raised as a Jew – if a girl it would be raised, like her, as a Catholic. In the event Lina had a girl, but Sam died shortly afterwards, after which the surviving brothers used a mixture of pressure and bribery to "adopt" the baby and bring her up Jewish.

This left Lina Basquette near-suicidal and her movie career "becalmed". In 1937 she received an invitation from Germany whose movie-addicted Führer had been a fan since seeing her in the deMille film; still only thirty, Lina was to be groomed for UFA stardom. She was given VIP treatment and chauffeur-driven to Berchtesgaden. Here, Hitler belied his reputation for sexual indifference and (according to her uncorroborated account) made a pass at her. She, repelled by his body odour, resisted physically, but he would not take no for an answer. At that point Lina, aggrieved Catholic mother of a half-Jewish daughter, thought of the magic formula that made Hitler desist: she described herself as partly Jewish and escaped. Fact or tinseltowner's fiction – we shall never know.

□ R.G.

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## Consecration of the House

What splendid news the opening of the Tel Aviv Opera is! What an antidote to the pervasive depression after the Hamas atrocity in Dizengoff a few days earlier. And what a testimony to a young state which had to fight five wars since its inception, while simultaneously greening the desert and providing homes for more immigrants than its original population.

The erection of the opera house is the final link in a chain that includes the establishment of the Habimah Company in 1927, Bronislaw Hubermann's founding of the New Palestine Symphony Orchestra in 1936 and the building of the Frederick Mann Auditorium in 1962. It helps to make Israel a major player in the world culture league; it also confounds the pedlars of false alternatives like George Steiner, who insists that Jews can only be *either* world citizens in the diaspora *or* rooted Israelis in a Mid-Eastern backwater.

The fact that tiny Israel – unlike its larger neighbours, and some countries further afield – possesses an opera house shows that it is not an oriental backwater. (Egypt, of course, owes the Cairo Opera to the construction of the Western-financed Suez Canal.)

And why shouldn't the Jewish State – however small – have an opera house? Ever since they came out of the ghettos the Jews have made a disproportionate contribution to opera. At the simplest level they did this by forming a substantial part of opera-going audiences. (It is, for instance, not fanciful to conjecture that Covent Garden's postwar changeover to an all-year opera season was connected with Jewish refugees swelling the audience; incidentally the changeover itself was masterminded by the refugee conductor Karl Rankl.)

At the most exalted of levels Jews have produced an impressive number of opera (and music drama) composers: G. Meyerbeer, J. Halevy, K. Goldmark, E.W. Korngold, J. Weinberger, B. Goldschmidt, K. Weil, H. Eisler, L. Bernstein. R. Liebermann. Probably even more important were the charismatic conductor figures who headed opera houses at key moments in musical history, such as Mahler at the turn-of-century Vienna Hofoper, Klemperer at the 1930s Berlin

Krolloper and Levine at the contemporary New York Met. (In addition one could mention meritorious opera house managers like Ralf Liebermann at Hamburg, Kurt Adler at San Francisco – and even our own Jeremy Isaacs at Covent Garden.)

But what is opera without great voices? In that department, though we have not contributed to the Three Tenors, the Jewish record (no pun intended) is not inconsiderable – what with Selm Kurz, Gitta Alpar, Irene Eisinger, Richard Tauber, Joseph Schmidt, Alexander Kipnis, Friedrich Schorr, Malko Rothmüller, George London, Jan Peerce, Richard Tucker and Robert Merrill, to name but a few.

However, lest my readers be surfeited with Jewish self-congratulation, let me end on a critical note. Why did the Tel Aviv Opera have to stage *Boris Godunov* for its ceremonial opening? *Boris* is not only unconventional opera – it lacks arias – but it has Slav-nationalist and (Russian-Orthodox) clericalist overtones. What about operas with Jewish themes, whether composed by Jews (Halevy's *La Juive*) or non-Jews (Verdi's *Nabucco*)? Alternatively, why didn't they – in keeping with the building's ultra-modern design – perform something musically daring like Jost Meyer's *Dreyfus* – *Die Affaire* or John Adams' *The Death of Mr. Klinghoffer*. The former evokes the birth of the idea of the Jewish State in Herzl's mind – and the latter focuses on the terrorism that has cast a shadow over Israel for more years than one cares to remember.

□ R.G.

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Dec. 5th. Lesung (in German) "Exil ohne Ende".

Eine neue Anthologie des P.E.N. Zentrum deutschsprachiger Autoren im Ausland, herausgegeben von Fritz Beer und Uwe Westphal.

Dec. 12th. No lecture (Synagogue Bazaar)

Dec. 19th. Dr. Colin Berry. Bias in Broadcasting.

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# Letters to the Editor



## ZIONISM NOT OK

Sir - If Mr. Stefan George wishes to be anti-Zionist, that is his business. If Mr. George wishes to write to the newspaper, he should ensure that he knows what he is writing about.

He complains that millions of Arabs have been displaced. It is estimated that at the outbreak of the First World War there were 600,000 Arabs and 100,000 Jews in Palestine. I will quote from a statement made by the British Colonial Secretary to the House of Commons on 24 November 1938. (Parliamentary Debates, House of Commons, Vol. 341, col. 1991).

"The Jews brought with them money; development works provided extra livelihood; modern health services, which were extended not only to Jews but to Arabs, gave the individual a further lease and security of life. Since 1922 the Arab population in Palestine has, scarcely at all by migration from outside and almost entirely by natural increase, gone up from something over 600,000 to 990,000 persons."

The millions of Arabs who Mr. George said have been displaced, had not been in Palestine when the Zionist Movement was established, but came to Palestine because the economic position improved as Jewish immigration started.

The assertion that Zionism is nothing more than a nationalist Ashkenazi movement is equally untrue. The whole community in Ethiopia was lifted out from that miserable habitat and brought to Israel; Jews from Egypt, Iran, Iraq and Syria were saved by coming to Israel and benefited from its establishment as much as Ashkenazi Jews.

Golders Green  
London NW11

Edmund Stekel

Sir - I cannot agree with Mr. George on a point of grammar. Zionism cannot mean "colonizing" Palestine because that verb implies settling for the first time. As the area was first settled by the ancestors of the present Jewish inhabitants 3,600 years ago, the proper verb is therefore "re-colonizing", i.e. settling again. Not only can't I see anything wrong with

that, but considering the fate of the Romans who banished them from their homeland and plundered their temple, I believe it to be a jolly miracle.

Warren Lane  
Martlesham Heath, Ipswich

Frank Bright

Sir - In classical Yiddish we would call Stefan George, with his distorted definition of "Zion", an *oiswurf*.

The fortress of Zion has become a state, a nation, a language, an industry and a flourishing economy. To millions of our brothers and sisters, and all of us, "Zion" will remain a bastion of heroism, a living wonder and a shining example to all the nations.

Tadworth Road  
London NW2

H. Cyvia

## LISE MEITNER

Sir - The biographer of Lise Meitner, the great scientist, wrote that she died in Cambridge in 1968 and was buried somewhere in the South of England. The exact location, however, remained unknown.

For quite some time I have tried to find her place of burial, but without avail. My wife and I are anxious to visit it as an act of homage to that wonderful genius and admired savante.

She too, became a refugee from Nazi persecution, having been born of Austrian-Jewish parents, and escaped from Berlin at the last possible moment. Some years ago, to my delight, the *Deutsche Bundespost* honoured Lise Meitner with her portrait on one of their stamp issues.

I should be grateful for the help of any reader who could assist in finding her last resting place.

13 Cedar Way  
Slough, Berks. SL3 7JX

Walter Steinhardt

## REMINISCENCES

Sir - Julia Neuberger's reminiscences could so easily have been mine. In the late 40s my family rented rooms in Willesden Green where a Miss Walters, to whom we sub-let a room, read us nursery rhymes from Hans Christian Andersen.

The Dorice Café was also our weekly outing for cake and coffee. We spent

many sociable hours at the ex-Serviceman's club in Circus Road where Mr. Kay provided food and drink on plastic gingham-clothed tables. Birthday parties were his speciality and cards an evening favourite.

I too remember the Schwartzes' deli - divine odours of pickles and herrings; the warm feeling that we all knew each other; the kinship in a new land with people in the same boat.

Mulgrave Road  
Dollis Hill, London NW10

Helen Grunberg

## WHERE WERE THE GERMANS?

Sir - Has anyone else noticed the subtle change in terminology regarding the recent "celebrations" of World War II events ... viz. the Nazi occupation of Belgium, the Nazis ousted from Paris, the Nazi resistance at Arnhem, Nazi occupied Europe invaded on D Day, etc., etc....

Is your Mercedes or BMW thus a Nazi car? Do I detect some kind of conspiracy, a confusion of "Goodies" and "Baddies" in future history books?

Kinch Grove  
Wembley, Middlesex

Joachim Maier

## CONTINENTAL DRIFT

Sir - It seems that you may have been led astray by a politician's pronouncement (August issue).

As "one swallow does not a summer make ...", so one politician does not a special relationship break. The extraordinary and durable rapport between Britain and America bespeaks a multi-layered community of humanitarian, democratic values.

A politician can say things about the desirability of a German fiancée, but most of us (on both sides of the Atlantic) will not be talked into visiting that particular altar.

Hartley Way  
Purley, Surrey

S. Notkin

## PRO-GALLIMAUFRY

Sir - I agree with some of your readers that for people who don't have English as their mother tongue, it is sometimes difficult to follow your nomenclature.

But unlike Mr. Kaufman, I do not find this irritating. On the contrary, I appreciate the opportunity it gives me to improve my knowledge of the English language.

Dunstan Road  
London NW11

Hans Freund

Sir – Gallimaufry!? What a delightful sound. How euphonically satisfying, lavender in a warm bath (Erev Shabbat only). The wonderful Jane Austen herself would have approved of the very high standard of English – as would the great and philosemitic George Eliot.

Do keep it up and let's have some more beautiful, unfamiliar words.

Lindsay Drive  
Kenton, Middlesex H. Needham

### KURT NOTE

Sir – The other night I remembered one of Kurt Tucholsky's prophetic rhymes, written about 1930:

*Die Vorhaut sie soll wachsen  
Im Dorf und in der Stadt,  
In Bayern und in Sachsen;  
Weh' dem, der keine hat:*

I have ventured to translate it (rather freely) into English:

The foreskin of Bavarians  
And Saxonians shall sprout!  
But woe to those non-Aryans  
Who are – bad luck – without!

Mason's Hi Dr. H. Samuel  
Bromley, Kent

### PERCEIVED LACK

Sir – Your esteemed journal is headed AJR Information. The "J" stands for Jewish and Judaism is a religion. But I find your otherwise excellent journal completely devoid of any religious content at all. Whilst all other Jewish journals print the times of commencement and end of Shabbat and festivals, and have a column by a Rabbi, this is lacking in your journal.

Northdene Gardens Henry Schragenheim  
South Tottenham, London

We usually carry editorials with a religious content for the Yomim nora'im (cf. "Thoughts on the High Holidays" in September 1994), and at Pesach time. Commencement and end of Shabbat would be out of place in a monthly; a column by a Rabbi has never featured in our pages. Ed.

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### SEARCH NOTICES

**Irene Bejach** daughter of Dr Curt Bejach, born 1925/6 in Berlin, former pupil of Dorotheen Lyzeum, Berlin. Believed to have emigrated to England with her sister. Please contact former schoolmate Mrs Sigrid Lehrecke (née Hitzigrath) on Box No. 1269.

#### Dora and Walter Ash (or Asch).

Robert Daus wishes to make contact with the descendents of Dora and Walter Ash who lived in St. John's Wood in the seventies and were in contact with Mrs. J. Katzenstein (previously Daus) his late mother. The Ash family had a son and daughter. Dora Ash was related to the Daus family of Berlin. Please phone 081 449 8625, or write to 39 Norrrys Road, Barnet, Herts. EN4 9JU.

**Alice Maria Buseck née Una**, born Frankfurt am Main in 1875. With her sister Flora Dreyfuss, was deported to the Lodz Ghetto, 10th October 1941. Reported to have committed suicide before May 1942 to avoid transportation to extermination camp at Chelmno. Grandson Stephen Fraenkel would like to establish if any of the 700 survivors knows anything about the death of his grandmother. Please contact S. Fraenkel, 16 West Bank, London N16 5DG

**Jan Hanus and Mrs. Malka Minnich**, born 1908 and 1917, of Curzon Street, London until 1966 and then of Shiplake. The Minnich family are being sought by Barbara Jeanty, daughter of Helga Holt who lived with them from 1950 until her death in 1967. Any recollections of her

mother's life in England would be appreciated via Annenheider Damm 62, 27751 Delmenhorst, Germany.

**Dr. Leo Kann**, lawyer and amateur photographer, born in Vienna in 1885. On a visit to Palestine in 1912 he photographed Jewish life and settlers. Daughter Pauline born in 1922. Reportedly settled in London in 1939. Photo historian Vivienne Silver-Brody is researching early Jewish photographers who worked in Israel/Palestine. Please communicate any knowledge of Dr. Kann or his work to PO Box 4662, Jerusalem, Israel. Tel: 04-984-1067.

#### Escape from Birkenau, June 1944.

Author is conducting research into the background and fate of Mala Zimetbaum (Belgian) and Eddie Galinski (Polish) who were recaptured and executed. He is seeking anyone who experienced Brussels/Belgium in 1930s and the early war years; who was a deportee from Belgium to Birkenau or another camp; who was incarcerated in Birkenau; or anyone who lived in Poland near Birkenau. Please contact Stephen Pitts, 4 Queens Close, Bisley, Surrey GU24 9AL. Tel: 0483 475281.

**Matthias Frühauf** is seeking information for a book he is writing on three Jewish orphanages in Berlin before the war: Reichenheim'sches Waisenhaus, Berlin-Pankow and Baruch-Auerbach (private) for boys. He is seeking surviving students to assist in his research. Please contact Matthias Frühauf, D-10439 Berlin, Wisbyer Str. 70, Linker Seitenflügel, Germany.

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# The AJR at Work

## A welcome to the Day Centre

On entering the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre for the first time, you are met with the warmest of welcomes. The immediate impression is that this is the day-time home of a large extended family, many of whose members have retired after long working lives and a deal of human experience.

Doors often open early as members are keen to join in the morning's socialising, to play cards or chess, maybe keep fit or



Ian Rosmarin, left, takes the ACJR chair.

## New Chairman for ACJR

At the ninth annual general meeting of the Association of Children of Jewish Refugees (ACJR) Ian Rosmarin was elected Chairman. He succeeds Linda Stern who was thanked for her outstanding contribution to the association during her two years in office. Linda reported that the previous year had seen the organisation of a large number of successful events, including a marathon, a barbecue and a communal Seder. She was also able to announce a record membership.

The ACJR was formed in 1985 to bring together people whose parents had fled from Nazi persecution and who, with their shared background, want to explore the effect this has had on their lives.

If its current, extensive programme of cultural and social activities is anything to go by, the group is thriving. Among November's activities were a poetry evening, Israeli theatre, eating out, sing-song afternoon, games and a recital of the music of French composers at Wigmore Hall. The ACJR publishes its own newsletter to keep members informed of all its activities.

□ R.D.C.

If you would like to find out more about the ACJR, please write to Ian Rosmarin or Anne Salinger via AJR, Box No. 1250.

### CHANUKAH GREETINGS

The Chairman, Director and Staff of the AJR extend their best wishes to all members and readers of *AJR Information* for a happy and enjoyable Chanukah celebration.

□ R.D.C.

## AJR MEALS ON WHEELS

A wide variety of high quality kosher frozen food is available, ready made and delivered to your door via the AJR meals on wheels service. The food is cooked in our own kitchens in Cleve Road, NW6, by our experienced staff.

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The cost for a kosher 3 course meal is £3.50. Delivery charge 50p. Payment for meals to be made to the driver.

If you live in North or North West London and wish to take advantage of this service phone Susie Kaufman on 071-328 0208 for details and an assessment interview.

Meals can still be collected from 15 Cleve Road on weekdays (Mondays-Thursdays) for £3.50 per meal.

## Helping people in need

The AJR asks, through the columns of *AJR Information*, if any of our members and readers know of individuals who may be in need and for whom a small contribution to their support could make a deal of difference to the conduct and comfort of their lives.

Naturally, before any discretionary award could be made, the finances of the person concerned would have to be investigated by the group which carries out the work within the structure of the AJR. Anyone who is an AJR member and in need of support may be entitled to receive £10 per week without deductions from any existing income support, a means-tested benefit. Similarly, those above the income support level who find themselves caught in the "poverty trap" may also qualify. The possibility of one-off grants for exceptional expenditures can also be considered.

If a member who may fall into these categories is known to you, please contact us at the AJR office in strictest confidence. (Tel: 071 431 6161) □

## Ernest David's Message for December

I have been told there is life outside NW London, but I have been given scant evidence of this claim. As you may remember, we indicated in the September issue of AJR Information, that we have volunteers who are prepared to organise groups away from NW London, but so far we have not been overwhelmed with expressions of interest. However, I hope that when the groups start meeting, more of you will be attracted.

Why don't we spread the net wider? Let me invite any of you in the regions or other parts of London, who would like to participate in, or would be prepared to organise such a group, to let me know.

Depending on the degree of interest, we can then take it further.

I believe there is a role for such regional groups, both to foster companionship between people from a common background, and to act as a means for identifying needs in our community, to which the AJR could respond. Where re-

gional groups have been set up, I would then be delighted to come to visit you.

The ball, as they say, is in your court.

## AJR Drop-in Advice Centre

Every Thursday morning, between 10 a.m. and midday, throughout the year (holidays and high days excepting) members call at the offices of the AJR at Froggnal, just off the Finchley Road. They have a wide variety of problems to tackle and the sympathetic and expert advice they receive is greatly appreciated.

Inevitably, as the members of AJR grow older, the number and importance of their particular problems do as well. It may be that a home help or a volunteer helper is what is required, and the 'Drop-in Advice Centre' can pinpoint the most likely source of help and assist in making necessary applications. Advice, is of course, what is given at these weekly sessions, which is not the same as giving help. But the sessions provide a readily-available first port of call in coming to terms with

inevitable limitations imposed by advancing years and the government's continuing cut-backs.

In addition to the weekly advice sessions at AJR offices, similar advisory sessions are continuing to be available at the AJR Paul Balint Day Centre on one day per week as advertised.

Among the many matters which can be taken up are Income Support, filling in forms, dealing with the Social Service Department of local authorities, pursuing foreign pensions, obtaining advice on living on a budget, checking that you are obtaining all your entitlements, meeting fuel bill problems, and Attendance Allowance while at home and the benefits to which you may be entitled if and when deciding to enter a residential home. □

### AJR INFORMATION is available on tape

If anyone would like to take advantage of this service

Please contact  
Mrs Irene White 081-203 2733  
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#### DECEMBER

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*Sunday 4* TEA DANCE - WITH LIVE MUSIC  
*Monday 5* FROM SPAIN TO VIENNA - Satya Barham (Soprano) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano)  
*Tuesday 6* SONGS FROM MY ALBUM - Cantor Michael Rothstein (Baritone) accompanied by Sheila Games (Piano)  
*Wednesday 7* THE EUROPEAN UNION? - Richard Collier (Baritone) accompanied by Clare Haslin (Piano)

- Thursday 8* OPERA WORKOUT - OPERA POPS CONCERT - Accompanied by Margaret Gibbs (Piano)  
*Sunday 11* THE LONDON SUZUKI GROUP  
*Monday 12* SONGS BY WEIL & GERSHWIN FOLLOWED BY A COLLECTION OF FOLK SONGS - Elizabeth Fried (Soprano) accompanied by Nicholas Patrick (Piano)  
*Tuesday 13* VIVACE ENSEMBLE - INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL MUSIC - Directed by Malcolm Miller  
*Wednesday 14* THE BEST OF THE "CANTUS PIANO TRIO" - Amanda Palmer (Soprano) Armen Boldy (Tenor) accompanied by Marek Dabrowski-Pernas (Piano)  
*Thursday 15* SINGING FOR FUN - THE LONGFORD SINGERS accompanied by Margaret Eaves (Piano)  
*Sunday 18* DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT  
*Monday 19* THEATRICAL COSTUMES - Chat & Presentation by Jack Cassin-Scott

- Tuesday 20* ROMANTIC ENCOUNTER - Stephen Crook (Tenor) & Naomi Harvey (Soprano) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano)  
*Wednesday 21* A MEDLEY & SONGS & ARIAS FROM MUSICALS, OPERETTA & OPERA - Kym Whyte  
*Thursday 22* THE VALERIE HEWITT SHOW - Valerie Hewitt (Soprano) accompanied by Anne Berryman (Piano)  
*Sunday 25* CLOSED - CHRISTMAS DAY  
*Monday 26* CLOSED - BOXING DAY  
*Tuesday 27* CLOSED  
*Wednesday 28* CLOSED  
*Thursday 29* CLOSED

#### JANUARY 1995

- Sunday 1* CLOSED - NEW YEAR'S DAY  
*Monday 2* CLOSED - BANK HOLIDAY  
*Tuesday 3* MUSIC FROM OPERETTA FOLLOWED BY A BOUQUET OF GYPSY MUSIC - Eugen Kurti (Violin) & Stephen Norbert (Piano)

**FAMILY EVENTS**

**Birthday**

Steiner Steffi Steiner celebrates her 70th Birthday on 18 November with love from her husband Kurt and family.

**Golden Wedding**

Reiner Hedy and Hans Reiner will be celebrating their Golden Wedding on 29th December 1994.

**Deaths**

Allen Matilde Allen passed away 21st October 1994. Sadly missed by her loving husband Vernon. Shindel Adrian Shindel, my beloved husband, died peacefully on 2nd November. Now at rest after so many years of ill health. After 44 years of marriage he will be sadly missed by his wife Ilse.

**Companion/Carers**

Befrienders needed for a 96-year-old lady living in a home in Stamford Hill. She is blind and confined to a wheelchair. Visitor needs to speak Czech or German. Tel. Laura Howe 071-431 6161. German speaking companion is sought for my Viennese mother two or three afternoons per week in the Kingsbury (NW9) area. No housework required. Terms to be arranged. Car owner/driver would be most welcome but not essen-

tial. Please telephone Mr. Brandman on: 071-405 2000 (days) or 081-441 0034 (eves/weekends).

Kindly person required to stay nights at home of recently widowed lady in Golders Green. Please call: 081-458 3145.

**Miscellaneous**

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Alice Schwab

# Art Notes

Puala Rego's *Nursery Rhyme* prints are well-known and have been shown all over the world. She has now completed a small group of new works, including *Rock a Bye Baby*, *Rub a Dub Dub* and *See Saw*. These will be shown, together with a selection of the original Rhymes and a group of images from Peter Pan at Marlborough Graphics (16 November through January).

The marvellous *A Bitter Truth* exhibition at the Barbican Art Gallery continues until 11 December and should not be missed. There are so many good pictures to be seen as to defy description, including works by Beckmann, Bomberg, Chagall, Dix, Epstein, Gaudier-Brzeska, Heckel, Klee, Kollwitz, Kubin, Malevich, Meidner, Pechstein, Slevogt, Zadkine, to name but a few.

James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) was one of the most influential artists of the 19th century, maverick, controversialist and the winner, admittedly with only one farthing damages, in his famous libel case against John Ruskin, the most celebrated critic of his time. The first full retrospective exhibition of his work since 1905 is at the Tate Gallery (until 8 January). On show are *The White Girl* which caused a sensation when hung in the Salon des Refusés in 1863, *Nocturne in Black and Gold: the Falling Rocket*, which provoked the artist's libel suit against Ruskin, the famous *Portrait of the Artist's Mother*, his three *Symphony in White* pictures, hung together for the first time, and the three *Nocturnes* of 1866. This is a really stupendous exhibition of very fine pictures.

Our old friend Hugo "Puck" Dachinger, born in 1908 in Gmunden, has been showing works on paper *Akte*, *Kaffeehäuser und Kneipen*, *Puckomania* at the Universitätsgalerie, Vienna.

Following her exhibition *In the Attic* at the Ben Uri Gallery last year, about her mother's experiences as a political prisoner and refugee, Marlene Rolfe, who was born in London, continues to explore exile and absence. *Dreaming of Home*, small paintings by this artist, were recently shown (8-25 November) at the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institute.



Ludwig Meidner, *Apocalyptic Landscape*, 1913.

On the way to the Whistler exhibition at the Tate, it is worth paying a visit to see the work of the acclaimed German artist Rebecca Horn (at the Tate until 8 January). Rebecca Horn's machines are weird and wonderful, but perhaps the motorized, active grand piano, suspended upside down from the ceiling, is the most surprising.

## SB's Column

"Literatur" is the name of an inconspicuous little bookshop in the centre of Munich the outside of which is significantly decorated with half of a star of David. It is a seemingly exclusive selling place for works of Jewish and other authors forbidden during Nazi days. Recently, the window display included works by Schnitzler, Hofmannsthal, Heinrich Mann and Stefan Zweig. The firm has branches in Frankfurt and Berlin, as well as an export department which dispatches books to all parts of the globe.

*Tit-Bits.* Max Schmeling, veteran boxer and head of a German industrial concern, now aged 89, is back at work after an operation; the Vienna Municipality has named a street in the 14th district after Friedrich Torberg (1908-1979) who used to call himself the "last Jewish novelist writing in German". His books, from *Schüler Gerber*, *Trimberg*, *Auch das war Wien*, to the humorous *Tante Jolesch* are still much in demand.

*Birthday.* Karl Schönböck, German actor and *bon-vivant*, known to several generations of film goers and still making appearances on the silver screen, has reached the age of 85.

*Obituaries.* Cinema audiences, particularly those of the older generation, are saddened by the death of Heinz Ruhmann. He was 92. He will be remem-

bered for his inimitable boyish grin and irresistible charm. Madeleine Renaud, the French actress who has died at the age of 94, *grande dame* of the French theatre was married for 54 years to Jean Louis Barrault, who had preceded her in death earlier this year. They had acted at the *Comédie Française* since 1921 but left in 1947 to found the independent Barrault company. Karl Dönch who has died at the age of 79 in Vienna, was an excellent baritone, known for his roles as Don Pasquale, Leporello and Beckmesser. Director of the Volksoper from 1973 to 1987, he continued singing smaller opera parts and enjoyed playing the witch in Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel* until very recently.

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## Before the anticlimax

### AW Freud with the Special Operations Executive in Austria

In that fashion, I continued to slowly make my way towards the original dropping zone. After some time, I began to realise that Schweiger, even if he had been dropped, which I did not know, would not be waiting for me any longer. It was obviously pointless for me to continue in that direction, and I had to think of something else. I had with me a small radio receiver, the one for which the spare batteries had been stolen. Nowadays, such portable receivers are commonplace, then they were the latest wonder of electronics. With that radio receiver I could hear how the war was proceeding; my bigger receiver-transmitter was lost with the heavy luggage. One day, I heard that the British were at long last breaking through in Italy and I thought that the time had now come for me to go to "my" aerodrome at Zeltweg, to claim it for His Britannic Majesty. I turned around to make my way towards the town of Scheifling, which was the nearest town situated on the main road along the Mur valley. Zeltweg was along that same road, some miles further to the east. By that time, I had had enough of the mountains, so I kept to the small roads which led down to the valley. I made very good progress as it was now downhill, and met a few civilians. In my gas cape, I looked not dissimilar to the local woodcutters. I also came across some women evacuees from the bombed towns, who were apparently taking their morning constitutional. I gave them a cheerful "Heil Hitler" and walked on. They did not appear to be suspicious. My gas cape covered all evidence of evil intent, and hid my rifle and all the other incriminating articles.

Then my life was saved by a grandmother. As I went down the road, I was joined by an elderly local woman. She started to talk to me at once. She was very upset. Her grandson, the fifteen-or sixteen-year-old apple of her eye, had had his calling-up papers that morning. The war was obviously coming to a close, she knew that. Should she let her grandson join up, or hide him, or find some sort of excuse to avoid his call-up? She did not think that her grandson could much influence the course of the war. On the other hand, if caught, her grandson would be shot for desertion. The German Military Police had wide powers to execute anyone

suspected of shirking his or her duty, and they made much use of this licence. I was not familiar with the grandmother's problem, so I made some non-committal noises and let her talk on. We came to a little footpath branching off our road and leading across some fields. She asked me for my direction. I said "Scheifling" and she said that she too was going there and that this little footpath would be a shortcut. So we left the road and proceeded along that path. Not long afterwards, we came to the main road along the Mur Valley. I looked backwards along it and there, where my original road met the main road, I saw a detachment of SS troops controlling the road junction. Had I not met that old woman who had shown me the short cut, I would have run straight into them and be shot before I could have said "OK". As it was, I was now a hundred yards further on, and even if they had seen me from the distance, they did not bother to take any further action, as I had not crossed their check-point.

I asked the old woman to take me to the Mayor's office in Scheifling, which she did; I thanked her and hoped that all would be well with her grandson.

The Mayor was in, he was the biggest Nazi in town and he also kept the biggest shop, a hardware one. I told him that I was the Vanguard of the British army and that I had to get to the aerodrome at Zeltweg in order to earmark it for British, rather than Russian occupation. Zeltweg is some fifteen miles east of Scheifling and the Russians were rapidly approaching that area. He saw my point at once. He told me that he would certainly take me, but unfortunately none of the cars in his little town had any more petrol, not even for fifteen miles. He mentally went over the cars available to him, then his face lit up. The fire-engine still had petrol in it! That was good news, the fire engine would do splendidly. The Fire Station was almost next door to the Mayor's office and he had all the keys. While he got the engine out, the local schoolmaster appeared, full of curiosity of who, what, why and where. But there was no time to linger. The Mayor drove and I sat next to him in front. It was quite a modern engine, with a folding ladder on top and included all the other paraphernalia, including a siren. I nearly put on one of the elaborate fire helmets. There was very little traffic about, but whenever we saw anything likely to cause a hold-up or

looked like a checkpoint, he put on the siren and everybody waved us through. Arriving at Zeltweg, we asked our way to the office of the Commander. The place was full of soldiers in various uniforms; I noticed in particular many Hungarians in their elaborate head gear. Nobody asked for our passes or any documentation; a fire engine has free access to everywhere. We stopped outside the Commander's office. I went upstairs into his anti-chamber, where his secretary sat. I introduced myself in German: "I am Lieutenant Freud of the 8th British Army, can I see the Commander please?" She paled, went into her boss' room and invited me in. I entered, saluted nonchalantly and repeated "I am Lieutenant Freud of the 8th British Army; I have come to take over your aerodrome". The Commander, I believe he came from Hamburg, slumped down on his desk and started to cry: "All our efforts, all our sacrifices, all in vain".

□ To be continued...

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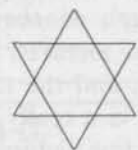
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### AJR 'Drop in' Advice Centre

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre  
15 Cleve Road, London NW6

between 10 a.m. and 12 noon on the following dates:

**Wednesday 7 December**  
**Thursday 15 December**  
**Monday 19 November**  
**Tuesday 29 November**  
**Wednesday 4 January, 1995**

and every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at:  
**AJR, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Frognal,  
London NW3**

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

## Hitler and the Holocaust (Part 3)

We are pleased to continue Lord Bullock's authoritative lecture given one year ago under the auspices of the Yad Vashem Committee of the Board of Deputies.

In retrospect there is an obvious continuity between Hitler's ideas in the 1920s and the policies which he followed in the 1940s. But this is in retrospect: his *Weltanschauung* (world view) did not provide him with a plan of action in advance. On the contrary, his success was due above all to his flexibility in taking advantage of circumstances he could not foresee. This is certainly true of his dream of creating a racist empire in the East at the expense of Russia. There is no doubt that it remained his long-term objective. When Goering was put in charge of the 4-year plan in 1936, his secret directive was to have the German armed forces and economy ready for war in 4 years. In presenting the plan to the Cabinet, Goering reiterated that it *starts from the basic premise that the showdown with Russia is inevitable*. But this provided little guide to Hitler's foreign policy in the 1930s which culminated in a non-aggression pact with Stalin which handed over half Eastern Europe to the Russians. Not until the end of 1940 was Hitler in a position to start planning when and how he would turn his dream into a reality.

What about the Jews? From its earliest days Hitler committed the Nazi Party to destroying the power of the Jews and driving them out of Germany. But what this meant and how it was to be carried out were left vague. It may be, as some historians have argued, that Hitler had already made up his mind to exterminate them and that it was only a question of when. But there is no clear evidence of this.

Anyone who has read *Mein Kampf* will not find it difficult to believe that among the fantasies in which Hitler indulged privately, even in conversation with his intimates, there may well have been the evil dream of a final settlement in which every man, woman and child of Jewish race would be wiped out in a necessary act of purification. This remains speculation however. What is clear is that – whenever he may have first conceived the idea – Hitler's judgement of what was practicable in carrying out both his fanta-

sies (the slave empire in the East and a final solution of the Jewish problem, whatever that meant) developed by stages, was not programmatic but evolutionary.

Examination of Hitler's early speeches and writings shows clearly that, while there is hardly a single utterance between 1920 and 1922 which does not express a venomous hostility toward the Jews. From late 1922 antisemitism was replaced by the attack on 'Marxism' and 'the Weimar system' as the main themes of Hitler's public statements. This represented not a change of mind on Hitler's part but his response to the discovery that antisemitism was less of a vote-winner than anti-Marxism.

Hitler showed the same care for his image after he came to power. He never lost sight of the difference between the party activists, who had been with him since the 1920s, and the much wider section of the German people whose support he won by his record of success in the 1930s and could rely on so long as he continued to be successful. The latter were rarely rabid or violent antisemites. In a general way they accepted discrimination against the Jews and their expulsion as an alien element hostile to Germany. But finding 'a solution to the Jewish problem' in practice was an issue which most ordinary Germans gave little thought to. It remained important for Hitler, whatever action he meant to take against the Jews, not to disturb this passive attitude.

During the 1930s, Nazi policy towards Germany's half million Jews was aimed at making life for them increasingly difficult, driving them to emigrate and stripping them of all their assets. A series of decrees forced them out of normal social and economic life and drove them into a ghetto-like existence, while insistent propaganda, beginning at school, identified them as 'the enemies within', not human beings, but vermin.

Cruel and oppressive though they were, measures such as the Nuremberg Laws stopped short of genocide and of what the Party Veterans were impatient to see. Only three times between 1933 and the war were the Nazi rank and file given the freedom of the streets. The first time was in 1933, when Jews, along with Communists, Socialists and anyone against whom the Nazis had a grudge, were subjected to beating up, attacks on property and internment in improvised concentration camps. The second was after the annexation of Austria in 1938 when the Austrian

Nazis aroused international outcry by their brutal treatment of the large Jewish community in Vienna. The third was when the assassination of a German diplomat in Paris by a young Jew provided the excuse for the notorious *Kristallnacht* in November 1938 when, for a single night, the brown-shirted Nazi mob was let loose and burned down 200 synagogues, looted 7,500 Jewish businesses and killed 91 Jews. In all three cases, however, although Hitler was well informed he took care to distance himself personally from what was happening, and there was no repetition of the attacks.

Hitler did not forget his Party Veterans, however. Aware that the pivotal position he gave to the Jewish problem in his own *Weltanschauung* was one of the crucial elements in binding them to him, Hitler gave them a signal that his attitude toward the Jews had not changed in the broadcast speech which he delivered on 30th January 1939, the sixth anniversary of his becoming chancellor:

*I have often made prophecies and people have laughed at me. In my struggle for power, the Jews always laughed louder when I prophesied that, one day, I should be the leader of the German state, and that then, among other things, I should find the solution of the Jewish problem. Today I am going to make another prophecy: if the Jewish international financiers succeed in involving the nations in another war, the result will not be world Bolshevism and therefore a victory for Judaism; it will be the destruction [Vernichtung] of the Jews in Europe ...*

What Hitler meant by *Vernichtung* he left the future to show.

To be continued...

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## Cooking with Gretel Beer



### Rum Pudding

This is a wonderfully rich, yet light pudding. Perfect for a cold winter's day!

For the pudding:

2 1/2 oz (70g) butter

2 1/2 (70g) icing sugar

3 eggs

2 1/2 oz (70g) ground unblanched almonds

2 1/2 oz (70g) raisins

1 oz (28g) grated plain chocolate

1 scant oz (25g) fine breadcrumbs

butter and ground unblanched almonds for the pudding basin

a generous dash of rum

For the sauce:

2 egg yolks

3 tablespoons rum

2 tablespoons caster sugar

1/2 teaspoon vanilla sugar

Butter a pudding basin and dust lightly with ground unblanched almonds. Pour a generous dash of rum over the breadcrumbs and leave to soak.

Cream butter and icing sugar until light and fluffy. Separate egg yolks and whites. Beat the yolks - one by one - into the creamed butter. Beat in the chocolate and the moistened breadcrumbs. Whisk the eggwhites until stiff and fold into the mixture, alternatively with the ground almonds and the raisins. Pile the mixture into the prepared pudding basin and steam gently for about 3/4 hour. Set the pudding on to a warmed dish and serve with rum sauce, prepared by whisking together - over steam - the egg yolks, sugar, rum and vanilla sugar until thick and fluffy.

**AJR**  
**1 HAMPSTEAD GATE**  
**1A FROGNAL**  
**LONDON NW3**  
**Tel: 071 431-6161**

B'nai B'rith

## JEWISH MUSIC FESTIVAL '94

In association with the Jewish Chronicle

Sun. 4 Dec. 12 noon - 10pm Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, SE1

### ANOTHER TASTE OF MILK AND HONEY

Exhibitions, record & bookstalls, seminars, discussions and music workshops

Chanukah Candle Lighting with the **SHABBATON CHOIR** 5.30pm

### AJY JEWISH YOUTH ARTS FESTIVAL

Drama, dance, art, music workshops, public speaking and competitions for 12-15 and 16+ year olds. QEH and National Theatre Foyers.

Four separate performances in the Queen Elizabeth Hall:

### CHANUKAH YOUTH CONCERT

1.30pm - 2.30pm **Belsize Square Synagogue Children's Choir**

Director Sue Straus and **Gregori Schechter's Klezmer Youth Band**.

### NORMA FISHER & STAMIC STRING QUARTET

3.15pm - 5.00 pm Renowned pianist Norma Fisher and leading Prague string quartet play Schumann, Dvorak and music from Terezin.

### LUCIE SKEAPING AND THE BURNING BUSH

6pm - 7pm Singer and broadcaster Lucie Skeaping and her acclaimed group perform traditional Sephardi Ballads - the legacy of the Jews of Spain.

### GREGORI SCHECHTER'S

### KLEZMER FESTIVAL BAND - with STRINGS

8pm - 10pm The fabulous Klezmer Festival Band in a brand new programme of traditional Jewish folk music from Eastern Europe.

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## Disabilities brought on by strokes

Linda Tomkinson, dysphasic support organiser for Barnet Borough Council, recently addressed AJR volunteers and members of AJR staff on the occurrence of language problems following a stroke.

Strokes are caused by an interruption of the blood supply to the brain, usually due to a blood clot blocking an artery. They can result in paralysis of one side of the body, as well as in difficulties with talking, reading and writing, gesture and all other means of exchanging information and ideas.

The slurring of speech caused by a weakening of the speech muscles, dysarthria, is the most common problem. Dyspraxia describes the condition in which patients are rendered inarticulate due to the brain's inability to send messages to the muscles to form the correct sounds. The majority of patients referred to Linda Tomkinson, however, have

dysphasia which is a word-finding difficulty, an inability to pronounce, write, read or recognise the spoken word. Any impairment of language can lead to enormous frustration.

One other common problem of stroke sufferers is difficulty in sequencing, the carrying out of tasks in a certain order. This can affect many areas of every-day life, such as making a cup of tea, writing or speaking, tasks that have to be performed in the right order to end up complete and correct.

Dysphasic support volunteers visit stroke patients in their own homes and introduce activities devised to give those with language impairment an opportunity to communicate in order to achieve the maximum possible recovery.

Ernest David, AJR Director, welcomed those present and thanked Linda Tomkinson for her talk and the lively discussion which it promoted. □

## Obituary

## Dr. Kurt Pflüger

**D**r. Kurt Pflüger, who died aged 83, was a courageous German anti-Nazi. Active resistance to the regime twice nearly cost him his life. At Heidelberg it was only a last minute tip-off from a fellow student that enabled him to evade arrest and escape to Switzerland. The Swiss authorities, having allowed him to complete his studies and obtain a doctorate in Egyptology, were on the point of returning him to Nazi Germany when he was saved by the offer of a post as research assistant to a London Egyptologist.

Kurt loved Britain and served for six years in the British Army. Demobbed, he

joined the German section of the BBC where he worked until well past the age of retirement. His fascination with London soon made him an expert on its history, and he became similarly knowledgeable about antiques. He focused his attention on the history of the classical toy theatre, wrote a textbook on the subject and succeeded in accumulating an extensive collection of toy theatre sheets.

He was a perfectionist, greatly assisted by his phenomenal encyclopedic memory. He remained an active member of Club 1943 and a frequent speaker at its meetings.

Kurt will be remembered as an extremely kind person, a loyal friend and someone who loved life. □

## Vichy cliffs of Dover

John Bowen, *NO RETREAT*, Sinclair Stevenson, 1994, £14.99

**T**his is a book for Eurosceptics and Europhiles alike ... it presents the reader with a European nightmare and simultaneously implies "we are lucky, it didn't happen, we have a chance to do better". Though it did not garner universal critical acclaim I find much merit in it.

The basic premiss is that Germany has won world War Two. Ah, you say - with the adverse critics - this has been done before. But, unlike Len Deighton who wrote about defeated mid-century Britain, and Robert Harris's Berlin-based fable *Fatherland*, Bowen puts you in the here and now, the very nineteen-nineties. Churchill has been hanged, what is left of the Royal family is in New Zealand, an ineffectual free British government operates out of premises over a sex shop in Washington. The "real" Britain is all but intact, a province in the German empire but with its own Government and Parliament just where they are now. Only that Windsor Castle is the seat of the - *Reichsprotektor* and his bureaucrats.

The latter represent the interests of the Reich in Britain. Hitler is long dead from cancer; his successor Heydrich is also gone. The German Empire, now known as Greater Europe, is ruled indirectly by a State Council in Berlin which has opted for the carrot and only uses the stick as a last resort.

The Mark is Europe's currency. The British are co-operating as smoothly as did the Vichy French; they aren't even aware of their subservient status for all

the external trappings of a free country are in place. The British Army is incorporated in the *Wehrmacht*, and the SS, including the William Joyce (alias Lord Haw-Haw) company, functions only in ceremonies and parades. The *Reichsprotektorat* is mostly concerned to maintain the *status quo*, namely peace and quiet.

Then Germany's client Iraq invades Kuwait. Oil-hungry America and its ally Japan intervene and limited war in the Middle East ensues. Now the Free British rump see their chance; they send out a five-man team "to set Europe on fire". Landing from an American submarine on the Welsh coast, the five search for elements of resistance. No luck; the Brits as such want things to stay as they are.

However, because of the Middle East fighting, Berlin is nervous, and the British Government orders MI5 and Special Branch to watch, and if necessary intern in asylums, politically unreliable citizens - mostly big-mouths who can't hold their drink and older people who remember the past. At the same time a new and younger *Protektor* is installed. Our heroes decide to assassinate him.

I will not give away what follows. Bowen is a skilful thriller writer, so those who venture into the book will be amply rewarded with twists and turns. Some of these occasionally bear too close a resemblance to World War Two events, but they are made eerier because they take place in familiar British locations.

Hand on heart, who has not wondered at times what it would have been like if the unthinkable had happened?

□ John Rossall

## OSTRAVA REVISITED

Former members of the once thriving Jewish community of Ostrava (Mährisch Ostrau), some with sons, daughters and grandchildren, from Israel and many other countries, returned to the town on 18th October, the 55th anniversary of the first transport of Jewish men from Ostrava to Nisko in Poland. The transport, on 18th October 1939, was the first of its kind of European Jews.

The grounds of the former Jewish cemetery were crowded with visitors and townspeople, including school children, local and foreign dignitaries, the press and TV cameras, to witness the unveiling of a Memorial by Czech President Václav Havel, followed by a moving wreath laying ceremony.

On the same day, the visitors were invited to the opening of an exhibition in the old Town Hall, graphically depicting the fate of the deportees and the destruction of the Jewish communities of Ostrava and surrounding districts.

In the evening every seat in Ostrava's State Theatre was filled for a memorial performance of Verdi's Requiem. On October 19th to 21st, an International symposium on Holocaust themes was hosted by Ostrava University.

All these events were given great prominence in the Czech media. □ K.G.

## Property in Poland

We have been informed that where a person has been dispossessed of property in Poland, it may be possible, provided ownership can be proved, to apply to the appropriate authority in Poland for repossession or compensation.

Further details of the procedure to be followed may be obtained from Peter Polz at the Polish Consulate on 071-580 8184. He can also provide a list of chambers in the relevant district which have advocates dealing with these matters.

Please do not contact AJR since, at this time, we are unable to give any further information on the reclaiming of Polish property. □

Leo Baeck Women's Lodge  
'Drop in' coffee morning has been arranged  
for  
January 22nd 1995  
at 11 Fitzjohns Avenue, NW3  
from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.  
All are welcome. Please bring your friends.  
Light refreshments will be served.

## Left, right and wrong

In religious parlance right is good – the blessed sit at the right hand of God – and left bad. Language reinforces the value judgements. Right means correct; left, in Latin, means sinister. The political connotations of the two terms are, of course, totally different. To oversimplify, right stands for the *status quo* and left for drastic change.

Historically the horseshoe-shaped Left-Centre-Right seating plan common to continental parliaments dates back to the Assembly that convened in Paris during the French Revolution.

In Britain, as ever, we order things differently. Here the "House" has a rectangular shape; members face each other; the governing majority – either Tory or Labour – are ranged to the (Speaker's) right and the opposing minority to the left.

Likewise in British politics rightwing carries a connotation different from the continental one. Particularly since Mrs. Thatcher, right is synonymous with "dry", i.e. pro-business and anti-state. We can consider ourselves fortunate that this is so: over here "rightwing policies" mean privatisation of the Post Office or withdrawal of income support from single mothers – and not, as on the continent, racial discrimination and expulsion of immigrants.

For all that reassuring difference there is something which continental rightists and dry Tories have in common: opposition to the European Union, arguably the most hopeful development on our continent since VE Day. Actually that is not all. If one subjects many of the "drys" to closer scrutiny they incline sharply to the right on *political* as well as economic issues.

Neil Hamilton, anti-Maastricht rebel and paper tearer at Tory Conferences, is also a personal friend of ex-MP Harvey Proctor. (Proctor will be remembered, *inter alia*, for advocating the compulsory repatriation of coloured immigrants). Michael Colvin, briefly in the headlines during the sleaze furore, was one of several MPs with close links to the apartheid regime in Pretoria. As for Jonathan Aitken, he first got into the Saudi "royals" good books – Peter Preston would say cheque books – by writing anti-Israel articles in the *Evening Standard*.

Some of these postures, though reprehensible, at least make sense within the conventions of politics. It is in the nature of things that blatant right wingers will

back up white supremacists, and that more discreet ones will fantasise about in-violate British sovereignty.

What is illogical is the stirring up of xenophobia by the Left. This has notoriously been the case in Greece, where the socialist Papandreou has whipped up more hatred of Macedonians, Albanians, and naturally, Turks (not to mention Israelis) than his Conservative rival Mitsotakis.

Though Messrs. Kinnock, Smith and Blair have/had little in common with Papandreou, the Labour Party has not been free of worrying aberrations. Early on Labour anti-EEC zealots denigrated United Europe as a capitalist racket – today they laud it as the home of the social chapter. While attitudes to Europe have oscillated violently, the USA has remained a constant target of near xenophobic leftwing prejudice. In the eyes of Americophobes like Harold Pinter, President Clinton is indistinguishable from Edgar J. Hoover, and President Carter from Senator McCarthy. Charged with xenophobic bias Pinter would probably retort "Rubbish! I don't hate them because they're American, but because they

decimated the Red Indians, enslaved the Blacks and A-bombed the (non-white) Japanese." □ R.G.

## 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 (Reg. Charity No. 211239). Your solicitor will be able to help you; alternatively you can consult with our welfare rights advisor, Agi Alexander, on 071-431 6161 (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.



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