

AJR Information

Volume XLIX No. 7
July 1994

£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss . . .

1994 AGM p8

The Dreyfus
affair p12

Politikver-
drossenheit p16

Awaiting Moshiac

Last month the average Euro-MP received 100,000 votes. Though the Lubavitcher Rebbe only had that number of adherents worldwide, he received lengthy obituaries in the international press. A major figure in postwar Jewry, he did a great deal – and on a near-global scale – to counteract the demoralisation and alienation infecting post-Holocaust communities. Alas, he, a US resident, also interfered blatantly in Israeli politics, arguably delaying the peace agreement with the PLO. However reprehensible, even this stance is preferable to that of the Satmarer Rebbe, who recently visited the Jewish State he doesn't even 'recognise'. □

Scholarship, politics and European integration

Beware – revisionists at work!

Revisionism is alive and kicking and resident in English groves of academe. Some years ago it lived in Germany, with Ernst Nolte as its chief exponent. Nolte, readers may remember, triggered a fierce dispute by reducing Nazism to one of many phenomena of 20th century mass politics and calling Auschwitz a "response" to the Gulag.

The *Historikerstreit* found little echo in this country. Not that English academe is devoid of scholars eager to establish a reputation by overturning accepted beliefs. Such "demolition work" can make a useful contribution to scholarship when the received wisdom being challenged has no bearing on the present. An example of innocuous revisionism is Conrad Russell's thesis that the MPs who defied the Stuart kings in the 1620s were not champions of liberty but self-seekers out to fleece the parliamentary system.

In certain circumstances pronouncements on history can, however, take on a dangerously contemporary significance. Some of Professor Russell's colleagues pursue a straightforwardly political agenda under the guise of scholarship. Prominent among them is Maurice Cowling, a former Cambridge don (and mentor of Michael Portillo). Cowling, author of a favourable study of Neville Chamberlain, has been described in *The Times* as "the first

revisionist historian to denounce the Second World War as an error that condemned Britain to liberal mediocrity". The close link between contentious scholarship and politics was demonstrated when John Charmley's hostile book on Churchill received massive hype from ex-Minister Alan Clark in the columns of *The Times*. According to Charmley, Churchill was a warmonger who should have made peace with Hitler in 1941. By refusing to tender the olive branch, argues Charmley – whose historical scholarship is such that he adduces incorrect dates and wrong motivation for the Holocaust (see *AJR Information*, April 1993) – Churchill condemned Britain to unnecessary wartime casualties as well as loss of Empire and Socialist rule after the war.

But rubbishing Churchill is not only a scholarly cottage industry of the Right. Clive Ponting, who earned leftwing plaudits as a whistleblower on secrecy at the Ministry of Defence, is another Lilliputian assiduously cutting Churchill down to size in his biography of the man. He makes much of Churchill's selfishness, greed, failings as a father and Victorian race prejudice – as if any of that mattered when measured against Churchill's achievement in saving the world from a second Dark Age.

One might ask if, fifty years after the event, any of this matters. Actually it does. In the Thirties Churchill, unlike the execrable Chamberlain, realised that Britain's interest could not be divorced from that – or secured at the expense – of Czechoslovakia or other European countries. The lesson of European interdependence has still not been properly learnt. On this issue the UK is regrettably schizophrenic. While on the one hand Britain is the only major West European country almost free of Neo-Fascists, on the other it shows signs of creeping xenophobia that reaches right up into Cabinet ranks. An individual example of this is Michael Portillo – the son of an emigré Spanish professor – who alleges that on the Continent students buy their degrees for filthy lucre.

A more representative example of inward-looking Little Englandism was the downbeat, not to say sour, response to the recent opening of the Channel tunnel. The Chunnel – possibly the greatest engineering feat of the century as well as physical symbol of European integration – surely deserves far, far better than that! □



The statue of Churchill in Parliament Square. Photo: Newman.

Class reunions – a user's guide

Excerpt from a letter by a German-resident Jew to a former schoolfriend in the UK.

Her ami, Ich habe Erfahrungen mit Zusammentreffen ehemaliger Klassenkameraden und weiss deshalb, dass sie etwas hinterlassen das unangenehm und deprimierend ist. Diese Treffen sind keine gluecklich machende Augenblicke, aber sie sind interessant und deshalb will ich Dich gerne begleiten. Man muss vermeiden ueber die Nazizeit zu sprechen, aber das ist meistens nicht moeglich, weil die Angesprochenen das Beduerfnis haben sich uns gegeneuber zu rechtfertigen, und dann wird es ungemuetlich weil man nicht weiss, wie man antworten soll. Unbelastet koennen wir nur mit jungen Menschen ueber die Vergangenheit sprechen, weil diese weder eine Schuld tragen noch eine Notwendigkeit empfinden Rechtfertigungen vorzutragen. Ausserdem vermittelt die Jugend das neue Denken in diesem Land, das so unglaublich anders als das unserer Schul und Studienzeit ist und uns deshalb das Wiedereinleben und das Wiederanknuepfen an die Kultur und das geistige Leben, die uns trotz langer Emigration nicht fremd geworden sind, erleichtert. Um die Menschen unserer Generation hingegen weht immer noch ein Hauch alter Denkgungsprozesse, die hie und da durch Aeusserungen, Anspielungen auf Vergangenes und Meinungen zum Gegenwaertigen ploetzlich zutage treten.

Annely Juda Fine Art

23 Dering Street (off New Bond Street)
Tel: 071-629 7578, Fax: 071-491 2139

CONTEMPORARY PAINTING
AND SCULPTURE

**JACKMAN ■
SILVERMAN**
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

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

Profile

Unfinished symphony



Anne Salinger.

Photo: Newman.

It is unusual to find a profile of someone of Anne Salinger's tender years on the pages of *AJR Information*. But this young lady, who was very nearly named Hilary – having been born within fifteen minutes of the first conquest of Everest – has led a full life, and is very aware of her refugee roots. As well as being an accomplished violinist, an enthusiastic linguist and all-round good egg, Anne is the Vice-Chairperson of the Association of Children of Jewish Refugees (ACJR).

Anne's parents came to Britain as teenagers in the mid-1930s. After internment in 1940, her father finished his degree. In 1943 he joined the army and served until 1947. From the time of his demob until 1948 he did a number of temporary teaching jobs before accepting a post as a classics teacher in a Durham grammar school. He stayed at the school until his retirement, by which time he was Senior Teacher.

As the third of four children, Anne followed in her siblings' musical footsteps. Her elder brother and sister (David and Wendy) both played the violin. David, who was aiming at establishing a family string quintet, encouraged Anne's mother to take up the viola at the same time as Anne began learning to play the violin. The youngest member of the family (Caroline) must have rebelled, defiantly taking up the cello. Anne is the only member of the family who became a professional musician, although all the family still enjoy playing.

At the age of eighteen Anne left home for Sheffield University, where she took a B.Mus. From there she went to the Royal Academy of Music in London. Upon leaving the RAM, Anne embarked on a career as a professional freelance musician. Her assignments have covered a wide canvass of

musical tastes and styles from playing with the Royal Ballet in Yugoslavia (as it then was) and the Bolshoi Ballet in London, to accompanying the Mantovani orchestra on a tour of Finland and the late John Curry's *Symphony on Ice* around Scandinavia, via stints with the RAI (Italian Symphony Orchestra) and many others too numerous to mention. She continues to do freelance playing and also spends nine hours each week teaching violin at a local school – where she has a couple of "extremely promising" pupils.

It was on a four-week assignment with a Russian orchestra on a British tour that Anne discovered an hitherto latent love of the Russian language. Over the next decade she became fluent enough to read "The Russians" in the original for pleasure. During this time she has made many journeys to the country and her admiration for the language and the people remains unabated.

More recently, she visited relatives in South America. Now, unsurprisingly, she is embarked on a new linguistic voyage of discovery, learning Spanish.

Anne's first contact with the ACJR came in 1985, when she answered an advert placed in *AJR Information* by Lily Allen. Eight people attended that first meeting. Now there are almost a hundred members. She became Vice-Chairperson in 1989 and the Association continues to thrive.

Since Anne Salinger has so much life before her it seems unfitting to place a conclusion at this point. Suffice it to say: *To be continued.....*

□ M.N.

If you would like to have Anne Salinger arrange a string quartet to provide background music for a private function please contact her via Box No. 1259 clo *AJR Information*.

Enquiries about the ACJR should be addressed to Box No. 1250.

HILARY'S AGENCY

Specialists in Long and Short-Term
Live-in Care

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

Caring and Experienced Staff Available

We will be happy to discuss your
requirements

PLEASE PHONE 081-559-1110

My father was an "Exempt Jew"

My father was born Erno Klein in 1889 at Heves, Hungary. After matriculation he worked as a textile engineer. In 1912 he volunteered for military service, being commissioned in the No.44 Kaposvar Infantry Regiment.

At the start of World War 1 he was seriously wounded on the Russian front. The subsequent 16-month treatment made Austro-Hungarian medical history. His life was saved, though his left arm remained a shrivelled and permanently frozen appendage. After a brief period of convalescence, he resumed his military service as CO of an important railway depot.

By the end of the war he was a first lieutenant, the proud possessor of several bravery medals and a "classified war-wounded", graded 75%. He became involved in the activities of the "Association of War Wounded, -widows and -orphans", later becoming the warden of one of the residential workshops in Ujpest, creating opportunities for the victims of war. Here, one of the activities he established became somewhat of a national industry: widows and orphans produced sought-after Hungarian "Persian" carpets.

In the early twenties my father established a security firm which only employed war victims. He became a pillar of society - as a war-hero, a successful businessman and provider of employment for people who would, otherwise, have been a burden on the state. He and his wife were respected members of the twenty-thousand strong Jewish community of Ujpest. In 1935 he changed his family name to Kaposi, to pay homage to his regiment. Whenever he had the opportunity he wore his reserve army uniform.

My father enjoyed the respect and loyalty of most, apart from the extreme right-wing elements of his workforce; indeed, some of them played a major part in the survival of my mother, father and myself. He consistently minimised antisemitic manifestations as "isolated events" - until he published an open letter in a May 1937 issue of the Jewish weekly *Egyenloseg* (Equality). Addressed to Imre Szabo MP, it read:

I have learned from Egyenloseg, that during the parliamentary speech of Rezső Rupert you shouted "They only sent token Jews to the battlefronts."

I, being one such "token" Jew, who knows you locally, whose vote - together with the votes of many other Hungarians



Erno Kaposi-Klein, 1941.

following the Jewish religion - helped you to be elected, did not expect this. Because, as an Ujpester, you should know how many Jewish soldiers from Ujpest served and fought in the war, how many died in action and how many more were wounded.

I do not know - I am not even interested in - what you were doing when a bayonet went through my thigh at Sabae, or when they shot through my cap at Koljevo, or when they shot at my arm at Cerzet. According to you, I and the other "token" Jews went to be targets for enemy bayonets and guns so that we could come home and boast: here we are; we have also been on the front line, we also got wounded, moreover, we got crippled.

Not so, Sir! We Jews went to fight because we belonged there, as good patriots, good soldiers and dependable citizens.

Sir, you can study the records of Ujpest; look at the numerous decorated Jewish officers and men. Realise how much these people gave for the fatherland, think about them, repent and revise your opinion. There is no shame in doing that!

I spent sixteen months in the No. 11 Surgical Clinic, Budapest. My arm was operated on seventy-two times; the badly healed bones broken repeatedly to be set again, the skin off my thighs transplanted to my arm. Why can't you leave us alone? Wasn't our suffering, our humiliation, enough? You have made us, who were richly decorated for bravery, into second class citizens.

With Sehr festem Character I was amongst the first fighting troops and, for exceptional bravery in the face of the enemy, earned 1st Class Silver and Gold

medals. Now you, sir, discover that only a few of us participated in the war as "token" Jews.

Your neighbour, Erno Kaposi-Klein

Admittedly, my father, and others with distinguished war records, were exempt from the restrictions of the first Jewish Law. The degree of exemption was gradually reduced by the subsequent Jewish Laws, and in 1943 my father lost his job. Though the privileges extended to members of his family, in 1943 my 23-year-old brother, a graduate electrical engineer, had to report for forced labour duties. Sent to the Russian front to dig trenches, in his own clothes, he died, exhausted, near where our own father had fought so bravely for his country.

After the German occupation of March 1944 my mother, father and I were permitted to remain in our house, though with greatly restricted freedom of movement. The Szalasi coup of 15 October 1944 put an end even to this. That evening, my mother, with the help of some loyal Christian friends, succeeded in persuading my father that he and his family were no longer safe at "home" and, with a small suitcase, we left for the unknown.

I was fifteen and a half and shall never forget the moment of our departure. We were standing in the doorway, ready to go, when my father looked back. Suddenly he said "We are not quite ready!" He went back in to fetch his captain's uniform with all its medals and put it on a chair which was turned towards the door and said: "There, my son. When these bandits come for us and force their way in, they will see what sort of a man lives here. They will withdraw without touching, let alone taking, anything. All our belongings will be waiting for us here when we return and this hell is over".

Thanks to his loyal employees, friends and our own resources plus the necessary luck, all three of us survived the next three months of anarchy and siege. First we were hidden, then lived with false papers. As soon as it was safe, on 24 January 1945, we walked twelve miles through the devastated city to return to our house. It was undamaged and, predictably, completely empty. Everything movable was taken, including my father's uniform...

So, what was his "exempt Jew" status good for? Well, three of the four of us survived the Holocaust; he and my mother lived to see me settling down here, in the UK, and raising a family. And, perhaps last, but not least, for having his story told.

□ Janos Kaposi

Reviews

Opera of the century

George Whyte and Jost Meier DREYFUS – DIE AFFAIRE Deutsche Oper Berlin, Premiere 8 May, 1994.

George Whyte does not shrink from using scurrilous antisemitic chansons based on the forged evidence against Dreyfus. The massed chorus sing *Death to the Jew, the traitor, the Saujud*. (The immaculate articulation of the Deutsche Oper chorus would deteriorate whenever it came to the worst antisemitic invective.)

Whyte contrasts the obscene *Judenpolka* with the ancient liturgical prayers of *Shema Yisrael* and *Owinu Malkenu*, beautifully and authentically sung by distinguished non-Jewish soloists of the Deutsche Oper.

This is very much a choral opera, with the chorus representing the bloodthirsty rabble incited by the prostitute Marie Pays, who also happens to be Esterhazy's mistress. The traitor Esterhazy is shown to be a small-time crook, manipulated by the corrupt and faceless senior officer hierarchy of the French army.

Once Emile Zola appears on the scene and recites *J'accuse*, his open letter to the French President, there can be no doubt as to who commands the centre of attention. Dreyfus himself emerges as something of an anti-hero, whose understandable self-pity is more than outweighed by his fierce pride in refusing to accept a mere pardon.

In one of his lamentations he exclaims: "I was born a Jew; this is my sole crime." Perhaps a note of regret in the mind of



Paul Frey (Dreyfus) & Kelly Anderson.
Photo: Kranichphoto.

an assimilated Jew and French patriot?

With a dramatically conceived piece of work such as *Die Affaire* it is almost inevitable that any contemporary composer is bound to play a complementary role. Jost Meier shows great professional depth and competence by fitting the various obligatory themes, such as the contemporary chansons, the Marseillaise, the can-can, the liturgical themes and, by no means least,

one of Chopin's best known waltzes into a meaningful *Musikdrama*, with the emphasis on choral music and powerful rhythms.

Under conductor Christopher Keene, an extremely well-rehearsed orchestra and chorus displayed the highest possible standards of musicianship in coping admirably with this difficult mosaic of musical quotations, alternating with passages of tonality and atonality. Meier's leitmotives tend to be rhythms rather than tunes.

Torsten Fischer, an outstanding professional, proved himself capable of looking beyond a theatre-bound producer's horizon. Thus, to avoid possible accusations of trying to deflect the stigma of antisemitism from Germany to France, he has a silent group of Auschwitz-bound deportees slowly walking to their doom whilst Zola renders his accusation monologue.

Listening to the spontaneous ovations accorded to the entire company at the end of this first night, my mind was cast back to a *Zaubersfloete* performance at the Berliner Staatsoper on 1 April, 1933, the day of the first virulent Nazi pogrom. On this night the great Jewish bass Alexander Kipnis sang Sarastro's aria *In diesen heil'gen Hallen kennt man die Rache nicht*, by Mozart, in protest against the horrifying actions of the Nazis. The applause on that night was thunderous, and must have had a similar ring to the demonstration of sympathy which I witnessed on this evening, sixty-one years on.

After the performance I was able to speak to a small cross-section of Berliners who had attended this world premiere. When asked the reason for their evident enthusiasm, they told me that they were deeply moved by the Dreyfus story, hitherto unknown to them, and even more so by the tremendous involvement and conviction displayed by the huge cast.

□ F. W. Rosner

Postscript

1935 – Lieut. Col. Alfred Dreyfus dies.
1943 – Madeleine Levy, his 25-year-old granddaughter, is deported to Auschwitz, where she dies.
1980 – Dreyfus' grave is desecrated.
1994 – His grandson, Dr. Jean-Louis Levy (72), attends the world premiere of *Dreyfus – die Affaire*.

FOR THOSE YOU CARE MOST ABOUT



Springdene

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

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

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

081-446 2117

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

PARTNER

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

Henry Ebner

at

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

Telephone 071 602 4631

ALL LEGAL WORK UNDERTAKEN

F. GOLDMAN

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

Telephone: 081-205 9232

Longest writer's block

Henry Roth, *MERCY OF A RUDE STREAM*,
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1994.

This novel is a phenomenon from almost every point of view, being but the first of five more projected volumes from its eighty-eight-year-old author.

That amounts to unequalled faith in the future, if not outright hubris; but the whole literary enterprise has a similarly unique background. It follows a fine novel published by Roth sixty (!) years ago. *Call it Sleep*, about immigrant childhood in New York's slums, and still available as a *Penguin Modern Classic*, became a best seller and was hailed as one of the greatest achievements of American literature. After its publication, the longest writer's block in recorded literary history set in. Roth attempted a sequel, abandoned it and for half a century undertook such diverse jobs as toolmaker, teacher, poultry farmer and psychiatric nurse.

In the present book the child of the slums is still there, struggling as well as exulting his way through Harlem. As the *Mercy* story opens we experience high summer in Harlem, at that time not yet all black, but Irish with a sprinkling of Jews. The Great War looms and Yiddish newspaper sellers shout "wuxtra, wuxtra" (as it sounds to little Ira) in the street below the Stigmans' awful apartment. Ira does not like Harlem. The Irish kids are full of ignorant antisemitism and Ira is no fighter. Yet, in the course of time, this Catholic prejudice reveals itself to be weak and superficial; Ira acquires Irish friends and, in their company, progressively abandons his extraneous Jewishness. He consumes pork sandwiches, the price of acceptance by bosom pal Farley and his parents. Later he gets an after-school job in the grocery store of Park & Tilford, purveyors to the upper-crust.

The child is not fond of his father who – overly strict and, worse, unstable – flies into rages during which he flogs Ira. His instability also ensures that he cannot keep a job or succeed in business. Ira does love his mother, but looks askance at her inability to read or write, or even string together short sentences in English. Only later does he come to appreciate her Jewish wit and wisdom. Besides "Mom and Pop" there is a whole tribe of uncles and aunts, Zaida (grandfather) and Baba (grandmother), all immigrants from Galicia. Ira has his favourites, but none escape his critical eye.

The novel is weak on plot... it simply consists of life unrolling before a growing child's eyes, and we are all familiar with the events of the time: America entering the war (an uncle joins the heroes), the roaring peace, prohibition. What carries the writing along is the narrative, the way events reflect on the family, the locale and the child's understanding. And this is good – at times very, very good. The novel is frightening and enchanting in turn, a canvas on to which he transfers the dreams engendered by his growing, eventually obsessive, bibliophilia.

The style is unusual. In brief, he mixes almost Jamesian prose with Yiddish cadences and even expressions (a glossary is provided). It is, at times, odd, but he achieves his literary plan. More problematical is another device he uses: he conducts a dialogue with his word processor (addressed, God knows why, as *Ecclesias*), and this regularly interrupts the main narrative. While this can be annoying, it does give insight into the writer's thoughts, intentions, feelings.

I personally read this first instalment of the projected series with unabated interest and enjoyment.

□ John Rossall

Facets of the Shoah analysed

David Cesarani (ed), *THE FINAL SOLUTION. ORIGINS AND IMPLEMENTATION*, Routledge, 1994.

This book arose out of a conference of scholars in London on the 50th anniversary of the Wannsee Conference, and consists of some twenty essays by such experts as Yehuda Bauer, H Friedlander and D Porat. The early chapters focus on the preconditions for the implementation of the Final Solution, and the contributing effect of Nazi ideology.

Other important aspects include the debate about such questions as to whether genocide was prompted by the euphoria of early victories on the Eastern front or rather as a reaction to later military setbacks. Chapters on the *Einsatzgruppen*, the complicity of the *Wehrmacht*, and Hitler's personal role tend to be somewhat academic and will appeal particularly to the historian and the student.

The second half of the book will be of greater interest to the general reader as it deals more directly with the implementation of the Final Solution and the responses of:

- (a) The Jews, including the hopeless position of Polish Jewry, the unique aspects of the Holocaust in Lithuania where the locals participated enthusiastically in the massacres, and the situation in Croatia.
- (b) Vichy France – this essay is somewhat of an apologia.
- (c) The German people and their undoubted awareness of the evils being perpetrated in their name.
- (d) The Allies – confirming once again the indifference, and in some cases active hostility, of British and US officials, extensively detailed in such earlier works as Morse's *While Six Million Died*, Laqueur's *The Terrible Secret*, Wyman's *The Abandonment of the Jews*, Wasserstein's *Britain and the Jews of Europe*, Gilbert's *Auschwitz and the Allies*, and others.
- (e) The Jews of the US and Palestine, and their very different efforts at rescue.

Although the publishers' blurb claims that the book draws on important new evidence from the recently opened archives in the former Soviet Union, these are not greatly in evidence. In fact, the penultimate chapter details this documentation in Eastern Europe, some of which is now available. Despite the significant amount of material already received by Yad Vashem, it is stressed that this represents but a very small proportion of the enormous number of documents which remain to be seen and studied by historians, and which may eventually alter many of our current perceptions.

The book, which closes with a thought-provoking, if somewhat sombre, essay on the significance of the Final Solution, is well produced and represents a further step in our ongoing attempts to understand this unprecedented tragedy.

□ Dr Henry Birnbaum

RESISTANCE IN THE THIRD REICH

A half-day seminar to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the 20 July 1944 bomb plot. Speakers: Dr D. Cesarani, Dr P. Longerich, Prof. A. Glees and Dr A. Paucker.

Organised by the Institute of Contemporary History and Wiener Library.

SUNDAY 17 JULY 1994, 2.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. at the Marylebone Room, International Students House, 229 Great Portland St, London W1.

Registration fee: £15; Concessions and Friends of the Wiener Library: £10.

Letters to the Editor



CAMP DE GURS

Sir – The trial of Paul Touvier brings thoughts of the Camp de Gurs once more to the fore.

This camp in Free France, which has been described as “worse than Dachau” – even though it was not a concentration camp in the same sense, was supervised by the French.

The site is now completely overgrown and only a small wooden billboard, put up by the *Amicale*, gives any clue that the camp ever existed. It is high time that a memorial was erected there. I know of no other camp without a memorial. Will France remain the only country objecting to such reminders of the past?

I urge all readers to write to their Euro-MPs to stir the French into action.

Rehov Mohl,
Netanya, Israel

Ernest J Sicher

UNDERESTIMATE

Sir – Though the number of Austrian Holocaust victims is listed as 65,000 on the memorial plaque in the foyer of the *Kultusgemeinde* it needs upward revision. The total was 83,000! The additional 18,000 escaped prewar to countries which were

subsequently occupied by the Nazis and were deported from these.

These figures are well authenticated. I obtained them from Erich Fein's book *Die Steine Reden* (Europaverlag, Wien) a documentation comprising the various memorials for political and racial victims throughout Austria.

Hall Green
Birmingham

Edgar Glaser

SENSE OF LOSS

Sir – How would you feel if the dead came back, if only for a few minutes and on television?

On 15 March my sister was invited to demonstrate baking a Viennese cake on the programme *Food and Drink* on BBC2. This was exciting enough; what I did not expect was to see our family, the old family, on the TV screen!

There sat my grandfather, a patriarchal character, surrounded by his fourteen children. A subtitle explained to the viewers that the family came from the little Moravian village of Kostel, near Vienna. To see the old square, with the church spire in the middle, is difficult to describe. And all my aunts and uncles, so close to me in my childhood and youth. Of course, in those days they looked adult, some even elderly; now, fifty years later, they all look young and I am old.

A community of Jews had lived in Kostel for some hundreds of years, had developed their own traditions – even their own card games. In January 1943 they were all deported by the Nazis. Only three sisters survived. Two married to non-Jews, one went to America. Nowadays not a single Jew lives in Kostel and the place is modernised, a way of life gone forever.

The cake, a “Stefanie-creme torte” was finished and it looked delicious. The programme ended – I sat there, dreaming. We were an average family, with our joys and difficulties, but oh, it was so good to belong!
Holmefield Court
London NW3

Martha Seeley

BRESLAU ENQUIRY

Sir – Within the scope of a research project on the history of the Breslau Jewish community's expulsion and destruction we would like to contact people from the town who would be willing to talk about their experiences and answer our questions.

More specifically, we are hoping to contact people who came into contact with the *Vertrauensstelle des Berliner Buro Grueber* and its head, Katharina Staritz. We believe that she was involved in helping children to emigrate. (We would also like to establish whether there were any organisations aiding other groups such as Quakers or Catholics.)

If anyone feels that they can help us please make contact via the address below. Many thanks.

Fachbereich 3 Prof. Ilse Meseberg-Haubold
Theologie und Religionswissenschaft
Universitat Oldenburg
Ammerlander Heerstrasse
26111 Oldenburg
Germany

FISK SYNDROME

Sir – Re Inge Trott's letter (April issue): I have followed Robert Fisk's career over many years and he has never ever had a good word to say about Israel.

He is like one of those MPs – Andrew Faulds, Tony Marlowe and Ian Gilmour – who if asked to acknowledge that Israel has planted millions of trees would maintain a stony silence. For him Israel – or should I say the Jews – simply cannot do right.

Lindsay Drive
Kenton

H Needham

NAME CHANGE

Will AJR by any other name sound just as sweet

To readers' ears? Or will a new name spoil their monthly treat

And cause them fears that other things could change as well?

It's hard to tell.

I lie awake, or dream of names that might be suitable, but none of them sounds right....

Would *Magazine for the Discerning Continental Jew*

(Which covers Richard Grunberger as well as me and you)

Possibly do?

□ Mary Hutterer

AUSTRIAN and GERMAN PENSIONS

PROPERTY RESTITUTION CLAIMS EAST GERMANY – BERLIN

On instructions our office will assist to deal with your applications and pursue the matter with the authorities.

For further information and appointment please contact:

ICS CLAIMS
146–154 Kilburn High Road
London NW6 4JD

Tel: 071-328 7251 (Ext. 107)
Fax: 071-624 5002

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

Our communal hall is available for cultural and social functions.

For details apply to:
Secretary, Synagogue Office.

Tel: 071-794 3949

Why can't we talk about it – even now?

Holocaust survivors and their children have found it difficult to talk together about the way in which the Shoah affected them in the past and continues to affect them today. Signs are emerging of impact even on the third generation.

There were many similarities between those people, now parents, who had been in hiding, in camps, refugees or Kindertransportees. Their traumas were often buried deeply and, like most caring parents, they sought to hide the worst from their children. But children are generally sensitive and messages can be communicated even through silence.

Rather than asking "When will it end?", we began to help small groups of survivor and refugee parents and members of the next generation to broach the topic themselves. Initially, the prospect of such a group seemed daunting to some would-be participants, but the wish to come to grips with the past provided a strong motivation to join. Since then we have seen the relief which members felt through a new understanding of their past and a newly found sense of who they are.

After the earlier wariness, members of the different generations began to talk very movingly about their respective experiences, often for the first time. This was made easier through ensuring that family members stayed in separate groups. It seemed though, that once the ice was

broken, family discussions often followed. Some group members also began to feel more confident in expressing their views and feelings generally, which improved other relationships as well.

There was a recognition in the group that silence about the Holocaust experience tended to generate very frightening fantasies in the children, who dared not ask the questions they badly needed to have answered for fear of upsetting parents who had already suffered so much.

We were also able to discuss openly the expectations that one generation had of the other. Children wanted to be allowed to have their own identity rather than feel that they had to replace lost members of the family. The group helped members to identify more clearly what they needed from each other and their families and to ask for what was important to them.

We saw the kindling of a happier relationship of mutual understanding and closeness. Parents seemed to be more ready to accept comfort and support for past sufferings. This improved self-awareness began to free the "children" from their need to satisfy parental expectations and to become more their own people. This, hopefully, will avoid perpetuation of the damaging effects of the Holocaust experience "unto the third and fourth generations".

The next group will start soon in the Swiss Cottage area on Sunday afternoons. If you, or someone you know, would like further information please contact: *Gaby Glassman* on 081-421 1609. □

MARRYING OUT

Sleeping back to back I feel him running,
our dual spine shaken with his nightmare
stuttering in code through vertebrae
I lean against him while he unburies pain.

Holding off in case this dream resolves
I long to wake him, knowing that my
touch
may break into his sleep like Kristallnacht
and shatter glass he has spent years
repairing.

Blue-eyed, fair-haired, he by-passed hatred
slipping through the streets where menace
bristled.

Wanting to belong where no-one spat
his finger-prints and a big "J" stamped his
identity.

He wards off Nazis with a dream-slowed
fist,
blankets round his ankles as he runs
through concrete fields where golden
eagles stand,
all Nürnberg singing to the Führer.

Our living-room is flickering with history,
ashen screen peopled with the dead.
He needs me sitting with him, watching
Holocaust
but turns my questions round to counter
ignorance.

Smouldering, I remember my war,
then burn with shame to see him sifting
through
the out-of-focus moving skeletons
searching for his mother's blurred face.

□ *Jill Bamber*

OPEN DAYS IN THE OSHA HOMES

Osmond House
Sunday 10 July
2.30 p.m.
Entrance £2.50

Balint House
Sunday 31 July
2.30 p.m.
Entrance £2.50 (Children £1)

Heinrich Stahl House
Sunday 21 August
3.00 p.m.
Entrance £2.50 (Children £1)

All entrance prices include
refreshments

East-Germany and Berlin

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

We pay cash.

We have proven track records and furnish
documentation.

Write to:
Nagel & Partner
Uhlandstrasse 156 · 10719 Berlin
Phone: 030-882 56 31
Fax: 030-881 39 16



CLARA NEHAB HOUSE

13-17 Leaside Crescent, NW11

OPEN DAY
Sunday 3 July, 1994. 2.30p.m.
Entrance £2.50 Children £1.50
(including Refreshments)

EAST BERLIN AND LEIPZIG

We want to buy properties/claims. We
make immediate decisions and pay
cash for future claims.

Please contact **Fanni Prais,**
Prais and Epstein, 13 Park Drive,
London NW11 7SN

Tel: 081-201 9484
Fax: 081-209 0634
Berlin: 0104930-217 7819

AJR Social Service Department update

LEBENSBEscheINIGUNG

A spokesperson at the German Embassy has stated that, contrary to previous reports, Life Certificates may be sent direct to the German authorities. There is no need to send them to the Embassy first. The following is the text of the statement we received. It should clarify the main points – *please read it carefully*:

1. You may sign the certificate in person at the Embassy's consular section during Embassy office hours – Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. A valid passport or identity card with a photograph will have to be presented for identification purposes.

2. If you are unable to come to the Embassy you may sign the certificate before any one of the following:

- (a) a Notary Public
- (b) a Police Officer
- (c) any other Official explicitly mentioned in the instructions on the reverse side of your life certificate.

Please ensure that the certificate has been countersigned and an official seal has been affixed. The certificate should be sent to the issuing authority directly. Legalisation by the Embassy is not required.

3. If you are unable to sign the certificate due to illness or old age it may be signed by a legal guardian or duly authorised person. An original letter of guardianship, court order or power of attorney, or a photocopy of the same document certified by the Embassy has to be attached. The certificate may be forwarded to the issuing authority directly.

4. If you are unable to sign and have no guardian, or if you are housebound, you may send the certificate to the Embassy with a letter from your medical doctor, nursing home or hospital. The Embassy will forward the certificate to the issuing authority after verification. □

Pretty as a picture

This year's Open Day at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre will feature something a little different. The artist Anthony Gotlop, who is currently exhibiting with the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, will be at Cleve Road on Sunday 14 August. Those members who would like to be immortalised in paint should attend, wearing their Sunday best. Mr Gotlop's visit will also offer the opportunity to have portraits of visiting children or grandchildren made on the spot. □

Message from Ernest David

Some years ago, I watched a film entitled *Dead Poet's Society* in which one of the characters' outlook on life was expressed as *carpe diem* – live for the day. It made me take stock of my own philosophy.

We spend so much of our time reflecting on the past and planning for and worrying about the future, that perhaps we do not always enjoy life here and now.

Half this year has already gone by. We have had a long cold spring, taxes have risen and we are glad it's all behind us. What will the future bring apart from even higher taxes? None of us knows, so let's enjoy the present while we can, while the days are longer and, hopefully, sunnier and warmer.

Let us enjoy the company of our loved ones, our friends and acquaintances. We are creatures who live in society, so we should try to keep the peace and not seek to criticise and find fault. Look for the good and not the bad.

I know this sounds like schmaltz and, of course, it is. But schmaltz makes the wheels of social intercourse run smoothly and that makes for a pleasant life for all, so let me wish you an enjoyable and restful summer. □

PAUL BALINT AJR
DAY CENTRE

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

Open Tuesday and Thursday 9.30 a.m.–
7 p.m., Monday and Wednesday 9.30 a.m.–
3.30 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m.–7 p.m.

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

Afternoon entertainment –

JULY

Sunday 3 DUO CELLO & PIANO
RECITAL – Elizabeth
Rehfeld & Armand
D'Anjour

Monday 4 ENJOY THE JOYS OF
MUSIC – Christine Fisher
(Soprano) accompanied by
Geoffrey Whitworth
(Piano)

Tuesday 5 THE OXFORD PIANO
TRIO – Catherine Martin
(Violin) Aidan Eardley
(Cello) Anne Bolt (Piano)

Wednesday 6 A LITTLE LIGHT MUSIC –
Kirsty Young (Soprano)

Thursday 7 GUITARRA – Adrian Smith

Sunday 10 THE HAMPSTEAD
ENTERTAINERS

Monday 11 TAKE A QUICK-STEP
BACK IN TIME – Geoffrey
Strum accompanied by
Johnny Walton

Tuesday 12 THE VALERIE HEWITT
SHOW – Valerie Hewitt
(Soprano) accompanied by
Anne Berryman (Piano)

Wednesday 13 WHAT BETTER WAY TO
SPEND A SUMMER
AFTERNOON – Sally
Tremaine (Mezzo)
accompanied by Geoffrey
Whitworth (Piano)

Thursday 14 MUSIC THAT YOU LOVE
– Sylvia Dorff (Soprano)
accompanied by Mabel
Witztum (Piano)

Sunday 17 CLOSED – FAST OF AB

Monday 18 PIPPA REID Entertains On
Guitar

Tuesday 19 SHOW CLASSICS WITH
THE GUILD HALL DUO –
Oliver Gait (Baritone)
accompanied by Helen
Washington (Piano)

Wednesday 20 LOVE & DREAMS – Sylvia
Hartman accompanied by
Hermonie Goldsmith (Piano)
with Sergei Bezkorvany (Violin)

Thursday 21 THE BUSHEY SHOW
GROUP

Sunday 24 Day Centre open – no
entertainment

Monday 25 VIENNESE BALL – Olga
Tverskaya (Piano)

Tuesday 26 A SUMMER MUSICAL
BOUQUET – Ann Kenton-
Barker (Soprano)
accompanied by Geoffrey
Whitworth (Piano)

Wednesday 27 JUDI MERRI-FROWDE &
Offsprings Perform Old &
New Favourites with JUNE
MOORE at the piano

Thursday 28 NOW LET'S BE BRITISH –
Songs & Stories by Audrey
Samson

Sunday 31 Day Centre open – no
entertainment

AUGUST

Monday 1 THE JACK DAVIDOFF
QUARTET with Nostalgic
Music

Tuesday 2 MORE VIENNESE
WHIRLS – Miriam &
Kathleen Gilbert
accompanied by Bridget
Marshall (Piano)

Wednesday 3 TAKE A QUICK-STEP
BACK IN TIME – Geoffrey
Strum accompanied by Bob
Eves (Piano)

FAMILY EVENTS

Birth

Henderson Frank and Thea Henderson of Manchester would like to announce the birth of their third great grandchild Katie Lauren Finestone. Mazeltov to all the family.

Birthday

Segall Dearest Dora Segall, on your 90th birthday all the members of the old AJR Club wish to express their love and appreciation of your many untold kindnesses, by wishing you health and happiness in the hope that you will be able to run up your stairs for many years to come, Hilde Baban.

Deaths

Elkan Nina I Elkan, died on Saturday 7 May, 1994, aged 81. She had been frail and unwell for months.
Gruenwald Edith Gruenwald (née Levandai) died on 14 May, aged 79. Missed by husband Ernest and friends.
Lefson The Lefson twins, Kurt and Gunter, and Kurt's wife Marianne (née Drey) have all died recently in Sydney, Australia. All were in their eighties. Shalom. Elisabeth Jolley (née Drey), Surbiton.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES

FAMILY EVENTS
 First 15 words free of charge, £2.00 per 5 words thereafter.
CLASSIFIED
 £2.00 per five words.
BOX NUMBERS
 £3.00 extra.
DISPLAY, SEARCH NOTICES
 per single column inch
 16 ems (3 columns per page) £10.00
 12 ems (4 columns per page) £9.00

**B'nai B'rith
 Leo Baeck
 (London) Lodge**

Welcome guests at their Open Meetings Wednesdays, 8pm at 11 Fitzjohn's Ave, NW3

15 June - Werner Mattes, Chairman of Otto Schiff Housing Association (OSHA), on "OSHA and its Residential Care Homes".

29 June - Concert arranged by Dr Hans Freund.

FOR FAST EFFICIENT FRIDGE & FREEZER REPAIRS



7-day service
 All parts guaranteed
J. B. Services
 Tel. 081-202 4248
 until 9 pm

Netzer-Fried Cornelia (Carmela) Netzer-Fried passed away in Israel. Deeply mourned by her husband and large family including 13 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Rosenstock Susanne Rosenstock (née Philipp) died on 15 May, 1994 at the age of 86. Her departure is a severe blow to husband Werner after 60 years of marriage. Only two months earlier, when her critical illness had already set in, she celebrated her diamond wedding anniversary as the 'matriarch' of her widespread family. She will be sadly missed by her son Michael, her granddaughters Eva and Ruth, her sister Eva and her many nieces and nephews.

In Memoriam

Porta In loving memory of my dear husband Rudolf L. Porta, born 8 May 1899, died 21 June 1993. *As long as fondest memories stay, our loved ones never, really, pass away.*

Miscellaneous

Electrician City and Guilds qualified. All domestic work undertaken. Y. Steinreich. Tel: 081-455 5262.
Manicure and pedicure in the comfort of your own home. Telephone 081-455 7582.

For rent: Brent Cross, Hendon. Comfortable 3-room furnished flat, garden. Please ring (from 4 July) Friedman: 081-731 8545.

Experienced, intelligent, cultured woman seeks work as cook/companion/carer. Box No. 1260.

OPEN WEEKENDS

IRENE FASHIONS

formerly of Swiss Cottage.
 Sizes 10 to 50 hips

SALE NOW ON

Excellent reductions - must make way for new Autumn Collection
Don't Delay - Come Today
 For an early appointment kindly ring before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m. **081-346 9057.**

ANTHONY J. NEWTON & CO

SOLICITORS

22 Fitzjohns Avenue, Hampstead, NW3 5NB

ALL LEGAL WORK UNDERTAKEN

Telephone: 071 435 5351/071 794 9696

BELSIZE SQUARE APARTMENTS

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

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

TORRINGTON HOMES

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

For Elderly, Retired and Convalescent

(Licensed by Borough of Barnet)

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

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

**Residential Home
 Clara Nehab House**

(Leo Baeck Housing Association Ltd.)
 13-19 Leaside Crescent NW11

All rooms with Shower, W.C. and H/C Basins en-suite
 Spacious Garden - Lounge & Dining Room - Lift
 Near Shops and Public Transport
 24 Hour Care - Physiotherapy
 Long & short Term - Respite Care - Trial Periods

Enquiries: Mrs Gloria Randall
 Otto Schiff Housing Association
 The Bishops Avenue, N2 0BG
 Phone: 081-209 0022

SWITCH ON ELECTRICS

Rewires and all household electrical work.

PHONE PAUL: 081-200 3518

C. H. WILSON

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

**WHO IS WHO
 IN THE AJR OFFICE**

Director	Ernest David
Editor, AJR Information	Richard Grunberger
Publications and PR Manager	Maurice Newman
Assistant to Director	Carol Rossen
Sheltered Accommodation	Katia Gould
Head of Social Services	Agi Alexander
Day Centre Organiser	Sylvia Matus
Volunteer Co-ordinator	Laura Howe

AJR INFORMATION is available on tape

If anyone would like to take advantage of this service

Please contact

Mrs Irene White 081-203 2733
 before 9 a.m. or after 6 p.m.

The AJR does not accept responsibility for the standard of service rendered by advertisers.

SHELTERED FLATS TO LET

A few flats still available at **Eleanor Rathbone House Highgate N6**

Details from: Mrs K. Gould, AJR, on 071-431 6161 Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Viewing by appointment only.

R. & G. (ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS) LTD.

199b Belsize Road, NW6

624 2646/328 2646

Members: E.C.A.
 N.I.C.E.I.C.

ALTERATIONS OF ANY KIND TO LADIES' FASHIONS

I also design and make children's clothes
 West Hampstead area
071-328 6571

Alice Schwab

Art Notes

The Goethe Institute is promoting a series of one-person exhibitions illustrating Conceptual Art in Germany since 1968. The first is an installation *Overtured Furniture 1971-1994* by Reiner Ruthenbeck (until 8 July). It comprises a group of furniture and its capability of being subverted and "overtured".

Carel Wight, a senior academician, now 86 and still working, is an artist of great reputation and is held in high esteem as a teacher of several generations of artists including Hockney, Bratby and Kitaj. In celebration of the launch of his biography (entitled *Carel Wight: A Haunted Image*) in July, the Bernard Jacobson Gallery is holding an exhibition of his work.

The Royal Academy Summer Show, 1994 (until 14 August) is a vast display of professional and amateur talent which can keep one busy and provide enjoyment for several visits. Also at the Royal Academy is *Impressionism and Post-Impressionism in Belgium* (until 2 October) and the Academy Schools Final Year Show in July, sponsored by Marks & Spencer plc.

German Printmaking in the age of Goethe continues at the British Museum until 11 September and the Caspar David Friedrich to Hodler exhibition will be at the National Gallery until 4 September.

Anneli Juda's Summer Exhibition (until 17 September) is entitled *Line and Movement*. It will comprise works by Gabo,

Moholy-Nagy, Mondrian, Vordemberge, Gildewart and others - all of whom had a special interest in the line, but also in movement to create pictorial space.

Alexandra Palace is the venue of what is described as Britain's Greatest Art Show (until 29 August). Over 10,000 works will be on sale (£50 to £5000). The Fair will also include workshops, masterclasses, celebrity paintings and entertainment by performance artists. Children will be invited to create their own masterpieces in a special painting area.

Apart from the German Printmaking exhibition mentioned above, there is another offering from the British Museum which is well-worth seeing: *Beauty and the Banknote: Images of Women on Paper Money* (until 18 September). The range includes imperious allegories, crowned monarchs, women working in factories and paddy-fields, a computer operator, happy natives under colonial rule and female tractor drivers from China.

The latest exhibition at the Barbican is Maggi Hambling's *Towards Laughter* (until 31 July), which traces her pre-occupation with the themes of tragedy and comedy. Her famous painting *Max and Me (In Praise of Smoking)* from her series on Max Wall is also included.

Marlborough Graphic is showing recent prints by R B Kitaj throughout August. The exhibition will launch a series of biblical portraits.

The Wartime Kitchen and Garden and the *D-Day to Victory* exhibitions at the Imperial War Museum have both been extended. The former until 29 August and the latter to May 1995. □

SB's Column

Rather late in life. Berthold Goldschmidt was born in Hamburg, studied music with Franz Schreker in Berlin and, in 1932, composed the opera *Der gewaltige Hahnrei*. It was not, however, a success and has largely been forgotten since 1933 when the composer emigrated to Britain. Here, he was introduced to the BBC by actress Lucie Mannheim, where he began working alongside other emigré artists producing propaganda programmes which contained many of his own compositions.

As chorus director at Glyndebourne he was not allowed to conduct under Rudolf Bing who, after pronouncing that: "We need well-known names", engaged Rafael Kubelik.

Now, at the age of 91, Goldschmidt's second opera, *Beatrice Cenci*, is to be performed in Magdeburg in September whilst, at the same time, the above mentioned first opera is to be produced at the Komische Oper, Berlin. This represents small consolation for a composer who, under slightly different circumstances, could have had a great career.

A great silent star. Conrad Veidt, latterly best known for playing Major Strasser in *Casablanca*, is the subject of a new book entitled *Lebensbilder*, published by Argon Verlag, Berlin. Veidt first found international recognition playing such roles as Caligaris Cesare, Ivan the Terrible and many other "masks of evil" in the era before sound and colour entered the film world.

Vienna. The Josephstadt Theatre, tradition conscious but always open to new works, has announced its programme for 1994/5. The list includes *Potasch und Perlmutter*, by Glass; *Arcadia*, by Stoppard; *Die letzten Tage der Menschheit*, by Kraus, and plays by Nestroy and Shakespeare.

Obituary. Soprano Irene Eisinger has died, aged 90. She was a refugee from the Nazis who enriched the British opera scene between 1936 and the early 1950s. Impressive in light opera and excellent in Mozart (notably at Glyndebourne), she also partnered Sir Michael Redgrave as Polly in *The Beggar's Opera* at the London Haymarket theatre and played Despina in *Cosi* at the 1949 Edinburgh Festival. □

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

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

14 Rosslyn Hill, London NW3
PETER C. RICKENBACK

DENTAL SURGEON WE CARE FOR YOUR SMILE

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

ALL TYPES OF DENTAL CARE

Home visits for the disabled
Dentures and cosmetic dentistry
Emergencies

TOP QUALITY DENTAL TREATMENT AT PRICES YOU CAN AFFORD

Phone: 081-203-0405 for appointment
man spricht deutsch

CARING AND PERSONAL SERVICE

Search Notices

Former refugee medical practitioners or researchers, dental surgeons or nurses are invited to contact Dr Paul Weindling or Dr Karola Decker at the Welcome Unit for the History of Medicine, University of Oxford, 45-47 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PE. Tel: 0865-274600. A biographical dictionary is being compiled and we would be grateful for assistance from former refugees, their colleagues or relatives.

Bernhardt Leiderman, born Kassel 17 July, 1912. May have worked in Intelligence, but MOD cannot supply any records of him. Please contact Henry Morris, National Vice-President of AJEX, who has received an enquiry regarding Mr Leiderman from a lady in Caithness, at AJEX House, East Bank, Stamford Hill, London N16 5RT.

ACUPUNCTURE

Marian Fixler DipAc. ClinAc.(China)
Member of the Register of Traditional Chinese Medicine

For appointments and further information please call
West Hampstead 071 328 8532 Fitzroy Square W1 071 387 5798

The Dreyfus Affair

In certain ways, it is remarkable that the centenary of the arrest of Captain Dreyfus, and the accusations made against him of supplying the German military attaché in Paris with secret information, should have aroused such great interest. Well before the actual anniversary of events (Dreyfus was arrested on 15 October, 1894, the trial began on 19 December, 1894 and he was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment on Devil's island on 22 December) there has been an avalanche of books and articles reconsidering the case of the unfortunate captain.

And yet, it has long been accepted that the information which was passed on to the German authorities was of little importance, and that from the very beginning of the *affaire* it was known that the military attaché in question was discontented with his supplier. There was never any reason to believe that the security of France was threatened, and the subsequent experience of the 1914 war did not suggest that the German army had profited from the treason of individuals amongst the French military. One Prime Minister dismissed the case out of hand (*Il n'y a pas de quoi fouetter un chat*, being his rigorous opinion).

It may very well have been one of the many examples of spy-mania that undoubtedly existed in European countries during these years, which resulted from the belief that the state with the most modern weapons would, inevitably, be triumphant in any conflict. (Some readers may recall that Sherlock Holmes, in *The Case of the Bruce-Partington Plans*, asked his brother Mycroft to supply a list of spies or international agents then living in London – the date of the case being November 1895.)

There is, however, an immediate reason for the *affaire* never having been forgotten. It was, and has remained, a mystery-story. Its origins go back to September 1894, when a torn-up piece of paper was recovered from the German military attaché's litter-bin. It bore a list of military topics which, presumably, must have been accompanied by the relevant documentation. Although not everything about this document is clear, it was argued that its author, later identified as Dreyfus, must have been a spy. Although those who denied that Dreyfus had been the author highlighted the flimsy aspects of the case for assuming that he was, they could not produce or name the real author – and here came the mystery.

Some suggested that an officer named Esterhazy had been the real spy. However, few believed that this man, considered a

"shady" character, who had never held any position of great authority, could have convinced anyone that he had possession of great military secrets. But who wrote the incriminating document? A search for a "third man", proved unsuccessful.

The latest theory, published this year, suggests that Esterhazy was an agent, working for French intelligence, deliberately feeding false information to the Germans in order to conceal the true nature of French artillery development. This theory makes Esterhazy a martyr, forced to live under a false name in England until his death, as well as Dreyfus. This theory is not new, having first been put forward by Esterhazy himself in 1899, but it remains unproven.

The mysteries surrounding the *affaire* may well explain its lasting fascination, but they do not explain its importance. And important it was. Some people say that France has never been the same since. Individuals effected by its drama and controversy have claimed that it was the great moment of their lives. The *affaire* has become a touchstone separating justice from injustice – appearing and reappearing in French life ever since.

It might appear paradoxical to say that the *affaire* saved the Third Republic. It was, initially, merely a complicating factor in French national life, with members of the Dreyfus family and a few individuals protesting the innocence of the condemned man. But everything changed in January 1898. Esterhazy was given an obviously false trial and found not guilty. Emile Zola's response, the article *J'accuse*, published on 13 January, 1898, attacked the whole élite of the French state and the army. The result was a kind of civil war. Those who defended the Dreyfus sentence claimed to be defending the army and thereby the nation.

When the discovery of further irregularities in the trial (including the admission by a senior intelligence officer that he had forged the most incriminating documents used by the prosecution) led to a retrial at Rennes, some claimed that the future of France lay in the courtroom. Maurice Barres wrote: *There is a river that runs through Rennes, and that river is the Rubicon.*

Thus the right-wing moved away from sentimentalism about the monarchy and became a nationalist party. The left-wing gave up dreams of revolution and quarrels about the nature of society and combined against the forces which it saw as betraying the Republic (*ie* the military and the clerics – the majority of whom were anti-Dreyfus). In order to better defend the Republic, the socialists were prepared to accept

parliamentary government. Justice, it was said, is a Republican virtue.

Thus a new political system emerged from the complexities of the Dreyfus affair in which the faces of both the Right and the Left took on a more modern appearance, but both emerged as defenders of the French Republic. The national union of 1914 would not have existed without the *affaire*.

Two other characteristics of French life which asserted themselves during this time were antisemitism and the role of the intellectuals. Neither are permanent features but, in differing degrees, are recurrent. Of course, antisemitism existed long before Dreyfus, but his case presented a great opportunity to present the Jew as one who has no nationality, and therefore no loyalties. The Jew was the ideal traitor.

It was said to be natural that Dreyfus should have committed his crime. Beyond this simplistic argument there came fantasy: France was decadent because of the Jews; France was ruled by Jews in commerce, politics and administration – and now the Jew was present in the army. Such feverish imaginings were present again in the 1930s. After 1940 it became only too easy to see the Jew as the cause and symbol of defeat.

On 15 January, 1898, the first manifesto of intellectuals, demanding the re-trial of Dreyfus, was published. It was quickly followed by another manifesto signed by intellectuals who condemned Dreyfus. These petitions raised questions on both sides as to why novelists, professors, poets, should feel entitled to pronounce upon affairs of state, but the principle was established. Since then the "intellectual" has become an essential part of French national life. Such figures as Valéry and Gide, in the immediate post-Dreyfus period, and, more recently, Roland Barthes and Edgar Morin have achieved particular eminence. The same arguments reappear. Should the health of society be one's first concern, or is one preoccupied rather by the rights of the individual? The *affaire* continues under different guises.

Of course, one should not exaggerate when considering the main themes of the *affaire*. Many army officers believed Dreyfus to be guilty without reference to the fact that he was Jewish. There were Catholics in favour of Dreyfus and Jews who regarded him and his case as an unwelcome nuisance.

One should not imagine that France was constantly dominated by the *affaire* from Dreyfus' arrest in 1894 until he was pardoned in 1899, but there is always exaggeration, and the shadow of Dreyfus is always there. □ Douglas Johnson, Emeritus Professor of French History, University of London.

Before the Anticlimax

A. W. Freud with the Special Operations Executive in Austria

Our training in Britain continued. I was selected to be a radio operator and went on the relevant course. It was held at Dunbar, near Edinburgh. We learned how to send and receive messages by Morse code, de de da de. Each word consisted of a group of five letters – the aim was to send at least twenty letters per minute. Sitting by a table on a comfortable chair in a warm room, I had little trouble in reaching this target. But it was a different matter during field exercises when one was lying in mud in pitch darkness and first had to climb a tree in order to fix an aerial. Pencils broke, batteries faded, Morse keys sank into the ground and, occasionally, unfriendly goats ate message pads. Twenty words a minute! – more like twenty words an hour.

After Dunbar I was posted to another part of Scotland, Arisaig near Mallaig, on the road to the Isles. Our Special Training School (STS) was in a house which has since become one of the most expensive hotels in Scotland. The place was romantic, but very wet. The piper accompanying all meals in the mess provided the romance, the Atlantic sky, shedding its moisture at landfall on Arisaig, provided the wetness.

Every morning before breakfast our PT sergeant major took us for a long cross-country run through the sodden landscape from which we would return cold, wet and exhausted. Sheer misery! Should anyone ask me about my idea of Hell the answer will not be fire and brimstone but a wet Scottish moor at 6am on a February morning.

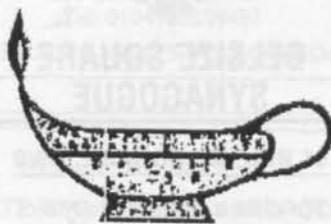
Another of our instructors had been head of the police in the International Settlement of Shanghai. He had the reputation of being a dead-shot with a revolver. He taught us a great deal; by the end of the course we could hit any target with anything from a .22 Browning to a .45 Colt.

At Arisaig we also learned how to drive, and derail, trains. We spent many freezing nights stalking the guardians of the poor line from Fort William to Mallaig, which was, consequently, plastered with plasticine "explosive". Both sides took these exercises very seriously.

Derailing a train is not easy. If a section of line is cut out by two explosions, the train will usually jump the missing section and continue unharmed. If an attempt is made to cut out a longer section of rail the sleepers in between will usually hold the section in place, again allowing the train an undisturbed run. The explosives have to be

placed on a sharp curve, and even then the train isn't always derailed. It would be interesting to know the actual number of trains which were successfully sabotaged by the Special Force. Reports always used vague terms like "many" or "a number", but exact figures have never, to my knowledge, been quoted. The reason for this reticence was always given as *Security*. This seemed a silly excuse to me: the enemy must have known quite well how many of its trains had fallen into ravines through sabotage.

At our last STS before leaving for Italy the exercises were by far the most realistic. On one we had to storm the Command Post of Portland Bill, which is now a prison. I and some of my colleagues had to scale a near-vertical twenty-foot wall (which is still there – if anyone wishes to inspect it) in order to infiltrate the camp. As "visiting cards" we left lumps of plasticine "explosives" in the anti-aircraft guns. The following morning the Commander of the Portland Command Post phoned our Commander, an ex-Black and Tan named Metherell, whom we called the *Gauleiter*, to say that his Command remained unpenetrated and that there had been no sign of us. Major Metherell's reply was "Oh, what a bad show, but could the Commander perhaps inspect the barrels of his anti-aircraft guns?" It took a long time for them to scrape out all the plasticine.



Israel's Finest Wines

from the

**Golan Heights
Yarden, Golan & Gamla**

*Write, phone or fax
for full information*

House of Hallgarten
Dallow Road, Luton LU1 1UR
Tel: 0582 22538
Fax: 0582 23240

The time came when we had to consider, and discuss in great detail with Major Metherell, our future target areas in Austria.

One of the most important targets then under review was the railway pass over the Semmering. This railway line, built by the Rothschilds in the 1850s, runs south-westerly from Vienna towards the Adriatic. The pass, towards the eastern end of the Alps is not particularly high, at about 1000 metres above sea-level, carried the first trans-alpine railway, and was of great strategic importance as a major supply line for the German forces in Italy. The general idea was that I, carrying a canister of explosives, should parachute in and blow up one of the very elaborate viaducts which served the line. In the end, however, this plan was dropped for technical reasons.

So it came to pass that, after a year's training comprising every aspect of the art of sabotage, I was despatched to Italy with no definite target earmarked for me. It would be decided after my departure.

Before leaving I was kitted out (on 8 July, 1944, according to a still existing letter). This took place in what appeared to be a private apartment in Canning Place, near the Albert Hall. The lady who equipped me called herself Mrs F M Moore and she brought along her ten-year old daughter. (I thought this a serious breach of security, one should not involve children in such affairs.) The mother was an obvious amateur. She acted like a rich, well-bred and connected society woman who wanted to "do her bit". I received a pair of very superior hand-made boots, which I wore for years after the war, also for skiing. My trousers, though not dissimilar to standard uniform trousers, were of a better, lighter material. Above these I wore a standard battledress blouse, with insignia of rank. For over the blouse there was a sand-coloured, neutral-looking gas cape. Wearing it one could pass, at a distance, as a tourist, a soldier, a workman or a farmer; almost anyone could have worn it without arousing suspicion. As it was also waterproof it proved equally useful as apparel and camouflage. In addition to the outer garments, I received a complete set of underwear, gloves, socks and whatever else was deemed necessary.

Other equipment consisted of a luminous watch, a compass and my radio codes.

Soon afterwards, having spent my embarkation leave with my father in Highgate, I found myself on a troopship passing through the Straits of Gibraltar, bound for Italy. □

To be continued.

Whips spot talent at Whipsnade

- G**ILBERT: So who's going to be the next leader of the *Leber* Party?
- ALLEN:** Don't you mean Labour Party?
- G:** No – the *gehackte Leber* Party.
- A:** Don't be culinary!
- G:** But *Leber* is a five-letter word. Actually, they've improved of late.
- A:** How's that?
- G:** They've realised the importance of good looks. Tony Bla....
- A:** You really think looks win elections?
- G:** In England certainly. Remember Anthony Eden. He became PM because he was a *matinée* idol, while Labour could only manage boss-eyed Herbert Morrison.
- A:** Actually, you get the English all wrong. Looks don't matter here.
- G:** Don't they, by George? Do you think Begin could have made it to 10 Downing Street? And why d'you think Leon Brittan was sent to Brussels?
- A:** What a question! Antisemitism, of course.
- G:** Wrong – it's because he didn't have film-star looks. On the Continent they don't mind that. After all, Adenauer auditioned for *The Phantom of the Opera* and De Gaulle was a Gallic gargoyle.
- A** (shaking his head):
No, no, no! The Englishman doesn't vote like a judge in a beauty contest, but as an animal lover.
- G:** A cliché if ever I heard one.
- A:** Cliché my foot!
- G:** Michael Foot is a case in point. I knew he was on a hiding to nothing when he named his pet dog Disraeli.
- A:** More antisemitism?
- G:** Not at all. In England naming a pet after a politician is a breach of animal rights that could be reported to the RSPCA. On the other hand, to call a politician after an animal is praise indeed.
- A:** I don't believe it.
- G:** Why not? Wasn't Churchill called a bulldog?
- A** (shrugging):
The exception proves the rule.
- G:** Nonsense. Doesn't the whole Conservative Party identify with the bull?
- A:** Rubbish! They're not Spaniards....
- G:** Must you drag Portillo into everything?
- A:** No – what I mean is that the Latin for bull is Taurus; pronounce it in the English way and you get Tories.
- G:** Sheer phonetic coincidence!

- A:** Call it what you like, but I've got proof that the team with the most animal lookalikes wins elections.
- G:** Right – let's have it.
- A:** Here it comes. Before 1945 it was Churchill the bulldog and Halifax the fox. Then Labour won with Attlee the field-mouse, Bevin the hippo and Cripps the giraffe. Before long the Tories were back with Macmillan the Walrus.
- G:** But there's nothing zoological about Heath or Thatcher.
- A:** Maybe not, but look at their Cabinets: Tebbit the polecat, Howe the dead sheep, Heseltine....
- G:** Don't tell me – the blonde beast from Spengler's *Untergang des Abendlands*.
- A:** No. Tarzan of the Apes. And you can't deny that Lamont looks like a badger.
- G:** If you say so.
- A:** Actually, Labour have learned from past mistakes. They picked John Smith because he looked like....
- G:** Hush! *De mortuis nihil nisi bonum*.
- A:** I was going to say looked like an owl. To call someone a wise old owl is no insult! And another thing. I know why Margaret Beckett will be the next Labour leader: because she looks equine, and if there's one animal the English love more than dogs....
- G:** Cruft durch Freude, eh?
- A:** ...it is horses (Waves naturalisation certificate). I'm off to Ladbrokes. See you later. □ R.G.



BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

51 BELSIZE SQUARE, NW3

We offer a traditional style of religious service with Cantor, Choir and organ

Further details can be obtained from our synagogue secretary

Telephone 071-794-3949

Minister: Rabbi Rodney J. Mariner
Cantor: Rev Lawrence H. Fine

Regular services: Friday evenings at 6.30 pm,
Saturday mornings at 10 am
Religion school: Sundays at 10 am to 1 pm

Space donated by Pafra Limited

Cooking with Gretel Beer



Dark Cherry Cake

This is a particularly luscious cake, best made with home-grown black cherries – imported cherries seem to lose much of their flavour in transport. The recipe was given to me by Professor Rudolf Bibl of the Vienna Volksoper. The professor has conducted many concerts with the stars of the Volksoper at the Royal Festival Hall and there will be "repeat performances" next autumn.

Ingredients

5oz (140g) plain or bitter chocolate

5oz (140g) butter

5oz (140g) icing or castor sugar

4 eggs

5oz (140g) plain flour

black cherries to cover the top of the cake
butter and flour for the cake tin

Whether or not you stone the cherries is a matter of personal preference, but if they are very juicy they are best left whole. Preheat oven to gas mark 4 (350F, 180C).

Break the chocolate into small pieces and set it to melt either over steam or in the oven. Butter and flour a square or rectangular baking/roasting tin.

Cream the butter with the sugar until light and fluffy. Separate the eggs and beat the yolks into the butter mixture one by one. Add the melted, but not hot, chocolate.

Whisk whites until stiff and fold into the mixture, alternately with the flour. Spoon the mixture into the cake tin, then cover the top with cherries. Do not press them down, they will sink into the cake of their own accord.

Bake for forty to forty-five minutes. Leave to cool in the tin and cut into slices when cold. □

GERMAN BOOKS BOUGHT

A. W. MYTZE

1 The Riding, London NW11.

Birthdays

Dora Segall at 90



Dora Segall.

Photo: Newman.

Dora Segall celebrated her 90th birthday on 1 June. Many readers will remember the kindness and friendship she extended to them. From the inception of the AJR Club in 1956, she helped its founders, Margaret Jacoby and Lucy Schachne to make it a "home from home" for many elderly and lonely people. Later, she worked with Lotte Sanger, Susie Horwell and Hilde Baban to maintain and enlarge the club, diversifying its activities and taking charge of the various charitable trusts associated with it, enabling her to help many in need.

Whatever Dora does, she does it with full dedication. For her refugee welfare work and services to German-Jewish reconciliation, she received the Federal Order of Merit from the German Government in 1984.

Dora lost her husband in 1973. She has, however, family in America and a "substitute" daughter – a kindertransportee whom she helped to bring over to the UK.

Her large circle of friends in this country wish her many more years of health and activity. □ Dr Frank E Falk

M.N. writes

On Sunday 5 June, members of the AJR Club, Mr Ernest David, Director of the AJR, and Mr Theo Marx used the occasion of the Margaret Jacoby memorial concert to spring a surprise party on Mrs Segall. The fact that she has become notorious over the years for not allowing people to 'make a fuss' over her milestone birthdays did not prevent this from being a most moving occasion. Dora received a bouquet of flowers from Mrs Maria (Marishka) Wilson. Most of the bouquets, however, were in the form of best wishes from all who know her, and all voiced much the same heartfelt emotion: *till a hundred and twenty, Dora.*

Ruth Schneider at 90

Congratulations to Mrs Ruth Schneider on her 90th birthday. She was born in Schneidemuehl, the daughter of *Justizrat* Alex Soldin and his wife Deborah, a teacher.

In 1927 she married Richard Schneider and moved to Frankfurt, where he worked for the Fuld Konzern. In 1933 the couple and their two children emigrated to Belgium, and from there to England.

Mr Schneider, who died in 1974, served on the AJR Executive Committee for many years. He was also an Executive member of the Council of Jews from Germany.

Mrs Schneider has always maintained her interest in the AJR. Now that failing physical health – which she bears with great dignity – precludes her from taking an active part, she continues to keep in touch via the pages of *AJR Information*.

An avid reader in three languages, she supplies a wide circle of family and friends – of all ages – with information and cuttings from all over the world.

A gentle, modest lady, with 'old-fashioned' values – and still strikingly attractive – she inspires affection and respect in everyone she meets. We wish her many more happy years. □

Obituary

Susanne Rosenstock

Susanne Rosenstock died, in mid-May, shortly after celebrating her Diamond Wedding anniversary.

She was born in Berlin and emigrated to England in 1939. Actively involved in German politics until leaving the country, she was a member of the Socialist Student Movement. It was whilst training to become a lawyer that she met her future husband Werner.

Post-war, Susanne worked for the United Restitution Office (URO) as a legal adviser. She never lost her passion for politics and in the 1950s and 1960s demonstrated her commitment via her work for *Socialist Commentary*. Until her death she remained a member of *Amnesty International* and supported many charities.

Her spirit and love of life were tremendous. Suffering from Parkinson's Disease, she requested that some of her brain tissue be donated to the Parkinson's Foundation in order to make a contribution to medical knowledge of the condition.

The 'matriarch' of her family, which has members in Argentina, Israel and North America, she will be greatly missed by all who knew her. □

GERMAN BOOKS

We are always buying:
Books, Autographs, Judaica
and German works of art

Antiquariat Metropolis

Leerbachstr. 85

D-60322 Frankfurt a/M

Tel: 0104969559451

REGULAR VISITS TO LONDON

Simon P. Rhodes M.Ch.S.

STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST

Surgery hours:

8.30 a.m.–6 p.m. Tuesday–Friday

8.30 a.m.–3 p.m. Saturday

Visiting chiropody service available

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

Telephone 071-624 1576

**COMPANIONS
OF LONDON**

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

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

071-483 0212

071-483 0213

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

WEST END ESTATES

Commercial & Residential sales, lettings, management and investments.

Ralph Kossman

322 West End Lane, Hampstead, London NW6 1LN

Telephone: 071-794 1000 Fax: 071-794 7444

Politikverdrossenheit

In February 1994, *Der Spiegel* compared current popular perceptions of German politicians with ten years ago. Whereas in 1984 German voters credited politicians with qualities like powers of oratory, experience and honesty, the description ten years later is completely different. *Politikverdrossenheit* – weary disenchantment with politics – is spreading. In January, the Allensbach Institute reported that only one third of East Germans identified with the West German model of democracy and a social market economy. Unemployment afflicts around a third of the population in the east, and is set to rise by half a million in the west to reach four million in the country as a whole this year. This biggest source of social and political unease has led to a lack of confidence in the established political parties in Germany.

The East German population is especially disappointed and feels deceived. The promises made by the Bonn government prior to the 1990 general election have not, on the whole, been kept: joblessness instead of social security, western ideology without respect for eastern identity. The last time German politicians had the chance to bask in the cheers of vast crowds was during the post-reunification euphoria. Meanwhile, the cheering has ceased, but Chancellor Kohl still managed to get his nominee, the less than inspiring Roman Herzog, elected as successor to the widely respected Federal President von Weizsäcker.

Despite all the difficulties facing east and west Germans, there is one view which unifies them: the hostile image (*Feindbild*) of politicians. People are looking for politicians able to tackle the current problems of unemployment, extremism and social disorder, but find such personalities all too rare in the five parties represented in the *Bundestag* at the moment – the CDU, SPD, FDP, the Greens and the reformed communist PDS. Besides, some politicians justify voters' distrust by holding on to power and influence in the midst of all sorts of scandals which the media keep uncovering. This situation is not purely a recent development. Looking back on the past fifty years, there were ex-Nazis who took advantage of breakneck post-war reconstruction and hid behind the prevalent anti-communism to rebuild their own careers. Many political careers took off after the most extraordinary "metamorphosis" of mind. Some former Nazis had to resign under public pressure, but others were able to stay in power, either because no one knew about their past or because they managed to

manipulate the truth. (However, one must not forget those who showed integrity during the darkest hour of German history.)

At the beginning of the 1994 election campaign, one news item shook the whole German nation: just over a year after his death, Willy Brandt's widow caused a sensation when she produced some of her late husband's hand-written notes. The question was whether Herbert Wehner, one of the three icons of the German Social-Democratic Party, pushed Brandt to give up his post as Chancellor after a spy scandal orchestrated by East Berlin. Former SPD colleagues of Brandt protested at a campaign of slander and accused Brigitte Seebacher-Brandt, a journalist and historian, of waging a private war against the Social-Democratic party. Whatever her motivation, experts say, Brandt's private notes do not reveal whether Wehner was involved in pushing the Chancellor from the "throne" in the 70s. (At the time of writing, the whole story is no longer a news item.)

Political life in the ex-GDR also created distrust towards politicians. Some of the former power holders seemed to suffer from amnesia and changed their political opinion almost overnight. Others, of course, had connections which enabled them to leave the country (and enjoy retirement in Chile, for example). To realize that "real, existing socialism" actually never existed is difficult enough. Many people feel deceived, especially those who now find out that the Stasi kept them under surveillance. Ignaz Bubis, the Chairman of the *Zentralrat der Juden* in Germany said in a *Spiegel* interview in February that they wished to look at Stasi files in the care of a special investigation authority. In the 1950s, when East Berlin was following the anti-Zionist course of Moscow, it was almost impossible for Jewish people to live a normal life in the

GDR. As late as 1989, there were fewer than 400 Jewish community members in the whole of East Germany, and half of those were in East-Berlin. After reunification, the number of Jews in the ex-GDR multiplied by five – partly due to an influx from the former Soviet Union. *Der Spiegel* describes one case of a woman who converted to Judaism in 1961 under suspicious circumstances and acted as a leading member of the Halle community for many years. Apparently, throughout this time she acted as an informer and denounced Jews as "extreme Zionists".

Neither in the west nor the east do there seem to be good reasons for people not to lose confidence in politicians. In this atmosphere new political formations like the *Hamburger Stadt Partei* or *Bund freier Bürger*, founded by the ex-FDP member and anti-Maastricht campaigner Manfred Brunner, have had some political success.

The most worrying and dangerous of all reactions to the overall political dissatisfaction in Germany are, of course, the extreme right-wing parties. It is, nonetheless, misleading in this context to speak of "the traditional German tendency to look for radical, extreme solutions in a time of trouble" (*The Guardian*, 5 February, 1994). Such polemic descriptions of the German political climate nearly 50 years after the Nazi dictatorship are too simplistic.

According to a poll in February, 61 per cent of Germans want representatives who implement policies in accordance with the electoral majority; only 24 percent want politicians who tell people what to do.

Extreme right-wing parties are a reality in Germany today. Brutal attacks against asylum seekers show that there is a dangerous violent potential in the country. To stop this, the democratic parties have to do much more than in the past to analyse the reasons for, and outbursts of, aggression. It is important to stress that right-wing extremists are a minority in the country; the majority of Germans condemn violence. However, talk and demonstrations of solidarity with the victims are not enough. Before fighting the symptoms, their cause has to be fought, *i.e.* by confronting the past. In this context, education is of paramount importance. German history should never be repressed, denied or forgotten – for history, especially Germany history, is never past. But, such education should also include an appeal to the rest of the world to distinguish between the minority of violent German extremists and the majority who condemn violence in all its forms. The younger generation have a different attitude towards humanity than their grandparents.

□ Christina Brink

The London Museum of JEWISH LIFE

Will be showing

Denmark in October 1943:

The Rescue of the Jews from Annihilation

An exhibition from the
Museum of Denmark
'Fight for Freedom – 1940–1945'

Until 31 July, 1994 at
The London Museum of Jewish Life,
The Sternberg Centre,
80 East End Road, London N3 2SY.
Tel: 081-349 1143