

# AJR Information

Volume XLIX No. 6  
June 1994

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Don't miss . . .

**Controversial corridors** p3

**Before the anticlimax** p12

**Musical midsummer madness** p.16

## The imperative of Justice

**D**uring the protracted War Crimes debate, opponents of the proposed legislation put forward various arguments, among them the fallibility of memory after fifty years. Another was that prosecuting frail old men seemed wrong; the sight of dotards in the dock might even evoke public sympathy.

The speciousness of such arguments has just been demonstrated by the Touvier trial in France. It is to be hoped that justice will be similarly served when Erich Priebke, co-perpetrator of the Ardeatine Cave massacre, is arraigned before an Italian court. □

The debate about German participation in the VE Day anniversary

## No goose step at the Cenotaph

**T**he proposed participation of German soldiers in ceremonies on the 50th anniversary of VE Day is fuelling widespread and bitter debate. Amid the clash of contending opinions one truth stands out beyond peradventure. The German army that surrendered in May 1945 had been an enthusiastic – and, at the very least, a supremely acquiescent – instrument in Hitler's war of conquest. Buoyed up by the euphoria of early victories, it had helped inflict unprecedented suffering on millions of Poles, Jews, Russians and other Europeans.

German officers had shown none of their Italian counterparts' scruples about despatching Jews to the death camps. On the contrary! From Field Marshall von Manstein's appeal to his troops to "...extract severe but just vengeance on subhuman Jewry", to Lieutenant Kurt Waldheim's "liaison work" with the SS at Salonika, the *Wehrmacht* had, in six years, covered itself with ignominy that will tarnish the profession of arms in Germany for centuries to come.

To reiterate these facts is not to rehearse the "let's-be-beastly-to-the-Hun" theme beloved of the late Lord Vansittart and currently echoed in sections of the tabloid press. The Nazified *Wehrmacht* did not stand in direct line of succession to the Junker-led Prussian Army. Readers familiar with *The Case of Sergeant Grisha* will have recognised the bourgeois-descended Ludendorff figure responsible for Grisha's execution in the novel as a precursor of Manstein and Keitel in the Second World War.

In fact it was largely from the Junker class that the opponents of Hitler who engineered the Officers' Plot of 20 July 1944 came. The failure of that plot also spelt the final demise of the military caste that had once formed the backbone of the Prussian and Hohenzollern armies.

Later, when the world moved from the aftermath of war into a drastically altered Cold War situation, the climate grew more propitious for salvaging something from the wreckage of the *Wehrmacht's* reputation. Attempts at refurbishing the image of the German soldier focused – on both sides of the Channel – on the figure of Field Marshall Rommel, the Desert Fox who had reputedly fought a clean fight in North Africa. The revelation that supplies of zyclon B (earmarked for Tunisian Jewry) had been part of the Afrika Korps stores blunted the effectiveness of this campaign somewhat.

*Tempora mutantur*, however. As times change we must change with them. If, in the 1950s, many war veterans and survivors abhorred the notion of a rearmed Germany, by the Seventies and Eighties it was the spectre of an appeasement-minded, inward-looking country that most worried Western statesmen. In the long run, and after much heartsearching and weighing up of options, it transpired that the most judicious balance between an aggressive gun-toting and selfishly isolationist Germany could be struck by integrating the country into a European framework.

To be candid, the anniversary of Victory in Europe Day will constitute little more than a – however well-merited – backward glance at the defining moment of Liberation. To transcend the glow of nostalgia and be meaningful for the future, Victory in Europe must be transformed into Victory for Europe. □

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Will be held at 15 Cleve Road,  
West Hampstead, London NW6 3RL

on

**THURSDAY 2 JUNE, 1994,  
AT 7.30 p.m.**

#### AGENDA

**Annual Report 1993**  
**Hon. Treasurer's Report**  
**Discussion**  
**Election of Committee of Management**  
**Followed by a talk by Dr David Cesarani entitled**  
***Commemorating the Past or Celebrating Amnesia?***

**All questions for the Chair should be submitted to the Director at**

**1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Froggnal, London NW3 6AL**  
**by 26 May, 1994.**

## Club 1943 – AGM

Club 1943, Anglo-German Cultural Forum, recently held its first Annual General Meeting since the sad loss of its Chairperson, Mrs Bertha Sterly, last autumn. The annual report indicates that the club is still flourishing and continues to hold varied and stimulating, sometimes controversial, lectures – many of them given by its members. In general, attendances increased in recent months.

The new Chairperson is Mr Hans Seelig, Secretary Mrs Julia Schwartz, Treasurer Mr Ernst Flesch. Mr C Kryslar will hold responsibility for public relations and the archives, the latter being in need of a considerable amount of attention. Mr Kryslar would be happy to hear of any existing material relevant to the society and/or the *Kulturbund*. Mrs H Friedmann and Mr O Egert are also on the committee.

The new chairperson stated that the membership of the club, though not exclusively Jewish or German in origin, mainly represented the valuable contribution made by German-speaking Jewry to European culture. New members and guests were always welcome at the regular Monday evening meetings at Belsize Square Synagogue. (Club 1943 programmes are published monthly in *AJR Information*.)

### CLUB 1943

Anglo-German Cultural Forum  
Meetings on Mondays at 8 p.m.

at the Communal Hall  
Belsize Square Synagogue  
51 Belsize Square  
London NW3

June 6th. Mr Martin Brady, M.A., King's College, London: Music for the eye. Arnold Schönberg and the film

June 13th. Mrs Patricia Owen: Byzantium. Its contribution to western civilisation (with slides)

June 20th. Mrs Stella Rosenak, M.A.: The Itzigs and Carlebachs: two distinguished and contrasting German-Jewish families

June 27th. Dr Charles E. Titterband, Ph.D., member of International P.E.N. Observations of the London Correspondent of the 'Neue Züricher Zeitung'

July 4th. Hans Seelig: Music to make you smile  
C. Kryslar: Quotations past and present  
Gemütliches Beisammensein

Club 1943 will recommence its activities on Sept. 12th

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## Profile

### From Mengele to Lope



Andrew Herskovits.

Photo: Newman.

A chemist's son, Andrew Herskovits was born in the Hungarian provinces in 1930. At the local Lutheran *gymnasium* he encountered so much antisemitism that he pressured his parents into transferring him to a Jewish boarding school. At the time of the Nazi takeover in spring 1944 he happened to be with relatives in Budapest. Returning to his home town he found that his father had already been arrested as a "prominent" Jew. Soon, the entire local community was rounded up, taken to a tobacco warehouse and herded aboard an Auschwitz-bound train. On arrival, Martin was separated from his mother.

At thirteen and a half he was alone in the world, but he had two assets: height that made him look older, and the friendship of an eighteen year-old with experience of engineering. A pretence at engineering skills helped him to be selected – probably by Dr Mengele – for work as a slave labourer. After a stint at a factory in Fallersleben he was sent to Nordhausen where, at Camp Dora, a space for a huge underground, and therefore bombproof, industrial complex had been hewn out of the rock.

Here, Andrew did heavy installation work on what he assumed to be one-pilot aeroplanes (in reality, V1s or doodlebugs). Insufficient food and twelve hour shifts extended by endless inspections on the *Appellplatz* left him permanently tired. One

lunch break he ventured deeper into the warren of tunnels in search of a place to sleep. A metal structure looked inviting, he climbed into it and dozed off – to be woken by an Alsatian licking his face. He had actually stumbled upon a V2 in the process of construction. Taken under guard to the administration barracks he was sentenced to a severe beating.

### Evacuated Eastwards

Fortunately, this was to be inflicted by his *Kapo*, a fellow Jew who only went through the motions of punishing him. During the collapse of the Third Reich Andrew was evacuated Westwards in an open lorry. Freezing conditions badly undermined his health. Even so, he was lucky: at Belsen Hungarian guards warned him of the prevailing typhoid epidemic and facilitated his escape.

A few days later he was liberated by the Americans. Sent to Sweden, he was found to have two cavities in his lungs. Though the suggested treatment – insertion of a huge needle between chest membrane and lung – seemed even worse than the disease, he had no option but to go through with it.

The treatment took years, during which time Andrew came to London (where he had an aunt), studied for an English degree and became a teacher.

In 1974, when glaucoma was diagnosed, he was compelled to give up teaching, whereupon, helped by his wife, he ran a small hotel in Kensington. At around sixty, when other people with his earlier history would have sought easeful retirement, Andrew embarked on an MA course in "Drama in Production" and started learning Spanish.

The combined result of these endeavours was the recent staging of Lope de Vega's seventeenth century play *Ester* at The Garage, NW6. Prior to Andrew's translation and production of the work, *Ester* had been one of de Lope's hundreds of plays unknown in England and familiar only to scholars in Spain.

The effort of putting on the production – seen by about 1500 people – left Andrew emotionally and, to some extent, financially drained. Interviewing him just before he left for a break in Majorca I asked how he would spend his holiday. "Translating another play by de Lope" was the cheerful reply.

□ R.G.

## Controversial corridors – a personal view

The "Jericho and Gaza first" negotiators are close to calling for future corridors. Have they bothered to glance at the depressing history of previous corridors?

Travelling to Jerusalem from Ein Gedi or Sdom, one might have to drive along a Jewish Dead Sea corridor south of Jericho; alternatively, the PLO control their own corridor, and we will have to filter through, above or below theirs. In either case, our safety will depend on a very large portion of goodwill – not only under "normal" conditions, but also at times of crisis.\*

No one has discussed the problems engendered by a corridor from Jericho to the Jordan for people coming from Dagania and the Jordan Valley. They might have to filter through the Dead Sea corridor or other route, but how could that be possible in the light of the announcement that the PLO's Jericho area is to be doubled?

Another corridor, or land-bridge, is under discussion: a strip of land between Gaza and Jericho, formally handed to the PLO and their successors. The very idea of such a barrier between northern Israel and the Negev virtually guarantees another war! The concept of dividing Israel by such means is not new, it was proposed by the Jewish Agency in 1937 and again in the Woodhead Report of 1938.



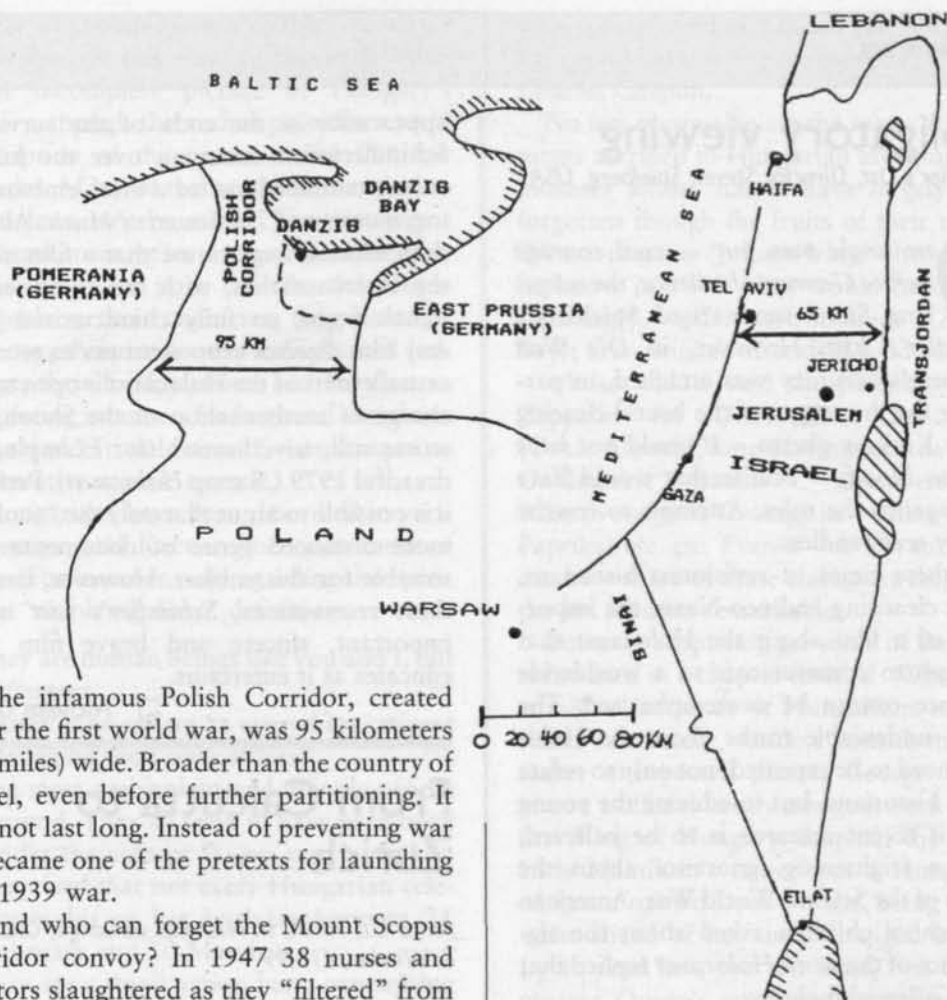
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The infamous Polish Corridor, created after the first world war, was 95 kilometers (60 miles) wide. Broader than the country of Israel, even before further partitioning. It did not last long. Instead of preventing war it became one of the pretexts for launching the 1939 war.

And who can forget the Mount Scopus corridor convoy? In 1947 38 nurses and doctors slaughtered as they "filtered" from West Jerusalem through the internationally agreed route to the Hadassah Hospital! Now we hear proposals for similar land bridges in Bosnia – hardly encouraging.

The longest extant corridor is the Caprivi Strip from Namibia to the Zambesi. Although it looks tiny on the map, it is 450 kilometers long. The Strip now serves as a training-ground for guerrillas and has a few nomadic inhabitants. Is this what Israel is to become?

A land corridor connected West Germany and Berlin from 1946 to 1990. The Berlin

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"air corridor" opened in 1949. If Jerusalem is again blockaded, will its inhabitants be able to depend on "international support flights" for medicines, milk and flour? When Jerusalemites were starving in 1948, where were the international rescuers or United Nations relief convoys? Who can guarantee that, with Judea and Samaria under Arab control, the Jerusalem corridor will remain untouched? How would the first world war have ended had the Suez Canal been presented to the Germans or Turks as a "goodwill gesture" during the July 1914 negotiations? How long did the Canal Zone last after Nasser decided to take possession in 1956?

The recent Iran/Iraq war was, perhaps, less about power and territory than about access to the Persian Gulf through the Shatt al Arab, another failed corridor!

If the latest "green lines", with the PLO in control, are drawn through most of Samaria the few Jewish access roads will become narrow corridors. Will these demand the same sacrifices as the Road of Courage?

□ Dr George M Ettinger

\* The Jerusalem Post (16/4/94) reported that the Jericho bypass is still unbuilt. Reports have been received of stones and axes being thrown at Jewish vehicles passing through Palestinian checkpoints.

## Reviews

## Obligatory viewing

*Schindler's List*, Director Steven Spielberg, USA 1993.

One single man put . . . civil courage before German obedience, the magazine *Stern* summarised Spielberg's *Schindler's List*. However, in *Die Welt* Spielberg's accuracy was attacked, in particular for the scenes of the brutal clearing of the Krakow ghetto – *It could not have been so bloody* – because that would have been against the rules. Attempts to rewrite history seem endless.

In these times of revisionist historians, ethnic cleansing and neo-Nazis, the importance of a film about the Holocaust that manages to communicate to a worldwide audience cannot be overemphasised. The awful, undeniable truths about the Holocaust need to be repeated, not only to refute bogus historians, but to educate the young who, if recent research is to be believed, show a frightening ignorance about the events of the Second World War. American high-school children asked about the significance of the word *Holocaust* replied that it was a Jewish holiday.

The extraordinary story of Oscar Schindler, a Sudeten German industrialist, philanderer and Nazi-party member who saved 1,100 Jews from the gas chambers of Auschwitz, initially by exploiting their cheap labour to build a prosperous enamelware factory in Krakow, is told with skill and sensitivity. The film (based on Thomas Keneally's book *Schindler's Ark*) is shot in black and white, with the exception of the brief opening scene of a present day Sabbath celebration and the concluding coda in Israel. The decision to shoot the film in black and white not only successfully creates a pseudo-documentary style, but also acts as a kind of protection for the audience who are spared the gory details in colour. The three central characters: Schindler (Liam Neeson), Amon Goeth (Ralph Fiennes), the sadistic, homicidal commandant of the Plaszow camp and Itzhak Stern (Ben Kingsley), the Jewish accountant, are brilliantly drawn, and the cinematic recreations of the Krakow ghetto, the Plaszow camp and even Auschwitz-Birkenau are meticulously done.

Despite the obvious integrity of the film, I do think it has some flaws. The sick, hungry prisoners in the camps look disconcertingly healthy and well-fed, and the scene in Brinnlitz of Schindler's departure at the end of the war lapsed into sentimentality. The

appearance in the coda of the surviving Schindlerjuden emerging over the hill in colour reminded me for a brief, embarrassing, moment of *The Sound of Music*. Also, it does seem strange to me that a film about the Holocaust has, with the exception of Itzhak Stern, no fully characterised Jew. Any film director who attempts to recreate actual events of the Holocaust is open to the charge of aesthetisation of the Shoah, or, worse still, trivialisation (for example, the dreadful 1979 US soap *Holocaust*). Perhaps it is possible to argue that only the "cooler", more distanced genre of documentary is suitable for this subject. However, despite these reservations, *Schindler's List* is an important, sincere and brave film that educates as it entertains.

□ Nicholas Gotch

## From Calcutta to Zurich

Amos Oz, *FIMA*, tr. Nicholas de Lange, Chatto & Windus, £15.99

Efraim Nisan, also known as Fima, is a 54-year-old *schlemiel* of considerable learning who simply cannot apply this to any sensible purpose. He meanders around Jerusalem putting Israel and the world to rights while scraping a meagre living as the receptionist at a gynaecological clinic. In the course of a few shivery winter days Fima's squandered life unfolds before us, but it all ends with him owning a profitable cosmetics enterprise he has done absolutely nothing to acquire.

With the skill and verve which have made him famous, Oz uses this persona to afford the reader an overview of Jerusalem, its beauty marred by ugly spots of neglect and vandalism, and the heart-rending worries engendered by the ethnic conflict. The Occupied Territories are on all Jerusalemites' minds. Fima comes up with a different solution every day; he is capable of ringing up his former university contemporaries at four in the morning to explain and discuss his latest peace plans. His ideas are vague, but he feels responsible for every Arab murdered (as he sees it).

He has other preoccupations too, ranging from the position of the Papacy in the year dot to geo-politics over the ages – likewise art, architecture, literature, science (of which he is pretty ignorant) and child psychology. A once brilliant student, he

dropped out and has no qualifications. His friends are professors, pilots, lawyers and research engineers. Though he lectures them on their own subjects, they love him and are forever expecting him to garner literary success. Aiming to justify their beliefs he sits down time and time again with pen poised – only to wander off into his vague imaginings of himself as the leader of movements, the Prime Minister, a prophet.

Meanwhile, his laundry moulders away, dirty dishes pile up, the flat collapses about him, electricity is cut off and his stomach rebels.

Amos Oz has a wonderfully humorous touch, heading one chapter *Fima Forgets What He Has Forgotten*, and elsewhere introducing the reader to two Hassidim who own a sex boutique.

Then there are Fima's women: his former wife Yael (the engineer), Nina (the lawyer), and Annette, who has left her husband. Yael he drives mad with his insistence that he is the father of her son Dimi, no matter what she says, but the women always forgive him and regularly turn up at his flat to restore it "from Calcutta to Zurich" (from chaos to order).

*Fima* may not be Amos Oz's greatest novel, but it is hugely readable.

□ John Rossall

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## Near-mythical Magyars

Georg Koevary, *EIN UNGAR KOMMT SELTEN ALLEIN*, Verlag Styria, Vienna, 1994

The title is, of course, a pun on *Ein Unglueck kommt selten allein*, the German equivalent of *It never rains but it pours*. Strictly speaking, I ought to declare an interest, in fact, two: I was Hungarian by birth (though my knowledge of the language is confined to "Yes", "No" and "I love you"); and I am distantly related to the author. However, as *Ein Ungar....* was first published ten years ago, went into five reprints and has now been brought up to date in a new version, it doesn't need my recommendation.

How do you judge a book about people of whom you have little – and mostly contradictory – knowledge? I think you can call it a success if you were not only entertained, but vaguely feel that, after having read it, that it would be nice to belong to that tribe yourself (or, in my case, regret that you no longer do). On both counts the author scores. He is a humorous writer by profession who obviously loves his country but, having emigrated to Austria during the Communist regime, can describe the complex native character objectively, warts and all.

He knows his subject well, sometimes perhaps too well, assuming in his readers a

degree of knowledge few of them are likely to possess. In this way we receive a somewhat incomplete picture of Hungary's history, though the author provides a vivid description of the events of the last few decades. Many of the names he mentions – politicians, writers, actors, film directors – were unknown, at least to me. But no matter – his main aim is to describe the people themselves, their character, their sense of humour, their immensely complicated language, their food, customs etc. He does so by quoting innumerable facts and anecdotes – a sort of "Trivial Pursuit" – resulting in an informative mosaic overall.

Hungarians have been described in various ways, and Koevary mentions most of them. For instance – disregarding the inevitable "revolving door" definition:

- they are human beings like you and I, but different;
- better than others at everything, except managing their own affairs;
- the most ambivalent and volatile people around. They all seem to have been born under the sign of Pisces; one is slightly surprised that not every Hungarian celebrates his or her birthday between 21 February and 20 March;
- they are a small nation but a penetrating people – professional emigrants.

The number of famous Hungarians is legion. We have only to think of names like L J Biro, Uri Geller, Theodor Herzl, Harry Houdini, Alexander Korda, Artur Koestler, Ernoe Kubrik and Franz Molnar as the first

who spring to mind. One of the few world figures who seems to have escaped the net is Charles Chaplin.

No less impressive are the many achievements ascribed to Hungarian inventors and pioneers whose names have largely been forgotten though the fruits of their talents live on: matches (Johann Irinyi – how could he know in 1840 what would become of smoking?); radar astronomy (Zoltan Bay); first dirigible aircraft (David Schwarz – whose widow sold the patent to Graf Zeppelin for DM15,000); helicopters (Oskar Asboth); long-playing records (Peter Goldmark); vitamin C (discovered by Albert von Szent-Gyorgy in – where else! – Paprika) etc. etc. Even if – as I'm sure they can be – some of these claims are disputed, the list remains remarkable.

But most surprising are some of the cases mentioned in a chapter entitled "Who's not who?" – instances of Hungarians making their, admittedly, modest contribution in rather unexpected places. George Washington's official family tree goes back to the first King of Hungary, Stephan the Holy. Lady Hamilton's father was a Hungarian emigrant named Loewy – she, being somewhat ahead of her time, changed hers to Lyon. And last, but not least, one of our present Queen's great-great grandmothers was Claudia Rhedey who, albeit a descendant of the Hungarian King Aba Samuel and married to Alexander Fuerst von Wuerttemberg, stemmed from Siebenbuergen.

Enough! After this, to add anything more could only be an anticlimax.

□ C F Flesch

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# Letters to the Editor



## THE CROSS AND THE STAR

Sir – A Jewish friend gave me a copy of your March issue. Being a Roman Catholic, I was most interested in “The Cross and the Star”, an article on the Vatican’s recognition of Israel. Its straight-talking made for a salutary read. May I offer some reflections?

The traditional, hostile stance of the Vatican will not vanish overnight. A shameful aspect of that stance in modern times has been the consistent failure to condemn the persecution of our Jewish brothers and sisters; it will have to be challenged again and again before it is eradicated. Your article generously points out that Pope John XXIII “ushered in a new spirit”, but his pontificate was all too brief. As a rule, priests do not challenge, they affirm tradition; it is left to prophets with vision and moral strength to cry out for justice. They are likely to be found among the wayward and unhonoured. Although few in number, their influence can be widespread – especially if they are artists.

Two novelists with Irish Catholic backgrounds have spoken out for the Jew in this century. In James Joyce’s *Ulysses* Leopold Bloom, a figure of fun, wallows in “the rubbish world” of Dublin, concerned to be accepted by its highly conventional people. Nobly rising above this tyranny, he defies his rejectors, accepts himself as a Jew and thereby asserts his very real authority. Bloom, Joyce tells us, restores to all Jews their Jewishness and their dignity.

Thomas Keneally says of his *Schindler’s Ark* and Steven Spielberg’s subsequent film: “The Holocaust must be talked about again and again, and should not be forgotten.”

I feel proud of these two novelists. They inspire one to challenge racial hatred and contempt, and to resist complacency.

Gertrude Street  
London SW10

Brian Power

## WAS THE HOLOCAUST UNIQUE?

Sir – The issue is not simply one of assembling the various frightful atrocities in history in some sort of pecking order. There must surely be as many classifications and interpretations as there are people who have suffered and who are trying to gain some understanding of their suffering.

To any who have been involved, in whatever persecution, either directly or vicariously through their loved ones, such exercises are academic, and such compari-

sons odious. A single victim constitutes an atrocity and we, of all people, should understand this.

We can use our voice to establish a community of understanding and a bulwark against such recurrences – or show our erudition and exactitude while failing to display the empathy, compassion and human understanding demanded by this dreadful, sombre subject.

Machynlleth  
Powys

Manfred Landau

## A REPUBLIC WITHOUT REPUBLICANS

Sir – In your April issue Peter Prager states that Walter Rathenau was perhaps the most prominent of the democrats murdered by the *Deutschnationale* before the Nazi Party existed.

Rathenau was murdered in 1922. The Nazi Party was founded in 1920!

Canfield Gardens  
West Hampstead

Kurt Michael Oppen

## RUDOLF SCHWARZ

Sir – Your obituary (April issue) omits one important fact of interest to many readers. Dismissed by the Nazis in 1933, he was appointed Chief Conductor of the Berlin Jewish *Kulturbund*, succeeding the first holder of this post, Josef Rosenstock, who had emigrated to Japan. Schwarz maintained the high standard established by his predecessor, and stayed on until the *Kulturbund* was closed down. On 1 April BBC Radio 3 broadcast a tribute to him. This mentioned that Schwarz’s appointment at Bournemouth met with anti-alien opposition from the local MP as well as, regrettably, from Sir George Dyson, then Principal of the Royal College of Music. He was able, nonetheless, to build up an honourable and successful career in this country.

Polhill Avenue  
Bedford

Hans Freyhan

## GUILT OF OMISSION

Sir – Gabriele Tergit must be a familiar name to you. She contributed to your journal, which reviewed her novel *Effingers*; she was for many years Secretary of the PEN Club of German-speaking authors abroad and an active member of the 43 Club.

For all those reasons I was astonished upon opening your March 1994 issue to

find not a single reference to the centenary of the writer’s birth.

In Germany attempts are currently being made to put Gabriele Tergit’s work – especially her journalistic output during the Weimar years and her Jewish family chronicle *Effingers* (1951) – into the proper perspective.

University of Bonn

Monica Lumachi

## ANOTHER BRESLAU ENQUIRY

Sir – Do any of your readers know who, or what organisation, is now concerned with looking after the “old” (nineteenth century) Jewish cemetery in Wroclaw/Breslau?

When I saw this in 1992 it had been tidied up from what must have been near-total devastation: my tourist brochure claimed it was “reconstructed a few years ago”. Burials here had ceased by about 1910; but we found a small number of new gravestones bearing death dates of 1940–41. These had clearly been placed recently – they were all alike and quite unweathered, they also matched new, blank, slabs in the adjoining stonemason’s yard. On our too-brief visit

## 40 Years Ago this Month

### Anti-Jewish Discrimination

Mr Gilbert Harding was characteristically vigorous when he denounced a ‘most vicious and loathsome distortion of the rights of a landlord; which had presumed to discriminate against Jews. A Margate hotel was found to be in the habit of ‘reserving the right to refuse accommodation to members of the Hebrew faith, whether they have booked or not’. Such discrimination is not unique. Nor was the behaviour of a Blackpool golf club which refused to admit two Jews for no reason other than that they were Jews.

A heartening feature, however, was that both incidents aroused considerable public disapproval. The Margate hotel was to have accommodated over 100 delegates to the annual conference of the Civil Service Clerical Association. On learning the facts, the Secretary promptly cancelled the bookings as ‘religious or racial discrimination is abhorrent to us’. Similarly sensible was the reaction at Blackpool, where the golf club’s captain, an Irish Roman Catholic, resigned, saying: ‘My conscience would not allow me to retain the captaincy while racial discrimination existed’.

The religious aspect of anti-Jewish discrimination was raised by the Rev. Chaim Pearl, of Birmingham, who criticised the Council of Christians and Jews for alleged failure to secure a sufficiently unprejudiced presentation of the Crucifixion story. His strictures were not considered justified. *The Free Church British Weekly* asked: ‘Must history be suppressed because those facts are not flattering to some people?’ and Mr Neville Laski, Q.C., suggested that cause for complaint was in oversensitiveness among Jews rather than in any antisemitic intention elsewhere.

AJR Information, June, 1954

we found no one who could tell us who had placed them, or whether more were to be placed. Do they mark actual burials (hardly likely here in 1941) or are they memorials? In either case, how did this handful of people come to be commemorated here in present-day Poland?

Do records still exist of Jewish individuals in Breslau in 1941? The tiny Jewish community in now-Polish Wroclaw can have no links with them; and I had understood that all German records of 1940s Breslau were destroyed. I should be most grateful if anyone could point me towards further information.

Little Hilbre  
Bucks Hill, Herts  
Evelyn Elbogen-Cibula

### FRIENDLY FIRE CASUALTY

Sir - From Mr Needham's point of view, I am the infidel. From mine he lives in a spiritual ghetto, and in a remote and irrelevant past, where he apparently requires me to join him. He honours his ancestors by continuing their ways. I honour mine for being assimilated Berliners. I am not Jewish by religion, and do not even understand Mr Needham's references to his faith. While I had two brushes with Christianity, Lutheran and C of E, I find all religion human invention and utterly divisive to the harmony of mankind. I am Jewish only by Hitler's definition with its resultant metamorphosis: Berliner to Londoner; German to bi-lingual; heel-clicking to stiff upper lip. Two nationalities are quite enough for me not to want to add the psychic complication of a Zionist third.

Romilly Street  
London  
Peter Zander

### CONCERT OF EUROPE

Sir - I found your contribution (April issue) enjoyable and instructive. While researching my family history recently I came across a collection of anti-Jewish legislation by the Nazis (*Das Sonderrecht fuer die Juden im NS-Staat*, edited by Jos. Walk). Apart from the vicious laws we all know about, this collection also contained some almost funny gems. It is not widely-known, for instance, that on 29 November, 1938 Jews were prohibited from keeping carrier pigeons. More relevant to the subject of your piece on Jewish names reflecting people's origins is a Directive dated 6 January, 1939 to the effect that Jews whose surnames included the word "Deutsch" were to be advised to apply for a name change.

Priory Park  
London SE3  
Ken Ambrose

### MANCROFT REMINISCENCES

Sir - Re Mr S Worms' letter (March issue) I think it unlikely that Lord Mancroft always considered himself a full Jew.

My sister and I were brought to England from Austria in 1939 by the late Lord Mancroft's father who was a convert to Christianity. The household in which we worked as domestics at that time was a church-going Christian home where Jewish practices were non-existent. Sadly, our time in the Mancroft home was not happy and we left after a few months.

I would think that, given his upbringing, Lord Mancroft's embracing of his Jewish heritage came fairly late in life.

Cleveland Gardens  
London  
Jeanette Elmont

### BOUQUETS

Sir - I love the journal as it is, but agree that a new name is due.

Wembley Park Drive  
Middx  
Stephen Batkin

Sir - I greatly appreciate *AJR Information*, especially Ralph Blumenau's "History..." but also RG's always perceptive articles. See to it that critics don't get him down...I doubt they can!

Chapel Hill, NC  
USA  
Prof. H Landsberger

Sir - Many thanks for the excellent journal.  
Fortune Green Road  
London  
Mrs R Barnett

### NAME CHANGE

Sir - I refer to the suggested change in the title of *AJR Information*. My late parents, Mr and Mrs W Meyer, and I were early members of the Association and I see no reason why there should be a change. Everybody knows the AJR, non-members are anxious to read it (free of charge), in fact, it has a very good reputation amongst non-Jews!

Leave the title as it is!

Linden Lea  
London  
F H Edwards

Sir - I suggest "Grunberger's Folly", "AJR Lack of Information", "Wastepaper Fodder", "Kosher Tripe" or "RG's Verbal Diarrhoea".

Anon

### F. GOLDMAN

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### Help us to help you

Two years ago, many of you were kind enough to complete a questionnaire giving us your opinions and suggestions about *AJR Information*.

Please forgive us for bothering you again, but this time we would like to ask you for details about yourselves and any suggestions you may have that would enable us to improve our services to you.

Apart from those of you that we know personally, we do not feel that we know sufficient about our membership, and therefore are not sure if we are providing the facilities that you need or want.

I know that filling in forms is always a chore, but I earnestly request you to complete and return the questionnaire enclosed in this issue of *AJR Information*. (If you are unable to do so, please ask someone to help you.)

The information will be fully confidential and used only by us, to enable us to provide a better service to you.

To enable us to be responsive to you we need your co-operation.

The word *Freepost* which appears on the address given on the questionnaire means that *you do not need to affix a stamp*. The names of all respondents will be entered into a free draw with a prize of a £25 Marks and Spencer voucher for the winner.

Many thanks in advance for your kind co-operation. □

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# The AJR at Work

## Bournemouth Bouquet



Holiday quiz runners-up enjoying their valuable consolation prizes of Bournemouth rock.

**D**ear Sir – I would very much like to tell you about our trip to Bournemouth with the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre.

On a lovely, sunny morning our little group settled into their seats on the coach and we set off for the South Coast. The extremely well thought-out lunch provided for us made everyone feel that we were in the best of care.

This being my first time on holiday with the AJR, I didn't really know what to expect – although a good friend had already told me that "You can be sure that they will have chosen a nice hotel", such is your reputation!

My friend was right, it was a truly lovely hotel, in every way. The generously provided food was excellent; you could help yourself to unlimited quantities of desserts, fruits, biscuits and cheese.

Above all, I would like to thank Sylvia and Rene for their unflinching care and concern. I think these ladies do a wonderful job. They worked very hard for our well-being and happiness and achieved their goal. We all enjoyed it very much indeed.

May I just add that I came to the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre in Cleve Road late in life, and that for me it is a life-saver and life-enhancer.

This letter is written with gratitude and many, many thanks.

Shirehall Park  
London NW4

Mrs Edith Fulton

## 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.

This service is available to those members with mobility problems or other difficulties.

The cost for a kosher 3 course meal is £3.00. 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 Joanne Botsman on 071-328 0208 for details and an assessment interview.

Meals can still be collected from 15 Cleve Road on weekdays (Mondays–Thursdays) for £3.00 per meal.

## AJR

### 'Drop in' Advice Centre

Weekly advice sessions, offering help with benefits, pensions, money matters, social work enquiries, etc., etc., will be held at the

**Paul Balint AJR Day Centre  
15 Cleve Road, London NW6**

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

**Wednesday 1 June  
Thursday 9 June  
Monday 13 June  
Tuesday 21 June  
Wednesday 29 June**

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.

## Message from Ernest David

**Y**ou will have seen from the annual accounts published in May that the AJR Charitable Trust increased expenditure on charitable activities by 16.8%. You will also have seen that 57% of the Trust's income came from legacies.

I have heard people ask why we still need legacies and donations, since the Charitable Trust has a fair capital. However, the accounts show that the Trust's income from investments is only enough to cover the costs of Social Services, Self Aid and administration.

Your legacies and donations have enabled us to maintain our substantial subsidies to the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, Meals on Wheels and the residential homes of the Otto Schiff Housing Association.

None of us is getting any younger, and there is an increasing need for the AJR's services. If we are to continue to serve and help our community, we do still need all the support you can give us. We, for our part, will do all we can to ensure that the Association is run efficiently to make the most of the money available.

Please continue to help with your donations and by remembering us in your wills. □

## ANNOUNCEMENT

You are cordially invited to the AJR's first ever Charity Bridge Evening on:

**SUNDAY 19 JUNE, 1994  
at 7.00 p.m.**

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre  
15 Cleve Road, London NW6

Donations £12.50 including wine and cold supper.

If you can arrange to book a complete table it will be greatly appreciated.

For details please contact:  
Madeleine Brook on 071-722 0795 or  
Hannah Goldsmith on 081-958 5080

## POLICE BAND

On Wednesday 29 June the Metropolitan Police Band will be visiting the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre to give a concert. The concert will begin at 2 p.m.  
(Not 2.30 p.m. as inadvertently billed in the April issue.)

## Paul Balint AJR Day Centre Changes to closing times due to special functions

**Thursday 2 June** – 3.30 p.m.  
No extended hours. (AGM at 7.30 p.m.)

**Sunday 19 June** – 5.30 p.m. with High Tea at 4.30 p.m.  
(Fund Raising Event at 7.30 p.m.)

### Accomplished accompanist

Almost every month for the past five years the name Geoffrey Whitworth has appeared on the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre's calendar of events. Geoffrey has become one of the Day Centre's most accomplished accompanists. He was introduced to members by the evergreen Hans Freund in 1989 and has been making return visits ever since.

After graduating from Cambridge with a degree in mathematics and music, Geoffrey, who was also a junior exhibitioner at the Royal Academy of Music, entered the high-tech world of computer engineering. However, his love of music would not allow him to remain faithful to cold technology and he is now a professional pianist, performing recitals at a huge variety of venues. Over the past few months Day Centre members have seen him accompanying singers Ann Kenton-Barker and Pamela Kolirin, Satya Barham, Michael Sabel and violinist Jane Faulkner.

### Special General Meeting

At a special general meeting of the AJR on Thursday 12 May the amendments to the Association's rules as outlined in the May issue by *AJR Information*, modified by various proposals by members, were approved.

The amendments will make no changes in the services provided to members by AJR. They are merely an updating of the original rules, which have remained unchanged since 1941, to bring them into line with current thought and practice.

The most noteworthy changes are to open membership to victims of Nazi oppression and their dependants and descendants, primarily, but not exclusively, from Central Europe; and to allow for ten members to nominate candidates for election to the Committee of Management. Full details were set out in the May issue of *AJR Information*.

Other changes were implemented at the behest of the Registrar of Friendly Societies.

At the meeting, the AJR Chairman, Mr Marx, read the rule amendments to an audience of forty people and invited questions from the floor. The whole process took less than an hour to complete and was followed by an extremely sociable round of coffee, cake and conversation.

### Election of Committee of Management

#### UPDATED LIST

The following members will be proposed for election or re-election to the Committee at the AGM on Thursday 2 June, 1994.

*Mr M. M. Kochmann JP	Chairman
Mr A. C. Kaufman	Vice-Chairman
Mrs E. S. Angel	Secretary
Mr W. D. Rothenberg	Treasurer

\* Mrs M. Brook, Mr C. W. Dunston, \* Mr J. H. Dunston, Mr M. Durst, † Mrs J. Field, Mrs H. Goldsmith, Mr F. A. Harding, † Mr S. Kesten, Mr H. E. Levy, \* Mr C. T. Marx.

\* Committee members retiring by rotation and being proposed for re-election.

† New Nominations.

### 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 -  
JUNE

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Wednesday 1 | LIGHT CLASSICAL MUSIC by The Trinity College of Music                           |
| Thursday 2  | OPERA YOU LOVE - Sara Meadows and John Feild                                    |
| Sunday 5    | A memorial concert for Margaret Jacoby - MUSIC BY ANN FREEMAN & FAMILY          |
| Monday 6    | A SUMMER RECITAL FOR CELLO & PIANO - Richard Jenkinson accompanied by Alex Boyd |
| Tuesday 7   | BALLADS & SONGS OF LOVE - John Cunningham and Gael Ford                         |
| Wednesday 8 | SUMMER SERENADE - Robert Voutobel and Geoffrey Whitworth                        |

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Thursday 9   | THEATRICAL COSTUMES - Chat & Presentation by Jack Cassin-Scott  |
| Sunday 12    | HENDON STRING ORCHESTRA - Conducted by Roy Budden   |
| Monday 13    | THE KEYS OF HEAVEN - Sean Sweeney & Yvette Cummings with Laurie Kubiak (Piano)                            |
| Tuesday 14   | TAKE A QUICK-STEP BACK IN TIME - Geoffrey Strum and Johnny Walton   |
| Wednesday 15 | JUNE IS BUSTING OUT ALL OVER - Katinka Seiner & Hans Freund   |
| Thursday 16  | LIGHT CLASSICAL MUSIC by The Trinity College of Music   |
| Sunday 19    | AN HOUR OF YOUR FAVOURITE SONGS - Jack Harris accompanied by Happy Branston                               |
| Monday 20    | WITH A SONG IN MY HEART - David Preston and Geoffrey Whitworth  |
| Tuesday 21   | PRIMROSE & PENELOPE ENTERTAIN - Primrose Powell and Penelope Spurrell                                     |
| Wednesday 22 | MEMORIES IN MUSIC - Edward Lee (Banjo), Sergio Biseo (Double Bass & Guitar), Jan North (Vocal)            |
| Thursday 23  | ROMANTIC ENCOUNTER - Stephen Crook, Naomi Harvey and Brian Parnell  |
| Sunday 26    | ROYAL WOMEN - ELIZABETH I - ELIZABETH II - Costumes & Audience Participation - Presented by Carolyn James |
| Monday 27    | TWO IN HARMONY - Luise Shorne (Soprano)   |

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Tuesday 28   | accompanying by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano)<br>RONNIE GOLDBERG entertains on Guitar |
| Wednesday 29 | METROPOLITAN POLICE BAND   |
| Thursday 30  | A SERENADE IN JUNE - Una Tucker (Soprano) accompanied by Stuart Wild (Piano)       |

- JULY
- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Sunday 3    | DUO CELLO - Elizabeth Rehfeld and Armand D'Angour                     |
| Monday 4    | ENJOY THE JOYS OF MUSIC - Christine Fisher and Geoffrey Whitworth     |
| Tuesday 5   | THE OXFORD PIANO TRIO - Catherine Martin, Aidan Eardley and Anne Bolt |
| Wednesday 6 | A LITTLE LIGHT MUSIC - Kirsty Young and Stuart Wild                   |
| Thursday 7  | GUITARRA - Adrian Smith   |

### Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

#### OPEN DAY

The Open Day scheduled for 17 July will be postponed to a later date, to be announced. The Day Centre will be closed on 17 July for *Tisha B'Av*

**FAMILY EVENTS**

**Golden Wedding**

Gee Ruth and Gussy Gee celebrate their Golden Wedding on 7 June 1994. Congratulations and much love to a special couple from niece Marion, great-nephew Anthony, great-niece Natalie and Barry.

**Search Notices**

I am an author seeking information about the following people: Mella and Erika Bruhl from Fischach (Bavaria), Ilse Stein from Augsburg, born 1924, and Leo Zinner (in England - Skinner) from Augsburg, born 1915/16. Please send any information to: Gernot Romer, Karlsbadstrasse 12, D86356 Neusaess/Augsburg, Germany.

**Martin Fabian and daughter Leah**, Georg Hubner, Sam Cohen. Could anyone who recognises these names, or holds any papers in connection with them and could help us reclaim property in Berlin please contact: Jackie Aharoni 0635-298000. We also need information about the Jewish Trust Corporation for Germany Ltd, founded 1950 and closed 1981.

The **Bonner Kreis Society** at Bonn University intend to publish a list of all past and present members. They seek information about two former members: Dr Heinz Cahn, born Bonn 1892, a banker in Berlin who lived in Britain until 1960; Stefan Jeidels, born Frankfurt 1886, worked as a music teacher in Berlin until 1937. Any information about these two people to Thomas Schonenbroicher, Urstadtstrasse 10, D-53129 Bonn, Germany.

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**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.

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**Birthday**

Simson Emmy Simson. Happy birthday to my beloved mother from Eva, Tony and grandchildren.

**Deaths**

**Beerman Frederick (Fritz) Beer-**man, on 5 May, 1994, aged 90. Widower of the late Dr Hanna Beerman. Mourned by his daughter, Edna Sovin; son-in-law Stanley; grandchildren Joanna, Judith and Benjamin. Sadly missed by relatives and friends.

**Gumpert Ruth Gumpert**, nee Panke, on 1 May, peacefully at home in her 89th year, after a long period of indifferent health. Mourned by her husband Franz, sister Edith, relatives and friends.

**Kochman Mrs E. Kochman** (nee Schloschoff), born in Leszmie, Poland, died on 31 October 1993. She is missed and mourned by her good friends.

**Kahn Berthe Kahn** (of Bunce Court and Osmond House), much loved mother of Liselotte, Ruth and Walter, passed away on 27 April, aged 97. Missed by all her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Donations to AJR (Bertha Kahn Fund).

**Miscellaneous**

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Alice Schwab

# Art Notes

**T**he *Fine Art and Antiques Fair* will be at Olympia (2–12 June), and the Grosvenor House Art and Antiques Fair will be at Grosvenor House (9–18 June). Spinks & Son will be occupying Stand Number One at the latter, as they have done for the last sixty years. As usual, they will be showing English paintings and watercolours, including *A Highland Glen* by Sir Henry Landseer (1802–1873) and *London Garden* by Ivor Hitchens (1893–1979). They will also be holding their usual display of Oriental works of art.

*The Whitechapel Open* is a regular feature at the Whitechapel Art Gallery and Atlantis Upper Gallery featuring new works by East London artists (until 26 June). This exhibition will be followed (8 July–11 September) by a showing of the paintings of Franz Kline (1910–1962), a charismatic painter of the New York school.

*The Imperial War Museum* has a great deal to offer in the way of pictorial art. *Europe Regained* is a new selection from the Second World War, including the work of such official war artists as Anthony Gross and Edward Bawden, as well as that of unofficial “soldier artists” like Edward La Dell and Guy Burn. A later exhibition will show posters produced for the War Office by Abram Games.

*The Ben Uri Gallery*, together with the Western Marble Arch Synagogue, are showing *Visages du Ghetto*, paintings, etchings and drawings of pre-war Jewish Europe by Paul Jeffay (1898–1957). At the Ben Uri Gallery itself a selection from its permanent collection, including new acquisitions, is on display (until 3 July) to mark the publication of the new and revised catalogue.

*The Sainte Mainie Group* Summer Exhibition is being held (until 9 July) at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. This is a new group of artists who work in London and Provence. Its Hon. Secretary is Michael Roan, the son of the late Mr and Mrs G. Roan, German emigrés.

*The Tate Gallery* is holding an exhibition of significant sculptures and prints by Naum Gabo, the Russian-born sculptor who worked for many years in St Ives (until 19 June).

*The Hayward Gallery* is exhibiting 30 oil paintings and 40 related drawings by Pierre Bonnard (until 29 August). The exhibition includes *The Nude in the Bath*, on loan

from the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, and his latest work *Almond Tree in Blossom*.

*Royal Festival Hall Galleries* are showing 50 photographs by Paul Trevor showing intimate glimpses of people going about their business in London’s financial district and in the street market of nearby Brick Lane (until 3 July).

*Marlborough Graphics* will be showing recent prints by R. B. Kitaj, one of the world’s most respected artists (8 June through August).

*Peter Baer*, our old friend, is holding an exhibition of paintings, prints and drawings at the BBC, White City, Wood Lane W12. All the works on display are for sale (prices from £50–£500).

*The Graphic Line*, a celebration of European printmaking. The Lyttelton Circle Foyer, Royal National Theatre, South Bank, is hosting an exhibition of artists including Irene Scheinmann, who has had many exhibitions both here and abroad (until 16 July).

*The Wallace Collection*, the delightful gallery in Manchester Square, are now showing (until 25 July) works collected by Anatole Demidoff, a dissolute Russian aristocrat of great wealth who built up a superb collection. The exhibition comprises some 80 objects, including realist paintings of historical events, Fragonard’s *Fountain of Life* and Ary Scheffer’s *Paulo and Francesca*.

*The British Museum* continues its exhibition *German Printmaking in the Age of Goethe* until 21 August and is well worth a visit.

*The National Portrait Gallery* is showing an amusing exhibition entitled *Portraits in Disguise* until 17 July. The Duchess of Queensbury appears as an unlikely milkmaid, Lady Warrender as Ceres (Goddess of Plenty) and Angus McBean’s self-portrait shows himself as Neptune.

*The Royal Academy’s 226th* Summer Exhibition runs from 5 June to 14 August and, as usual, will contain a wide range of new work by living artists.

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## SB's Column

**A** very Israeli actress. Lya Dulizkaya was born in Austria and started her career as Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof* during the sixties in New York, partnered by Shmuel Rodensky, a role she later repeated with Yadim and Topol. She was called to Germany to portray Golde in the German version of this musical (*Anatevka*), subsequently appearing in Munich in Neil Simon’s play *Lost in Yonkers*. Despite her international successes she remains a firmly committed Israeli citizen.

**Edinburgh.** Apart from the usual musical highlights of the annual festival (which this year begins on 15 August) the new programme of plays has a particularly international flavour: among the theatrical highlights Goethe’s *Torquato Tasso* will be staged in English, Shakespeare’s *Winter’s Tale* in a French production and *Anthony and Cleopatra* in German by the Berliner Ensemble. The latter will be directed by Peter Zadek with two of today’s outstanding German actors, Gert Voss and Eva Mattes in the lead.

**Paul Hörbiger** would have been a hundred years old this year. A most entertaining actor, celebrated film comic and popular interpreter of sentimental Viennese songs, he appeared in over 230 films playing “counts, barons, servants, doctors and musicians” as described in the book *Paul Hörbiger – Lebensbilder* published by Jugend und Volk in Vienna. During the turbulent Nazi years he belonged to an underground organisation, and was twice imprisoned for “active opposition”. He died at the age of 87.

**Birthday.** Sir Ernst Gombrich is 85. The Vienna-born expert on the visual arts had the satisfaction of seeing his standard work *Story of Art* translated into more than twenty languages, with over two million copies sold worldwide.

Sir Ernst, Director of the Warburg Institute from 1959 to 1976, still travels around the world and is a much sought-after lecturer. He remains sceptical about some representatives of modern art and feels that only coming generations will be able to judge their work when the required time interval will stand between them and the artists of today.

**Obituary.** The German actor Kurt Meisel has died in his seventies. Meisel was an original member of the Gruendgens ensemble and was married to Ursula Lingen, the actress daughter of Theo Lingen, the forgotten German film comedian. □

## Before the Anticlimax

Over the coming months we shall serialise excerpts from the wartime reminiscences of A. W. Freud (a grandson of Sigmund).

In the Spring of 1943, somebody in the War Office must have appreciated that it was a waste of manpower to employ educated, German-speaking and dedicated opponents of Hitler on navvying. The field for our potential activities was therefore widened and we could volunteer for more active units. Some of us joined the Tank Corps, others the Intelligence Service and I was approached by the recruiters for the Special Force.

I think I ought to explain what the Special Force was. As the chances of a German victory receded, at the end of 1942, the people of the occupied countries of Europe started to assert themselves. There were 11 of them, France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland, Greece and small Albania. By exploiting their growing anti-German sentiments, much could be gained militarily. The Germans would have to find more troops to keep these people down to prevent revolts. Such troops would then not be available for the fighting fronts. Sabotage committed by the occupied people would reduce the German war potential. The evident dislike of these people to be ruled by Germany would be psychologically depressing for the Germans. It was therefore decided, at the highest level, to set 'Europe ablaze'. The sharp end of this decision would be in the hands of combatants, usually citizens or ex-citizens of these countries, who would be parachuted into the occupied areas for the purpose of stirring up trouble. They would be in contact with their English Headquarters by radio. If possible, they would receive supplies like arms, ammunition, explosives and money from England, again by parachute. Each one of the occupied countries would be controlled by its own Country Section, i.e. there was to be a French Section, a Dutch section etc.

You may have noticed that I did not include Austria in the list of occupied countries. Austria was not strictly speaking occupied, but most joyfully joined big brother Germany in 1938. The Austrian identity was rapidly being submerged in the general German one. Within a year or two of the Anschluss (the occupation of Austria), the idea of a separate Austria had almost disappeared. It was only when Germany was losing the war in 1945, that Austrians rediscovered their former iden-

tity, thereby hoping, no doubt, that they might escape some of the hardships of the losers.

In spite of the above considerations, a small Austrian Section was formed, and staffed mainly by refugee Austrians like myself, who had been invited to join it. We were only about a dozen at the beginning, many more joined later.

### Special Force

I left the Pioneer Corps in 1943 without shedding many tears. Its cap badge, showing a pick and shovel, was not one I was very proud of.

The key to the Special Force was training. This took place in STS, Special Training Schools. My first one was in Liss in Hampshire, in a country mansion taken over by the Army, as all STSs were. We were given a British Escort Officer, Captain J. Bennett, and a wide variety of instructors. Naturally they included PT instructors to make us a hundred per cent physically fit. They also taught us unarmed combat, in which a knife did not count as arms. As far as I remember, stabbing somebody in the kidney area is sure to lead to his rapid death. Looking back, I believe that all that unarmed combat training was a waste of time and effort. I have not heard of a single case of a British Agent engaging in unarmed combat with, say, a Germany sentry and getting away with it. In addition to PT, we had very good instruction in weapon technology, when we

were made familiar with every type and make of small arms, rifles and light machine guns. I am mechanically minded and enjoyed these courses. In my heyday, I could strip and reassemble blindfold any such weapon made in Europe or America.

Assault courses also featured prominently in our training. These types of elaborate obstacle race have now been made familiar on TV programmes. They included jumping over walls, swinging Tarzan-like on ropes across rivers and such like. When we were stationed at Weedon in Northamptonshire along the Grand Union Canal, Captain Bennett devised another handicap race. We had to swim across the canal, dragging a nominal non-swimmer with us. When we were in the middle of the canal, Captain Bennett exploded underwater charges below us. These paralysed us and both swimmer and non-swimmer gently sank to the bottom. Luckily we were pulled out before irrevocable damage was done, or a lot of good training money would have been wasted.

Another interesting course was the one teaching us how to make home-made explosives (there were no Irishmen on our course!). As I do not wish to get into trouble with the Authorities, I will not repeat too much of what I learnt 50 years ago; to give just one well-known example, if mercury was required to make detonators, one was instructed to obtain it by buying clinical thermometers. This course, as most others, was most informative, but I do not think that many agents living in a German occupied country would empty the local pharmacist of thermometers in order to blow up a Gestapo HQ.

The Special Force even went so far as to borrow from HM Prisons some expert lock and safe breakers, in order to teach us the art, and it is an art, of opening locked doors. Just as in the case of home-made explosives, I do not wish to pass on too much of that useful knowledge. Suffice to say that bicycle spokes featured prominently. They have the right consistency to take over the functions of keys. I do not know if our teachers got remission of their sentences for their tutorials.

Naturally we had to learn parachute jumping; there was no other way for us of getting into war-time Austria. The venue was Ringway Aerodrome, Manchester, and the dropping zone was nearby Tatton Park. We learnt to jump from old fashioned Whitley aircraft, as the song went:

'Two little Whitleys just leaving Ringway  
Bound for the dropping zone'

I cannot recall any more.

### 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.**

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One did not jump through the doors of these planes, as we did later on operations, but through an aperture in the floor, along the middle of the fuselage. Half the party sat towards the front of this hole and the other half towards the back. In this way, a faster jumping sequence was achievable. One sat at the edge of the hole with the legs dangling into it. When it came to your turn to jump, you pushed off and dropped through the hole. As you dropped, your companion on the opposite side of the hole would swing his legs into it and push off and so on. A plane flying at 180 miles per hour would cover 88 yards in one second. If a string of 12 parachutists should take 12 seconds to jump, which constitutes a quick sequence, then the first and last man would land over half a mile apart.

We had a few accidents on our jumping course. One of us, Hermann Faltitschek (later changed to Falton), landed heavily on the only concrete footpath in Tatton Park. The jolt was strong enough to sprain his spine badly, but he recovered and has recently died at an advanced age. On our last training jumps, the wind was too strong, over 25 miles per hour, and most of us, including myself, hurt ourselves in one way or another. I even had to attend hospital as an out-patient during the leave which followed that jumping session.

When, about a year later, we were in Italy, we had the opportunity for further training jumps. At that time, we also developed a method of jumping together

with our heavy equipment, without hurting ourselves on landing; a sprained ankle could then be equivalent to a death sentence. The method consisted of wearing the chute on the back, and in front, on our chest, we carried the heavy equipment such as radio, ammunition, etc. packed into a rucksack. After the chute had opened, we would lower the heavy equipment in the rucksack on the 24-foot long rope, so that it dangled beneath us. Thus, we were unencumbered on landing. It worked better in training than 'on the night'! During the operational jump, one of us, H. Schweiger, instead of lowering his baggage gently, let go. The 25-foot drop was too much for the rope, it broke and Schweiger irretrievably lost all his equipment.

The training of parachute jumping in Southern Italy had one major drawback. After each jump, the chutes would be bundled up, put on a lorry and returned to the depot for repacking. We found that chutes went missing and the Authorities naturally suspected us of having converted them to underwear for the girlfriends. But we were innocent! When the lorries were on their way back from the dropping zone with our chutes, the Italians would stand on their balconies, under which these open lorries would travel. With the help of fishing lines and hooks, the Italians would catch hold of the chutes and pull them off and up. As there were almost no other materials for dressmaking available, parachute nylon was much in demand. □

## Vatican Yom Ha'Shoa concert

The Papal Concert held on 8 April to commemorate the Shoa, was attended by a number of Holocaust survivors, together with Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff of Rome, the Israeli Ambassador, members of the College of Cardinals and of the Diplomatic Corps.

The British group, led by Sir Sigmund Sternberg, included Bishop Charles Henderson, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Christians and Jews.

Receiving the distinguished visitors, the Pope said: "Your visit inevitably brings to my mind the times I have gone on pilgrimage to Auschwitz and Dachau. During the first year of my Pontificate I again went to Auschwitz, and before the memorial stone with its Hebrew inscription I sought to express the profound emotion evoked in me by *the memory of the People whose sons and daughters were destined for total extermination*. It is precisely this People, which had received from God the commandment *Thou shalt not kill*, which has itself experienced to a particular degree what killing means. No one may pass by this inscription with indifference.

In this city, too, the Jewish community paid a high price in blood simply for being Jewish. As on that occasion, I again express a word of abhorrence for the genocide decreed against the Jewish people during the Second World War, which led to the slaughter of millions of innocent people.

The concert tonight is a commemoration of those horrifying events. The candles which will burn as we listen to the music will keep the memory of the Shoa bright. But it is not enough that we remember; for in our own day there are many new manifestations of the hatred which bore the seeds of these unspeakable crimes. Humanity must not permit it to happen again."

Later, in an interview with the press, the Pope said: "After two-thousand years of the diaspora, the Jews have decided to return to their own land, the land of their forefathers. This is their right."

Sir Sigmund Sternberg presented His Holiness with a copy of the Ryland's Haggadah, a facsimile of a mid-fourteenth century illuminated manuscript. □

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## Cooking with Gretel Beer



### Eggs with chive sauce

One of my favourite dishes – equally good as a starter or a main course for supper. Count two eggs per person if serving it as a main course, one egg if as a starter. It looks very good arranged on a large platter, but make a slight indentation when masking the eggs with the sauce so that you know where to find them – otherwise you are apt to break the yolks when serving. Alternatively, arrange the eggs in individual dishes.

#### Ingredients

4 eggs poached  
1 heaped tablespoon butter  
1 flat tablespoon flour  
1/4 pint (140ml) milk  
salt and white pepper  
pinch of mace  
1/4 pint (140ml) of cream  
about a tablespoon of Worcestershire sauce  
2 heaped tablespoons of chopped chives

Drain the poached eggs well and gently pat them dry with a paper towel. Melt the butter in a saucepan, stir in the flour and blend well. Do not allow the mixture to brown. Gradually stir in the milk and cook to a smooth paste. Season with salt, white pepper (the much-advocated “freshly ground black pepper” leaves nasty-looking flecks as if ash had been scattered over the sauce) and a small flick of mace. Set to cool and stir from time to time. Set the poached eggs on a serving dish or individual dishes. Whisk the cream until stiff and fold into the cold sauce, together with the Worcestershire sauce and the chopped chives. Mask the eggs with the sauce and chill well before serving. Dark rye bread and butter is particularly good with this dish. □

## High-rise facelift



Photo: Newman.

Eleanor Rathbone House, Highgate, in which the AJR owns a one third interest, is undergoing a £100,000 exterior refurbishment. Work on the twelve story building, which is mainly occupied by elderly refugees in sheltered accommodation, began shortly after Pesach.

In addition to necessary maintenance work, such as repairing weather damage, resealing windows, repointing and resurfacing, the whole of the building's exterior will be cleaned and protectively treated against further wear and tear from the elements.

The Otto Schiff Housing Association (OSHA) who manage the building will, of course, take great pains to ensure that this work causes residents the absolute minimum of disruption and inconvenience. All work is scheduled for completion in early July. □

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## Reinterpreting the Weimar Right

Peter Prager's interesting article (*A Republic without Republicans* in the April issue) paints a black picture of the Weimar Republic, suggesting that from the 1920 election onwards there was never a majority for the Republic in the Reichstag. In my opinion, this view rests upon a number of erroneous assumptions.

The first such assumption is the limitation of parties which supported the Republic to the Socialists (SDP), the Centre and the Liberals (DDP) and excluding the *Deutsche Volkspartei* (DVP). The latter, which held between 65 and 45 Reichstag seats in the years from 1920 to 1928, was the rough equivalent of the conservative party. Its leader, Gustav Stresemann, was perhaps the only true statesman the Weimar Republic produced. Having entered the Reichstag on a colonialist ticket in 1907, he passionately supported the war in 1914, and proposed that there should be extensive annexations at the end of it. Devastated by the abdication of the Kaiser, he bitterly attacked the Republic for signing the Treaty of Versailles. His overriding objective after the war was to negotiate a revision of the settlement. However, none of this proves that he did not support the Republic, which he served briefly as Chancellor in 1923 and as Foreign minister from 1922 until his death in 1929.

Mr Prager seems, to me, to share the opinion, so assiduously promoted by the anti-fascist left, that conservative, patriotic, and even nationalistic, policies are of their very nature anti-democratic (implicit in the whole piece is an equation between being "republican" and being "democratic"). The anti-fascist left has had relatively little success in making this equation stick in British history, but has been much more successful in foisting it upon German history.

In fact, Stresemann's democratic credentials are not in doubt. Even as a loyal supporter of the Crown in pre-war Germany, he had demanded reforms that would have made the government more responsible to the Reichstag itself by abolishing the three-class voting system which so heavily favoured the wealthier classes. I know of no evidence to support Mr Prager's inclusion of the DVP amongst "all" the right-wing parties who were "antisemitic and had all supported violence against their opponents". He also says they were "all" chauvinists, which is, of course, a loaded

word – was it really chauvinist to work for the revision of a settlement which even Western statesmen were beginning to feel had been excessively harsh?

Stresemann and his supporters regretted the loss of the Kaiser as a stabilising factor and national symbol (much as the British would have regretted the loss of their monarchy). But they accepted the loss and saw no alternative to coming to terms with the Republic, especially when they felt they had found a new national symbol in Hindenburg. They have been dubbed *Vernunftsrepublikaner* (commonsense republicans). This appellation has been interpreted in an undeservedly derogatory way. The group did include some who wished to overthrow the Republic, if the chance arose, though most of these would eventually join the openly anti-Weimar parties (the DNVP and the Nazis), but the great majority of the "commonsense republicans" could not be described as anti-republican or undemocratic. In that majority I would include Hindenburg. I know of no evidence to suggest that his oath of loyalty to the Republic was not sincere. Mr Prager calls Hindenburg's opponent in that election "the democratic candidate", implying that Hindenburg was the opposite. He also mentions that the ultra-nationalists voted for him in 1925 – tarnishing Hindenburg with the unsavoury character of less than half of his supporters – but doesn't mention that, when he stood for re-election, Hitler ran, unsuccessfully, against him – and that was as late as 1932.

The DVP is not mentioned at all in Peter Prager's article. If the DVP percentages are added to the percentages won by the parties Mr Prager considers democratic, then we have at least 57% (not 43%) voting for the Republic in 1920, 48% and 56% (not 39% and 46%) in the two elections of 1924, and 56% in 1928 (a year for which, significantly, Mr Prager gives no figure for the three parties he allows to be democratic: it would have been 52% and would have shown that the 1919 election was not "the only occasion when a majority of Germans voted in favour of the Weimar Republic). (*Mr Prager's figures are based on the percentage of votes cast: mine on the percentage of seats in the Reichstag. Since Germany had a complete proportional representation system, the figures should be the same but, in fact, they are not. All mine are slightly higher than Mr Prager's. Moreover, I have taken no account of the many smaller parties other than the seven major ones. In 1928, for instance, these small parties gained some 9% of the seats. Some of these – though I don't know how many – could surely be added to the "democratic" total.*)

In 1924 even a section of the DNVP, under Westarp, gave up its opposition to the Republic. The next election, 1928, was, as we have seen, the high-water mark of the Weimar Republic. But the following year the Great Depression hit Germany. Unemployment benefit became a huge burden on government finances and the DVP, being a conservative party and terrified of a repetition of inflation, wanted cuts in benefits. So it was no wonder that at the next election, 1930, its share of seats slumped by a third. The Nazis rose rapidly, from 12 in 1928 to 196 in the second election of 1932 (the last one that was reasonably free). But the figures do not suggest to me that their gain was largely from other right-wing extremists. The DNVP lost only 26 seats during that time, while the three parties which Mr Prager considered democratic lost 44 seats, falling from 256 seats to 121 (some of these were lost to the communists, who went up from 54 to 100 seats).

As I argued in an earlier article, it is simplistic to assume that all those who voted for the Nazis after 1929 were crypto-Nazis before and had all been fundamentally anti-republican or anti-democratic. After all, the Nazis only got two and a half percent of the vote in 1928. The most that one can safely say is that large numbers despaired sufficiently of a Republic and a democracy which they had supported before the Depression to desert it now. Only in July 1932 did the extreme right (with 46% of the seats) together with the Communists (with 13%) secure a majority in the Reichstag.

The history of the Weimar Republic is gloomy enough. It had a stormy beginning and a stormy end. But the democrats who wanted to make a success of it deserve our recognition. Until the Depression, their numbers were not insignificant, and the conservatives of the DVP deserve to be included in their number.

□ Ralph Blumenau

## S.O.S.

The indrawn breath of the seabed monster  
That drew the Titanic down into the deep  
Can dash to pieces small craft bobbing  
In the turbulence's vertiginous trough

The mind must row with frantic oar-strokes  
And search the night sky for one star  
Or else it too will be sucked under  
By the monster's indrawn breath.

Lines penned after viewing Schindler's List.

□ Richard Grunberger

## Musical midsummer madness

RG's ABC of D composers

Albinoni – quite unknown he

Alphabetically second  
Comes J S Bach the fecund  
Bach's not Welsh, but Saxon  
With Lutheran brass tacks on

When Ludwig van B's hearing went  
He wrote the Heiligenstadt Testament,  
Then he was dubbed *ein Stoiker*  
And dashed off the Eroica

Johannes in someone's arms  
Would shyly ask *Aimez-vous Brahms?*  
And be told "Now, Klara Schumann –  
That's what I call a woman!"

Love-smitten  
Benjie Britten  
Put Billy Budd  
Into Noah's Flood

Dvorak, though from Bohemia,  
Looked out for nothing steamier  
Than a railway-engine shed –  
After which he went to bed

Sir Edward Elgar  
Was never vulgar  
Puzzled by the Hymn of Nations  
He wrote Enigma Variations

Josef, nicknamed "Papa" Haydn  
Set no texts by Pope or Dryden  
Hence the English jubilation  
When he tackled The Creation

When Prague lambasted Janacek  
Brno's favourite son said "Heck"  
Down your Pilsners – there's no tonic  
Can compare with Church Slavonic

When critics hissed "Now Franz Lehar  
Has really reached one kitsch too far"  
He raised his baton "Let them hiss

## A minor mugging

After the Nazis came to Vienna we Jewish children still used to sneak off to the Prater, the well-known parkland and funfair which was the pride and joy of the Viennese, and where we had all spent many happy hours in the past. We could no longer afford any of the rides or entertainments so we would just watch and long for the pleasures which were now beyond our reach.

On one of these visits I was suddenly surrounded and marched off by a crowd of big boys, Hitler Youths, and dragged down an alleyway behind some booth, out of sight and earshot. Here they told me to shut up and reminded me of what was happening to the Jews in Vienna just then.

They gave me a systematic beating and robbed me of the few miserable coins I had. Then they took my *Loden* jacket, made of grey-green alpine cloth, with dark green facings for the pockets and collar and genuine deer horn buttons. I loved the jacket and didn't want to be parted from it, but a few smart kicks soon convinced me otherwise.

After that they demanded my purse, a black leather one with a silver shield that had my initials engraved upon it. I objected: "That is a present from my little sister. She has gone away and I will never see her again!" I almost screamed in agony.

My reaction was so violent that one of the boys stepped back for an instant. I saw my

chance and ran as if pursued by devils – and indeed the boys did give chase, but I knew the woodland as well as any Viennese boy and got away. I didn't stop running until I got home, distressed, half-dead with fatigue and crying my eyes out.

I have suppressed the memory of this incident until now, because, like so many others, I had been brainwashed into believing that, as Jews, we were saddled with guilt and fully deserved whatever happened to us.

It is not uncommon in situations of persecution to project guilt onto the victims. Black people long accepted that they were inferior and are struggling to free themselves from this untrue self-image.

With me and many other Jewish refugees it goes tragically even further. Have I not always apologised for my bad English, for being a refugee? Worse still, have I not always felt guilty for having escaped the worst, for not having suffered and perished with the others?

This is very wrong. Why should any of us accept the guilt for circumstances not remotely of our making? Let those who perpetrated the crimes bear the burden, every bit of it.

We should not suppress our memories of that time, however trivial, but bring them into the open and exorcise our ghosts, depriving our tormentors of their last triumph. Away with our preposterously misconceived phantom guilt!

□ Manfred Landau

Let pfennig-pinchers take the p\*\*\*  
Kitsch makes rich, so listen pliss:  
Girls are made to love and kiss

Mozart, genius extraordinary,  
Remained a playful prankster  
Till wiped out by a gangster  
Under contract to Salieri

Prokofiev, lured by purblind pride  
Booked a one-way railway ride  
To the sheepfold "Golden Fleece"  
Where he found more war than peace

Giacomo Puccini  
Was a bedhopping old meany  
Collecting chorus girls and lira  
With ne'er a *ciao* to his Elvira

The great Maurice Ravel  
Was the only composer to travel  
Abroad in a bolero  
Since the Emperor Nero

Shostakovitch thought one day  
He'd score a certain Scottish play  
But had the first of many shocks  
At Stalin's swift exit from his box

Smetana, if you please,  
Chose the pseudonym cream cheese  
As if it really mattered  
Which side his bride was battered

According to rumour Richard Strauss  
So treasured the timbered Garmisch house  
– A love object softer than his spouse –  
That, loth to move across the road,  
He composed J Goebbles' birthday ode

Tchaikovski Ilyitch Pjotr  
Drank contaminated wjotr  
When he finally faced outing  
After outrageous rule-book flouting

To Wagner's jibe that Verdi  
Composed for the hurdy-gurdy  
I ripost "Let the bleeder  
Get an earful of *Aida!*"

Richard Wagner in his frenzy  
From the first bar of Rienzi  
To the *Gotterdammerung*  
Gave the Jews a hammerung

The cachet of Xenakis  
Is less than Theodorakis'  
Since a second Greek  
Would constitute a clique

And finally Zemlinsky  
Who, though born near Palais Kinsky,  
Never made it to La Scala  
Or the arms of Alma Mahler