

AJR Information

Volume L No. 1
January 1995

£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss...

A celluloid cabal p.3
The Left's enduring allure p.16

Flawed synonyms

A recent *Guardian* article on the siege of Grozny drew a parallel with Beirut "encircled by Jewish firepower in '82". Such bland substitution of Jewish for Israeli is reprehensible – and tarnishes the paper of the late, great C.P. Scott (through whom Weizmann met Balfour). The term 'Jewish' firepower is a nonsense. Would a *Guardian* journalist writing about Tibetan rebels cite 'Buddhist' firepower? Of course not! The fact of the matter is that while most (non-Arab) Israelis are Jews, a variable percentage of Diaspora Jews identify with Israel. To make the two terms exchangeable is mischievous and carries with it implications of dual allegiance.

Reflections on a sensitive issue

Treason of the Intellectuals?

Sir – You say (Nov. '94) that Popper "... did not consider Nazism and the Holocaust sufficient reason to return to the faith of his forefathers." It would be idle to ask you for a more precise argument why he should have done so, and why the Holocaust should have strengthened faith, even that of its most immediate victims, since belief is involved, not reason.

Your comment, at the end of an obituary, was unfortunate, and it also appears to have unacceptable implications.

Argyl Road
Exeter

Gerard Klein

Heine called conversion his entrance ticket to European civilisation – a term by which the great ironist meant polite society (though other converts at the end of the ghetto period genuinely saw Christianity as the repository of Western culture). The world has moved on since then. Today many Christians, not excluding the Pope, acknowledge Judaism as the seedbed of Christianity and it is generally accepted that Western values are based on the Judeo-Christian heritage.

Around 1900, midpoint in time between Heine and ourselves, the situation of German-speaking Jews vis-à-vis Christianity was shot through with contradictions. Though legally emancipated for a full generation, they felt threatened by Court Chaplain Stöcker in Berlin and Mayor Lueger in Vienna; even so they perceived themselves as secure by comparison with their coreligionists in pogrom-prone Russia (or even Dreyfus-haunted France).

It is against this background that we must view the Poppers' Protestantism. Was the Jewish-born father's change of religion a response to the spiritual message of Martin Luther? It is rather doubtful; I see admission into polite society and escape from Jewish 'otherness' as more compelling motives. Gustav Mahler knew that Jewishness debarred him from the directorship of the Court Opera which he coveted; having grown up an aesthetically receptive youngster in close proximity to incense-filled, music-echoing baroque churches he,

unlike Popper senior, opted for Rome rather than Wittenberg as his escape hatch.

Mr. Klein deems my strictures on Karl Popper for remaining a Protestant in the Thirties – whereas Arnold Schoenberg returned to Judaism – 'unacceptable'. I beg to differ. I read Martin Luther at the tender age of 14, not because I was an infant prodigy, but because I happened to find myself in front of a *Stürmer* display case in Nazi-occupied Vienna. What I read was Luther's 'About the Jews and their Lies' in which the founder of Protestantism demanded that all synagogues be burnt down, Jewish houses be demolished, copies of the Talmud confiscated and teachers of the Jewish religion killed.

Though the Nazis notoriously practised the 'big lie', in this instance they had no need for twisting Luther's words; what he had written in the 1520s constituted perfect copy for *Der Stürmer* four hundred years later.

However, I do not confine my strictures to disciples of a Christian prophet who preached princely dictatorship in addition to Jew hatred. There are other 'converts' who have sloughed off their Jewish skins by espousing the most liberal variety of irreligion imaginable, namely Humanism. One liberal exemplar is the President of the British Humanist Association, Sir Hermann Bondi. This eminent man assured me that he "particularly esteemed the Jews for holding education in the same high regard as the Welsh do."

As ex-head of a Cambridge college Sir Hermann clearly knows about education. But does he know about the Jews' millenia-long pursuit of learning? This preoccupation must surely have had something to do with the prestige of scholars and rabbis in their midst. Didn't the most de-Judaised Jew of modern times, Karl Marx, himself have rabbinical forbears?

I believe that Sir Karl Popper, Sir Hermann Bondi – or for that matter, Karl Marx – possessed such formidable intellects because of the cerebral propensity of their ancestors (quite a few of whom would have been rabbis).

For Karl Popper to return to Judaism after 1933

continued on p.2

Treason of the intellectuals? *continued*

would thus in the first place have been an act of grand-filial gratitude and homage. Secondly, and more crucially, it would have been an act of solidarity with his 'brothers under the skin' who were hounded as refugees while he was able to emigrate normally to New Zealand in 1937.

I also think that all Jewish-descended intellectuals – except genuine Christians – who failed to recover their Jewish identity in the years of the Shoah are diminished by this failure. How bereft of nobility they look beside Schoenberg! Or beside Einstein who, had he been fit, would have shouldered the burden of the Israeli presidency after Weizmann – while they busied themselves in their ivory towers. □

AJR & WIENER LIBRARY

present

A Recital by

SCHIDLOF QUARTET

14th May 1995

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL



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

Profile

Involuntary globetrotter



Agi Alexander

If, to quote the old cliché, everybody has a book inside them, then Agi Alexander's life could yield a sequence of Forsyte Saga length. Born in the Hungarian city of Debrecen in 1936, she had a comfortable middle-class upbringing. However, within a few years Hungary entered the war on Hitler's side – with initially contradictory effect on her Jews. Their political situation worsened, but armament orders produced an economic boom from which individuals like Agi's engineering graduate father benefited.

The prosperity soon proved shortlived. The father was conscripted into the army in Russia and female members of the family were moved into 'Jew houses' in Budapest and put to work sewing uniforms. Later the father was posted back to Budapest in charge of gypsy workers repairing bombed bridges. Then he vanished and the mother fell victim to a round-up and was taken to Ravensbrück. Fortunately for eight-year-old Agi an aunt found her by tramping from courtyard to courtyard in the ghetto and shouting her name. Together they moved into a Swedish-protected house.

When the fighting ended the mother returned; after months of enquiries they found out that the father had been shot by Hungarian Nazis. Soon after came the first of Agi's postwar changes of domicile. Because her mother was Slovak-born they were repatriated to Eastern Czechoslovakia, where the mother worked as a

cashier and Agi started secondary school.

Here the aftermath of the war made itself felt in all sorts of ways. Sometimes the two of them could only converse in whispers because the use of Hungarian – their only common language – was punishable by imprisonment. Even worse were the obstacles the Communist authorities placed in the way of emigration to Palestine. Eventually in 1949, helped by a relative in Tel Aviv, mother and daughter managed to reach Israel after an adventurous journey.

At Kibbutz Dan Agi divided her days between the classroom and the cowshed, while the mother augmented her dental nurse's pay by waitressing. In that way she met a South African tourist who eventually became her husband. It was time to change countries again.

In South Africa Agi enjoyed the first prolonged period of normality in her young life; she finished school, attended secretarial college and got married to an architect. However, the apartheid state was not a normal country – as Agi discovered on her wedding day when (Jewish) pro-government guests barely spoke to (Jewish) pro-ANC guests.

The political horizon grew ever darker, and after the Sharpsville Riot the young couple left for the UK, ostensibly so that Mr. Alexander might study town planning. For her first years in London Agi was busy raising a family, but in the early 70s she became a voluntary worker at Harlesden's Advice Centre. She also studied for a socio-legal diploma at Ealing Technical College, after which the Harlesden Centre received funding for her to be put on the payroll; then in 1989, when the Centre's survival was threatened, she became head of our ever-busy Welfare Department. The rest, as they say, is AJR history. □ R.G.

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: 0171-794 3949

A celluloid cabal

A Jewish cabal, writes the *Spectator's* William Cash, controls Hollywood; it operates reverse discrimination against 'outsiders', including Wasps (White Anglo-Saxon Protestants), Blacks and Britons. This is a contentious, not to say explosive, statement implying as it does that Jews simultaneously earn showbiz millions and shape the American consciousness. Cash's premise needs to be carefully scrutinised; it echoes the antisemitic ranting of the Black racist Louis Farrakhan, and of the Ku Klux Klan veteran David Duke, onetime Republican candidate for the governorship of Louisiana.

No-one would deny that Hollywood's founding fathers were mainly Jews (some of whose number – for instance Harry Cohn – were veritable monsters). But all that is past history. Nowadays, even if individual Jews are still head honchos of tinseltown, they are no longer the moguls of yesteryear, but executives answerable to banks and international corporations located, as often as not, in Japan or Australia.

As for 'Jewish' Hollywood's alleged anti-Wasp bias, this is a turn-up for the book; till only the day before yesterday the PC (political correctness) lobby had retrospectively charged the movie industry with the opposite misdemeanour of having filtered out skin colour from its portrayal of American society.

In fact, during the heyday of the movie moguls their assimilationism was so pronounced that Jewish stars had to masquerade under Wasp names like Robinson, Garfield or Raft; more importantly, the studio bosses were so fearful of pursuing a 'Jewish agenda' that it was six years from 1933 before the first anti-Hitler film – Warner Brothers' *Confessions of a Nazi Spy* – reached the screen.

The anti-British bias imputed to 'Jewish Hollywood' is equally spurious, given its welcome to Hitchcock in the past, or to directorial talent like David Putnam, Ridley Scott and Alan Parker more recently.

What about Cash's allegations of anti-Black discrimination? If Jim Crow rules operate in tinseltown they must be amazingly ineffective. How otherwise could Eddie Murphy, Richard Prior and Denzil Washington have risen to contemporary star status, or Spike Lee have become a

high-powered producer of (among others) the Black Power epic *Malcolm X*?

It is on the wider Black issue that Cash's case for the prosecution entirely collapses. If Jews always act together Mafia-style, why would some conspire against Blacks in Hollywood, while others helped found the Association for the Advancement of Coloured People – and others still have got themselves killed in the 1960s Civil Rights march at Selma, Alabama?

In fact, the notion of a Jewish Masonry in collective pursuit of power and wealth has been the most pernicious weapon in the antisemites' armoury since the publication of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. *All-Juda* was the proto-Nazi codeword for a global Jewish conspiracy to wrest power for itself.

Drawing parallels between Cash's jibe in the *Spectator* and a *Stürmer* text may smack of using a sledgehammer to crack a nut; even so the offending – and offensive – journalist's assertion must not be allowed to pass unchallenged. William Cash is also the Daily Telegraph's man in Los Angeles. In addition, he happens to be the son of Bill Cash, leader of the anti-Maastricht rebels in the House of Commons. This family relationship reinforces one's suspicion that the xenophobia of the Eurosceptics could, under certain circumstances, be directed at less abstract targets than the Brussels bureaucracy. □ R.G.

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

Jan. 9th. Mrs. Vera Gissing, a Kindertransport refugee from Czechoslovakia will read from and discuss her autobiography 'Pearls of Childhood'.

Jan. 16th. Dr. Carol Diethe (Middlesex University): Bettina von Arnim and 'Das ewig Kindliche' (in English).

Jan. 23rd. Mr. John Elton, M.A.: Tintoretto and the Glory of Venice (with slides).

Jan. 30th. Mrs. Charmian Brimson & Dr. Marian Malet (London University). The House at 3, Regent Square: a meeting place for refugees.

Feb. 6th. Mr. Walter Goddard: Denmark, the country that stood by its Jews.

Membership £10 per annum;
guests £1 per session.
For information please call
Mr. Hans Seelig, Chairman,
Tel.: 0442 254 360.

Medawar Prize

The Peter Medawar Prize, established in 1990, is awarded every two years by the International Transplantation Society to medical scientists and physicians for outstanding contributions to the field of tissue and organ transplantation. The 1994 Prize has been awarded to Professor Leslie Brent who is one of our members. The award was made to Professor Brent for his discovery and characterisation of graft-versus-host disease which remains one of the major complications in bone marrow transplantation. Congratulations on a wonderful achievement.

Contemporary History

The Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History for 1994 has been awarded to Professor Richard J. Evans (UK) and to Welf Zöller (Germany). In 1995 there will also be two distinct awards made, both for unpublished works in the field of contemporary European history, one open to all entrants and the other to those yet to publish a major work. For further details please write to the Wiener Library. □

FAMILY/HISTORY: SURVIVORS, REFUGEES & THEIR CHILDREN

a conference organised by the Institute of
Contemporary History and Wiener Library
at the Harkness Hall, Birkbeck College,
Malet Street, London WC1
29th January 1995-9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

HISTORY

Dr. Louise London
Refugees in the 1930s

Dr. Tony Kushner
Survivors in the 1940s and beyond

FAMILY

Judith Hassan

*The experience of adults who were child survivors
in the Holocaust*

THE EXPERIENCE OF THE CHILDREN

Howard Cooper

The Second Generation Syndrome

PANEL: COPING WITH FAMILY & HISTORY

Discussion and Conclusion

Registration fee: £12; concession for
Friends of the Wiener Library, students,
senior citizens and the unwaged £7.

Coffee/tea and a bagel lunch will be provided.

For details and registration form write to the
Conference Secretary, Wiener Library, 4
Devonshire Street, London W1N 2BH
or call 071 636 7247.

A playwright wronged

Arnold Wesker, *AS MUCH AS I DARE*, Century Press, £18.95

Arnold Wesker calls his autobiography *As Much As I Dare*. He has dared a great deal in revealing many details of his private life, and of his fight with the theatrical Establishment. The book darts about in time and place and contains a gallimaufry of information of interest to the reader. It's a ragbag of a book, but also a goldmine of a book.

The story begins in the 1930s in Whitechapel where the very street names are redolent of the mythology of East End Jewry. The playwright gives a vivid picture of everyday life: the cooker on the landing, the two-room flat for a family of four, the battle against bugs, the public baths – ("more hot water for number ten!") It mirrors the experience of many first and second generation immigrants of the time. His parents' struggle to make a living and his mother's burning desire to give her children better life-chances – these are common themes in any account of that community.

Next comes the move to new pastures in Hackney. Here were the schools that became nurseries of the talents of so many bright Jewish boys: Grocers, where Harold Pinter played *Macbeth* and where Maurice – now Lord – Peston cut his intellectual teeth. At Upton House, a Central School lower in the educational hierarchy, an English teacher recognised the writing talents of Arnold Wesker.

With the wartime experiences of doodlebugs and V2s behind him, there followed a stimulating period in young Wesker's life when he joined Habonim. He tells us that being a teenage member of Habonim was the closest he came to membership of a Jewish community. Family occasions, but not his own convictions, took him frequently to synagogue for, as he explains, "I am a non-believer, taking the irreverent view that Abraham invented God to keep his tribe – this arrogant, anarchic herd – in check."

After leaving school at 16, he began a long list of lowly jobs, interrupted by a period of National Service, which gave him the material for his early plays: the Paris restaurant which is the *mis-en-scene* of *The Kitchen* and the Bell Hotel in Norwich which is the starting point for *Roots*, his exploration of the impact on

the country-girl Beatie Bryant of the Jewish intellectual Ronnie.

Writing and discussion had been the backdrop of Arnold Wesker's life. His mother was an indefatigable if ungrammatical diarist, and politics her daily bread. His aunt Sara, portrayed in *Chicken Soup With Barley*, was the organiser for the Tailors and Garmentworkers Union. Communism and the Mosley marches on Cable Street were formative influences. However, when he planned to turn his youthful experience into plays, the family reaction was predictable. They wanted him to learn a solid trade – certainly not something as nebulous as playwriting. A cousin advised him to do something useful instead of being "stuck over a pile of vegetables in a hotel" and reproached him for his impractical ideas and for having achieved nothing – at 21!

However, Wesker stuck to his guns. At first his plays met with a string of rejections. One director considered them "too Jewish" making Wesker wonder whether he would have considered Synge "too Irish". Finally, Peggy Ashcroft sees merit in *Roots* and Joan Plowright wants the lead role in it. *Chicken Soup With Barley* and *I'm Talking About Jerusalem* are performed world-wide.

However, Wesker's more recent work does not seem to have found favour with such theatrical powerbrokers as the directors at the National Theatre. He recalls with particular anger the Royal Shakespeare Company's breach of a contract to perform his play *The Journalists*, which involved him in a protracted lawsuit and too little compensation. Bad luck also dogged his play *Shylock*, the untimely death of whose star actor, Zero Mostel, contributed to the play being taken off the New York stage early on. The private life that counterpoints his dramatic career is described in some detail. It ranges from some early flirtations to the courtship of his wife, Dusty, in which she seems to have made most of the running at first. Wesker writes with sadness of their present estrangement after 35 years of married life and the consequent rejection by his eldest son. For all that, and despite diverse frustrations, his place in the pantheon of English dramatists is assured. He possesses fierce honesty, which shows both in the plays and his autobiography; the latter is a thick book, but a very good read for winter evenings.

□ Martha Blend

Hungarian Jewry,

David Guttman, *HUNGARIAN JEWRY IN PROFILE*, European Council of Jewish Communities, £5

Since the fall of Communism in Hungary a significant series of developments has gathered pace and a new generation of Hungarian Jews is promoting a remarkable cultural revival. These efforts are reflected in the creation of new institutions, organisations and associations of many kinds.

The European Council of Jewish Communities undertook to document this changed situation, and contribute to its continuing revival, by providing a comprehensive publication.

Professor David Guttman, former Dean of the Haifa University's School of Social Work, undertook the task of assembling the information while on sabbatical in Hungary.

Hungarian Jewry in Profile (subtitled: *A Directory of Communal Organisations*) comprehensively details representative organisations, religious and educational institutions, social welfare and health services, social and cultural associations, newspapers and journals, sports clubs and kosher restaurants.

The present Jewish population of Hungary has been estimated at 100,000 of whom some 80,000 live in the capital, Budapest. Settlement dates back to Roman times, with Sephardi Jews arriving in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and Ashkenazim in the following three. By 1930 Budapest alone had a Jewish population of 230,000, the second largest in Europe.

Prior to Germany's occupation of Hungary the government had refused to deport Hungarian Jews, though racial legislation was introduced after Hungary allied itself to Nazi Germany. Later, Jews were forced into ghettos and deported. About 550,000 Jews perished, but some 200,000 survived, many owing this immeasurable debt to the courageous, young Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg who disappeared after Russian liberation.

Official policy on Jewish issues began to be liberalised before the collapse of Communism in 1989, and today's community is represented by the Federation of Jewish Communities in Hungary, (MAZSIHISZ) with more than 30 communities outside the capital, and the Association of Jewish Communities in Budapest. □ R.D.C.

Doing nothing in particular

In an address to the Institute of Jewish Affairs on 'British Policy in the Middle East', Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd confirmed that the UK will continue to pursue a laid back and marginally benign policy in its relations with the State of Israel. Lord Rothschild chaired the meeting which nearly coincided with the 77th anniversary of the Declaration which Mr. Hurd's predecessor as Foreign Secretary, Arthur Balfour, had made to an earlier Lord Rothschild.

Douglas Hurd's thinking centred on Britain's role in helping to maintain the momentum of the peace process. He, with the advantage of having spoken to most Arab leaders in the previous few months, remained an optimist.

Despite this assurance that he was on the side of the angels, specifically British initiatives were almost totally absent. For the Palestinians, payment of wages for the Palestinian Police Force and the offer of administrative and financial expertise. For the Israelis, a blandishment that "Israel's commitment will be indispensable to the path of peace." These contributions may be acceptable from a small country that had no historical or commercial ties to the area, but should not be accepted as sufficient from a Britain whose foreign policy pronouncements still echo its imperial past and the epoch-making role it played in the Middle East earlier this century.

After 46 years of Israel's hard-won democratic statehood, it was hardly reassuring to be told now that a "door was opening" to a closer relationship between Britain and Israel. Nor was the "need to support the Palestinian leadership," both politically and economically, sufficient to remain the cornerstone of British policy.

Rightly enthusiastic about Israel's treaty with Jordan, Mr. Hurd also had the impression that peace was achievable with Syria. That "the status of Jerusalem had yet to be determined," was a time-worn caveat, as was requiring all faiths to have access to their Holy Places in the city. Where had Mr. Hurd been for the last 27 years?

No doubt Britain's many diplomats in the Middle East will - well, carry on being diplomats, support favourable trends, lend a hand, pay a few bills, offer advice - all that sort of thing. Will Britain's Government help to stop extremist terrorism? Finally put an end to the trade

boycott? Exorcise a racist presence in our universities? Endorse the long-standing invitation for the Queen to make a state visit to Israel?

Balfour's letter to Lord Rothschild in 1917, expressing the principled acceptance of a Jewish national home in Palestine, was only half the equation in Britain's quest to maintain the support of both Arabs and Jews during World War I. Today's Foreign Office appears to be equally committed to the well-worn policy of mollifying the Jews, while at the same time supporting Arab territorial aims. Is this a case of history repeating itself?

□ Ronald Channing

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 & Deaner
103 Shepherds Bush Road
London W6 7LP

Telephone 071 602 4631

ALL LEGAL WORK UNDERTAKEN

FOR THOSE YOU CARE MOST ABOUT



cares...

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.



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

GERMAN BEDDING CENTRE

(est. 1970)

Experts for cleaning, re-covering, topping-up of down/feather filled duvets and pillows. New German Kero-Step quality Goose Down Duvets supplied.

Also German Sofa-Beds and Wall Beds.

For advice and price list

Tel. 081-500 3914

40 Trehearn Road, Hainault, Essex IG6 2NN

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



Letters to the Editor

BRITISH RED CROSS

Sir – Your October issue carried an article on the work of the American Red Cross in tracing relatives lost during the Holocaust.

Your readers may be interested to know that Red Cross Societies all over the world provide this tracing service. Much of the work today still relates to families who lost contact during World War II.

Anyone in Britain wishing to make an enquiry should, in the first instance, contact the International Welfare Department, British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EJ, telephone number 071 235 5454, and not the American Red Cross address. Their cases, if appropriate, will be directed to the International Tracing Service.

British Red Cross *Sandra Singer*
London SW1 Director, International Welfare

ENGLAND MY ENGLAND

Sir – The pages of 'Country Life' would have been more appropriate for Francis Steiner's piece in the last issue.

Mr. Steiner has an undeniable right to choose his place of burial, which I am sure is more than many of his family had.

I am also sure it is of little interest to your readers if he wishes to be buried in country churchyard, cremated or buried at sea.

His admiration for the fact that families in this country can trace back their ancestry for 750 years, bemuses me. My ancestors were not permitted to live in the same country for any great length of time, and for that reason I cannot go back further than 150 years. I am proud to realise, however, that my lineage goes back some 5,000 years longer than the Yeomen of Warwickshire.

Kenilworth Court *Neville David Bullin*
Sheffield

REICHSBANNER

Sir – May I suggest that in some future issue you draw attention to the importance of the organisation *Reichsbanner – Schwarz – Rot – Gold* in keeping the Weimar Republik in being for so long. Without it, none of the democratic parties

would have been able to hold any public meetings as far back as 1927/28.

We provided the stewards for such meetings and dealt with potential Nazi or Communist troublemakers in our own way. Otherwise, if serious trouble had broken out the police would have been forced to close them; and which law-abiding German citizen would want to go to meetings where the police would have to intervene?!

You would do historical justice to the German political scene of the late 1920s to early 1930s if you were to examine the importance of the *Reichsbanner*; it would also, incidentally, remove some of the stain on the young Jews of Germany that we went down without fighting.

For any more detailed information you could contact the reconstituted Bundesvorstand, Reichsbanner Schwarz Rot Gold, Postfach 1018, 44 Frankfurt am Main 60018.

Broadwood Drive *Martin Anson*
Glasgow

ALFREDOPHOBIA

Sir – Thank you for freely acknowledging your mistake in naming *Alfred Rosenberg*, the war criminal, Arthur Rosenberg.

However, you compounded the felony (December issue, Karl Popper, obit.) by misnaming *Alfred Adler*, Albert Adler. As Oscar Wilde might have said of you: "Making a particular mistake once is human; to repeat it is obstinacy".

The above *Alfred* (der von den Elfen Beratene) Adler would have found it easy to diagnose your case as one of 'morbid Alfredophobia'.

Coniston Close *Dr. F. Parkinson*
Chiswick, London W4

NAME CHANGE

Sir – Could I please amend Mr. Orphen's belated (?) suggestion for a name change (Letters, October).

Because involving only one change of letter would fully express the status of most AJR members. Instead we should be styled as members of AJS, i.e. Association of Jewish Settlers.

Perhaps this simple idea was already

submitted – and rejected. The egg of Columbus was equally simple and obvious.

Valley Drive *George Krausz*
London NW9

REFUGEES NO MORE

Sir – I disagree most profoundly with Mr. David's November message and would strongly support the proposal that we call ourselves AJER. We are not refugees and have not been for a long time – although we certainly came as refugees.

To call yourself a refugee implies two things: you invite pity and you admit that you are forced to accept charity. To call yourself a refugee after having lived a normal life in this country (ignoring the invariably hard initial years) means reproaching the indigenous population with having made your life as difficult as possible. I am sure this is not true for the majority of AJR members (and would not like to be suspected of harbouring such thoughts).

The idea of calling ourselves refugees in order to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive, I find – with the greatest respect – frankly ridiculous.

Repton Road *Dr. K. Schiller*
West Bridgford, Nottingham

PRINCIP

Mr. H. Hammerschlag (Letters, November) queries your statement that *Gabrièle Princip* was imprisoned in the Spielberg in 1914.

Why does he give Princip's first name as *Gabrièle*? The French connection with the Southern Serbs started long after the First World War. It is as *Gavrilo Princip* that the murderer of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife entered the history books.

He was definitely imprisoned in the Spielberg and died in 1916 in the fortress of Theresienstadt of tuberculosis.

Goldhurst Terrace *George J. Fletcher*
London NW6

Wider range of activities
for members & non-members

'DISCUSSION'

SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY 1995

(Details in February issue)

Crossing the Thames

How many AJR members live, like me, in London south of the Thames? I, like most of you who live in spitting distance of the 'kleine Schweizerhaus', used to think not many.

And how many of these few might be interested in the kind of activities which the AJR has been supporting so effectively in Northwest London? Even fewer, I thought.

So when I suggested that we might find out a few facts, - what it is like 'in the real world', as the currently fashionable phrase goes, - I thought we might invite the expected few members to the home of a member in Dulwich who had kindly offered to host a meeting of up to ten persons.

Well, talk about the Sorcerer's Apprentice! From the moment the date of the proposed meeting was published in *AJR Information* the phone never stopped ringing. In no time at all we had twelve names, and we thought perhaps we should limit the first meeting to these. "No way," said the AJR. "It would be a shame to turn people away. Perhaps you can find another venue? We are prepared to contribute towards your expenses." By now we had 28 interested parties, from Eltham in the East to Purley in the South and Twickenham in the West.

With a week to go, the South London Liberal Synagogue came to the rescue and 38 interested people out of, by now 51, were able to sit down to a magnificent tea. This ensured the success of the afternoon for it encouraged them to make each other's acquaintance in an informal setting.

"But what did you achieve?" I hear you ask. First and foremost the realisation that there is scope for AJR-type activities outside Northwest London. Secondly, we gained ideas about the activities members would like from their responses to a questionnaire they completed at the end of the meeting.

Finally, we have an agenda of decisions which need to be taken on how to make some of these activities happen. They will require the support of the AJR, and most importantly, the active involvement of the members. So if you live in South London, come aboard, and above all, watch this space! □Ken Ambrose

The next meeting in South London will take place at the end of February. Further details in the February issue. Ken Ambrose can be contacted via the AJR.

Helmut Rothenberg,

Helmut Rothenberg celebrates his 80th birthday with the good wishes of his many friends, relatives and the many people who have benefited from his charitable works.

Though this special birthday gives ample opportunity for a celebration with his five children and their families, it will be difficult to rival the *non-pareil* party he gave in April 1993 at which he chose to celebrate the 60th anniversary of his arrival on the shores of England. As a *divertissement* his guests were treated to a presentation of the opera *The Marriage of Figaro* by Mozart!

Born in 1915, Helmut Rothenberg spent his formative years in Frankfurt-am-Main. Making his first visit to England in 1930 as an exchange student, he could have had no inkling then that in just three years he would return for what was to become permanent residence.

In 1945, he founded the accountancy practice of Blick Rothenberg, with many former refugees among its clientele, and remained its head until his retirement. He became deeply engaged in helping less fortunate refugees from Nazi persecution, and was closely associated with the AJR, serving as a member of the Executive Committee.

Among many charities which have benefited from his support, he remains deeply involved in MENCAP and the Rothenberg Memorial Trust which, as well as assisting individuals and their

families, seeks to take initiatives in the mental health field.

The loss of his dear wife Annema three years ago was a grievous blow, but he will always treasure the memory of them both attending the investiture at Buckingham Palace at which he received his O.B.E. for charitable services.

Pianist Honoured

Rosa Butwick, 87-year-old pianist, has been honoured by *Help the Aged* with the 'Achievement Through Courage' gold award made to elderly people for their exceptional contributions to society.

Rosa trained as a classical pianist at the Royal Academy of Music and often accompanied her late husband Ben who was a classical violinist. After his loss, she began playing at charity concerts and in her own home with visiting singers. Despite six hip replacements, which still leave her in discomfort, all cares are left behind when she sits down at the piano to play classical, light and traditional Jewish music to audiences ranging from members of the Holocaust Survivors Centre to music lovers at the AJR Balint Day Centre. Her performances have become very popular and she can happily play virtually any request.

Though modest about her talent and achievement in winning the award, Rosa Butwick says that the smiles and enjoyment of her audiences are her reward. "If I can bring an hour's happiness to elderly people who may be lonely, miserable or ill, then what more can I ask for?" she said.

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

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

14 Rossllyn Hill, London NW3
PETER C. RICKENBACK

HILARY'S AGENCY

Specialists in Long and Short-Term
Live-in Care

RESPITE AND EMERGENCY CARE
CARE FOR THE ELDERLY
HOUSEKEEPERS
RECUPERATION CARE
MATERNITY NURSES
NANNIES AND MOTHERS HELPS
EMERGENCY MOTHERS

Caring and Experienced Staff Available

We will be happy to discuss your requirements
PLEASE PHONE 081-559 1110

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

Annely Juda Fine Art

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

CONTEMPORARY PAINTING
AND SCULPTURE

The AJR at Work

Chanukah melodies



Rev. Marshall Stone lights the first Chanukah candle at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre.

Chazan Marshall Stone entertained members at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre on the first night of Chanukah with a medley of songs from the shows. It brought back memories when BBC radio was the main source of news and entertainment, and a universal provider of good music for all tastes.

In his programme Rev. Stone gave us Rodgers and Hart favourites like *With a Song in My Heart*, *There's a Small Hotel* and *This Can't Be Love*. These two American-Jewish composers were followed by the later, equally successful, Jewish song-writing team of Lerner and Lowe (respectively Czech and Austrian born). The unforgettable *My Fair Lady* and *Gigi* gave ample opportunity for the singer to exercise his melodious voice.

Rev. Stone introduced each one of his songs with its date and an informative biography. He was accompanied at the piano by Bridget Marshall who played the delightful *Dream of Olwyn* from the 1947 film *While I Live* as her solo.

The first Chanukah candle was lit with an explanation of the festival's significance in the history of the Jewish people, and on the emergence of the *Dreydl* or spinning top at this time of year. Everyone joined in singing the traditional Chanukah songs. R.D.C.

A week down south

A large and happy group of Day Centre members boarded a coach for Bournemouth on Friday 4th November where they were to stay at the Heathland Hotel for a week's eagerly anticipated holiday by the sea.

Sylvia and Renée had, of course, planned and organised everything in advance, so everyone settled in quickly before gathering to enjoy an excellent dinner, then to chat or play cards.

With the weather proving to be exceptionally mild, even for Bournemouth at this time of year, we were soon out for walks, sitting in the cliff-top shelters admiring the sea, beginning our shopping, or just resting.

Saturday evening was quite lovely. We had a sing-song and danced to a one-man-band and a charming singer who knew and met all our requests. You should have seen us 'Golden Oldies' doing the Hokey-Kokey and the Hora!

In more relaxed mood, the following morning we took an outing to Beaulieu, passing through the New Forest in brilliant sunshine with our driver providing an interesting running commentary. Beaulieu's famous collection of vintage cars proved fascinating, and we took rides on a mono-rail and an open-decker bus which gave a bird's eye view of the museum and the landscaped park in which it stands.

Tuesday evening was quiz time, with questions prepared and masterminded by Renée's husband. He must have thought that we were a brainy lot as the questions were of such a high standard and covered a wide variety of subjects. It was great fun.

Our trip on the following day to Salisbury Cathedral, with its graceful Gothic architecture and the highest spire in England, was not spoilt by it being a rather rainy day.

All too soon our last day arrived. Time to do some last-minute shopping, which is so much easier and more pleasurable in Bournemouth than it is in the hurly-burly of London. What else could we do but finish up with an ever-popular Bingo Evening!

I am certain that everyone greatly enjoyed this short holiday and would like to join in thanking Sylvia and Renée for all

their effort, organisation and warm companionship, and Mr. Lee for his support. With fine weather, well-prepared meals and good company, what more can we ask but the opportunity to join AJR Day Centre's holiday by the sea next year.

Miss I. Gunz

Volunteers' tea party

About 70 volunteers working at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre and acting as befrienders, visitors and shoppers for AJR members, were welcomed and thanked by the Director of the AJR at a tea party on Wednesday 7th December.

Ernest David stressed that volunteers provided the essential support that enabled the AJR to provide so many services to its members.

The Day Centre staff laid on a splendid spread and volunteers expressed their appreciation for the party.

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 £3.50. Delivery charge 50p. Payment for meals to be made to the driver.

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

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

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.

Message from Ernest David

Half a century has passed since AJR Information first began to be published on a regular basis – fifty years of continuous change, much for the better but some for the worse.

I am proud to be able to welcome you to Volume 50 of this journal and I know from the comments we frequently receive, how much our readers enjoy and appreciate it.

The past is the past and we cannot and should not forget it, especially in a world where racism and nationalism are actively re-appearing. However, we cannot always be looking back – so what of the future? Although none of us is getting any

younger, the AJR does have a future, since our purpose is to represent and assist Jewish refugees, victims of Nazi oppression primarily (but not exclusively) from Central Europe and their families.

We realise that many people in this category came to Britain as children and may not have heard of the AJR, or if they have heard of it, consider it an organisation for older people.

In order to guarantee an effective future we need a good mix of ages in our membership, and to this end we shall seek to provide and publicise facilities for a wider age group. Hopefully, this will attract new members and stimulate existing members into greater participation. Happy New Year! □

AJR 'Drop in' Advice Centre

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre
15 Cleve Road, London NW6

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

Wednesday 4 January 1995
Tuesday 10 January 1995
Wednesday 18 January 1995
Thursday 26 January 1995
Monday 30 January 1995
Tuesday 7 February 1995

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

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

PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

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

Open Tuesday and Thursday 9.30 a.m.–6.30 p.m., Monday and Wednesday 9.30 a.m.–3.30 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m.–6.30 p.m.

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

Afternoon entertainment –

JANUARY

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Sunday 1 | CLOSED – NEW YEAR'S DAY |
| Monday 2 | CLOSED – BANK HOLIDAY |
| Tuesday 3 | MUSIC FROM OPERETTA FOLLOWED BY A BOUQUET OF GYPSY MUSIC – Eugen Kurti (Violin) & Stephen Norbert (Piano) |
| Wednesday 4 | IS THIS A JOB FOR A YIDDISHE GIRL? – Talk by WPC Doreen Davis from Charing Cross Police Station |
| Thursday 5 | A NEW YEAR CONCERT – Geoffrey Strum accompanied by Johnny Walton (Piano) |
| Sunday 8 | DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT |
| Monday 9 | WINTER COLOURS – Stephen Baron (Piano) & Dennis Cassady (Viola) |

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Tuesday 10 | MOMENTS MUSICALS – SCHUBERT & MORE PERFORMED ON A WIDE VARIETY OF FLUTES & RECORDERS – Mark Underwood (Flautist) |
| Wednesday 11 | AROUND THE WORLD IN SONG – Margaret Pearman (Soprano) accompanied by Phillip Mountford (Piano) |
| Thursday 12 | SONGS – DUETS & ARIAS BY VERDI & MOZART, AS WELL AS YIDDISH & HEBREW MELODIES – Performed by Michael Sabel & Satya Barham accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano) |
| Sunday 15 | DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT |
| Monday 16 | THE SONG OF THE CELLO – Ellison Arttisa (Cello) accompanied by Nigel Foster (Piano) |
| Tuesday 17 | LE JAZZ – Dave Kelbie & Steve Elsworth |
| Wednesday 18 | SERENATA ITALIANA – Primrose Powell (Soprano) & Penelope Spurrell (Piano) |
| Thursday 19 | A SONG FOR EVERYONE – Jane Rosenberg (Soprano) accompanied by Annette Saville (Piano) |
| Sunday 22 | MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE NEW YEAR – Judi, Bimbi & Rufus Merri-Frowde accompanied by June Moore (Piano) |

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Monday 23 | GUITARRA – Adrian Smith |
| Tuesday 24 | THE ELLERDALE DUO – Sarah Down (Piano), Melanie Woodcock (Cello) |
| Wednesday 25 | MUSICAL GEMS FROM THE PAST – Bernard Wilcox (Tenor) & Valerie Monese (Soprano) accompanied by Ron Wilson (Piano) |
| Thursday 26 | WINTER SERENADE – Sally Tremaine (Mezzo) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano) |
| Sunday 29 | CONTINENTAL KAFFEE KLATSCH MIT MUSIK – 3-6 p.m. |
| Monday 30 | MUSIC HALL & CABARET ENTERTAINMENT – Anita Elias |
| Tuesday 31 | A MID-WINTER CONCERT – Nikki van der Zyl (Soprano) accompanied by Rosa Butwick (Piano) |

FEBRUARY

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Wednesday 1 | A TASTE OF VIENNA – Pamela Kolorin (Soprano) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano) |
| Thursday 2 | SONGS OLD – SONGS NEW – SONGS YOU WILL REMEMBER – Eddy Simmons |
| Sunday 5 | DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT |

FAMILY EVENTS

Birthdays

Müller Congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Freda Müller on her 95th Birthday from Hans-Jürgen Bracker and Suzanna Tieze.

Reichmann Dr. Eva Reichmann. All good wishes on her 98th Birthday from her many friends.

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

Deaths

Mainzer Gerrard Mainzer, husband of Kathleen and brother of the late Erwin Mainzer, died on 9 November 1994, his 93rd birthday, after a brief illness.

Wallace Henry Wallace, born 17.11.08 in Tilsit, Germany, died suddenly on 21.11.94 in Sarasota, Florida, where he enjoyed his retirement. His memory will live forever in the hearts of his loving family who mourn him deeply, and all those whose life he touched will fondly remember him. Margot Wallace, Ronny, Sally, Nicky, Jamie, Michael, Jan, David, Justin & Sarah. Rob Steinhart, Jo, Jordan & Erica. Jill Anderson, Kevin, Beji & Stacy.

Kenton Alice, formerly Kölner, dearly loved mother, grandmother, greatgrandmother and great-greatgrandmother died in Heinrich Stahl House on 26th November, four weeks before her 100th Birthday.

Gleich Stella Gleich passed away 29 November 1994. Sadly missed by her family, nephews and friends.

Weltman Horst Paul passed away on November 23 whilst on holiday. Tragically missed by his wife Eve and his brother Peter.

Companion/Carers

Lady Companion seeking part-time employment from 11a.m. to 4p.m., Mondays and Fridays. Suit elderly person of Continental origin. Write to Box No.1271.

Active elderly widower requires kind and caring housekeeper/companion. Own room, modern flat, St. Johns Wood. Please write to Box No.1272.

Miscellaneous

History student working on a research project is looking for former members of the *Freier Deutscher Kulturbund* and the Pioneer Corps. Please telephone 071 371 6491, or write to Niko Rollman, 29 Matheson Road, London W14 8NS.

English/German shorthand typist - hourly fees. Tel: 081-452 8687

Manicure and pedicure in the comfort of your own home. Telephone 081-455 7582.

Befrienders needed for a 96-year-old lady living in a home in Stamford Hill. She is blind and confined to a wheelchair. Visitor needs to speak Czech or German. Tel. Laura Howe 071-431 6161.

Drivers needed to take people to/from the Day Centre. Visitors to all areas needed. Offers please to Laura Howe, AJR office, 071-431 6161, Tuesday/Friday

OPEN WEEKENDS

IRENE FASHIONS

formerly of Swiss Cottage.
Sizes 10 to 50 hips

**CLOSING DOWN SALE
Everything Must Go**

Summer & Autumn Dresses and 2-pieces, suits, skirts, slacks, jackets, blouses, cocktail wear and rainwear.
Buy now and save £££s

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: 071-4307 or 071-435 2557

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

**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

**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

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

AJR

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

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

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

**FOR FAST EFFICIENT FRIDGE
& FREEZER REPAIRS**

7-day service

All parts guaranteed



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

**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

**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

Making and Meaning: The Young Michelangelo continues at the National Gallery until 15 January and is well worth a visit.

The Sitwells and the Art of the 1920s and 30s, the latest biographical exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery (until 22 January) is a visual celebration of the lives and work of Edith, Osbert and Sacheverell Sitwell. Included are a magnificent family group by Sargent, Vanessa Bell's portrait of Iris Tree, an Omega workshop screen, paintings by William Roberts and Nevinson, and drawings by Picasso and Modigliani.

The Painted Page: Italian Renaissance Book Illumination 1450-1550 at the Royal Academy (until 22 January) makes compelling viewing. The exhibition comprises some 95 manuscripts and single pages ranging in subject matter from fables and history to the scriptures. The colours are as intense today as when they were created four centuries ago.

Just a note to remind readers that they can still see *The Romantic Spirit in German Art 1790-1990* exhibition at the Hayward Gallery (until 8 January). It should not be missed, if only to see Anselm Feuerbach's *Iphigenia*, Franz Marc's *Red Horse and Yellow Cow* and many works by Caspar David Friedrich.

'*Friedrich II, Harburg*' is an installation by Hanne Darboven at the Goethe Institute (until 14th January). The installation was constructed in 1986 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the death of Frederick the Great (1712-1786). The work consists of 398 prints of the same photograph overlaid with the text or dated written 'drawings'. A catalogue is available (price £6).

Those interested will find it worth visiting *The British International Miniature Print Exhibition* at the Bankside Gallery (until 29 January). Selected by Peter Ford RE from some 2,000 entries, about 200 works are included in the exhibition, together with works by ten invited artists.

Wolf Suschitzky, now aged 82, came to England from Vienna in 1934, having studied photography there. In this country he first worked as a free-lance photographer and then made documentary films for the Ministry of Information. A retro-



Anselm Feuerbach *Iphigenie*, 1871

spective exhibition of his photographs was recently held in Liverpool. Readers will affectionately recall his cousin, the bookseller Joseph (Peppi) Suschitzky (Libris London).

In January the *Belgrave Gallery*, 53 Englands Lane, London NW3, will be mounting an exhibition of work by Erich Wolfsfeld (1884-1956), ex-Professor of Painting and Etching at the Berlin Academy, who was dismissed by the Nazis and emigrated to England in 1939. He showed at the Royal Academy in 1943, continuing to do so until 1955. □

SB's Column

Dresden. The resurrected and refurbished Semper Opera has great plans for 1995. With Giuseppe Sinopoli as regular conductor, and Bernard Haitink and James Levine as guest conductors. Dresden, where most Richard Strauss operas were premiered, will stage *Ariadne*, *Salome*, *Elektra* and *Rosenkavalier* in the coming months.

Farewell to a popular baritone. Cesare Siepi, one of the great post-war discoveries, who won international praise as Don Giovanni, Figaro and Mephisto, made his final appearance in Vienna in a concert performance of Bellini's *Norma* in which Grace Bumbury took part.

Operetta and Musicals. There is a vogue for revivals in the Austrian provinces. Baden is staging Robert Stolz's

Zwei Herzen im Dreivierteltakt, Graz Anatevka (*Fiddler on the Roof*) and Linz Leo Fall's *Rose von Stambul*.

Screen names. Gerard Dépardieu is known in his native France as 'our great export'. The Oscar-winning recipient of many French awards, with over 80 films to his credit, was recently named 'best actor of the decade'. Romy Schneider's French educated daughter Sarah, who strongly resembles her famous late mother, is about to embark on a film career; she appears to have no contact with her grandmother, Magda Schneider, who lives in retirement in Germany.

Good night, customers. Peter Herz, the songwriter and cabaretist, would have been 100 years old this month. Though Vienna-born, he had a particular bond with Britain, his home from 1939 until 1954 when he returned to Austria to continue writing and broadcasting. In his book *Gestern war ein schöner Tag* he entertainingly recounts the three phases of his life.

Graduating in the Viennese coffeehouse atmosphere of the Twenties, he wrote *In einem kleinen Café in Hernals* which became a real Evergreen. His songs spanned the generations with themes that stretched from *Maronibrater* to the *Pizzeria*.

The second period of his life centred on the 'Blue Danube Club', Finchley Road, a ramshackle venue in which 80 eagerly listening fans enjoyed weekend performances. Alas, very few of the ensemble survive today, but some members of the audience still tell of the jolly shows which made them forget their everyday worries during two hours of laughter. Audiences were greeted by Poldi, his ever-present wife and dismissed at the end with a friendly "good night, customers".

He resumed broadcasting in Vienna after his return and enjoyed the company of showbusiness friends in a circle of similar-minded people, often returnees themselves. Peter Herz was given several honours by the Austrian government, made an honorary professor, worked to the end of his life and died, aged 92, in 1987. □

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

Before the anticlimax

AW Freud with the Special Operations Executive in Austria

continued

I, being a softy, felt quite sorry for him. It cannot have been fun for him to see a young enemy officer asking him for his aerodrome. I explained to him that I had been sent especially by General Montgomery to ensure that the aerodrome would come under British rule at the end of the war. These were of course all lies. I did not belong to the 8th British Army, nor had I ever spoken to, or even seen, General Montgomery. The Commander asked me whether I had a document with me, authorising my demand. I said that I had not, my word as a British Officer should suffice. I could see that the man was in a terrible quandary. If he handed over the aerodrome, the still active SS might take a dim view of his defeatist attitude and execute him. On the other hand, the Russians were near, or even past, the Hungarian/Austrian border, less than sixty miles away, and could be arriving any day. The Germans had one great fear and it was the fear of the Russians. They knew what they had done in Russia to the Russians and were terrified of the retribution. To be included in the British zone of occupation would ensure them of a safe haven. The Commander then asked me if I could produce a Senior British Officer, complete with the necessary authorization. I said I would try. At the aerodrome they had of course a powerful radio transmitter, probably hundreds of times stronger than my little lost one. An officer took me to the Radio Room. I didn't want to show him my codes, so I transmitted in plain English. My message was addressed to my Escort Officer, Captain Bennett and phrased something like the following: "Am at Zeltweg Aerodrome. Join me with written authorization to take over Aerodrome. Landing here is safe. Freud". My radio schedule was due to commence. I told the German Radio Operator my frequency and call sign and he started calling my home station. The procedure is that one transmits one's call sign for a few minutes and then one switches to "receive" and listens for its acknowledgement. But the Zeltweg transmitter with its many kilowatts could not raise a reply from the Bari Home Station. I tried it myself, but again got no answer. I got very annoyed, and in my mind I blamed it all on the young lady wireless operators at the home

station who led a very amusing life among the much more numerous male staff.

I could just see the girls being too tight to hear my call sign. I was most probably very unfair, the girls were surely listening for a weak signal as emitted by my original radio set, and would completely ignore the high-powered Zeltweg transmitter. By the way, Bari was the only place I know where the British had a better Officers' Club than the Americans; there was no bannister in the American Club.

I had to return to the Commander to inform him that unfortunately I could not get through. He told me that he was going to arrange a big meeting tomorrow, with all the local Gauleiters and Nazi bosses, to discuss the matter. This meeting is historically well documented in the German War Diaries; the only omission in these records is my presence. They did not think it newsworthy to report the presence of a British Officer! Obviously a case of Hamlet without the Prince.

In the evening I was invited to dine in the Officers' Mess. I was astonished how formal the proceedings there were; almost like in peacetime. Officer after officer jumped up, after having obtained formal permission to do so, to wish the Commander good luck: "Proestchen, Herr Major". Such toasts were accompanied by loud heel clicking and standing rigidly to attention. There was no sign of a lowering of morale; the nearest Russian might have been in Vladivostok, and not fifty miles away in Eastern Austria.

...will be continued next month

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 D Please call

071-483 0212

071-483 0213

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

SEARCH NOTICES

Helga Sonnabend/Sonini, who was born in Leipzig, Germany, in 1927, and left with her family for Central Africa in 1939, is seeking to make contact with Peter Meyerstein, or his descendants, who left Germany for London in 1939 and was believed to have lodged with a tailor in the East End. Please phone 0181 643 0683, or write to Helga Iljon, 24 Langley Park Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5EN.

Edith Jellinek, who came to England from Vienna in 1939, is being sought by Mrs. Graf. Please contact Box No. 1270 if there is anyone who knows of her whereabouts.

GERMAN and ENGLISH BOOKS BOUGHT

Always required:
antiquarian, secondhand and modern books of quality.

All subjects wanted,
with special emphasis on

ARCHITECTURE, ART, PHOTOGRAPHY,
MUSIC, ANTIQUES, CRAFTS, FASHIONS,
FOOD AND DRINK, EROTICA,
MOUNTAINS, LANDSCAPES, GARDENS,
EASTERN EUROPE, CENTRAL ASIA,
CHINA, JAPAN, POLAR REGIONS,
MODERN LITERATURE, JEWISH LIFE
AND CULTURE, GREEK AND LATIN
TEXTS, FEMINISM, ANARCHISM, ANTI-
FASCISM, SOCIALISM, ECONOMICS AND
PHILOSOPHY, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
MEDICINE, BIBLIOGRAPHY, FINE
BINDING, FINE PRINTING, FINE
ILLUSTRATION, MANUSCRIPTS AND
ORIGINAL DRAWINGS, JOURNALS,
NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES.

Immediate response to your letter or phone call.
We pay good prices and come to collect.

Please contact:

Robert Hornung, MA (Oxon)
2 Mount View, Ealing,
London W5 1PR
Telephone 081-998 0546
(5pm - 9pm is best)



GERMAN BOOKS BOUGHT

A.W.MYTZE

1 The Riding, London NW11

Hitler and the Holocaust (Part 4)

Continued: Lord Bullock's authoritative lecture given under the auspices of the Yad Vashem Committee of the Board of Deputies.

The attack on Poland in September 1939, and the war to which this led, marked a new stage for Hitler not only in foreign policy and military ambition, but in his racist *Weltanschauung* and his attitude towards the Jews. The successes he had won so far – the annexation of Austria and the break up of Czechoslovakia – had been bloodless victories. With the attack on Poland he took the gamble that the German people would be ready to follow him in war as they had in peace – with the still further gamble, on which his crash re-arming programme was based, that he could avoid the stalemate and two-front war of 1914-18 and win in a series of short *blitzkrieg* campaigns at little cost.

The gamble came off, and the Poles were defeated in less than month with no more than 11,000 German dead. Immediately afterwards, in October 1939, Hitler signed a secret order authorising euthanasia, so-called mercy killing in fact aimed at preserving German racial stock from degeneration by eliminating those who were physically or mentally impaired.

The programme was disguised and Hitler gave instructions that any connection with his office 'must in no circumstances appear to the outer world'. Nevertheless the facts leaked out and, in face of public protests by church leaders, in August 1941 he ordered the programme to be abandoned – after more than 70,000 mentally or physically handicapped patients had been put to death. It continued however in occupied Poland and had close links to the later mass killings in the extermination camps. One was the method of killing which Hitler approved: a gas chamber, designed by Christian Wirth, a member of the SS, into which unsuspecting patients were led naked, and gassed within five minutes. Another was the lesson which Himmler pointed up, that they should not take the risk of carrying out such mass killings in Germany, where secrecy was more difficult to preserve. Occupied Poland was a different world, a society shattered by war. As such, it provided a testing ground for the

racist principles which Hitler saw forming the basis of the empire he dreamt of conquering as far east as the Urals. In Himmler's SS he had an instrument formed to carry it out, a *corps d'élite* dedicated to the ideal of hardness and taking pride in their capacity to suppress all human feeling.

At the same time, the outbreak of war effectively put an end to driving Jews out by emigration. All told, emigration had moved 360,000 Jews out of Germany and another 177,000 from Austria and Czechoslovakia, but it could not continue unless some alternate destination could be found. One suggestion, which Hitler approved, was to dispatch all Jews to the French colony of Madagascar. One could found a state of Israel there, he told Mussolini – but not until the British as well as the French could be got out of the war. As an improvised measure, as many as possible of Poland's 3 million Jews were thrust into sealed off ghettos in urban centres such as Warsaw and Lublin where conditions were so bad that over half a million died before the ghettos were finally liquidated in 1942.

By the time the attack on Russia changed the picture, Nazi racial policy had thus come to an impasse.

In the summer of 1941 Hitler had reached the peak of his power. Any doubts were silenced by an unbroken record of success – from Poland, Norway and the defeat of France, in a six week campaign with a loss of no more than 27,000 German dead, to another *blitzkrieg* against Yugoslavia and the overrunning of Greece.

The effect on Hitler himself was to convince him that he was now invincible and that there was no longer any further need for the careful calculation of risks. The war in the East, as he constantly insisted to his generals, was not the sort of war the Germans had waged in the West but a *Vernichtungskrieg*, an ideological war of destruction in which all rules (such as the treatment of prisoners of war) were to be deliberately disregarded.

This was the context in which the Final Solution of the Jewish problem, as the Nazis called it, took shape. Quite apart from the ideological commitment, practical considerations made it urgent to reach a decision. The occupation first of Poland and then of the Western parts of Russia brought the two largest Jewish populations in Europe (over 6 million in all) under Nazi control. Strong pressure

for a radical re-thinking developed among those who had to deal with them on the ground, a demand for something more than the improvised ghettos in Poland – the possibility of finding 'a quick-acting preparation which would finish off those Jews unable to work' (Höppner, an SS officer serving in Posen, to Eichmann, 16 July 1941) was already being put forward by SS officers in the field as a 'final' solution of the problem. This pressure from below was an important element in producing such a solution, but the decision had to come from above.

There had never been any doubt that the elimination of the Jews was a central part of the ideological commitment, but beyond forcing the much smaller number of Jews living in Central Europe to emigrate, Hitler had so far given no firm indication of what he meant by elimination. He had now reached the point where on the one hand there was urgent need for a decision and on the other the situation allowed, and the means existed, to put whatever was decided into effect.

There were, in fact, two decisions. The first, which led to the massacre of the Jewish population of occupied Russia, had its origin in Hitler's directive for four SS task forces (*Einsatzgruppe*) to carry out what were known for general circulation as 'special tasks', in practice the mass killing of Jews, originally adult male Jews, but by the autumn of 1941 Jewish women and children as well. On 15th October, to give one example, *Einsatzgruppe A* reported that it had so far liquidated 125,000 Jews and 5,000 others, mainly Soviet officials.

As the SS task forces moved further into the vast spaces of Russia it became clear that their numbers – 3,000 all told – were inadequate to carry out the task before them.

 JACKMAN SILVERMAN
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

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

Cooking with Gretel Beer



Potato Soup

Serves 4-6

Wonderfully warming and comforting on a bleak winter's day – and if you follow my serving suggestions, practically a meal in itself.

- 6 large potatoes
- 1 clove garlic
- salt
- 1 medium-sized onion
- 1 heaped tablespoon butter
- 1 sliced carrot
- 1/4 celeriac or a few celery tops
- 1 tomato
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley
- 1/2 tablespoon chopped marjoram
- 2 1/2 pints (1.4 litres) good vegetable stock
- 5 fl.oz (140 ml) sour cream or *crème fraîche*
- a little paprika

Peel and dice the potatoes. Crush garlic under the blade of a knife with salt. Peel and thinly slice the onion. Heat butter in a saucepan, add onion and garlic and simmer gently until softened and just tinged with colour. Add the potatoes, carrot, celeriac, roughly chopped tomato and herbs. Cover with the stock and simmer until the potatoes are soft, then push everything through a sieve (or use a food processor or blender). Re-heat gently and adjust the seasoning if necessary. Stir in the sour cream just before serving or put a large dollop of it to float on top of each soup bowl. Sprinkle with paprika.

Fried croutons and grated cheese go well with this soup, or pour it into a large ovenproof bowl – or small individual soup bowls – and sprinkle with fried croutons and grated cheese. Put the large bowl into a hot oven or – in the case of bowls, under a hot grill until the cheese has melted and browned a little on top. □

Yad Vashem Charitable Trust
in association with the Board of Deputies

Commemoration of the
**50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION
OF
AUSCHWITZ**

Sunday, 29th January 1995 at 3 p.m.
Logan Hall, London University, 20 Bedford Way, London WC2

Guests of Honour
**LORD BULLOCK
GENERAL PETRENKO,
LIBERATOR OF AUSCHWITZ**

Film: **"The Blueprints of Genocide"**

All seats at £3.50

Apply for tickets to Yad Vashem, Woburn House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 0EZ,
enclosing cheque made payable to Yad Vashem Charitable Trust

CALLING EX-BERLINERS

Auf den Spuren jüdischen Lebens in Berlin

Die Erinnerung an das Leben und Wirken jüdischer Bürger in Berlin zu bewahren ist ein wichtiges Anliegen des Kulturringes e.V. in Berlin.

Die Arbeitsgruppe "Jüdische Spuren im Stadtbezirk Friedrichshain" erstellt eine Dokumentation über Schicksale jüdischer Familien, die früher im Berliner Bezirk Friedrichshain gelebt haben.

Anliegen der Arbeitsgruppe ist es, von jüdischen Bürgern Informationen über ihr eigenes Schicksal und das ihrer Familienangehörigen zu erhalten. Dabei interessieren nicht nur Informationen über das Leben in Deutschland, sondern auch über den weiteren Lebensweg.

Die Dokumentation soll Leistungen jüdischer Bürger in den Bereichen Handel, Wirtschaft, Wissenschaft und Kultur ebenso festhalten wie individuelle persönliche Schicksale. Die Arbeitsgruppe ist deshalb an allen Zeitzeugnissen und Dokumenten, wie Fotos oder eventuell vorhandenen Erlebnisberichten interessiert.

Ähnliche Publikationen sind bereits über mehrere andere Berliner Stadtbezirke erschienen.

Anliegen der Dokumentation ist es insbesondere, die Spuren jüdischen Lebens, das die Nazis vollständig

auslöschen wollten, dem Vergessen zu entreissen und vor allem der jungen Generation nahezubringen. Für dieses Vorhaben sucht die Arbeitsgruppe breite Unterstützung.

Wer dazu beitragen kann and möchte, wende sich bitte an:

Kulturring e.V., Krausenstrasse 9/10,
10117 Berlin. Telefon: (030) 20358209
und 20358211.

Karin Bobke

AJR Charitable Trust

Frank Harding has been appointed a trustee of the AJR Charitable Trust. Born in London of German refugee parents, he is a Chartered Accountant, member of the Board of Belsize Square Synagogue and of the finance committee of Norwood Child Care.

The other trustees of the Charitable Trust are A.C. Kaufman, M.M. Kochmann, H.E. Levy, C.T. Marx and W.D. Rothenberg.

Ex-Berliners

The Association of Jewish Ex-Berliners elected Peter Sinclair as Chairman and Alfons Silverman as Vice Chairman at its recent Annual General Meeting.

Anyone who may have an interest in joining, or re-joining, the association, should telephone Manfred Alweiss, Membership Secretary, on 081 455 0115.

Obituary

Professor Sir Geoffrey Elton

Tübingen-born, Prague-educated Geoffrey Elton (*né* Gottfried Ehrenberg) was already 17 on his arrival in the UK early in 1939. Even so he told me "I acclimatised within seconds. England was my predestined home."

Predestination also entered into his choice of career. His father had been a Professor of Ancient History; in fact the family had been academics for several generations. Unsurprisingly the new arrival resumed fulltime education over here and after wartime army service took up a research scholarship in history. This led to a succession of university posts culminating in the Regius Professorship of Modern History at Cambridge. He had honours showered upon him: a knighthood, Fellowship of the British Academy,

Presidency of the Royal Historical Society.

In a manner reminiscent of his fellow-refugee Nicholas Pevsner whose work focused on the Englishness of English architecture, Professor Elton made the Tudor age – the period that was the crucible of the three basic English institutions – Crown, Parliament and Church, – very much his own; his *England under the Tudors* sold a staggering two hundred thousand copies.

On the other hand the deceased's attitude to his own heritage was decidedly lukewarm. I only gleaned the fascinating fact that he was a descendant of one of Moses Mendelssohn's intimates from another source. Actually, Sir Geoffrey no longer considered himself a Jew (a word which didn't make a single appearance in his 1,500-word obit. in the *Times*). □ R.G.

Chajesgymnasium reunion, September 1994

The Realgymnasium was founded in 1919 by Rabbi Zvi Perez Chajes whom the Vienna Jewish Community had called from his native Galicia and appointed Chief Rabbi. It was a surprise choice at that time as Chajes, contrary to his predecessor, was a confirmed Zionist.

The school started with 122 pupils, mainly the sons and daughters of recently arrived *Ostjuden*. From the beginning it suffered from lack of space – being a gymnasium without a gym – and cash. It received no subsidies from the state or the municipality, though the *Kultusgemeinde* helped. Lack of space necessitated afternoon classes. It was only thanks to the efforts of headmaster Dr. Viktor Kellner who continually pleaded with parents – who either couldn't, or wouldn't, pay their fees – that the school stayed in existence.

Standards of education were higher than in other gymnasia, a fact noted by the inspectors who, however, disapproved of the extra Hebrew lessons which, in their opinion, placed an additional burden on the pupils. By 1939 more than 1,500 pupils had passed through the school, of whom 350 had taken *Matura* (A-levels).

On the day in October 1939 that the

Nazis closed the school, Dr. Kellner told the assembled pupils, with tears in his eyes, "I don't know what the future holds for you, but there is one thing I can tell you with certainty: *Shema Yisrael* will be said for longer than *Heil Hitler*".

We heard some years ago that Teddy Kollek had attended the Chajes gymnasium. On looking around for him at the recent Tel Aviv reunion, we found that this had been only a rumour. How had it come about, we wondered? "Perhaps," conjectured one ex-Chajesnik, "he would *like* to have been," so elite was the reputation of this establishment.

Of the 180 or so participants at the meeting there were only about 30 non-Israeli citizens and their spouses. Mostly they seemed to be from an earlier generation and had attended the school for several years, unlike myself and the other two "juniors" at our table, who had only two years to our credit. Despite our senior citizen status, we were the babies there.

Alas, in spite of the organizer's efforts and best intentions, the arrangements left much to be desired. The welcome addresses took place too early in the evening and were almost drowned out by the urgent chatter of the elderly boys and girls getting re-acquainted and exchanging news, during which time photos of children and grandchildren were flashed around competitively. The situation was not helped by a defective PA system. At one point Moshe Meisels, the writer, one of the platform party, stood up, banged

on the table and exclaimed in the sudden moment of silence: "Kinder – what would Herr Direktor Kellner think of you!"

As the noise immediately resumed, reaching an even higher pitch, we were reminded of our visit to the new Jewish quarter in Jerusalem, which is alive with the shrill twittering of birds in the trees; these, too, can be silenced by a sudden clap of the hands, but only for a matter of seconds. Moshe sighed and sat down defeated, shaking his head.

Despite all of the above, the reunion was a joyful and moving one and sentiment flowed like the orange juice, with men as well as women embracing one another with obvious emotion. Our friend Avraham Shomroni, *né* Alfred Helfgott, the youngest Chajes student there, found no classmates of his own, but was thrilled to discover two of his late brother Isaac's.

My wife too encountered a cousin twice removed. A wonderful and totally unexpected discovery; we subsequently spent an evening with our new relative poring over old photographs and studying family trees.

□ Felix Hutterer

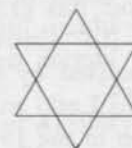
East Germany and Berlin

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



AJR
1 HAMPSTEAD GATE,
1A FROGNAL, LONDON NW3 6AL
071-431 6161

The Left's enduring allure

In turn-of-the-century Vilna (Vilnius) May Day was popularly known as the "Jewish holiday". That was because among the mixed local workforce of Russians, Poles, Lithuanians and Jews, the last named proved most susceptible to the lure of Socialism. On the First of May, International Labour Day, work would stop throughout Wilna's tailoring and furniture workshops and thousands would take part in demonstrations staged by the leftwing, secularist and Yiddish-speaking Bund.

Further West in Berlin and Vienna, the Jewish element at May Day rallies was more clearly evident on the platform – with Paul Singer or Edward Bernstein speaking in the German capital and Viktor Adler in the Austrian – than among the large, assembled crowds.

At election time another difference between various national Jewries became manifest: Russian Jews remained largely disenfranchised; in Germany they tended to vote Liberal; in Austria bourgeois Jews could not identify with any party, while the rest cast their ballots for Social Democracy.

After the Revolution, Russian Jews still couldn't vote – nobody could – but many found places in the ruling apparatus. In Weimar Germany and Austria the old pattern persisted, though many intellectuals were drawn to the fledgling Communist parties. In France, whose Jews had, since Dreyfus days, voted Radical or Socialist, Leon Blum, a Jewish savant, became Premier of a short-lived Radical-Socialist-Communist coalition in 1936. In England Jews voted Lib-Lab; in America they, like other minorities, formed part of the Democrats' natural constituency.

Since the Second World War, quite apart from the widespread disappearance of a Jewish electorate in Europe, the pattern has changed. In Britain, Jewish majority support has gradually shifted from Labour to Conservative – a process symbolised by the high profile of Prof. Harold Laski in the 1940s and Sir Keith Joseph in the 1970s. In the United States, though rather more Jews vote Republican nowadays, the bulk are still registered Democrats.

In France Jews tend to vote along class lines, though the Socialist Blum's quondam party still attracts the talents: Fabius,

Badinter, Jack Lang. (Almost inevitably, the '68-ers were headed by one Danny Cohn-Bendit).

In the postwar Soviet Bloc politically prominent Jews divided sharply into Stalinists and dissidents. The Stalinists included the unspeakable Lazar Kaganovitch and diverse, repulsive clones – the Pole Jakob Berman, the Czech Rudolph Slansky, the Hungarians Mattias Rakosi and Mihael Farkas. In the opposing camp stood Yelena Bonner (Sakharov's wife) and Natan Sharansky, the Hungarian writers Tibor Deri and Gyula Hay and the Czechs Ota Sik and Ernö Goldstücker.

East Germany, with the tiniest Jewish population in the Soviet Bloc, was – and is – specially interesting under the aspect of the Stalinist-dissident divide. Unlike the other Peoples' Democracies, the DDR had no Jews in high positions, though "media types" like Gerhart Eisler and Rudolf Herrnstadt were to be found in the second echelon. More highly esteemed as conferring cultural legitimacy on East Berlin were returned emigré composers (Hanns Eisler) and writers: Arnold Zweig, Anna Seghers, Stefan Heym. (Their only outstanding non-Jewish colleague was Bertolt Brecht; Heinrich Mann had fortuitously died while preparing for his return).

After Brecht's death, Stefan Heym occupied a similar position as the régime's licensed critic. Heym lived in East Berlin and enriched its literary scene, yet most of his books could only be published in West Germany. However, old loyalties die hard; today the 81-year-old writer sits in the Bundestag as a high profile representative of the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS), the reformed East German Communist Party. The political brain of the PDS is fortyish Gregor Gysi (son of a returned Jewish Communist who became the DDR's Minister of Religious Affairs). Born into the East Berlin privilegentsia, Gysi junior qualified as a lawyer and often defended political dissidents before the courts. Characteristically, the two Jewish PDS luminaries therefore share a record of quasi-opposition to the discredited Honecker régime – a régime with which the reformed party claims to have nothing except socialist aspirations in common.

Typically, the new party has expunged the word Communism from its name. A parallel name change has taken place in Poland and other East European countries, as well as in Italy.

In newly democratic South Africa, by contrast, the appellation Communist still confers prestige. This is because the Communist Party waged an underground struggle against apartheid, and a number of whites active in the African National Congress (ANC) were Communists. (Whites in this context is almost synonymous with Jews).

The leading South African literary figure to pillory apartheid was the Lithuanian-descended Nobel prize winner Nadine Gordimer. The former leader of the ANC's military wing and current Minister of Housing is Lithuanian-born Joe Slovo. Slovo's Jewish wife, Ruth First, died in a terrorist attack instigated by BOSS, the South African intelligence service. (Husband and wife incidentally figured in the film *A World of Strangers*, made by their daughter).

Another BOSS terror attack maimed Albie Sachs, lawyer son of the Lithuanian-born trade unionist Solly Sachs. Very recently, when Nelson Mandela realised that the ex-guerrilla he had appointed Defence Minister wasn't quite up to the job, he appointed Henry Kasrils, a prominent Communist of Litvak antecedents, as his deputy.

Thus, while in many countries across the globe, and not least among Jewish intellectuals, Communism has been losing the last shreds of credibility, two recently convulsed societies – East Germany and South Africa – are bucking the near-universal trend; furthermore, they are doing so with not insignificant Jewish assistance.

□ Richard Grunberger

Making a will? Remember the AJR

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

Many of our former refugees have found their association with the AJR a rewarding one. This is an opportunity to support the AJR Charitable Trust (Reg. Charity No. 211239). Your solicitor will be able to help you; alternatively you can consult with our welfare rights advisor, Agi Alexander, on 071-431 6161 (Tues, Weds, Thurs) or the social workers at the Day Centre 071-328 0208.

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

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