

AJR Information

Volume L No. 5
May 1995

£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss . . .

Four in harmony
p.2

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**Election of
Committee of
Management** p.7

Rabbit hunt

Hasenjagd is
the title of
a film

about rural Austria
in early 1945.

When several
hundred emaciated
Russian PoWs
escaped from
Mauthausen, only
two survived; local
villagers hunted
the rest down like
rabbits.

(The peasant
woman who hid
the two survivors
was subsequently
honoured by the
Soviet – though
not the Austrian –
government).

Now the Austrian
director Andreas
Huber has turned
the tragic event
into a film to
which the public
are flocking; quite
a few individuals,
though, send him
hate mail.

Who speaks for
Austria: Huber or
Haider? □

Auschwitz: varieties of (mis)interpretation

Double evil

The evil that Auschwitz commandant Höss did – which dwarfs that of any other malefactor in history – was not interred with his bones. It has lived on for the past half century and threatens to do so for much longer.

What is this surviving evil? It is the widespread misinterpretation of what Auschwitz signified. The true significance of this locus of ultimate evil is not conveyed by vapid phrases like 'Auschwitz is in all of us', 'human wickedness transcends national boundaries' and the like. No – what is needed is a rigorous case-by-case examination of why and how after the event almost everybody – from perpetrators through bystanders to liberators – met the challenge of the actual existence of Auschwitz in history with evasions of one sort or another.

Let us first look at Germany, the country of the perpetrators. Here for the best part of a generation the subject was taboo. The *Wirtschaftswunderkinder* were loath to point the finger at industrialists – tainted by involvement in slave labour at Birkenau and elsewhere – who were currently compensating for their country's disgrace by outperforming everyone in sight. Eventually, around 1980, the taboo began to be broken, but even that was not an unmitigated blessing. The 'Historians' dispute', which Ernst Nolte ultimately lost, publicised his

noxious thesis that Auschwitz was Germany's response to the Soviet *gulag*.

Next, Poland. Here for the past half century Auschwitz has been perceived as a prison and execution chamber of patriots and become a shrine to heroism. The Polish national consciousness simply refuses to accept the fact that vastly more Jews than Poles met their deaths at the hands of Höss and his subordinates. Such distortion of the truth has been assisted by Soviet postwar distortion of wartime events.

The Soviets. Russian depiction of the Great Patriotic War deliberately downplayed Jewish suffering. It showed Nazi camps brimful of captured partisans with nary a Jew or Gypsy in sight. Compounding this cliché, Soviet doctrine presented Nazi Fascism as the most extreme form of capitalism. Since camp inmates were done to death to no capitalist's long-term benefit, Auschwitz made no sense – i.e. it could not be fitted into the Marxist world picture. The 'logical' conclusion was that that which according to Marx *could* not exist *did* not exist.

The Vatican. The Church presented Auschwitz as a place of suffering and Polish Catholic martyrdom. The exemplary figure in this perspective was Fr. Maximilian Kolbe who had taken the place of a married inmate sentenced to die after another prisoner's escape.

In this instance, Kolbe showed truly superhuman nobility. Alas, a few years earlier the popular Catholic newspaper he had founded in the thirties had supported the anti-Jewish boycott (which incidentally was also endorsed by Cardinal Hlond of Warsaw).

The Allies. Though both the British and American governments' instruments of wartime propaganda, such as the Ministry of Information, continued for some time after 1945, they paid minimal attention to Auschwitz. Such reticence owed something to Russian obstruction, but more to the bad conscience of the Anglo-Americans. The military had, after all, made no effort to disrupt the functioning of the Nazi death machine about which they had ample intelligence information. Was this tardiness, one wonders, connected with the UK's and the USA's fear of a postwar Jewish refugee problem? □

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held at 15 Cleve Road,
West Hampstead, London NW6 3RL
on THURSDAY 8 JUNE, 1995 at 7.30 p.m.

AGENDA

Annual Report 1994
Hon. Treasurer's Report
Discussion
Election of Committee of Management
Followed by a talk by Prof. Edward Timms
entitled: 'The 'Wandering Jew' and the 'Ewige
Jude'; a comparative analysis of two stereotypes.

All questions for the Chair should be submitted
to the Director at:
1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Frogal, London NW3 6AL
by 1 June 1995

Profile

Four in harmony

In addition to exceptional talent and several glittering prizes, each member of the Schidlof Quartet shares a Jewish background and a refugee inheritance. Two of its members, Ofer Falk, first violin, and Oleg Kogan, 'cello, are themselves pursuing careers outside their native countries.

Graham Oppenheimer, the quartet's viola player and initiator (profiled last month) believes a quartet is the perfect medium for string players with each of the four voices playing part of a harmonious chord. The great composers wrote many of their most creative works for the string quartet and provided a wonderful repertoire on which to draw.

Rafael Todes was at Cambridge before taking postgraduate studies at the Guildhall School of Music. Following a two-year period in the USA and freelance experience in the UK, he joined the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Simon Rattle, whom he admires as a whole-hearted committed musician. Rafael found this period an exciting experience, but orchestral playing had its limitations and when Graham Oppenheimer (a distant cousin) invited him to join in the formation of the new quartet he jumped at the chance.

Rafael's refugee mother came from Bamberg in Germany, and as a child he recalls wondering why most of his parents' friends spoke with a funny accent. He came to recognise that refugees were something of a different breed, distinguished from others both by their sensitivity and their suspiciousness.

Ofer Falk has the confidence of a young Israeli who is following an ambitious path. Despite having no classical musical background (half his family hailed from Yemen) he persuaded his reluctant mother to take him to the Givatayim Conservatoire, where they declared him exceptionally talented. He enrolled as a student and gained invaluable experience in its youth orchestras. Having decided on a career in music at 13, he transferred to a school for music and the arts, immediately felt at home and after only two years led both its chamber and symphony orchestras.

Ofer progressed rapidly through the Tel Aviv Academy's Orchestra, the Israeli



The Schidlof Quartet

Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, during military service the army's orchestra and quartet, after which he joined the Israeli Philharmonic as one of its youngest members.

Seeking wider international experience and specialist tuition, he went to Vienna, dividing his time between there and Leicester where the quartet is based.

Oleg Kogan was born in the Ukraine, but unlike Ofer, he did receive his parents' encouragement to be a musician. Perhaps because Oleg was something of an *enfant terrible* his parents were content to see him leave home to go to Moscow under the tutelage of a 'cello teacher who quickly recognised his exceptional talent for the instrument. Receiving his musician's diploma at 19, he continued in the Moscow Conservatoire for a further eight years during which time he won several major competitions. Aged 25 Oleg became assistant professor at the Conservatoire, teaching students of his own age while at the same time playing the 'cello at 70 concerts a year!

In retrospect, he recognises that there was some constraint on his progress because he was a Jew. With the change in the political climate four years ago, Oleg's parents emigrated to Israel, and he transferred his musical base to Switzer-

land. While in London, playing Shostakovich at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, he met Rafael Todes and saw off a number of other keen applicants for the Schidlof's 'cello seat.

The Schidlof Quartet's programme for the AJR and the Wiener Library's presentation at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on 14th May includes works by Schubert and Mozart which, as 'Viennese style classics' should have a particular appeal. Beethoven "is such wonderful music", said Graham Oppenheimer. "The Quartet in E Flat Op.74 comes from his middle-to-late period and combines wonderful flowing melodies with warmth and excitement - the kind of music the quartet feels most passionate about."

Emanuel Hurwitz, joins the quartet on viola for the Mozart Quintet. Something of an *éminence grise* for the younger players, he brings his great experience as a major orchestral player and leader with a wealth of ideas and interpretations and the energy of a much younger man. As he was supportive of and befriended many of the refugee musicians, including the members of what became the Amadeus, he provides a direct link with that generation of music makers. We should be in for a rare treat.

□Ronald Channing

Three Muses

From Persian Ahasverus, alias Xerxes, in the Purim story via Polish Kasimir to Romanian Carol (lover of Madame Lupescu) crowned heads have always been susceptible to the charms of Jewish women. While the role of beautiful Jewesses who basked in royal favour is public knowledge, little is known of their co-religionists cast as muses to creative spirits.

Many Jewish muses inspired poets and writers. Examples are legion. In German literature, for instance, they were the inspiration of Friedrich Schlegel, Richard Dehmel and, in a manner of speaking, the Brothers Mann as well as of Bertolt Brecht. (Schlegel's muse Dorothea Mendelssohn was, incidentally, also his wife, though the two categories don't necessarily overlap - vide Brecht's semi-detached marriage to Helene Weigel). In France André Malraux and Louis Aragon spring to mind, in Russia Vladimir Mayakovsky.

Finally in England there was Robert Graves. The story of Graves and his muse is probably the most bizarre of any love affair in recorded history. Robert Graves, a married man with four children, was a paid-up member of London's 1920s Bohemia. Laura Riding, a footloose, divorced Jewish-American poet inserted herself into the writer's household when his fortunes were at a low ebb. Somehow she imbued him with sufficient confidence to complete his autobiographical *Goodbye to All That*. During the writing of this classic, Robert and Nancy Graves formed a *ménage-à-trois* with Laura. Later a (married) Irish poet Geoffrey Phibbs came along to their Hammersmith abode to enlarge the threesome to a *ménage-à-quatre*. When Phibbs, whom Laura viewed with a proprietary eye, showed signs of drifting into Nancy Graves' orbit, La Riding became overwrought; so overwrought in fact that she threw herself out of a fourth storey window. But that was only the half of it because when Robert Graves saw her 'sail past' his third floor window he promptly jumped too.

Incredibile dictu neither sustained lasting injuries. Phibbs and Nancy having gone their separate ways, Riding and Graves combined their literary-amorous relationship for another decade before drifting apart.

If Laura Riding combined being poet and poetic muse, Hannah Fuchsova was

merely a (composer's) muse and an unacknowledged one at that - although being Werfel's sister, she can be said to have had literary connections. The composer she inspired was the non-Jewish Schönberg pupil Alban Berg. Berg was a married man resident in Vienna, Hannah a married woman living in Prague. They used to meet when he visited Prague in connection with his musical career. Though their illicit amour was known to very few people, echoes of it have seeped into the later part of the score of *Lulu* (the opera, which alongside *Wozzeck*, has given Berg his posthumous fame).

Frau Berg did her utmost to keep the affair from becoming common knowledge; she even went to the length of withholding the last part of the score from publication so that the opera could only be performed in its unfinished form. Alban Berg died in 1936; it wasn't till 40 years later, i.e. after his widow's death, that the missing fragment was integrated into the score and music lovers became acquainted with the work in its entirety.

If Riding was a poet and Fuchsova artistically connected, Camila Stösslova was an untutored, provincial housewife with a young family. Although she lacked sophistication and clung to petty bourgeois morals, she had a profound effect on Leos Janacek. They met in a holiday resort at a time when the much older composer had lost his creative impulse for several years; in addition his marriage had gone stale. Under the circumstances his encounter with the pretty, young and warm-hearted Camila had an extraordinarily revivifying effect on him. Warmed by Stösslova's platonic affection he, aged sixty-plus, experienced an Indian summer of musical productivity. Three of his best known operas - all incidentally with female leads - *The Makropoulos Case*, *The Cunning Little Vixen*, and *Katja Kabanova*, were composed during this time.

Alas, the relationship ended tragically. Janacek had a country cottage where the Stössl family summered with him in 1928. One evening Camila's little son wandered off into the woods and had to be looked for, with Janacek himself joining in the search. The composer caught cold which turned into pneumonia and carried him off within weeks.

It could be said that the 'affaire' between Janacek and his muse reprised all the elements of medieval romance: platonic love, fervent longing and tragic death.

□ Richard Grunberger



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Review

Friedrich Adler

ZWISCHEN JUGENDSTIL UND ART DECO,
Arnoldsche Verlagsanstalt, Stuttgart 1994.

Born in Laupheim, Württemberg (where his family had been settled for generations) in 1878, Friedrich Adler was educated at the local Jewish School and at an *Internat* before studying at the *Königliche Kunstgewerbeschule* in Munich.

By 1908 he was teaching at the *Kunstgewerbeschule* in Hamburg. In 1910 he won the Grand Prix for silver work at the Brussels International Exhibition and in 1911 he took part in the exhibition of the *Deutsche Werkbund* in Cologne where his synagogal and religious artifacts were much admired. From 1914-1918 he served in the German army as an *Offizier-Stellvertreter*.

In the 1920's he became involved in the printing of batik material and the firm Adler Textildruckgesellschaft, Hamburg (ATEHA) was founded. In 1927 he was appointed professor at the *Kunstgewerbeschule* in Hamburg, but was dismissed by the Nazis in 1933. He continued working for the *Jüdische Kulturbund* in Hamburg until it was closed by the Nazis in 1941. In 1942 he was deported to Auschwitz and murdered there.

This brief account gives little idea of the wealth of activities that filled Adler's life. He was without doubt an accomplished artist in his own right, but like many of those engaged in the 'modern' movements, e.g. William Morris and *Art Nouveau* in this country, he was an exceedingly able craftsman in many spheres. He designed everything for anybody: tiles, ceramics, furniture, carpets and, particularly, silverware for the celebrated Heilbronn firm of Peter Bruckmann and Söhne; also ritual objects for synagogal and home use. In addition, besides designing stained-glass windows for the Laupheim synagogue, he was responsible for the foyers of various cinemas and of a Hamburg synagogue in the Oberstrasse in the Harvestehude quarter of the city. Another of his accomplishments was the design of Jewish tombstones. He also designed textiles, book jackets and individual bookplates (ex-libris) for many people.

It is impossible to describe in detail the

many areas in which he worked, but they are all amply illustrated in this book/catalogue. An individual style imbued all his work and must have had a considerable influence on contemporary design. It is a pity that we have had to wait so long for this superb book to see how much he did produce in so many fields. It would be highly desirable to exhibit some of the work of this exceedingly able artist over here; Germany staged half a dozen exhibitions last year.

□ Alice Schwab

The Pesach dish on April's front page was designed by Friedrich Adler.

Theo Marx at 75

Theo Marx, who has just celebrated his 75th birthday, was born in Frankfurt into a family that originated from the Cologne region. He studied at Mill Hill School and Imperial College, after which he worked at Napiers before joining the family company Erma Ltd. Following his father's death he built Erma into an internationally respected company manufacturing electrical connectors.

Theo Marx joined AJR some 35 years ago. A Chairman of Otto Schiff House Committee since the mid-sixties, he was elected Vice-Chairman of AJR in 1974 and Chairman in 1976. After retiring professionally in 1987 he redoubled his efforts on behalf of AJR, modernising the journal and launching the Residential Care Appeal.

He retired from the AJR Chairmanship last year and now serves on the Committee of Management and the Board of Trustees of the AJR Charitable Trust. The Association wishes him many more fruitful years of service in the circle of his family □

Julian Layton exhibition

The Wiener Library is showing a small exhibition on Julian Layton in the hall of the Library.

Layton was a founder member and Commandant of the Kitchener Camp at Richborough, Kent, and later served as Home Office Representative at the Australian Internment Camps. He was largely responsible in obtaining compensation for the *Dunera* internees.

The Wiener Library is at 4 Devonshire Street, London, W1 □

CHILDREN OF SURVIVORS AND REFUGEES OF THE HOLOCAUST

UK Second Generation Conference

Following last year's highly successful first gathering, the Link Psychotherapy Trust will be holding a second conference for 'The Second Generation'. It is intended to help people sharing a similar background to explore the impact that the Holocaust and their parents' experiences had on their lives, and to consider ways of passing on this legacy to the next generation. These concerns would appear to be particularly relevant in the 50th anniversary year of liberation. A broad range of subjects is to be covered by means of a wide choice of workshops.

The conference is to be held on Sunday, 18th June 1995, from 9:30am to 7:30pm, at the City of London School for Boys, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4.

For further information, please telephone LINK's answerphone service on 0181 349 0111, or write to the Conference Secretary, BM 1224, London WC1N 3XX □

Holocaust education

A conference on Holocaust education, to be held in London from 4th to 7th July, has been planned to interest teachers throughout the European Union.

The conference will act as a forum to discuss the teaching of Holocaust studies in schools by means of lectures, workshops and panel discussions. The importance of imparting historical accuracy, not least when the subject is taught in those countries in which the Holocaust was perpetrated, as well as addressing the wider issues of racism and prejudice, remain of topical concern.

The conference is being organised by the Holocaust Centre at the Spiro Institute from which further details and information may be obtained. (Tel: 0171-431-0345) □

Holocaust day

Michel Friedman, a German-Jewish community leader, has called for an annual day of remembrance for the victims of Nazi tyranny to be held on May 8th, the date of Germany's World War II surrender. He also supported the erection of a Holocaust memorial in Berlin.

Responses to terror

Professor Paul Wilkinson of St. Andrews University, an expert analyst in the field of international terrorism, was lead speaker at a symposium held by the Institute of Jewish Affairs.

Terrorism was not going to end with the ending of the Cold War, in Prof. Wilkinson's view. Indeed, "the use of violence as an instrument of psychological warfare", as he defined it, through state-sponsored support, had become an important element in international terrorism.

Democracies, often portrayed as oppressors, were faced with an escalating threat. The freedom of movement they granted to all and sundry made them vulnerable to attacks, and unrestricted media reporting gave the terrorists the oxygen of publicity.

Prof. Wilkinson estimated that some 20% of worldwide terrorist actions were linked to the Middle East in some way or another, including the struggle for power within Arab countries. Iran was undoubtedly the main sponsor of Islamic groups in the Middle East, including Hezbollah, the self-styled 'Party of God', and Islamic Jihad which between them probably had a hard core of 2,500 members and thousands of sympathisers. These organisations also provided programmes of welfare and cultural activity.

They aimed to establish an Iranian-style republic in Lebanon and, bitterly opposed to Israel and the West, provided Iran with the option of using terrorism as a weapon of foreign policy. Prof. Wilkinson recalled the series of hostage-takings in Lebanon during that country's protracted civil war; the car bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires in 1992 for which Hezbollah claimed 'credit', and the attack on that city's Jewish Community Centre in 1994 which cost nearly 100 lives.

Hamas, bitterly opposed to the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians, was mainly associated with operations in Israel and the occupied territories for which it received support from Iran and even Saudi Arabia. With its main strength in Gaza, especially among the mosques, Hamas posed a real threat to Arafat whom they regard as a traitor.

Professor Wilkinson considered Iran to be the main state sponsor of nearly all the terrorist groups operating in and from the

Middle East, providing them with both training and equipment. For the Jewish community in Britain, as well as Israeli representatives, extreme Islamic fundamentalist groups gave the most cause for concern.

□ RDC

A policy paper on *Combating International Terrorism*, by Prof. Paul Wilkinson, is published by the Institute of Jewish Affairs.

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Letters to the Editor

THE UNANSWERED QUESTION

Sir - In an article on the destruction of Dresden by British planes, *Guardian* journalist Jonathan Steele referred to one of the few beneficial consequences of these raids - the escape of a small group of Jews who had been held in the railway station en route to Auschwitz, thanks to their doors having been destroyed by the blast.

This raises the question that has been uppermost in my mind ever since I learnt, immediately after cessation of hostilities in 1945 when as an officer in the Worcestershire Regiment I was able to visit war-torn Berlin, that my family had been sent to Auschwitz via Theresienstadt, probably in 1944. It is, put very simply: why did the Allies not bomb the crematoria at Auschwitz and other major extermination camps or, at the very least, destroy the complex railway network that was used to transport millions of people from more westerly centres and from Hungary and elsewhere?

Several reasons have been advanced in the past to account for the inexplicable and, on the face of it, inhumane inactivity of the Allies. 1. Britain was too preoccupied with the prosecution of the war to divert resources and personnel to a major humanitarian act. This would certainly have been true for some time after the invasion, but not once the liberation of Europe was well under way. 2. The concentration camps were out of range for British and American bombers, an explanation that according to some war historians does not hold water and which the Dresden bombings themselves make highly implausible. 3. The governments of Britain and the U.S.A. were unaware of the scale of the Nazi massacres. This was patently not the case, for there are historical accounts of briefings by emissaries of the World Jewish Congress in 1943/44 to the Vatican (Pope Pius XII evidently had his own agenda and refused to raise his voice in protest) and the British and American governments. 4. Finally, could the lack of action betray a latent or overt

antisemitism by those who might have taken the decision to intervene, so that the fate of a few million Jews was of no great interest to them?

By the middle of 1944 there were enough young Jewish refugees such as myself in various branches of the British Armed Forces (and, so far as I know, in the American forces too) who would have been only too glad to have taken part in military operations directed against concentration camps, had we been told of the use to which they were being put.

Hugo Road Leslie Brent (Professor Emeritus)
London N19

ZIONISM NOT OK

Sir - Stefan George flatters the State of Israel in believing it has the influence or resources to "further destabilise the Ethiopian economy already prey to dreadful civil war" when not even the might of the United Nations has been able to subdue the local warring factions in the township of Mogadishu in neighbouring Somalia. The poor, persecuted Falashas of Ethiopia were hardly a critical factor, either in the Ethiopian economy, or its war potential.

It is the immigration policy of all nations to avoid adding to their impoverished and underprivileged. What plausible motives can your correspondent possibly attribute to the State of Israel for deliberately wanting to acquire a "ready-made underclass" by rescuing the Falashas from their then hostile environment?

Alexander Avenue Sigi Faith
London N10

Sir - How depressing to find oneself confronted with the latest instalment of these anti-Israel diatribes. It was, indeed, a highly secret and covert operation which rescued the Ethiopian Jews. According to Stephan George's warped thinking, a highly secret and covert rescue operation, brilliantly planned and executed, cannot be motivated by humanitarian reasons!

Why on earth should Israel wish to

"destabilise the Ethiopian economy" when she has made every possible effort to channel aid in kind and in know-how to Third World Africa? Stefan George does not bother to ask himself: *Cui bono?*
Lambourne Road Fred Rosner
Chigwell, Essex

Sir - I had the pleasure of meeting very nice, young Ethiopian Jews who had speedily acclimatised to Israeli life. They told me of a story passed along the earlier generations that one day they would be lifted into the sky by large birds and carried back to Israel.

When they saw airplanes for the first time in their lives they broke down and cried.

Netherhall Gardens Mrs. Claire Parker
Hampstead
London NW3

ANTICLIMACTIC

Sir - I was sorry to read Ralph Freedman's harsh criticism of Walter Freud's laudable attempts to share his wartime experiences with us. I for one, enjoyed the articles and in particular the last episodes demonstrating the farcical side of warfare.

Perhaps we have in Mr Freedman a frustrated and hitherto unrecognised writing talent. If so, I hope he will be given a chance to demonstrate it in your columns.
"Ham Glebe", Church Road Richard Tait
Ham, Richmond
Surrey

DRESDEN CAMPS

Sir - I am attempting to establish the extent of the 1933-45 persecution in Dresden in the various camps and centres of detention. This is to include the *Judenhauser*, Gestapo and SA interrogation places, political and religious camps such as Hellerberg, as well as the forced labour camps and settlements. There appears to be little beyond the incomplete listing in the *Gesetz und Verordnungsblatt* of 1977 and the somewhat more elaborate listings in the Weinmann edition of *Das nationalsozialistische Lagersystem*. Nothing at all, in particular, on forced labour camps nor on the KLV camp system for German children. Any hints and suggestions will be gratefully accepted.

14 Rosslyn Hill Peter C. Rickenback
Hampstead
London NW3

LANGUAGE PLEASE!

Sir - The latest AJR is full of good articles, but you still use too many uncommon words.

'Alfan', Cutcombe
near Minehead
Somerset

Anne Fields

AUSTRIAN XENOPHOBIA

Sir - The murderous attacks on the gypsies in Oberwart are so scandalous and even the verbal attacks on some Burgenland Croats so deplorable that any condemnation seems justified. But your suggestion that they are due to a general backwoods mentality of all Austrians, and one likely to be cured by joining the EU, does rather miss the mark. Both these attacks were made not on foreigners or asylum seekers, but on fellow-citizens; both gypsies and Croats have been resident in Burgenland for centuries.

The actions of one or more deranged neo-fascists do not necessarily convict all your and my psychotic compatriots of xenophobia. It may not do the victims much good, but these attacks have been widely condemned from all quarters in Austria, including even Joerg Haider. (It is gratifying that in doing so he once again made a verbal gaffe which has been widely criticised).

Last week two gypsy children were horribly maimed in the Tuscan city of Pisa by a disguised parcel bomb. Italy is one of the original EU members, but it is clearly not exempt from the anti-gypsy prejudices found in most European countries, from Romania to the British Isles.

Deddington
Oxfordshire

Francis Steiner

REFUGEES NO MORE?

Sir - The discussion whether we are, or are not, refugees has degenerated into a semantic squabble. Of course, it is logically defensible to call both Dr. Henry Kissinger, who was in charge of the foreign affairs of a superpower, and the pitiful boat people of a few years ago, refugees. But this is surely rather incongruous.

I did not want to be a refugee when I was one. Why should I call myself one now? This is no attempt to make a secret of my origins. I have nothing to hide.

Repton Road
West Bridgford,
Nottingham

Dr. K. Schiller

DIALECTIC

Sir - I read with interest your article on Enrico Fermi in the March issue.

You rightly say "Luckily for the world he was not in German controlled Italy because he had married a Jewish girl." One could add "Luckily for the world Signorina Laura Capon agreed to *marry out*."

Lorne Court

G.F. Manley

Putney Hill, London SW15

GENEALOGY

Sir - During a visit to Poland, including prewar East Prussia (Ostpreussen), I got to know a young non-Jewish school teacher with a special interest in history.

He has done a lot of research on my own family roots there, and came up with copies of documents about old relatives. This is possible by personally visiting and inspecting local registry offices where old German - indeed old Prussian - birth, death and marriage records are still available today.

This man is now doing this type of research work on a professional basis, and judging by his results for me, he is thorough and genuine. Obviously he will charge for his work.

If you feel this could be helpful to others who hail from East Prussia and seek information, please feel free to put them into contact with Mr. Krystof Krolak, ul. Traugutta 24, PE 14-400, Paslek, Poland, using my name as an introduction. He will accept letters in English, but prefers German which is the language he teaches at school, and he will only respond in German (or obviously in Polish, if appropriate).

Nicholas Way

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**Election of Committee
of Management**

The following members will be proposed for election or re-election to the Committee at the AGM on Thursday 8 June, 1995.

*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, Trustee

*Mr. J.H. Dunston, Trustee

Mr. M. Durst, Trustee

Mr. C.W. Dunston

Mrs. J. Field

Mrs. H. Goldsmith

Mr. H.E. Levy

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

Anyone wishing to propose any other member for election as Hon. Officer, Trustee, or Committee member must submit to the Director, AJR, such a proposal signed by ten members qualified to vote at the meeting and with the signed agreement of the person being proposed
no later than Wednesday 17 May 1995

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Annual Report 1994

Membership

The number of members has remained steady at around 4000. We both lost and gained about 100 members in 1994.

A rule change passed by an Extraordinary General Meeting in May widened eligibility for membership to "Jewish refugees, victims of Nazi oppression, who have come to this country after 30th January 1933, primarily from Central Europe, and the widows, widowers, descendants and dependants of such persons".

There was a good response to the survey of members. We received 1500 replies, from which we are able to analyse the background and needs of our members. Once this exercise is completed, we shall publish results.

The Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

The Paul Balint AJR Day Centre served our community well in 1994. We received many compliments from members who look upon it as a home from home. In all there are 360 members who visit Cleve Road regularly, some once a week and some more or less frequently. Residents from the Otto Schiff Housing Association Homes in the Bishops Avenue who visit the Day Centre are particularly appreciative.

Activities at the Centre include a Singing Group, Keep Fit Classes, Discussion Groups, Art Classes, opportunities for Bridge and other games and the much enjoyed musical entertainment most afternoons.

Two holiday trips to Bournemouth provided many of our members with a break they would not otherwise have enjoyed. The over-subscribed second Seder night was attended by 100 people and our Chanukah Tea Dance was exceptionally lively. Two fund raising functions were held - Open Day and our first ever Bridge evening, enjoyed by 80 people. These last two events each raised over £1,000 for the Day Centre.

In order to ensure adequate communication between Day Centre members and the AJR, a liaison group was established, consisting of four Day Centre members with Sylvia Matus and Ernest David.

In 1994, the Day Centre received a number of generous donations to enable us to effect various improvements in facilities.

Catering

Our dedicated in-house catering team continued to maintain the high quality of kosher food, for which we are renowned. Using as much fresh produce as possible, Susie Kaufman and her team provided an imaginative variety of menus, serving about 330 lunches and suppers a week and about 180 meals on wheels and take-away meals.

The Meals-on-Wheels service provides a most important link with members' welfare, as any problems discovered are immediately brought to the attention of our Social Services department.

During the year we requested an independent catering consultant to review the operation. His report was highly favourable.

Volunteers

At the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, we are helped by some 80 volunteers without whom we could not operate. They are an essential and integral part of the team, undertaking a wide range of jobs, such as arranging recreational activities and entertainment, serving meals and driving members to and from the Day Centre.

Less obvious, but just as important, are the 56 voluntary visitors who go out to our members in all weathers, listening and talking, helping with shopping and walking, and in many other ways. They visit not just in NW London but also in Fulham, Ealing, Hounslow, Holland Park, SW London and Sussex. Their care and practical help are greatly appreciated by the people they befriend and, of course, by the AJR.

In December about 80 volunteers came to a tea party at which Ernest David expressed his appreciation of the work they were doing.

During the year we lost the help of 8 voluntary visitors and 4 Day Centre volunteers but gained 27 new volunteers.

Sheltered Accommodation

The eight sheltered flats situated on the two upper floors of the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre remained occupied throughout the year. Tenants now have the added security of the Camden Care Line, a mobile warden service which may be called upon in emergencies when the resident caretaker is off duty.

Tenancies for these flats continued to be handled by Katia Gould, who also dealt with applications for the two sheltered blocks administered by the Otto Schiff Housing Association. Of these, Otto Schiff House in Netherhall Gardens was fully let for most of the year, while a few vacancies remained unfilled at Eleanor Rathbone House, Highgate, in which the AJR has a one-third interest. The House, which was opened 25 years ago, underwent extensive renovation during the year.

Social Services

It was a busy year for our Social Services. More members than ever sought our help and the number of outside referrals increased - in this respect we continued to co-operate with Jewish Care, CBF, synagogues and the local authority social services. We handled 200 active cases.

Following the introduction of the Community Care Act in April 1993, the services provided by local authorities were substantially curtailed. We were no longer allowed to use our own judgment in deciding whether or not clients were in need of residential care or what assistance would be appropriate for them. Assessments must now be done by the local authority social services, a procedure which can often take many weeks.

Because of the increasing frailty of some of our members, hospitalisation was on the increase and our hospital visits increased accordingly. We could no longer rely on the hospital social services to provide the necessary backup on discharge and when we tried to pressure for adequate provision for the client, promises were often made and not kept.

On occasion our sister organisation the Otto Schiff Housing Association, was able to assist at short notice.

We received more inquiries about residential and nursing home care. Many members received information on the Homes of the Otto Schiff Housing Association who provide both up-to-date residential and nursing home care. We also give details about other Jewish residential homes.

There was a further increase in the number of miscellaneous inquiries regarding welfare and consumer rights, housing, foreign pensions etc. We gave advice and helped with completing forms.

At the sad time of bereavement we were able to help and advise the bereaved family on burial arrangements and whenever possible a member of the department attended the funeral.

New meals-on-wheels applicants were visited to ascertain whether they had appropriate storage for frozen food and a safe way of heating it.

We received a donation of £3,000 from a member in memory of her mother, to help send clients on much needed holidays.

Drop-in advice sessions, previously held twice a week at Head Office, were changed to one morning a week at the Frogal office and one morning at Cleve Road Day Centre.

One member of staff went on a week-long Welfare Rights course and another member attended a seminar on Community Care.

Self Aid

Self Aid provides financial assistance for members in need. During 1994 about 70 clients received monthly allowances.

The bulk of the funding came from the AJR Charitable Trust, while the B'nai B'rith, Leo Baeck (London) Lodge Trust Fund supported about 20 of our clients. The proceeds from the AJR/Self Aid annual concert provided the balance.

In September 1994, an audience of nearly 400 attended a concert given by Erich Gruenberg and Anthony Goldstone at the Purcell Room.

AJR Information

To an even greater degree than in previous years, the journal (whose name it was decided not to change) promoted dialogue with its readership. In one particular issue the correspondence columns comprised fifteen letters.

As befitted a year heavy with Second World War and Holocaust anniversaries, we have run series focusing on these themes. We were especially privileged to be allowed to publish Lord Bullock's lecture on Hitler and the Holocaust.

A further touch of distinction was lent to the journal by Jill Bamber as a contributor of poems and reviews. On the "lighter" side, Gretl Beer's cookery column continued to enjoy considerable popularity.

We were pleased to welcome a number of new contributors in 1994 and are constantly on the look out for more. We also owe a debt of gratitude to the volunteer proof readers who regularly wade through the text to ensure clean copy.

During the year we changed printers, and after some initial glitches have settled into high quality print production, but have experienced problems with the mail.

Administration

Various cost savings were identified and implemented during the year, for example the change of printers, conversion of equipment rental to equipment purchase, prepayment of fuel bills. As a charity/benevolent society, it has been our objective to provide the best possible service at the lowest level of administrative costs.

Management accounts and new control systems have been introduced on a regular basis.

During the year, we have seen some staff changes with our previous Accountant leaving to get married and our Publicity Manager leaving to move to Ireland. In both cases their replacements quickly made their mark in the organisation.

Staff and Volunteers

An organisation like ours, dedicated to serving its members, is wholly dependent on the quality and enthusiasm of both staff and volunteers. The job is not just any old job. It requires commitment and understanding. The Officers, Management Committee and membership of the AJR are delighted to record their appreciation of the fine work and attitude shown by staff and volunteers.

The Management Committee

Under its new name, assigned by the revised Rules, the committee as usual provided guidance and took an active interest in the affairs of the AJR. See page 7 column 3 for election of the Committee.

The Year in Retrospect

1994 was a year both of consolidation and progress. We built on existing strengths by maintaining and where possible improving existing services and by reducing some overhead costs.

Close relationships were formed with the Otto Schiff Housing Association, CBF, Jewish Care, The Holocaust Survivors Centre, ROK, Association of Jewish Ex-Berliners and Belsize Square Synagogue. A Refugee Liaison Group was set up to ensure we do not duplicate services, and to act as a forum for stimulating new services.

Having realised that there is life outside NW London, we were lucky to find two volunteers, Ken Ambrose in SE London and Edgar Glaser in Birmingham, who launched new groups in their areas. These have attracted both existing members and potential new members.

On the pensions front a meeting was held with German government officials and an approach was made to the Bundestag to request changes in the law. There has been no movement to date on correcting the current complaints. An approach was also made to the Austrian government on the unfair treatment of certain refugees who became entitled to pensions.

This is the first year under our new Director Ernest David and this Annual Report reflects the progress made towards our aim to provide

a service to our members and the community of former victims of Nazi Persecution generally. We are increasingly recognised as an important organization within the Jewish Community, participating in its wider responsibilities.

Our links with the Otto Schiff Housing Association have been strengthened by the close involvement of our members on the Management Committee and Council, as well as by the provision of further significant financial support. In addition, many members continue to serve as volunteers in the Homes.

Looking to the Future

We hope to extend our activities further as the need arises. Circumstances in the lives of our members are continually changing and we intend to adjust to provide the required support. We are urgently looking for more volunteers, not just to give help in the Day Centre or the Homes, but also to bring us their special skills. We would like to extend out service to members with all kinds of advice and help which retired professional or business people could provide. Please give us your support and time. You will find it a very worthwhile task.

□ Max M. Kochmann, Chairman

Finance Report

Expenditure on Welfare, Social Services, Day Centre Meals on Wheels together with support for the Otto Schiff Housing Association paid out of the AJR Charitable Trust, the AJR and Self Aid increased by 13.72% in 1994.

Our financial structure has been rationalised during 1994 so that expenditure can be better controlled. The AJR no longer requires a specific contribution from the Charitable Trust, whilst the costs of the Day Centre are now separately accounted wholly within the Charitable Trust. Much of the burden for this change has fallen on the Director, Ernest David, assisted by Gordon Greenfield.

A major increase in overall costs has arisen during 1994 as the rental holiday we enjoyed when we moved to Hampstead Gate came to an end during the year.

AJR

Despite a small fall in membership fees and subscriptions, our income is slightly up because of increased direct legacies. Without the financial burden of the Day Centre or much of central administration costs we have managed without a subvention from the Charitable Trust. We also receive a contribution from Self Aid towards our costs of administration. As this is a transitional year, comparative figures are not indicative of a substantial change in underlying costs. The reduction in the net costs of AJR Information has been achieved despite a drop in advertising income.

Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31st December 1994

Income	1994	1993
Membership/Donations and Legacies	131,368	113,702
Grant from Self Aid	4,191	190,000
	<u>135,559</u>	<u>303,702</u>

Less		
Overhead expenses	19,361	33,989
Salary costs	62,249	236,298
AJR Information	27,218	27,859
Administration/Depreciation	15,515	14,774
	<u>124,343</u>	<u>312,920</u>
Surplus (deficit)	<u>11,216</u>	<u>(9,218)</u>

Summary of Balance Sheet

at 31st December 1994	1994	1993
Fixed assets		
(less depreciation)	24,654	28,705
Current assets	36,854	27,441
Less: Current liabilities	(16,046)	(22,900)
	<u>45,462</u>	<u>33,246</u>
Represented by:		
General fund	25,582	34,800
Net surplus (deficit) for year	11,216	(9,218)
Staff retirement reserve	8,664	7,664
	<u>45,462</u>	<u>33,246</u>

□ David Rothenberg, Hon. Treasurer

Self Aid of Refugees

This charity gives direct financial support to those with the most pressing needs including many who also benefit from the Day Centre. Our individual Aid Grants increased by 35% over 1993. The AJR Charitable Trust's contribution is supplemented by the B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck (London) Lodge Trust Fund whose help is deeply appreciated.

Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31st December 1994

	1994	1993
Income		
Donations/Legacies/Concert	7,540	2,531
AJR Charitable Trust	34,641	23,000
B'nai B'rith	8,270	4,340
	<u>50,451</u>	<u>29,875</u>
Expenditure		
Aid Grants	45,729	33,860
Administration costs	5,560	5,539
Net deficit	<u>(838)</u>	<u>(9,524)</u>

AJR Charitable Trust

The Charitable Trust provides financial support for the welfare work of the AJR, bearing the costs of the Day Centre and contributing substantially to the Otto Schiff Housing Association. The remarks of the AJR Honorary Treasurer concerning the transitional nature of 1994 apply to these figures as well.

Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31st December 1994

	1994	1993
Income		
Covenants/donations	35,617	11,298
Investment income	261,521	252,448
	<u>297,138</u>	<u>263,746</u>
Legacies	398,126	354,650
	<u>695,264</u>	<u>618,396</u>
Expenditure		
Day Centre/		
Meals on Wheels	139,521	174,622
AJR - Welfare subvention	-	190,000
Self Aid	34,641	23,000
Otto Schiff Housing Association*	300,000	200,000
Other organisations	1,700	2,732
Administration/ depreciation	245,359	48,381
	<u>721,221</u>	<u>638,735</u>

*Includes advance payment for 1995

The AJR at Work

Beside the seaside

A happy and excited group of 48 AJR members left the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, led by Sylvia and Renée, for a week's holiday in Bournemouth. Though it was a very cold day, with traces of snow still on the ground from the previous night, the coach was warm and comfortable. A snack lunch of sandwiches, fruit juices and Kit-Kat was taken 'on the move'.

On arrival at the Heathland Hotel's friendly reception, rooms were quickly allocated and everyone soon settled in. The first night's entertainment was provided by a one-man-band and a singer – and there was dancing too.

On the following day an outing was arranged to visit Weymouth, a port and well-preserved watering hole of an early Georgian monarch. We all went to see the wishing well where appropriate, if private, incantations were made to the gods of good fortune and the National Lottery.

On Tuesday the gods certainly did not smile on our band of holiday-makers – it poured heaven's hardest all day and because of galeforce winds and floods the driver advised our group of 'oldies' not to take the risk of travelling, good advice we had to accept, though naturally we were disappointed.

The weather proved extremely variable throughout the week, sometimes not too bad at all and at others with winds threatening to blow you off your feet. During the sunny spells most of us either took walks along the cliff promenade, basking in that specially warm sunshine which they reserve for Bournemouth's sea-front shelters, or took shopping trips into the town centre.

Once again Renée's husband came down specially to present one of his brain-teasing general knowledge quizzes (he must think that we are a lot cleverer than we are) and to call a very jolly bingo session – we are all good at that!

Hey presto! and the week was over before we knew it. Thanks to Sylvia and Renée especially, nearly everything went smoothly without any apparent mishaps. The hotel was comfortable, the meals tasty and well served, and the staff friendly and helpful.

All members of the group would like to express their gratitude to Sylvia and Renée both for the work and effort they put into organising this holiday, and for their care, warmth and friendship which made for such a happy and successful week. Thanks, too, to Mr. Lee for his support, good humour and the entertainment he provided.

Since everyone enjoyed their holiday so much, they are already looking forward to the next one. It is rumoured that some bookings have already been received!

□ H&J

Glenda's tenders

Parking in the London Borough of Camden has become so restrictive that it is causing practical problems for AJR's social workers when calling on, or collecting, our members.

Recently a social worker arranged to call for an elderly lady to take her to the Day Centre. As the member lived in Hampstead, part of the Borough of Camden, it was virtually impossible to find a legal stopping-place or a pay-and-display meter anywhere near the address, all spaces having been permanently commandeered for residential parking (which is largely left empty for most weekdays).

Finally she had to leave her car outside the client's flat in a residential parking bay (with no inconvenience or obstruction to anyone). A note was left on the window explaining the needs of her work and

that she would be returning within five minutes.

Three flights of stairs were climbed, the client helped to ready herself, and the three flights carefully retraced. The ten minutes this took were enough to attract the attentions of a traffic warden who was already taking down details. Though sympathetic, pleading and further explanations were to no avail; "I've started, so I'll have to finish" was the injunction; "a letter to Camden Council should do the trick". This was done – and reply there was none.

Several months later the demand came for a £40 fine and, duty bound, the AJR paid it. However, incensed by the inherent injustice and the bureaucracy which is making ordinary life more difficult, if not impossible for many of the borough's elderly and infirm people, we approached Glenda Jackson M.P. to help us avoid similar situations by making the council provide a reasonable number of short-term, strategically-placed parking areas for the convenience of Camden residents who cannot walk very far and do not possess motor cars. Watch this space! □

Midlands AJR

The meeting of Midlands AJR, held on Sunday 26 March, attracted close on 30 people, perhaps encouraged by the delicious lunch prepared by Corinne Oppenheimer, Chairman of the Birmingham Progressive Synagogue, who also made their premises available free of charge. People came from as far afield as Wales and Malvern.

Ernest David, Director of the AJR, gave a short presentation of what the AJR does now to serve and assist its members, and threw out some thoughts as to how best the Midlands Group might build on its successful beginnings.

When group convenor, Edgar Glaser, called for suggestions, a number of ideas were put forward, including discussion on German books read in one's younger days, and talks on pensions, outings etc.

The group's next event will be a visit to Shrewsbury on Sunday 9 July. For details please ring Edgar Glaser on 0121-777-6537 □

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:

Tuesday 2 May
Wednesday 10 May
Thursday 18 May
Monday 22 May
Tuesday 30 May
Wednesday 7 June

and every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at:

AJR, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Froggnal,
London NW3

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

Message from Ernest David

Fifty years ago the war in Europe ended. Since then the world has not been a peaceful place. Millions of people have died and every day some people continue to die in wars between nations, civil wars (so often the most vicious and cruel), as well as from hunger and neglect.

It is pointless to try to classify a hierarchy of suffering, but the Shoah was unique in that it was marked (to use Lord Bullock's description) by the industrialisation of murder. Other massacres and other genocides all had reasons - however perverted - religious, political, territorial, economic, but the Shoah was committed by apparently rational people, not in anger, and while keeping meticulous records.

Today the Shoah is still unique. There is

no other event in history on this scale and horror whose happening is denied. True, the Turks deny that they massacred the Armenians, but since they were the perpetrators that is hardly surprising.

In the case of the Shoah it is not the Germans, as perpetrators, who deny it as historical fact, but others who disseminate this under the guise of historical revisionism.

Our people were massacred because they were Jews. Persistent lies are aimed at the Shoah because it concerned Jews. World War Two ended 50 years ago, but the history of 2,000 years of antisemitism lives on, and even springs up in places with no such previous history, like Japan.

The lessons for us are clear. We must not forget, because our memories are the only tombstones of the victims. We must also be active in combating antisemitism and racism by all means in our power. It is better to fight, because we cannot escape by not fighting □

WORLD WAR II: 50 YEARS ON

RECOLLECTIONS & ASPIRATIONS

An international meeting hosted by **The Royal Society of Medicine** on Wednesday 24th May 1995

Contact Lisa Spicer at the RSM for programme details and registration
1 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE
Tel: 0171-290-2900

ACJR

If you were a child of a parent who was a refugee or survivor from Nazi Europe, The Association of Children of Jewish Refugees has friendly cultural & social events that may be of interest

Please call **Anne** on **0181 579 9906** for more information and the current programme

PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

Tel. 0171 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 -

MAY

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Monday 1 | LIGHT CLASSICS & SHOW SONGS - Carmen Lasok (Soprano) accompanied by Philip Mountford (Piano) |
| Tuesday 2 | TWO IN A BAR - Fiona Cooper (Soprano) accompanied by Marek Dabrowski-Pernas (Piano) |
| Wednesday 3 | LE JAZZ - Dave Kelbie & Steve Elsworth |
| Thursday 4 | LANCELOT BRAGANZA & HIS KEYBOARD |
| Sunday 7 | VIVA VOCE - Helen Gilheany & Group |
| Monday 8 | DAY CENTRE CLOSED - Bank Holiday |

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Tuesday 9 | SONGS BY WEIL & GERSHWIN FOLLOWED BY A COLLECTION OF FOLK SONGS - Elizabeth Fried (Soprano) accompanied by Angus Cunningham (Piano) |
| Wednesday 10 | THE MELODIANS |
| Thursday 11 | MUSIC & FUN - Arianne Prussner (Soprano) accompanied by Jasmina (Piano) |
| Sunday 14 | DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT |
| Monday 15 | MELODY HOUR - Avril Kaye & David Jedwab accompanied by Mabel Wirtzum (Piano) |
| Tuesday 16 | SONGS & PIANO DUETS - Lesley Barnes (Soprano & Piano) and Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano) |
| Wednesday 17 | THE TRINITY QUARTET |
| Thursday 18 | THE MELODY MAKERS - Kathy McCormack & Ken Penney |
| Sunday 21 | DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT |
| Monday 22 | SONGS THAT LEAVE THEIR MARK - Mark Rosen (Tenor) accompanied by Daphne Lewis (Piano) |
| Tuesday 23 | CONCERT - CABARET - Primrose Powell (Soprano) accompanied by Andrew Wells (Piano) |

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Wednesday 24 | VIENNESE COCKTAIL - Emmanuel Emerich (Violin) accompanied by Jason Brooks (Piano) |
| Thursday 25 | A SUMMER RECITAL FOR CELLO & PIANO - Richard Jenkinson (Cello) accompanied by Clare Prewer (Piano) |
| Sunday 28 | DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT |
| Monday 29 | DAY CENTRE CLOSED - BANK HOLIDAY |
| Tuesday 30 | MAYTIME RECITAL - Kim Brown (Soprano) accompanied by Philip Mountford (Piano) |
| Wednesday 31 | MOMENTS MUSICALS - SCHUBERT & MORE PERFORMED ON A WIDE VARIETY OF FLUTES & RECORDERS - Mark Underwood |

JUNE

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Thursday 1 | A SUMMER MEDLEY - Charlotte Mathews (Soprano) accompanied by Vivian Powells (Piano) |
| Sunday 4 | DAY CENTRE CLOSED - SHAVUOTH |
| Monday 5 | DAY CENTRE CLOSED - SHAVUOTH |

FAMILY EVENTS

Deaths

Crewe, Francis (Formerly Franz Krug) Born 20.11.1910 Dvur Králové n/L Czechoslovakia. Died 24.3.1995 in Manchester. Deeply mourned by his wife Lilly, sons Ivor and Andy, daughters-in-law Jill and Jackie, and grandchildren Ben, Daniel, Deborah, Jeffrey, Jonathan and Peter.

Sanger, Kate died peacefully at her home after a long illness on 21st March, aged 80. Deeply missed by her son Robert and many friends.

CLASSIFIED

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Lady willing to care for elderly person on hourly basis one or two days a week in north and northwest London. Car owner. Please reply to Box. No. 1276.

Companion/help for active elderly lady in Wimbledon. Own comfortable room. No cleaning but cooking welcome. Terms to be arranged. Tel: 0181-946 2756.

Miscellaneous

Electrician City and Guilds qualified. All domestic work undertaken. Y. Steinreich. Tel: 081 455 5262.

Manicure and Pedicure in the comfort of your own home. Tele-phone 081 455 7582.

Top Hat. One of the AJR's very welcome entertainers at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre would very much like to find a 'Top Hat', size 6 7/8, to use in her presentation. If you have one no longer in use, please contact Hannah at the Centre, tel: 0171-328-0208.

Lady, 70s, seeks self-catering accommodation London for few weeks, easy reach West End. Please reply to Box. No. 1277.

AJR
1 HAMPSTEAD GATE
1A FROGNAL
LONDON NW3
Tel: 0171-431 6161

WANTED!
 Driver for AJR car to drive members to and from the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre
 Contact: Renée Lee
 0181-328 0208

"THE HOLOCAUST REMEMBERED"
 Rev. Dr. I. Levy OBE TD and Mr. K. Kendel
 Wednesday 31st May 1995 at 8pm
 Eli Chinn Hall
 Hampstead Synagogue
 Dennington Park Road, NW6
 Council of Christians & Jews

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A History of the Jews in German-Speaking Lands
 by Ralph Blumenau
 Published by University of the Third Age at £3.50
 Obtainable from:
 44 Crowndale Road, NW1 1TR

LESSLER-SCHULE, BERLIN
 Former pupils are invited to an **International Reunion** to be held in London on Saturday, June 24th
 For details please contact Charlotte Fraenkel
 Tel: 0181-202-3786

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Alice Schwab

Art Notes

Frank Lloyd Wright is the most revered figure in the history of American architecture. An exhibition *Frank Lloyd Wright in Chicago* at the *Design Museum*, Shad Thames, London SE1 (until 3 September) provides an insight into the design and production of his architectural projects in Chicago between 1887 and 1915.

John Eskenazi is a leading dealer in oriental works of art and the inaugural exhibition at his London gallery, 15 Old Bond Street (until 23 June) presents a fine selection of sculpture, paintings, rugs and textiles from the first century BCE to the eighteenth century CE.

Richard Avedon, born in New York in 1923, is claimed to be one of the world's most eminent photographers. A retrospective exhibition of his work over the last fifty years *Evidence 1944-1994* is at the *National Portrait Gallery* (until 11 June). Some 200 photographs are being shown. His fashion photography and his virtual re-invention of photographic portraiture established him as one of the leading photographers of his generation.



The Generals of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Richard Avedon.

The *Ben Uri Art Society* is showing *Eighty Years of Jewish Art*, a special exhibition (7 May to end of June) to mark the 80th anniversary of the foundation of the Society in the East End of London in 1915. The exhibition is selected from works in the society's own collection, acquired during the many years of its existence. They include Hirszenberg's large oil, *The Sabbath Rest*, drawings by

Simeon Solomon, some of the earliest works acquired by the Society, and works by many other artists such as Bomberg, Kramer, Epstein, Gertler, Lucien Pissarro, Freedman, Herman, Meidner, etc.

Allen Jones: *Graphic Retrospective 1959-1995* is at the *Barbican Centre* (until 29 May). Jones studied painting and photography at Hornsey and at the Royal College, where Kitaj and Hockney were his contemporaries. He acquired a reputation as Britain's leading 'Pop' artist in the '60s. The exhibition shows 200 of his prints covering all aspects of his work.

From 5 May to 3 June, *Marlborough Fine Art* will be holding a memorial exhibition devoted to the work of Mordecai Ardon, one of Israel's foremost artists. Polish-born Ardon studied in Berlin and under Klee, Kandinsky and Feininger at the Bauhaus in Weimar. He emigrated to Palestine in 1933 and directed the Bezalel School from 1940-1952. His final years were spent mostly in Paris.

The *After Auschwitz Installations* at the *Imperial War Museum* continue until 29 May. The *Responses to the Holocaust* exhibition moves to the *Manchester Art Galleries* (13 May to 2 July), complemented by an installation by Magdalena Abakanowicz, a leading European artist, whose work has a deeply humanistic content.

And just for your diary: the summer exhibition of the *Royal Academy* opens on 3 June and continues until 13 August □

SB's Column

The last Stuart Queen, Queen Anne, and her confidante, Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough are the protagonists in the classic comedy *Un verre d'eau* by Eugène Scribe which had its première at the Vienna 'Burg' as *Ein Glas Wasser* in 1841 with many revivals, the most recent in 1969. It has just had another successful run at Berlin's 'Komödie' with Johanna von Koczian and other prominent German actors.

Seventy years ago, 1925 was an important year in the field of light music when the operetta *Glamorous Nights* by Ivor Novello, Vincent Yeoman's *No, No, Nanette* and Bruno Granichstaedten's *Orlow* first reached the stage, whilst Prague-born Rudolf Friml scored with the melodious *Vagabond King* in the United States. It was also the year of Leo Fall's

untimely death, shortly after his lively operetta *Madame Pompadour* had temporarily threatened Kalman's and Lehar's hegemony in the sphere of operetta.

Appreciations. The Düsseldorf Heinrich Heine Institute is presenting an exhibition about the life and work of the Jewish writer Rose Ausländer (1901-1988) featuring over 200 examples of the author's work under the title 'Flying between Czernowitz, Düsseldorf and New York'. The Vienna Jewish Museum has been showing the work of the painter Isidor Kaufmann (1853-1921). The exhibition started with a major celebration attended by numerous VIPs and members of several generations of the family who arrived from abroad. Kaufmann's great variety of paintings shows his special attachment to the world of the *shtetl* on which his interest mainly focused during the second half of his life.

Traditional France. A recent survey into readers' preference of classic French literature resulted in an overwhelming majority voting for the *Fables* of Lafontaine, ever popular since their origin in the 17th century □

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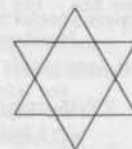
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Cooking with Gretel Beer



Linzer Pasteten

Some years ago when writing for the 'Daily Telegraph', I received a reader's letter asking whether I could possibly get her the recipe for the little almond tarts served in the buffet of the Vienna Opera's "Fourth Gallery". She was absolutely adamant about this – not the grand main buffet – apparently these special tartlets were served only in the buffet up in the lofty heights and they were different from ordinary *Linzer Torten*, *Linzer Augen* and the like. This seemed an impossible request – I could not even hazard to find out who had done the catering on the Fourth Gallery – but I did mention it to the late Gisela Kostler at the *Kleine Zeitung* in Graz during my next visit. "She means *Linzer Pasteten*" said Gisela – whose *Dagobert* column was a veritable cookery archive – and she promptly returned with the recipe.

The reader agreed that this was exactly as she remembered her long-lost "treasure" and the recipe is certainly too good to sink into oblivion.

6oz (170g) plain flour
5oz (140g) icing sugar
5oz (140g) ground unblanched almonds
pinch each of powdered cinnamon and allspice
1 teaspoon grated lemonrind
5oz (140g) butter
4 hardboiled egg yolks
a little eggwhite
a little egg yolk
blanched, nibbed or slivered almonds
cranberry jam
butter and flour for the baking sheet

Butter and flour a baking sheet. Preheat oven to Gas Mark 5, 375 F, 190 C.

Sift together flour and sugar. Add the ground almonds, cinnamon, allspice and lemonrind. Rub in the butter and the hardboiled egg yolks (you can use the finely chopped whites for sprinkling over lettuce salads). Roll out the pastry to about ¼" thickness. Stamp into rounds about 2" in diameter. Gather up the offcuts and roll between the palms of your hands to pencil slimness, then use them to form a small band around each pastry, sealing them down with a little egg white. Brush over the pastries with egg yolk and sprinkle rim with almonds. Bake until golden brown. Set to cool on a rack and fill the centre with cranberry jam □

Problems at the bank

Some of our members, who pay their subscriptions by bank standing order, have been receiving reminders as a result of their standing order payments failing to reach AJR's membership account.

Investigations at the AJR's bank have revealed a problem with some paying banks which have not amended their records since Barclays merged their South Hampstead and Swiss Cottage branches in July 1992.

With the opening of the new combined branch, the sort code and the AJR account number were also changed. For two years the bank advised all paying banks about these changes when they received instructions to credit our account. However, if the paying banks failed to amend their records when so advised, they are still using an incorrect sort code and account number.

As the two years have now passed, any intended payment misdirected in this way is automatically rejected by the clearing house and returned to the paying branch. Any AJR members to whom this applies will initially find a debit on their account for the payment which, however, will subsequently be followed by a credit which cancels the original debit. Some confusion may result in that there may not be a clear definition of the nature of the 'refund' on a bank statement.

If any AJR members receive a reminder notice from us, but believe that they have already paid their membership fees by standing order, please ask the AJR for a form with which to amend and update your bank's instructions.

For your information, the AJR's bank and membership account details are:
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Account Name: Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain Benevolent Society □

Oscar triumph

The Academy Award for the best live action short film went to Franz Kafka's *It's a Wonderful Life*, produced by Ruth Kenley Letts. Ruth is the daughter of AJR members Henry and Lys Kenley.

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

- May 1st** Mrs. Elizabeth Spencer (journalist, author, translator) 'Gertrude Kolmar, her Jewish Poetry' with bilingual readings. ('The Shimmering Crystal', a bilingual edition will be published in June).
- May 8th** No lecture (Bank Holiday).
- May 15th** Club 1943 Annual General Meeting with 'gemütliches Beisammensein'.
- May 22nd** Dr. M. Glatt, M.D: 'Problems with Alcohol' – with discussion. (Dr. Glatt has specialised in this field, including group therapy).
- May 29th** No lecture (Bank Holiday).
- June 5th** No lecture (Jewish Holiday).

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For information please call
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Obituary

Salli Kesten

Galician born Salli Kesten, who has died aged 84, spent his formative years in Germany where his father's death caused him to be the family's provider just before the Nazi takeover.

Eventually the rest of the family went to Palestine, whereas Salli came to London where he joined the family business and worked successfully in managing the factory during the war years and developing an export-import trade after the war.

Endowed with artistic talent, Salli in his younger years organised theatrical presentations for the *Hechalutz* organisation in Mannheim, and later in London he was an active supporter of the Ben Uri Gallery. He was also founder and President of the Bromley B'nai B'rith Lodge.

Above all, Salli Kesten had an exceptional passion for postage stamps with Jewish themes and amassed a unique collection which he recently donated to the new Philatelic Museum in Tel Aviv. The extensive research which he carried out to accompany his collection was published by the Judaica Philatelic Society which he founded in London in 1981. His widely read 'Yellow Pages' of biographies of Jews depicted on stamps, remains a bible for Judaica stamp collectors the world over □

Hitler and the Holocaust (Part 8)

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

What is remarkable is how successful patient and dedicated historical research has been over the past 50 years in putting together a mosaic picture of the Holocaust covering not only Eastern, but Western Europe, as well. One of the most thorough operations, for example, was in Holland, where 110,000 of the 140,000 Dutch Jews were deported to the death camps, of whom only 6,000 survived. On 3rd February 1944, the sixty-seventh train left Paris for Auschwitz carrying 1,214 Jews. Of these, fourteen were over 80 years old; more than a hundred under 16.

Only 26 survived the war. Another train, a week later, had 1,229 on board.

The SS arm was a long one: it reached out and took the 260 Jews of Canea in Crete: the 1,800 Jews of Corfu: 43,000 out of the 56,000 Jews of Salonika, where they had lived since the time of St Paul. It was not only cities that were combed. Small towns and villages, where no more than a handful of Jews lived, were searched – four examples at random were two Jews from Colibasi in Bessarabia on the River Prut; nine from Duja Poljana in Serbia, three from the Greek island of Samothrace, eight from the Estonian town of Johvi on the Gulf of Finland.

The numbers in each of these cases can be stated with confidence, but because of the circumstances in Eastern Europe a precise total figure whether for Russian, Polish or Jewish losses cannot be put together. The only way to proceed is to set parameters and say that between 5 and 6 million Jews perished in the Holocaust, a figure which I believe most historians would accept. There were some victims from almost all the nations of Europe, but the majority came from Russia and Poland, and after that from Hungary, Romania, Czechoslovakia, the Baltic States and Germany.

It is important, however, not to become too pre-occupied with argument about marginal differences in the numbers, even when it is a 5 or 10 per cent difference. It is the fact that matters, the fact – whether we are talking of 5 or 6 million – that in my lifetime, in the 20th century, it should have been possible for a group of that order of magnitude to be deliberately exterminated, not in the heat of battle, not for any crime, or anything they had done, but as an act of state policy aimed at the total elimination of all persons who happened to be of Jewish or partly Jewish descent.

There is a second reason. Because the imagination cannot conceive of murder and human suffering on such a scale, it is necessary always to remind ourselves that every single figure in these millions represents acts of cruelty, terror and degradation inflicted on an individual human being like ourselves, a man, a woman, a child, even a baby – inflicted by other human beings.

It is of course true that other people besides the Jews, Russians, Poles, Yugoslavs, not to forget the gypsies – suffered terrible losses in World War II; that greater numbers perished in Stalin's collectivisa-

tion campaign and purges; that genocide has been practised against other peoples – Armenians, Kurds, Cambodians and now as 'ethnic cleansing' in Yugoslavia.

Each one of these monstrous actions was unique – in different ways – to those who experienced them. In the case of the Holocaust its uniqueness lies in two things. The first is the proportion of the group put to death. If we take the Jewish estimate of 10 million Jews living in Europe at the beginning of the war, the lower estimate of 5 million deaths represents the extermination of 50 per cent, the higher figure of 6 million 60 per cent. Even if we take the SS figure of 11 million, the proportions are still over 45 or over 54 per cent: proportions which no other case known to me approaches. The second is the calculated, cold blooded, impersonal way in which it was carried out, deliberately designed to deprive the victims of their membership of the human race as well as their lives.

I end as I began, with the reason for giving this lecture. I understand and share the feeling of many younger people, including many younger Jews, that life moves on, that we cannot forever be recalling the past but must turn to the future. We accept this in the case of the Second World War and the 35 million other deaths the European nations inflicted on each other. But then no one questions that the Second World War took place. That is the difference.

My hope is that by setting out the facts which I have summarised – that there was a systematic attempt to exterminate Europe's Jewish population, that (as Goebbels wrote in his diary) Hitler was 'the moving spirit both in word and deed', and that between 5 and 6 million Jews actually perished – I shall have brought nearer the day when the Holocaust too can finally be accepted as part of the historical record, in the same way as the rest of what happened in the Second World War, and the shadow of doubt once and for all removed.

(Concluded)

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The wedding ring

Sometimes it seems a thousand years ago, and sometimes only yesterday that I landed in this wonderful country. I was a Jewish refugee, one of the lucky ones, who fled from Nazi occupied Austria in March 1939 and found refuge in what became my adopted country, a country whose citizenship I value above all else.

As soon as war was declared in September 1939, I volunteered for the Royal Army Pioneer Corps and was stationed at the Kitchener Camp at Sandwich which had been lying empty since the end of the First World War.

The Viennese girl who was to become my wife had landed on these shores, the only member of her family to escape the Nazi horror, one week before me, having obtained a permit which enabled her to work, but only as a domestic servant. She was employed by the well-known writer of children's books, Enid Blyton, who lived in Beaconsfield. This was a long way from Ramsgate, and my soldier's pay didn't add up to the fare. Fortunately my girlfriend earned more than I did, and she solved that problem. It was far from easy arranging a rendezvous in London – neither of us knew any part of London and neither of us could speak a word of English! In those far-off days, only English was spoken in England and what with the black-out and unable to ask directions, it now strikes me as remarkable that we ever found each other. However, love conquers all, and we did occasionally meet in London.

We soon decided to get married – I wanted so much to give my bride a gold wedding ring, but I simply hadn't enough money to buy one. I was so upset that I couldn't keep my disappointment to myself and confided in my army pals – all refugees like myself. They evidently held a summit conference and informed me they would give me a gold wedding ring as a wedding present. I was moved beyond words and not a little embarrassed – they told me to ask my fiancée to send a pattern, the size of her finger, and leave the rest to them.

Amongst the men was a goldsmith by trade and he would make the ring, assuming of course he could be provided with sufficient gold. Little scraps came to him, bit by bit, a few links from someone's precious watch-chain, a piece from a ring that was not found when the Nazis

searched each man on leaving Austria, one man donated the end of a tie pin that belonged to his father, and so on. Even a couple of gold teeth were handed in – in those days one could always depend on a Continental having a gold tooth in his head.

The goldsmith melted the gold – there was enough for two wedding rings! This was even more wonderful as it was customary on the continent of Europe for the bridegroom to wear a wedding ring too. Our names were engraved on the insides of the rings and the date of our forthcoming marriage. So my bride had a gold ring after all.

More than forty years have gone by, and we wear those precious rings to this day. I will never forget those men whose kindness remains with us – a memory forged in an endless band of gold.

□ Oscar Pressburger

WITH THANKS

We would like to express our grateful appreciation for the legacies received in 1994 by the AJR and the AJR Charitable Trust from the Estates of the following:

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For either position please apply to:

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SEARCH NOTICES

Walter J. Richards, formerly known as **Walter Rechnitzer** of Vienna, is seeking to contact or learn the fate of:

Herbert Walter Sinclair, formerly **Fritz Schwarz**, a family friend who left Vienna in 1939 for the Kitchener Camp in Kent, later served in the British Army, last heard of in London in 1947; **Gertrude Rechnitzer**, an aunt, last heard of in Poole, Dorset, in 1945; and **Hertha Koralek**, a cousin, last contact in Cheltenham in 1945. Walter Richards came to England in 1939, served in the Army and RAF from 1944 to 1953. Please phone him on 01980-622-614, or write to 20 Annetts Close, Amesbury, Salisbury, Wilts. SP4 7RA. Any information would be appreciated.

Michael Sherwood, formerly Schwarzbart, born in Leipzig, came to England by Kindertransport. After 1945, officer in the military administration in Bersenbrück. Now lives in London. Looking for information on documentation re Jews of Bersenbrück. Please write to Maria von Borries, Schwachhauser Heerstr. 67B D-28211 Bremen, Germany.

Sigi Grossbard (Steven Gordon). Wartime experiences being researched (Dachau 1938; Buchenwald 1939; England, internment, via HMT 'Dunera', in Australia; return to U.K. Nov. 1941). Anybody who may have known him (especially from 1941) is invited to contact Michael Gordon: 01442 876126.