

AJR Information

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Don't miss . . .

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Axis partners

Both countries waged war that brought indescribable suffering to their victims. Both saw themselves as a master race.

Both crashed to defeat and rose phoenix-like from the ashes. Both, denying guilt, put the end - Dresden, Hiroshima - before the beginning. Eventually the Germans *alone* began to show repentance. The reason: Hitler notwithstanding Germany belongs to the Western (Judeo-Christian) tradition.

The link between genocide and ethnic cleansing

Error and trial

Reporters who went to Banstead, Surrey, when 84-year-old Szymon Serafimowicz faced committal proceedings on war crimes charges were told by his indignant neighbours: "Why can't 'they' leave him alone? He is a nice old man with always a smile for the kids". By 'they' the Bansteaders presumably meant the shades of the dead in Belorus, a location which, though it can be reached by Aeroflot, appears several galaxies distant from Banstead.

This is the mindset to which Chamberlain had given voice nearly two generations ago by describing Czechoslovakia as a far-away country of which we knew little!

Alas, no Twentieth Century atlas includes the category 'far-away countries'. Today Srebrenica and Zepa are in everybody's living-room. And Serb war criminals go about their grizzly business in these killing fields precisely because they know that many of their predecessors went unpunished. After the war the US employed - instead of prosecuting - Nazi spy chief von Gehlen and rocket designer von Braun; in Federal Germany an ex-Kommandant of Theresienstadt was allowed to escape detection for the rest of his life; postwar Britain admitted countless anti-Soviet 'refugees' like Auschwitz doctor Dering and Szymon Serafimowicz without bothering to look into their past.

Preoccupied with the Cold War and the postwar labour shortage - but also infected by the 'far

away country' syndrome - Whitehall lacked the political will to do the right and needful thing. Now, fifty years later, ghosts that were never laid to rest stalk the lanes round leafy Banstead.

The Whitehall mandarins' reluctance to do anything about the likes of Serafimowicz and Dr Dering earlier on is not totally unrelated to the current pusillanimous Western response to Serb aggression. Ostrich-brained politicians argue that Britain - or the West - cannot be expected to carry the burden of an increasingly unruly world. They are wrong!! It is incumbent upon the West to give leadership; if it fails to do so the whole human race including Western countries will go to hell.

And hell is, of course, literally the place to which Dr Dering (and his ilk) consigned that part of the human race known as European Jewry.

The forthcoming Serafimowicz trial has naturally prompted intense debate - a debate which has sometimes, unfortunately, produced rather more heat than light. Critics argue that exposing octogenarians to the judicial process is a useless exercise; judgment, they claim, should be left to historians. (As if historians could be objective - *vide* Charmley's Churchill-bashing and Prof Hobsbawm's glossing over of Soviet crimes!) Hobsbawm's adversarial colleague, Norman Stone, meanwhile contends that it is wrong to punish Nazi atrocities without doing something equivalent about Soviet crimes (which is rather like telling doctors: 'Don't cure cancer unless you can also cure Aids'!)

The company of anti-trial advocates is surprisingly joined by Chaim Bermant, the otherwise cherishable scourge of rabid rabbis and Likud bigots. Bermant contends that the doddering dotard Serafimowicz is a different man from the uniformed Nazi auxiliary of fifty-odd years ago. (Nonsense - as if the 82-year-old Mao Tse-tung, or the 83-year-old General Franco had been different men from their blood-thirsty younger selves!)

No, the Serafimowicz trial must go ahead, both for the sake of the dead of Belorus and of the still-living in Bosnia. □

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Management and Staff
of the
AJR

Wish all Members a
VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

לשנה טובה תנתנו

Profile

Bearer of a famous name

Certain Jewish surnames – for instance Kissinger, or Feuchtwanger – are one word shorthand for the history of many generations. They indicate that families took the name of the South West German village in which they had lived, generally as cattle or corn dealers, before moving into town.

The geographical move was often accompanied by other changes. Though Edgar Feuchtwanger's grandfather was a Torah treu disciple of Samson Raphael Hirsch he sent his two ablest sons to Munich University. The eldest became the renowned author Lion Feuchtwanger (whose prestige among Left 1930s intellectuals was such that Stalin asked to be interviewed by him). Edgar's father became a publisher of scholarly works by the likes of Werner Sombart; in addition he edited, from 1930, the *Bayrisch – Israelitische Gemeinde Zeitung*. Edgar was thus reared in a cultivated environment, albeit under the lengthening Nazi shadow. In 1939 aged fourteen, he arrived in England to stay with a doctor's family in Cornwall. (His parents came over separately.) He attended Winchester Public School, read history at Cambridge and completed a PhD. Thereafter he worked in adult education at Southampton and later joined the university faculty. He taught, and published books on Gladstone and Disraeli, as well as on Weimar Germany.

As an additional string to his bow he initiated research on defence studies at Southampton. The latter project brought him into contact with a WW2 fighting Brigadier whose doctor daughter he married. They have three children. The youngest daughter is, like her mother, an accomplished horsewoman; on many Sundays our profilee hitches a horsebox trailer to his car and drives to a nearby horse show.

Another daughter is a journalist. The son teaches German exile literature at a Californian campus. His choice of subject shows that the past still exerts a pull on the British-born Feuchtwangers. As for Edgar, he is a rich repository of family lore. He enjoys reminiscing about the good-bad old days in Munich or describ-



Edgar Feuchtwanger

ing visits to the Californian Villa Aurora where Lion's widow Martha guarded the famous 30,000 volume library. He also maintains his long term involvement with the Leo Baeck Institute on whose Board he serves. Last, but not least, he is a member of AJR and an attentive reader of its journal.

□ RG

Demagogy and demography

In *Zumbi*, currently playing at Stratford's Theatre Royal, a character says: 'The Jews lost 6 million in the Holocaust – we Blacks lost 130 million through the slave trade.' The inference to be drawn from juxtaposing the two figures is not spelt out. I suppose the most innocuous inference would be that, given the Jews' grief over their loss, Blacks are entitled to feel commensurately more aggrieved. A less innocuous reading is that, seeing the number of Holocaust martyrs dwarfed by the victims of slavery, what on earth are the Jews bleating about?

I would not ascribe the latter malevolent view to the playwright – but I do charge him with plucking mindnumbing figures out of thin air and drawing meaningless comparisons in his quest for dramatic effect.

The Holocaust was compressed into three and a half years – mid-1941 to winter 1944 – while White (as distinct from Arab) involvement in slavery lasted three centuries, i.e. from Hawkins' 1580

landfall on the Guinea coast to Lincoln's Act of Emancipation in 1863. More importantly, while the horrors of the Middle Passage and of the plantation system can be laid at the White Man's door, the starting point of the whole vicious chain was Black-on-Black violence in Africa, i.e. inter-tribal warfare. After all, Europeans did not sail to the Guinea coast to capture slaves, but to buy them from their Black captors (or tribal chiefs).

The figure of 130 million victims is a fiction that bears no relation to the scale of inter-tribal conflict, contemporary shipping capacity, or West African population estimates for previous centuries. (In East Africa the population of Kenya, for instance, increased from 2 million before the British takeover to 13 million at Independence.)

Demographic statistics can, in fact, show amazing variations over relatively short periods. In 1750 the French outnumbered the English; by 1850, thanks to the Industrial Revolution, the situation was reversed.

What about Jewish population figures? These showed a steady and – later – incremental increase from a very low base of just over a million in 1700 (consequence of the Chmelnitzki pogroms). Over the next two centuries numbers doubled and trebled, reaching a global pre-Holocaust total of 18 million. What lay behind this (shortlived) fulfilment of the Biblical prophecy? Some were general European, others specifically Jewish, factors. The former included the continent-wide abatement of epidemics (such as the plague), as well as a slow, but steady, rise in living standards. Among the latter the Judaic laws on hygiene – handwashing before meals, mikva attendance etc. – and on diet, as well as the low incidence of alcoholism and of sexual promiscuity deserve mention.

Plentiful progeny, which nowadays marks out the orthodox, was in those pre-birth control days a feature of practically all Jewish as well as non-Jewish families (although gentiles probably had a higher rate of infant mortality for the aforementioned reasons).

Today, despite fifty years of post-war prosperity, demographically we are still several million below our pre-Holocaust total. The indications, alas, are that world Jewry will be hard put to maintain even the current figure – but that's another less-than-edifying story.

□ Richard Grunberger

Remembering Richborough

As we approach the Days of Awe our thoughts invariably turn to the past. We recall events and experiences which have made an indelible impact on us – especially in this 50th anniversary year.

My memories form a strangely variegated pattern. I recall my own meagre efforts to combat Fascism in this country when Moseley and his mob paraded though the streets of London.

Soon the dark clouds of war were gathering over Europe and the plight of German and Austrian Jews received prominence. Britain offered a haven on condition that they did not become a burden on the state. Children, not included in this provision, arrived with the Kindertransport. A third element were those wishing to come to Britain in transit for other countries, notably USA and Canada. For them a vast camp was established – or rather an old World War I camp which had become dilapidated was refurbished and its large huts made habitable. This was the famous Richborough Camp situated near Sandwich, Kent.

The outbreak of war created a dilemma for the camp inmates. Technically 'enemy aliens' they could have been interned for the duration of the war. Fortunately the spokesmen of Anglo-Jewry pleaded their cause. Wisdom dictated that they be offered the opportunity to display their animosity to Hitler as well as gratitude for the shelter provided for them. To this end a recruiting campaign was inaugurated designed to obtain volunteers for the British Army (it being understood that as aliens they could only serve in a non-combatant capacity, which meant the Pioneer Corps).

As it transpired the method of recruitment left much to be desired. A Major Davidson who led the campaign, no doubt well meaning and with every honest intention, though hopelessly misinformed, realised that the camp's inhabitants were men of no mean standing. There were qualified doctors and dentists, former bankers, linguists and academics; to all these he promised an opportunity to serve in a capacity which fitted their qualifications – doctors in the Medical Corps, dentists in the Dental Corps, bankers in the Pay Corps and academics and linguists

in Intelligence. But these promises had no substance. High qualification did not exempt from the grinding boredom of a Labour Battalion. Once these men donned uniform they were subjected to all the rigours of army discipline and the basic training demanded of any recruit – 'square bashing' in military parlance.

Ultimately Richborough was divided into two distinct areas – a military, and for those who remained so, a civilian camp. The former was commanded by Lord Reading with the rank of Lt. Colonel, and the latter largely controlled by the Central British Fund and the Refugee Committee. As for religious ministrations, the civilians enjoyed the services of Rabbi Dr. Van der Zyl, whereas I was appointed Army Chaplain to the military camp.

This was my first assignment on being commissioned in the Royal Army Chaplains' Department. It was a strange and unique appointment. I was the first minister of a synagogue to be commissioned as a chaplain and was posted to Richborough largely due to the intervention of Sir Robert Waley Cohen. I well recall – with much amusement – that interview with Sir Robert who asked me whether I "spoke German with consequence", as though this language was an essential qualification for ministrations in an army unit where only English was to be spoken. I later realised that Sir Robert was justified in his approach. It did in fact transpire that German was a prime necessity, as I learnt to my cost. It led to my being severely reprimanded by Lord Reading for "encouraging the men to speak German and not English" in spite of the fact that I was giving English lessons to the men during their off duty periods. In my response to His Lordship I explained that when the men came to me to give expression to their anxieties they could only do so adequately in their mother tongue. How else could they, many of whom still had families in Europe, unburden themselves of their worries? Little did we realise then that the German language as used by these aliens in uniform would be put to good use. As the war progressed former members of the Pioneer Corps were transferred to Intelligence where they rendered invaluable service.

Nor should the contribution made by some of the civilian camp occupants be minimised. Manning the local station which monitored German broadcasts, their work led to the de-coding of messages which came over the air.

The name of Richborough deserves to be remembered for it represented not just a haven of refuge, but a generating station of valuable service to the cause of freedom.

□ Rev. Dr. Isaac Levy

OPEN DAY

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3.00 p.m.

Entrance £3.00 (Children £1)

All entrance prices include refreshments

German pensions update

Eli Ered has informed us that a recent examination of several pension awards from the BfA, Berlin, has shown a pattern of possibly erroneous computation of credits, leading, in some cases, to pension applicants receiving a very small pension award.

The calculation of the amount of a pension depends both on credits granted by the BfA in respect of the persecution period from 1939-1949, and on contributions made to the UK National Insurance Scheme during and after that period. It is possible that the BfA may have misinterpreted the information provided by the UK Department of Social Security.

In order to ascertain whether an error has, in fact, taken place, the DSS has now agreed to supply pension applicants with a copy of form E205 (the record of contributions sent to Germany). Anyone who believes that a low German pension offer may have been based on a mistaken calculation of their credits and contributions, should request a copy of their form E205 from the DSS, Pensions and Overseas Benefits (Awards), Tyneview Park, Benton, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, NE98 1BA. Remember to quote your N.I. or UK pension number.

When you receive your E205, you may call Eli Ered for advice (0171 628 2921) □

Reviews

Baton charge

Ronald Harwood, *TAKING SIDES*, Criterion Theatre, Piccadilly Circus.

I had a friend who could not be persuaded that Stalin's Politburo consisted of dyed-in-the-wool villains. Pressed for proof of the contrary he would say, "After all, Molotov is a cousin of the composer Scriabin".

Similar delusions blinded many people in the West to Nazi reality. What right had the emigrés, they sometimes puzzled, to call the Nazis barbarians if Richard Strauss carried on composing and Furtwängler conducting under the swastika? Not to mention the Bayreuth Festival and Gründgens' Thespian *tours de force*.

Readers may know that *Mephisto*, an exposé of Gründgens' receptivity to Nazi blandishment, was pulped after a German libel case in the late Forties, prompting its author to commit suicide; what they may not know is that Gründgens had been leftwing in pre-Nazi times. Unlike the actor, Furtwängler had been a man of the Right under the Weimar regime. This did not make him an overt *Stahlhelm* supporter – not least because art mattered infinitely more to him than politics.

For all that, Furtwängler was imbued with a German-patriotic, illiberal *Weltanschauung*. He confided to his diary in late 1939 that the democracies could not win the war because their political system sapped authority and put quantity in place of quality. Ten years later, having been cold-shouldered by the returning Thomas Mann he wrote: "Some of us don't change their nationality as often as their shirts".

Ronald Harwood mentions neither quote in his text (or programme notes). Otherwise, though, he deserves high marks as a researcher. This enabled him to present *Taking Sides* as a taut courtroom drama (in the form of preliminary hearings for a postwar Allied Denazification Tribunal) where prosecution and defence in turn reveal hitherto unknown facets of Furtwängler's life. The US military prosecutor conforms to the worst European stereotypes of Yankee philistinism; he falls asleep over a Beethoven record, calls Furtwängler a band leader and turns the air blue with

four-letter words. Above all, in his Belsen-fuelled disgust with Nazism and its putative beneficiaries, the Major doesn't scruple to doctor the evidence against his quarry. His determination to nail the haggard and disoriented Furtwängler (magnificently played by Daniel Massey) is countered by a threesome of truth-seekers: a US lieutenant of refugee origins, the German widow of a Jewish pianist (Susan Bertish, rather miscast) and the daughter of an executed July 1944 plotter.

The play ends with none of the Major's graver charges against Furtwängler proven. The audience are simply left with the impression of a somewhat flawed individual who fathered a series of illegitimate children, denigrated all his conductor colleagues – from Toscanini to Beecham – and was so jealous of the fast-rising Karajan that he conducted a birthday concert for Hitler simply to stymie his younger rival.

One charge against Furtwängler – whose gravity some dispute – however, sticks. By staying on in Nazi Germany he provided a cultural figleaf for a monstrous tyranny whose nature was plain for all to see from the onset; after all, concentration camps were set up even ahead of the Reich Chamber of Music. I can't help feeling that Harwood extends undue leniency to his protagonist. When the US Major asks Furtwängler why he didn't leave Germany alongside Bruno Walter and Klemperer, the playwright makes him exclaim with heat, "But they had to leave, being Jews". It is a disingenuous reply. Aryan conductors like Erich Kleiber and Fritz Busch (of Glyndbourne fame) left at the same time as their aforementioned Jewish colleagues. Does Harwood think theatregoers so well-informed that they will see through Furtwängler's ruse, or has he created a symmetrical dramatic construct in which all minuses and plusses neatly cancel each other out?

□ RG

Aron's rod

David Grossman, *THE BOOK OF INTIMATE GRAMMAR*, Jonathan Cape, 1994, £14.99.

Let no reader be misled by the title. Far from being a book about grammar, it is a novel about how a boy tries to absorb the world around him.

The words *intimate grammar* do not appear until page 303. By that time you will have absorbed the life and times of Aron Kleinfeld in a Jerusalem still divided and awaiting the outbreak of a new war.

But all that quasi-historical matter is nothing but background, scarcely taken seriously by the said Aron who crosses the barmitzvah barrier while living in an aura of self-created daydreams and nightmares described as "aroning". He and his family – Papa Moshe, Mama Hinda, sister Yochi, and Grandma – inhabit a flat in a housing project for less-than-well-off Ashkenazim.

Papa is a giant of a man who has fought the Germans and then escaped from internment in Siberia carrying an injured fellow escaper, a Ukrainian criminal with cannibal tendencies, on his back. Mama brought up her orphaned sisters in besieged Jewish Jerusalem. Grandma was a bit of a lass in her youth ... Papa, whom she calls Moritz to Mama's annoyance, is her out-of-wedlock son, probably by one of her Polish "cavaliers" ... and now she is prematurely senile.

If this is not your idea of the average Israeli family you are on the same wavelength as Aron who loves, fears and despises them like a good son, only more so. He is much better educated than they (with the exception of sister Yocheved). But he is puny, a great disappointment to those living legends, his parents. His playmates accept him as a leader in their spy games because he is a far more way-out fantasist than they are, and a Houdini-like escapology trickster, but on the physical level they regard him as a runt.

Even when he finally falls in love, with class-mate Yaeli, it is an *affaire à trois*. He himself prefers to share her with best friend Gideon. The sharing does not amount to more than companionship; Yaeli plays it strictly within the limits of paldom, certainly with Aron. Meanwhile he detests the average Israeli male juveniles with their derring-do, broken voices and incipient moustaches... and, hilariously, he envies them their Adam's apples. They talk dirty; he is a Puritan. He even abhors the jokes Papa and some uncles exchange. He is also painfully constipated, which adds to his reclusive tendencies.

These are the bricks with which Grossman builds his edifice. And for the way he does it he has been taken to task by some critics after being called Israel's greatest living writer for *See Under Love*, his previous work. *Intimate Grammar* has

been described as too involved, difficult to penetrate. I do not think it is, but he has complicated matters by, in my view, listening to some siren voices.

In his conceits there appears to be a hankering after what is known as "magical realism" ... not the Hispano-American kind, but I detected an empathy with the ideas of Salman Rushdie.

The other literary influence is Kafka. In my view Aron sees himself as another Gregor Samsa, a misshapen "insect" his parents would like to "sweep away" as they have tried to do with Grandma. There is a slight doubt that a thirteen-year-old lad could have such ideas; the effectiveness of the novel therefore depends entirely on the authorial voice.

Does the book provide a good read? I found that big chunks of it do, except that the translation from the Hebrew has too many Yiddishisms in it. I wonder what a Gentile reader outside of New York would make of it. But the general impetus of the novel carried me over these pitfalls.

□ John Rossall

Danish liberator

The fate of Harry Pistol, an Austrian Jew serving in the British Army as reported in an AJR Information search notice of February 1995, who was the first British soldier to enter Denmark on 4th May 1945, has been revealed. He died 12 years ago. While serving in the Royal Army Service Corps as a driver in North Germany, he was ordered to take the German generals, who had surrendered to Field-Marshal Montgomery, into Denmark.

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French collaboration

The newly installed President of France, Jacques Chirac, has admitted his country's collaboration in the arrest and deportation of Parisian Jews to Nazi death camps in World War II at a ceremony marking the 53rd anniversary of the event.

On the morning of 16th July 1942 French police, acting in the name of the Vichy Government and on the initiative of its Prime Minister, Pierre Laval, hammered on the doors of Parisian Jewish families, giving them just five minutes to pack before being herded on to buses. They were taken to the Vélodrome d'Hiver sports stadium where, in two days, 13,000 mainly women and children were stripped of their valuables and imprisoned without water, food or sanitation in the oppressive summer heat.

Five days later, virtually starving and in a state of degradation, they were taken to the French concentration camp at Drancy, northeast of Paris, where mothers and children were separated before they were herded onto cattle trains en route to Auschwitz and other death camps.

Of the 76,000 Jews rounded up by the French for deportation, a task which they carried out with alacrity, a mere three per cent survived to tell of their tragedy; none of the 4,051 children returned. Not one German soldier took part in the raids.

□ RDC



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Programme

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 5

A Journey Through Jewish Music with Geraldine Auerbach - Director of the Jewish Music Festival - and naturally with music.

Tuesday 12

Malka Baker will take A Look at Joyce Grenfell and some of her monologues including 'George - don't do that'.

Tuesday 19

An afternoon with Bettine La Beau, raconteur and star of television, films and radio.

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Letters to the Editor

DER NEUE PESTER LLOYD

Sir - From 1854 till 1944, for many of these years under very difficult circumstances, the daily *Pester Lloyd* written in German and published in Budapest meant culture, intelligence and humanity in Hungary.

Many of the paper's editors were Jewish (Weisz, Rothfeld, Falk, Singer, Vészi...) and even in the thirties of *Judengesetz* Hungary, most of the staff were Jews. My mother joined the paper in 1936 and stayed with it until March 1944.

March 1944 saw the end of the publication as we knew it; a totally *gleichgeschaltet* version which bore no resemblance to the paper we knew carried on during the murderous German occupation. Then there was a gap of fifty years until its resurrection, as a weekly, in November 1994.

Now entitled *Der neue Pester Lloyd*, the journal calls itself "independent, pluralistic and rich in tradition", and the issues published so far certainly do justice to this slogan. Some of my contributions are based on recollections of the period of persecution; other editions, too, have given details of the Jewish past and present of Budapest. One of my next articles will deal with the activities of the AJR.

The paper caters for German speakers visiting, or resident in, Budapest. It also gives a weekly review of events in Hungary of interest to German speakers abroad. Subscriptions can be taken out for a whole year at DM126 (including postage) by writing to the paper at 1054 Budapest V. Szemere utca 23, Hungary. In my experience the issue appearing on Wednesday usually arrives by Friday.

Thomas Edmund Konrad

London correspondent

"Der Neue Pester Lloyd"

UNIQUE FAMILY REUNION

Sir - Recently, I attended the reunion of over 100 members (plus their spouses/

relations) of my paternal grandmother's family Windmueller in the Catskills, N.Y.

Spurned on by the Nazi racial policy, a family member in 1938 compiled an extensive family tree, stretching back, unbroken, to the 1680s with good evidence of earlier ancestry in the Westphalian region. It was published in book form.

After the war, my cousin and her daughter, now in Richmond Virginia, anglicized the work and traced a large number of members throughout the world. The labour resulted in a tome of 268 pages. It includes many poignant documents, photographs and accounts of victims and survivors. (Many relevant libraries have a copy, including the Wiener Library).

Many participants in the reunion came from the USA, with others from Australia, Europe and S. America

It was a unique occasion which linked the commemoration of the 172 family members who perished (including my parents) with the triumph of survival and renewal.

Vallance Road

London, N22

M. Maynard

BERLIN PAST

Sir - The Director Bernd Hildebrandt of the Heimatmuseum Berlin-Tiergarten, Turmstr. 75, D-10551, Berlin, Germany, would be grateful for any reports and records from former Jewish inhabitants and their families that will help to trace and document past Jewish life, cultural and economic activities in connection with the district since the eighteenth century. It stretches from the Spandauer Verbindungskanal in the north to the Kurfürstenstrasse in the south, from Gleisdreieck in the east to the rail station Zoo in the west and contains the former Jewish centres of Moabit and Hansaviertel, as well as homes south of the Tiergarten and Landwehrkanal. Any original contributions or copies will be gratefully acknowledged.

I have received copies of a booklet describing the work and aims of the Museum, founded in 1987, and also a leaflet describing examples of the 50 hiding places so far known in the district, in which Jews have survived, and will be pleased to send copies to interested members on request.

89, Alleyn Road
London SE21 8AD

Ludwig Meyer

AUSTRIAN JEW-HATRED

Sir - A.W. Freud's article on his great-uncle Edward Bernays and America's entry into the First World War was as interesting as his previous contributions, but his comparison between Britain/India and Austria/Czechoslovakia really will not do. Until about the end of the war there was no Czechoslovakia. The Western half had for centuries been an integral part of the German/Holy-Roman and Austrian empires, with ethnically and religiously intermingled populations. Slovakia and Carpatho-Russia had been part of Hungary, indeed during the 150 years of Turkish occupation almost the main part of rump Hungary, for an equally long time. Both parts were contiguous lands, not a distant overseas possession populated by non-Europeans.

The comparison relevant to this country lies with Ireland, which until the 1840s accounted for one third of the population of the United Kingdom, which lay 'next door' and where there were no major ethnic differences. Its eventual independence did not damage Britain in the way that the collapse of the Dual Monarchy hit Austria. But we may well hope that the eventual reintegration within the E.U. of Britain and Ireland will one day be followed by similar developments between Austria and the Czech Republic.

Deddington, Oxfordshire

Francis Steiner

REFUGEE ?

Sir - To be or not to be - a Refugee that is the question.

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind
to suffer the slings and arrows
of outrageous fortune
or perchance to dream
of being as British as the Queen?

Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands

Werner Abraham

One man's war

Prague to Haifa

In the last days of October 1939, things finally started happening. We left in heavily guarded wagons for the town of Bratislava with its riverport on the Danube. There the travellers were shepherded into a large gymnasium and sports centre, ironically called 'Slobodarna' which means Freedom. Here we were locked up for about ten days, until about a thousand persons were assembled. Later we transferred to a paddle-steamer of the Danube Steam Ship Company. Our ship, the 'Saturnus', was a beautiful steamer used for luxury cruises which could accommodate some four hundred passengers. Shortly before departure another large group of about 1,000 people arrived direct from Vienna, doubling the total complement. In spite of the fact that the ship's mast was flying the swastika flag and the future was very uncertain, we were in high spirits, finally moving out of Nazi land.

The trip from Bratislava took about ten days. The ship came to a halt at the small port of Sulina on the Black Sea. Another ocean-going vessel was to take us through the straits of the Bosphorus and Istanbul to the shores of Palestine. But there was no other ship waiting and the river had frozen up completely.

None of the travellers was allowed to set foot on Romanian soil, but there was some contact with the local authorities and the Jewish community in Bucharest. Fresh water and coal for the ship were provided plus some bread and supplies for a never-changing bean soup. There was also the possibility of sending letters; you could write to your family and receive an answer within a short time, together with some international postal coupons which you could change into local currency. This was quite essential because if a letter arrived for you the postman would stand on a little plank between ship and shore, wave your letter, but would not hand it over, unless you bribed him.

We were stuck there in the ice for about two months, during which time (mostly) American refugee organisations worked frantically to provide funds to secure an ocean-going vessel with a crew who were prepared to ferry human cargo, not knowing where or when they could disembark.

By the middle of February 1940 an ancient-looking Turkish coal-freighter of about five thousand tons named

'Sacariah' arrived. It must have spent many years in a ship's scrapyard as it was covered with rust. There was also an inch of fine coal dust wherever you touched. While a lot of preparation, planning and money must have been involved, not everything had been foreseen. The coal-freighter could only provide standing-room on deck for a limited number of persons and the four holds had to be transformed into living quarters for the by now greatly increased number of refugees, over three thousand.

Loads of wood were brought on board and floors, compartments, bunks, staircases, toilets, etc., had to be constructed. Work went on round the clock, mostly by paraffin hurricane lamps as the ship's generator hardly provided enough electricity for a few bulbs. The first death occurred when two workers fell in darkness into the hold from the ship's deck. Before the journey on the 'Sacariah' started one knew that if, God forbid, you fell ill, you had no need to worry about diagnosis of your ailment. There were many doctors, surgeons, specialists and consultants on hand, but their healing powers were restricted to the few medical remedies they could carry in their bags. One would, however, never have realised how many craftsmen, engineers and carpenters were among the refugees and in a short time everybody could settle down to a bunk for sleep at least.

The only heating that existed on board was by your many neighbours' body heat. Life must have been not dissimilar to the inside of a beehive. Queueing was essential for everything like drinking water, and I woke up in the middle of one night cold and wet, but the source of discomfort was next to my head. I had somehow got hold of a discarded glass bottle which I filled with drinking water. This water froze to ice which in turn broke the bottle during the night.

Toilet facilities were constructed with wooden planks over the side of the ship so that you could sit down facing the centre of the ship without falling backwards overboard. There existed some partitions in these rows of about twenty to thirty toilets, but there was not enough material left to construct doors and one had to sit in full view of a long queue of people in the same predicament. There was, by now, very irregular and very little food available, which resulted in much suffering from constipation or diarrhoea. You would have found out at your peril if you mistakenly joined a constipated line while suffering from the opposite.

The 'Sacariah' eventually set sail in mid-February and at the last moment a special contingent of new travellers arrived on board. Young males in black shirts and black riding boots, they were led by Eric Jabotinsky, the son of the founder of the Revisionist (rightwing Zionist) Party.

It would be difficult to ascertain if the German Government used its influence with the then independent Romanians to plant such a controversial political figure on the illegal transport to Palestine, so as to stoke up the Arab uprising against the British. One can, however, assume that the British Secret Service monitored all transport operations in Europe and must have known of Eric Jabotinsky's arrival on board the 'Sacariah' minutes before departure. And they were certainly doing something about it.

After sailing from the Romanian port the ship made a detour to the Turkish harbour of Zonguldak to stock up with coal and also a substantial number of bags of cement.

Out of the Bosphorus the boat sailed full steam ahead for the Dardenelles, but shortly after Gallipoli it came to a sudden halt: amid a great bang and lots of hissing steam the rusty old boiler in the engine-room had exploded. But the captain and his crew of Turks and Greeks (certainly all ex-convicts) knew exactly what they were doing. They mixed the previously loaded cement with water and packed the cracked boiler in concrete and soon the journey continued, but only for a day or two.

A cannon-shot across her bow stopped the 'Sacariah' in her path. The shot was an order by a British naval vessel for the captain to stop and await a boarding party.

Soon a company of the Royal Lancashire regiment boarded the ship, installed several machine guns and handcuffed the captain. The passengers were informed amid smiles of relief that the order was to escort the ship straight to Haifa.

It was now February 1940, six months after the outbreak of war, and the British (Palestine) Government were not permitting an influx of several thousand immigrants whose identity they wanted to check. There could be German agents trying to infiltrate into the Middle East. Previously, other illegal transports had been diverted to other parts of the British Empire, but this ship, intercepted on the high seas, was escorted into Haifa harbour.

(to be continued)

□ HP Weiner

The AJR at Work

South London AJR

Living history

How does training as a mechanic and butler qualify you for work as a tram conductor? And how does a visa to China get you to the UK via Switzerland and France? How homesick do you have to be before you ask someone to bring soil from Berlin to put under your bed? And as a magistrate and councillor, what do you say to your son when he tells you, "Dad, I have a summons for parking and you signed it!"

These were some of the fascinating recollections of four members at South London AJR's last meeting. Their stories demonstrated their resourcefulness and the exceptional contribution they made to their adopted country. Both the concept and the organisation were Walter Woyda's and, due to its great success, further similar sessions are being planned.

For your diary: South London's next meetings will be on Thursday 21st September, to learn of the work of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, and on Thursday 16th November, with Fred Tuckman ex-MEP (Member of the European Parliament) and currently President of the Anglo-Jewish Association. We look forward to welcoming you.

□ Ken Ambrose

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:

Thursday 7th September
Monday 11th September
Tuesday 19th September
Wednesday 27th September
Thursday 5th October

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.*

50 YEARS AGO

After VE Day Tasks Ahead

Together with men and women all over the world, we Jewish Refugees greeted with a sense of deep joy the day when the end of the war in Europe was announced in public. An end has come now to the wholesale murder of defenceless men, women and children on the Continent of Europe, and Jews who have survived need no longer be in constant fear. But, whilst we pause a moment to rejoice, we brace our shoulders for the burden which the future holds in store for us: - Worries and troubles are awaiting us which will have to be overcome before we can set out to build a new and secure life. It is not ourselves in the first place that we have to consider, but we must think constantly, daily, hourly, of our brothers and sisters on the Continent, men and women without a physical and spiritual home, uprooted and helpless, who have just escaped from the grip of death.

At the moment when the war in Europe ended, the AJR appeals to its members, pointing to the immense task ahead, asking them to unite and stand together, as only a great joint effort will be able to pave the way for a better future.

AJR Information, June 1945

Summer tea party

Residents of Balint House, and their relatives, enjoyed a mid-summer tea party given by the ladies of the House Committee who prepared a selection of mouth-watering sandwiches, cakes and refreshments.

The wonderfully warm weather allowed many people to sit and relax on the terrace, while musical entertainment was provided by Ronnie, a member of the Kletzmer Festival Band. Residents and friends alike said how much they had enjoyed the occasion.

AJR INFORMATION is available on tape

If anyone would like to take
advantage of this service

Please contact
Mrs Irene White 0181-203 2733
before 9am or after 6pm

Open day

The Paul Balint AJR Day Centre held its annual Open Day in the midst of a heatwave that was breaking all records. Undeterred by the surfeit of sunshine, members and visitors enjoyed a very happy afternoon together.

Sitting in the well-shaded garden and chatting with friends was one popular pastime; perusing and purchasing from the well-stocked variety of stalls was another. On offer were jewelry, toiletries, stationery, gifts, handicrafts as well as biscuits and chocolates for the less weight-conscious.

A most generous and plentiful tea was prepared by the Centre's own excellent catering staff which went down extremely well. As ever, the afternoon's organisation progressed like clockwork, and thanks are due not only to the Centre's staff, but also to its wonderful volunteers who worked extremely hard to ensure the afternoon's success.

Takings once again exceeded £1,000, while a further generous and substantial donation for Open day was received from Mrs H. Angelus. The proceeds from Open Day will be used to improve amenities and facilities at the Day Centre. □

AJR Bridge Section

As a result of popular demand, we have decided to start a regular Bridge Section at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, 15 Cleve Road, London NW6 3RL, on Monday afternoons at 4.00pm till 6.30pm (excluding Bank Holidays and Yomtov) starting 11 September 1995.

Sessions will be supervised by Mrs. Bella Glasner and will be open to players of all levels.

Please phone Mrs. Glasner on 0181 346 0552 to inform her that you will be coming.

AJR

Our address is:

**1 HAMPSTEAD GATE,
1A FROGNAL, LONDON NW3 6AL**

Our phone number is:
0171-431 6161

Our fax number is:
0171-431 8454

Message from Ernest David

With our New Year almost upon us, I was reflecting recently on the quirks of national calendars, all of which include a New Year, which for various reasons falls at different seasons from other New Years.

A few years ago I was showing an orthodox Israeli lawyer the wonderful architecture and interior of St Albans Abbey, where there happens to be a display explaining that some festivals in the Christian calendar are based on the Jewish calendar. However, in a number of ways the explanation was wrong. My Israeli friend wrote to the Dean of the Abbey giving the correct explanation of the Jewish calendar and requested the display should be altered. It was.

Why have I recounted this anecdote at this time of the year, when we take stock of the past and present and wonder about the future? Some may say that life is a lottery, while according to the New Year's prayer, one's own good actions can avert the severe decree.

I believe we are all responsible for our actions and that each one of us can, by our actions or inaction, influence the course of events to some extent.

With that thought I should like to wish you all a healthy, happy and peaceful *Shanah Tovah*. □

Roman vintage

Members of AJR's Birmingham Group enjoyed a day's outing to the historic town of Wroxeter, near Shrewsbury, to visit a vineyard which

dated back to Roman times. Reputed to be the northernmost working vineyard in Europe, a unique combination of climate, soil and irrigation made viniculture possible. A good harvest could produce as much as 25 tons of grapes, though this year's early frosts had reduced that to some five tons.

A tasting of the variety of wines produced was preceded by the 'Wrekin' toast of welcome, the Wrekin being the local mountain which dominates the area. The buffet lunch had a charming musical accompaniment given by a flute and clarinet duet playing Purcell and Handel. Before returning by coach, local Roman ruins and excavations were toured, though the warmth and generosity of the welcome the group received proved the day's highlight. □ ML

PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

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 -

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 3 DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT
 Monday 4 A MUSICAL AFTERNOON WITH THE 'DUO VIVO' - Armen Boldy (Tenor) accompanied by Marek Debrowsky (Piano)
 Tuesday 5 MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE AUTUMN - Judi, Bimbi & Rufus Merri-Frowde accompanied by June Moore (Piano)
 Wednesday 6 MUSICAL GREETINGS FOR YOM TOV - Rona Israel (Soprano) accompanied by Charlotte Mathews (Piano)

Thursday 7 50 YEARS ON - a 1940s VARIETY SHOW - Anita Elias
 Sunday 10 CONCERT - CABARET - Primrose Powell (Soprano) accompanied by Andrew Wells (Piano)
 Monday 11 SHADES OF PALM COURT - Patrick Kilbride (Violin) accompanied by Jennifer Hunt (Piano)
 Tuesday 12 AUTUMNTIME SERENADE - Alisa Spivack (Soprano) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano)
 Wednesday 13 A LITTLE LIGHT MUSIC - Sarah Cooper (Soprano) accompanied by Stuart Wild (Piano)
 Thursday 14 SONGS WITH MEMORIES - Amanda Palmer (Soprano) accompanied by Marek Dabrowsky (Piano)
 Sunday 17 DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT
 Monday 18 SONGS WE SANG WHEN WE WERE YOUNG - David Lee (Voice & own Accompaniment)
 Tuesday 19 TRINITY TRIO - Amanda Palmer (Soprano), Devon Harrison (Bass) accompanied by Gilmour (Piano)
 Wednesday 20 AUTUMN MISCELLANY - POPULAR SONGS & ARIAS - Michaela

Thursday 21 Davies (Soprano) accompanied by Christopher Rouse (Piano)
 BUDAPEST CAFE - Dave Kelbie & Steve Elsworth
 Sunday 24 C L O S E D - EREV ROSH HASHANAH
 Monday 25 C L O S E D - ROSH HASHANAH
 Tuesday 26 C L O S E D - ROSH HASHANAH
 Wednesday 27 MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT ON A SEPTEMBER AFTERNOON - Lara Moyler (Soprano) accompanied by Marek Dabrowsky (Piano)
 Thursday 28 ENTERTAINMENT ON CLARINET & KEYBOARD - Jerry Wray, Member of the Metropolitan Police Band
 OCTOBER
 Sunday 1 DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT
 Monday 2 THE BERKELEY TRIO
 Tuesday 3 DAY CENTRE CLOSED AFTER LUNCH - Yom Kippur
 Wednesday 4 C L O S E D - Yom Kippur
 Thursday 5 THE ORCHARD TRIO (Piano - Flute & Oboe)
 Sunday 8 C L O S E D - EREV SUCCOTH

FAMILY**Birth**

Henderson. Frank and Thea Henderson of Manchester are delighted to announce the birth of their fourth great-grandchild, Daniel Scott, born to Susan and Neil Jager.

Birthday

Katzburg. Sarah Rosa Katzburg, mazeltov on your 90th birthday, with all good wishes from your friends at AJR.

Deaths

Spencer. Dr. Robert Spencer, Viennese-born cardiologist who emigrated to England in 1938, died 9th July 1995 in London at the age of 91. His wife Hanna predeceased him by five years.

Layton. Robert Layton (formerly Helmut Loewenberg), born 1914, died 2nd July 1995. Ex Kitchener Camp, Sandwich, Pioneer Corps and Royal Army Service Corps. Dearly beloved husband of Jo, father to Vernon and Lorraine. A truly wonderful man.

Bach. Susan Bach, widow of Hans, died peacefully on 21st July 1995, aged 93. Missed by her many friends.

Schmitthoff. Twinkie (Ilse) Schmitthoff, widow of Professor Clive Schmitthoff, died on 16th July 1995. Sadly missed by her friends. The funeral was held on 19th July at the Liberal Jewish Cemetery, Willesden, London.

Roberts. Jetti Roberts (née Edelstein) died 8th July 1995, aged 87. Sadly missed by her sons and daughter, Charlie, Ronny and Renee, family and friends. She will always be in our hearts and part of us.

Busse. Mina (Micky) Busse, my beloved wife for 54 years, passed away on 29th July. She will be greatly missed by her two sons, their families and her treasured grandchildren, both here and in Canada. Never forgotten by her husband, Guenter.

Strauss. Hedwig Strauss, who died on 31 July, is deeply mourned by her daughter Ellen, son Walter and grandson Maxwell.

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Miscellaneous

German Translation & Correspondence. Good standard of written German required for translation and correspondence. Please telephone 01923 85 5313.

World Wars. I collect cards and envelopes from the camps. Please send with price asked to Peter C. Rickenback, 14, Rosslyn Hill, London NW3 1PF.

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does not accept
responsibility for
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by advertisers

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Driver for AJR car
to drive members
to and from the
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0181-328 0208

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AJR

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1A FROGNAL, LONDON NW3 6AL
Our phone number is: 0171-431 6161 Our fax number is:
0171-431 8454

ISRAEL TOUR

A tour of Israel is being
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inclusive of accommodation,
mostly half-board & tour guide.

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18th October

to 6th November 95

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**Volunteers needed at Paul Balint AJR Day Centre
15 Cleve Road, NW6 3RL**

1. General helpers, prepared to work as members of a team for a variety of duties.
Hours 9.45am - 3.45pm Monday to Thursday
also 3.30 - 6.30 Tuesday and Thursday.
2. A nurse/first-aider sought for Tuesdays
9.45 - 3.45.
3. 'Relief' people to come in when others are sick or on holiday.

Enquiries to Sylvia Matus, Day Centre Organiser
Tel: 0171 328 0208, Monday to Thursday 9.00am - 3.45pm

Alice Schwab

Art Notes

1945 - The end of the War exhibition (at Annelly Juda's until 16 September) is well worth visiting. There is a magnificent Josef Albers, a cherrywood relief by Jean Arp, an oil and a watercolour by Milton Avery, an exciting water-colour, *Murder 1945*, by Max Beckmann, oils by Lucien Freud and Naum Gabo, a marble by Barbara Hepworth, and fine works by Josef Herman, Ivor Hitchens, Rene Magritte, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, Henry Moore, Pablo Picasso, Kurt Schwitters and Victor Vasarely.

Holger Braasch, 44 Acacia Road, NW8 is holding a mixed summer exhibition which includes works by many of our old friends: Georg Tappert, Richard Ziegler, Margaret Marks, Henryk Gotlib, Pamina Mahrenholz, Leonard Baskin, as well as many others (prices £150-£20,000). It is worth telephoning (0171 722 9766) before going there.

As part of Africa '95, the season celebrating the arts of Africa, *The Barbican Concourse Gallery* is showing (until 14 October)

Girl with Dogs, 1889, Paul Gauguin.



Signs, Traces and Calligraphy, an exhibition featuring religious and poetic texts, geometric and pagan symbols, paintings, tapestries and sculptures by artists from Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, the Sudan and Tunisia. At the same time the *Barbican Art Gallery* is showing *Carrington: the Exhibition*, celebrating the unique talent and extraordinary life of the artist Dora Carrington (1893-1932), generally known for her links with the Bloomsbury Group.

From Manet to Gauguin, the exhibition at the *Royal Academy*, of masterpieces from Swiss private collections, continues until 8 October. It contains some really superb pictures!

On 12 July the *British Museum* opened a new permanent gallery: *The Hellenistic World: Art and Culture*. The relatively short historical period extends from the death of Alexander in 323 BCE. to the Battle of Actium in 31 BCE. It was an age of "culture sans frontières" according to Ian Jenkins, the curator of the new gallery, and is probably the first gallery in any museum dedicated to this important part of Greek history and culture.

The Summer exhibition at *Marlborough Fine Arts* is a mixed bag of paintings and sculpture by many leading artists, including, amongst others, Bacon, Auerbach, Hepworth, Kokoschka and Pasmore.

It is the centenary of the cinema this

year and to mark the occasion the *Hayward Gallery* is showing (until 30 October) a grand collection of photographs, mainly of movie stars, Marilyn Monroe, Rita Hayworth, James Dean, Marlene Dietrich; Audry Hepburn, etc. About 200 photographs are included in the exhibition and they were all taken by Magnum photographers.

Art and Power: Europe under the dictators 1930-1945 is the 23rd Council of Europe exhibition, at the *Hayward Gallery* (26 October - 21 January 1996). The exhibition is devised around four cities, Paris, Rome, Moscow and Berlin and shows how art, architecture and film were subverted and used as propaganda to further the ideals of totalitarian regimes.

The Heat of Vision, a Hans Feibusch retrospective' is a major travelling exhibition organised by *Pallant Gallery, Chichester*.

It will be shown at the *Ben Uri Art Gallery* from 5 November to 10 December.

**SB is on holiday.
His next column
will appear in
the October issue.**

Holocaust memorial

Germans cannot agree on how best to commemorate victims of the Holocaust. Judges selected two possible designs from the 528 sketches submitted, but a dispute has developed about the names to be inscribed. Should the names be added over time, or a fee paid? Should non-Jews be excluded? The German Government is reported as having agreed to pay for the memorial, when its form is finally agreed.

Pension concern

The charity Age Concern is campaigning for the state retirement pension to be increased to a third of average earnings for a single person and half the average for a couple. Many of today's pensioners contributed to the Second World War effort and were promised sufficient income to enjoy a problem-free retirement; in reality, many struggle to survive on state benefits insufficient even to provide necessities.

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

Chairman: Mr. Hans Seelig, 27 Wood Lane End,
Hemel Hempstead, HP2 4RA 01442 254 360

Public Relations and Archives: Mr. C. Kryslar,
97 Hodford Road, NW11 8EH 0181 455 8321

Treasurer: Mr. E. Flesch, 14 Howitt Close, Howitt Road,
NW3 4LX 0171 483 2145

Committee Members: Mrs. H. Friedmann, Mr. O. Egert.

Secretary: Mrs. Julia Schwartz

Autumn Programme 1995

- Sept 11** Mr. Herbert Malinow, M.A., FR.G.S. St. Helena: Napoleon's last Exile.
- Sept 18** Prof. Dr. Anni Gutman, B.A., Ph.D. (Yale). Chairperson of the German Dept. at Hunter College (City Univ. of New York). Goethe - Schiller: Evolution of a Friendship. Prof. Gutman has published and lectured extensively, esp. on Schiller.
- Sept 25** No lecture (Hall not available)
- Oct 2** Mr. David Jacobs, writer and one-time broadcaster for "Voice of Israel" Propaganda Warfare. Mr Jacobs is at present working on a book on this subject.
- Oct 9** No lecture (Hall not available)
- Oct 16** No lecture (Hall not available)
- Oct 23** Mr. Harald Leyrer, How the Sudan - underpopulated and irrigated by the two Niles - fell apart.
- Oct 30** Mr. Harry Smolins, B.Sc., M. Inst. of Physics, formerly Slough College of Higher Education: Einstein up-to-date.
- Nov 6** Dr. Jonathan Katz, M.A., D.Phil., teacher of Classics at Westminster School, Consultant to the Indian Institute and Bodleian Library at Oxford. Gujarat to Vienna to Oxford: men and manuscripts. Dr. Katz has been responsible for unearthing several manuscripts.
- Nov 13** Mr. Brian Power M.A. The Anglo-German presence in China 1860-1940. Mr. Power grew up in Tientsin in the 20s and 30s and is the author of a childhood autobiography 'The Ford of Heaven', 1984.
- Nov 20** Arno Reinfrank: "Das lachende Gebiss". Arno Reinfrank liest satirische Verse aus seinen über 20 Buchpublikationen.
- Nov 27** Mr. Ernst Flesch, B.A. our indefatigable travelling member: Travelling in Germany (with slides).

Members £10 per annum
Guests always welcome (£1 per lecture)

For information please call
Mr. Hans Seelig, Chairman,
Tel: 0442 254 360



Relatives and friends at the Osmond House Open Day on 2nd July, eagerly awaiting the Raffle draw, which this year raised a record figure of over £1,000 for the Residents Amenity Fund.

Presidential ambition

Right-wing columnist and darling of America's Christian fundamentalists, Patrick J. Buchanan, is preparing for a second run at the Republican nomination for US President. In the campaign for the 1992 vote he challenged the then President George Bush and, while failing to win the party's nomination, has significantly influenced its policies since then.

Institute of Contemporary History and Wiener Library

A half-day seminar to mark
the passing of the Nuremberg Laws

THE NUREMBERG LAWS

at the Harkness Hall, Birkbeck College,
Malet Street, London WC1

On Sunday, 17 September 1995
2.00 to 6.00pm

Dr. Daniel M. Pick

*The idea of race in European thought
in the nineteenth and
early twentieth centuries*

Dr. Peter Longerich

*The immediate origin and
implementation of the Nuremberg Laws*

Dr. Edgar Feuchtwanger

*The construction of the racial state
in Nazi Germany*

Discussion and Conclusion

Registration fee: £10.00; concession for
friends of the Wiener Library, students,
senior citizens and the unwaged £5.00

Light refreshments will be provided
For details and registration form write
to the Conference Secretary
Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street,
London W1N 2BH
or call 0171-636 7247

The Kittsee 'project'

I have never been able to document an oral family tradition that my father's family originally came from Kittsee in post-1918 Austrian Burgenland. My first visit to Kittsee, in 1957, proved fruitless. No one knew anything about the Jewish cemetery beyond the fact that it was very old and had been completely neglected since 1939, nor were any records known in the village, barely two miles from the Hungarian frontier.

A second visit nearly 40 years later revealed a different picture. Kittsee, as I now know, was one of the *Sieben Gemeinden (Sheva Kehiloth)* in which Jewish settlement has been documented back to the 15th century; Kittsee cemetery is reportedly the third oldest in Europe. It is also the only cemetery in the whole country to have been placed as a whole under *Denkmalschutz* (state supervision of architectural and archaeological preservation).

The headmistress of the local secondary school has launched her pupils on a major project of study and commemoration of the Jewish tradition in the area; she has also, I think, put her flock to work in keeping the cemetery in its present orderly and cared-for state. Whatever remains of it is being catalogued and, where legible, transcribed: and I was handed a volume of carefully painted reproductions of the tombstones which remain legible, with a German translation of the inscriptions copied. The headmistress told me that her pupils were benefiting from the educational point of view in that 'projects' as known in British schools, were not common in Central Europe with its strict national syllabuses. However, she did not regard all this only as a matter of educational experimentation. She was teaching her children what Kittsee owed to its Jewish community, its history and its memory. To this end she had contacts with an Israeli professor of history and assembled all her pupils once a year in a commemorative ceremony at the cemetery itself.

□ Francis Steiner

Annelly Juda Fine Art

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CONTEMPORARY PAINTING
AND SCULPTURE

In memoriam: Norbert Futterweit

Mit einer Bombe seinerzeit
Ermordet ward Herr Futterweit.
Begangen hat das Bubenstück
Ein Nazi namens Globocnik.
Zwar nahm man ihn zunächst in Haft
Wegen erwies'ner Täterschaft,
Doch wurde – da er doch ein Held –
Bald das Verfahren eingestellt,
Denn schon im März war ja, hurrah!
Der sogenannte Anschluss da.
Wen kümmert da vergoss'nes Blut
Der Futterweit war doch ein Jud!
Und Globocnik war immerhin
Bereits der Gauleiter von Wien...
Und nach dem Krieg – Sie wissen schon
Ging er in Kärnten in Pension
Wie andre Nazigrößen auch;
Das war in der Provinz ja Brauch.
Der Judenmord? – Wen wundert das,
Dass man den Fall diskret vergass.

So ging's in unsrer Republik
Mit Futterweit und Globocnik.

□ Harald Brainin

Hanseatic reunion

We, twenty Jews formerly resident in Bremen, were invited for a week's visit as guests of the Senate. We had mixed feelings, not knowing what to expect, but from the first meeting with one of our hostesses and her husband, we felt that the visit would be much more relaxed and easier than anticipated.

A lot of thought had gone into the planning for our stay. On day one, after a moving welcome speech by Senatorin Frau Uhl, we had a reception and a splendid (kosher) meal at the Rathaus. There followed a visit to the premises of the Christian-Jewish working group and the Bremen Friends of Israel. We also visited the Jewish cemetery, much of which had almost miraculously escaped serious damage. Some of us discovered the graves of relatives. The Rabbi, who joined us on several occasions, said Kaddish at the memorial to the Jews of Bremen who perished in the Holocaust, especially a large contingent sent to Minsk. This was particularly emotive for me as my parents were among them.

Other visits included a cruise in the Senate's motor-launch on the River Weser and an outing to the artists' village of Fischerhude.


On a visit to a school, five of us faced a class of about 30 boys and girls (aged 12 to 14) who wanted to hear our stories, listened very attentively and asked many questions about our school-days, the Kindertransport, etc. They seemed to be genuinely interested and receptive. School literature gave us an insight into the awareness of the present generation of the happenings during the 'Kristallnacht' and the Holocaust – facts which appeared to have been suppressed and forgotten during earlier post-war years.

On the last day, Shabbat, we were invited to the service in the (to us) new synagogue. A tasteful and dignified modern building, it was built some 30 years ago, replacing the old one destroyed in Kristallnacht. After the service a communal kiddush gave us the chance to get to know members of the present-day Jewish community, many from Eastern Europe and Russia.

It was indeed a most memorable week in which we were made very much aware of the wish of the townspeople to atone for the deeds of their parents and grandparents. A remarkable experience, giving us hope for the future.

□ Lottie Levy

AJR VALUES YOUR TIME



- USE YOUR TIME TO BEFRIEND AN ELDERLY MEMBER
- DRIVE PEOPLE TO/FROM THE DAY CENTRE
- HELP IN THE DAY CENTRE

Association of Jewish Refugees

1 Hampstead Gate
1a Frolgnal
London NW3 6AL
Tel: 0171 431 6161

AJR

Ajex Service of Remembrance

We are holding our Interdenominational Service of Remembrance to be held at the Prisoners' Memorial, Gladstone Park, Dollis Hill Lane, N.W.2. on Sunday, 3rd September 1995 at 2.45pm. The Service is in memory of those who died in Prisoner of War Camps and Concentration Camps. The Service will be followed by a Reception at Willesden Synagogue.

GERMAN BOOKS BOUGHT

A. W. MYTZE

1 The Riding, London NW11

Sternberg Centre for Judaism

80 East End Road, London N3 2SY

MANOR HOUSE SOCIETY

Forthcoming events

Sally Levin Bar: Mixed Media Works, an exhibition from 20th September to 22nd October.

Are Scientists Playing God? A High Holy Day Discussion on Sunday 1st October at 8.00pm.

Lunchtime Recitals. The autumn programme, running from 26th October to 14th December. Thursdays at 1.15pm.

LONDON MUSEUM OF JEWISH LIFE

Monday–Thursday 10.30am–5.00pm

Sunday 10.30am–4.30pm

The Last Goodbye – The rescue of children from Nazi Europe. An exhibition about the Kindertransport.

A Tapestry of Many Threads – The heritage of Sephardi Jews in Britain.

The Jewish Experience in the Second World War – a timely reminder of the contribution made by British Jewry to the war effort.

Austerlitz aka Slavkov

Ruth Matiovska, at 64 the last known survivor of the ancient Jewish community of Austerlitz, has visited Nottingham's Progressive Congregation which is committed to keeping the *Kehilla's* memory alive. The visitor had been one of only 93 children to survive Theresienstadt.

Austerlitz, now called Slavkov in Czech, was the burial ground of 15,000 Jews. Its historic fame, though, stems from another massive bloodletting: the Battle of Austerlitz which gave Napoleon his greatest victory (and the Parisians a station on the Metro).

Jewish surnames are often derived from, and sometimes identical with, place names. A certain Friedrich Austerlitz edited the *Arbeiterzeitung*, organ of the Austrian Social Democrats, when that party was at the peak of its influence. Another man with the same surname was an Austrian emigrant to America; there he begat a son whom the world knows as Fred Astaire.

□ RG

Cooking with Gretel Beer



Pudding made with fresh fruit

I have just returned from a visit to the Brogdale Horticultural Trust at Faversham in Kent where they have over 2,000 different kinds of apple trees and nearly 400 different plums – there are even five different varieties of pink currants. An almost embarrassing choice when it comes to select fruit for one of my favourite puddings – though I think it is best made with morello cherries or small blue plums.

Serves 4

For the pudding

750g (1 1/2 lbs) morello cherries or plums
3 tablespoons caster or icing sugar
1/2 teaspoon each vanilla sugar,
cinnamon and allspice
30g (a good ounce) ground almonds
1 tablespoon double cream
dash of rum
butter for the dish

For the topping

3 eggs
60g (2 oz) butter
70g (2 1/2 oz) caster or icing sugar
140ml (5 fl.oz) milk or single cream
100g (3 1/2 oz) plain flour
grated lemonrind
vanilla sugar

Lightly butter a soufflé or deep gratin dish. Stone the fruit and – if using plums – halve them. Put fruit into the prepared dish, sprinkle with sugar, vanilla sugar, spices and ground almonds. Add the cream and the rum and stir lightly, then cover the dish with foil and leave to stand for at least half an hour.

Preheat oven to Gas mark 2, 300F, 150C and put the dish – still covered with foil – into the oven whilst preparing the topping. Separate the eggs. Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy, then beat in the yolks one by one. Gradu-

ally beat in the milk or cream and the flour. Whisk eggwhites until stiff, then fold into the butter mixture, together with the grated lemonrind and vanilla sugar. Pile the mixture on top of the fruit which should be heated through by now. Bake for fifteen minutes at Gas Mark 2, 300F, 150C, then increase heat to Gas Mark 4, 350F, 180C and bake for another thirty to forty minutes. The juice at the bottom of the dish may at first suggest that the pudding has not quite baked through, but it is in fact a delicious sauce produced by the pudding. Serve hot, cold or just warm.

Brogdale Horticultural Trust, Brogdale Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8XZ Tel. 01795 535286 is open seven days a week, between Easter and December and they sell fruit as well as plants. There are also a number of special events – the next one being held during the weekend of 15th-17th September – is the Apple and Cider Festival when about 40 different kinds of ciders may be sampled.

Attendance Allowance

An Attendance Allowance is a tax-free Social Security benefit, for people aged 65 or above, who are in need of help due to disability, whether physical or mental. The entitlement is unaffected by any savings and is not usually affected by other income.

To qualify, the recipient has to be so severely disabled, physically or mentally, that either:

DURING THE DAY frequent or continual attention is required
OR, AT NIGHT prolonged or repeated attention, or continual supervision, is required from another person.

Attendance Allowance is paid either at a lower rate of £31.20 per week (if day or night help is required), or at the higher rate of £46.70 per week if both day and night help are accepted as being necessary.

It is the sick or disabled persons themselves who are given the Attendance Allowance. They can qualify even though they may be living alone and have no attendant.

Attendance Allowance can be claimed using a 'DS2' claim form which can be obtained by telephoning the Benefits Enquiry Line on 800 88 220. Alternatively, a

written request can be made to the Department of Social Security using the coupon with the Attendance Allowance Leaflet, obtainable from Post Offices or Citizens' Advice Bureaux.

If an application has been made in the past, and refused, it should not prevent anyone from applying again. If a lower rate is being obtained, it may be possible to apply for the higher rate if health has subsequently deteriorated.

If private residential accommodation is entered, the Attendance Allowance can be taken with you (carried on).

AJR's Social Services Department will be pleased to advise and assist in considering and making a claim for Attendance Allowance. We can help with the filling out of forms.

Should it prove necessary, we can help in an appeal against refusal and may ask for review procedure to be implemented. Recent experience has indicated that benefit previously denied, was granted after a review. □

Erratum

The gentleman pictured on the front page of the July edition was Mr. Rolf Penzias and not Mr. Henry Brook as was given.

Am Yisrael Chai! (Das Volk Israel lebt!)

Zweitausend Jahre
ohne Land
unterm Schwert
hielten sie ihre
Erntefesttage;

ohne Weinberg
im Brand
feierten sie
die Traubenlese;

in lichtlosen Stuben
lehrten sie ihre Kinder
das Fest der jungen Baume
zu begehren.

Sie werden bestehen.

□ Stella Rotenberg

*Verlag für Gesellschaftskritik
Wien 1992*

Obituaries

Jonas Salk

Jonas Salk, who died at the age of 80, produced the first successful vaccine against poliomyelitis, a paralytic disease particularly prevalent among children.

Dr. Salk's anti-polio vaccine was first introduced in 1955 and, despite a major setback in which some 200 people developed the disease as a result of a faulty batch of vaccine, hundreds of millions of people were saved from one of the then scourges of mankind.

Born in New York, of Polish-Jewish immigrant parents (his father was in the *schmutter* trade), Jonas went to Talmud Torah in the Bronx where he was reported to have been a good Hebrew scholar. Working his way through college, Salk qualified in 1939 and joined the staff of New York's Mount Sinai Hospital. He moved to the University of Michigan three years later to work on influenza vaccines, rising rapidly through the research ranks to the Directorship of the Virus Research Laboratory in 1947 and its Professor in 1954.

The first trials of the anti-polio vaccine were begun in 1952, first on monkeys, then on children who were protected as they had recovered from polio, then on himself and his own family.

Clinical trials were begun in 1955.

Albert Sabin, who produced an oral anti-polio vaccine only a short while after Salk, became a life-long rival. While the Salk vaccine uses a dead virus and has to be injected, the Sabin vaccine uses a live virus in a weakened form which can be swallowed from teaspoon or sugar cube and is in more general use today. Sabin died in 1993 at the age of 86.

Salk was never fully accepted by the US medical establishment, was never elected to the National Academy of Sciences and never awarded the Nobel prize, although he received countless awards around the world, not least from Israel.

The Salk Institute in California is where he continued his researches into cancer, multiple sclerosis and organ transplants and, more latterly, into an Aids vaccine.

His place in history as one of mankind's greatest benefactors is firmly assured.

□ RDC

General Mordechai Gur

Mordechai Gur had a long and distinguished military career in the Israel Defence Forces, culminating in 1978 as Chief of Staff. But it is as the commander of the paratroops who captured the Old City of Jerusalem and the Western Wall in the Six-Day War of 1967 that he will go down in Jewish history, returning sovereignty over the Temple Mount to the People of Israel after nearly 2,000 years of exile.

Like many of his generation, he joined the Haganah, Israel's nascent army, at the end of World War II aged just 15, and went on to fight with distinction in the 1948 War of Independence. After studying at the Hebrew University, he volunteered to return to active service, eventually being given command of the crack Golani Infantry Brigade. In 1966 Gur took command of a reserve parachute brigade and in the following year led them in close combat against Jordan's Arab Legion, through Jerusalem's Lion Gate to the Western Wall.

'Motta' (as he was affectionally known) Gur was appointed Military Attaché in Washington where he had to fight for urgent supplies of equipment as Israel faced the combined invasions of Egypt and Syria which began the Yom Kippur War of 1973; the following year he was made Chief of Staff.

Entering the Knesset in 1978, he served as Minister of Health from 1984 to 1986, and for the last three years as Deputy Defence Minister under Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who retained the senior ministerial portfolio.

A man of great humanity, widely admired and respected across the political spectrum, he actively sought positive peace initiatives with former foes, but was never prepared to compromise Israel's security. He ended his own life at the age of 65 to avoid the pain and the anguish to his family brought by the onset of incurable cancer.

□ RDC

AJR

Our address is:
1 HAMPSTEAD GATE,
1A FROGNAL, LONDON NW3 6AL

Our phone number is:
0171-431 6161

Our fax number is:
0171-431 8454

**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 Rosslyn Hill, London NW3
PETER C. RICKENBACK**

North of England Group

It may be that most of our members in the North of England are on holiday, since surprisingly, we have had a distinct lack of interest from people wanting to establish and be part of a North of England group, based in Manchester.

Given the success of the groups in South London and Birmingham, which each have between 30-50 members, and have regular meetings, it should be possible to launch a really strong group covering Manchester, Leeds, Bradford and surrounding areas.

Those of you, who are interested in establishing relationships and finding companionship with people from a common background, please contact Werner Lachs on 0161-773 4091, if you have not already done so. Perhaps you know of others who might like to come along, who are not, as yet, members of the AJR. Please tell them of our plans.

Once we have a reasonable core, we shall set up the first meeting and will publish details of it.

**OTTO SCHIFF HOUSING
ASSOCIATION**

Dedicated to the care of Jewish refugees
from Nazi persecution

The Otto Schiff Housing Association (OSHA) which maintains a group of residential and nursing homes for frail, elderly residents, are seeking an additional part-time Care Assistant to work from 9.30am to 4.30pm on two to three days per week at a salary of £80 per week for 16½ hours (including L.W.). Applications from care workers with experience in the care of the elderly would be especially welcomed.

If any AJR members know of someone who might be able to fill the OSHA vacancy for a part-time Care Assistant, please draw it to their attention. For further details and an application form telephone Judy Marks or Rina Durkin, OSHA, Osmond House, The Bishops Avenue, London N2 0BG. Tel: 0181 209 0022.

Through the looking glass

Picture this in the 1970s: HM Government (Labour) destabilised by extremist supporters demanding public sector pay increases and a unilateralist defence policy. And this in the 1990s: HM Government (Tory) destabilised by extremist supporters demanding tax cuts and an anti-European foreign policy.

While Labour extremists demonised Washington, Tory extremists excoriate Brussels – with Israel serving as subsidiary whipping boy in both instances. Labour had its Gaddafi-loving Ron Brown and PLO flag-waving George Galloway. The Tories have the egregious Israel-baiter Tony Marlowe. There is also the little-known fact that the currently embattled Jonathan Aitken attracted the favourable attention of Saudi King Feisal during the Six-Day War by attacking the 'pro-Israel bias' of the rest of the British press in the *Evening Standard*. (The rest, as they say, is history.)

While the intellectual top dressing of Labour radicalism was provided by playwrights like Howard Brenton, David Hare, Edward Bond and Harold Pinter, Tory radicalism draws its ideology from two groups: politicians with history degrees – John Redwood, Michael Portillo, Alan Clark – and politically motivated historians like Dr. John Charmley. Charmley's 'modest' aim is to reverse fifty years of British history writing, making Churchill the villain and Chamberlain the hero of the Dunkirk years. By coincidence the chief Oxbridge apologist for Chamberlain is Maurice Cowling, Master of Peterhouse and teacher of Michael Portillo.

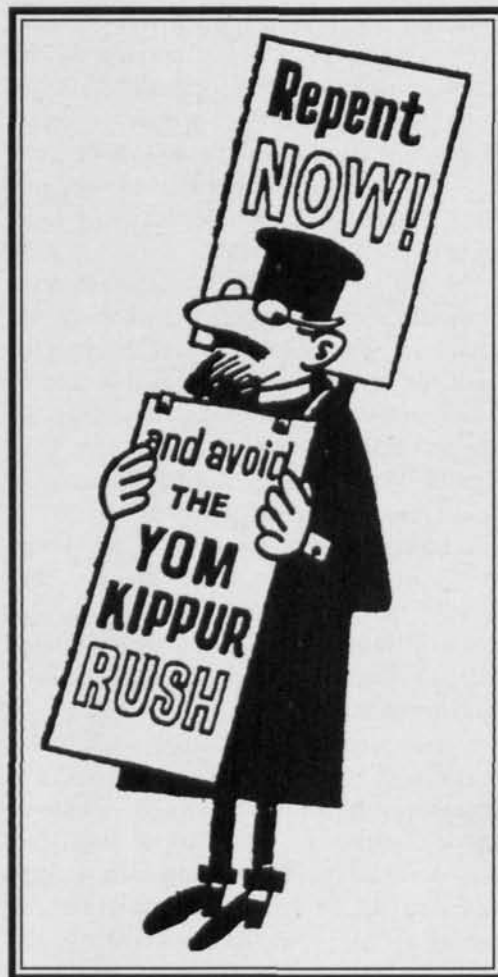
Portillo, who happens to be the son of an emigré Spanish academic, notoriously asserted that on the Continent people are in the habit of buying their academic degrees. (Interestingly enough, Jewish immigrant-descended Tories like Michael Howard and Ivor Lawrence are also Eurosceptics, though they emit less strident noises).

But to revert to the key issue: what do the recent shenanigans among the Tory MPs portend for us? John Major's victory has certainly averted Eurosepsis spreading through HM Government. What about the rising generation, though?

In a mirror image of the Trotskyite Young Socialists of the Seventies the Young Conservatives of the Nineties are already anti-Europe xenophobes to a man.

The Major-Redwood split raised a worrying spectre which has by no means been laid entirely to rest. It is the spectre of the emergence of a continental-style Nationalist party in the UK. Such a party would attract votes by xenophobic and populist clamour ('bring back hanging!') and the promise of tax cuts through reducing the role of government. We can only hope that the same sobering up process that has made Labour newly electable will wean the Tories from such rightwing aberrations in the coming years.

□ RG



New intelligence chief

Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has appointed an expert on far-right Jewish movements to head the *Shin Bet* intelligence agency in what is being seen as a shift of emphasis in internal Israeli security concerns. The new intelligence chief has commanded operations against Jewish right-wing extremists and settlers suspected of organising attacks on Arabs, it is reported.

SEARCH NOTICES

Lily Bial, or her relatives, who emigrated to England in 1939. Last known address: Aichholzgasse 5, Wien XII. Please write to: Annette Eisenberg, c/o Jewish Museum of Vienna, Trattnerhof 2 A-1010. Wien, Austria.

Dr. Walter Gerstle, born in Ludwigshafen am Rhein on 3rd April 1910, who emigrated to Great Britain in 1939, is being sought urgently. Anyone who knows anything about Dr. Gerstle or his life, please write to Mrs. Wagner-Zuern, Burgweg 29, D-53123 Bonn, Germany, or telephone 0228-647 141.

Studentenhistoriker (Autor der 4-bändigen Arbeit "Zirke! und Zionsstern: Bilder, Dokumente aus der versunkenen Welt des jüdischnationalen Korporationswesens. Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte des Zionismus auf akademischem Boden" sucht Unterlagen jeglicher Art von zion. Hochschul- u. Mittelschulverbindungen.

Weiters für Ausstellung: Couleurgegenstände wie Kappen, Bänder, Bierzipfe usw.

Kontaktaufnahme mit Angehörigen (Witwen) erbittet höflichst: Harald Seewann, A-8020 Graz, Resselgasse 26. Höflichen Dank im voraus.

Bernat and Elisabeth Kohn (born in Vienna c.1880) settled in Palestine/Israel 1939. Moved to Chiswick, England in 1949, later to Edgware - may have been members Stanmore Synagogue - and Mrs. Kohn to Tottenham's Jewish Home. A number of documents relating to this couple have been found in unusual circumstances. Anyone who could add any information please contact Carol Seigel, London Museum of Jewish Life, Sternberg Centre, N3 2SY. Tel: 0181 346 2288.

Suzanne Schäffer, who spent the war years at Alloway, Ayr, Scotland. **Margaret Newton** (née Hamilton) who was a friend and the daughter of the local Minister, would love to hear from her or learn of her whereabouts. Please write to Ilse Sinclair, 19 Whatley Court, Whatley Road, Bristol BS8 2PS.

Vienna 1939-45? Were you in Vienna or any other part of Austria in the second half of 1939 or during the war itself? I would like your help on specific details for a serious novel. Please contact Charles Harris, 17 Langland Gardens, London NW3 6QE. Tel: 0171 435 1330.

Der Jüdische Frauenbund in Köln. Für meine Examensarbeit 'Der Jüdische Frauenbund in Köln 1926-1938' suche ich Zeitzeuginnen und Zeitzeugen, die mir ihre Erinnerungen sowie Material (Briefe, Berichte, etc.) zur Verfügung stellen können. Yvonne Küsters, Ritterstr. 5, 50668 Köln, Germany. Tel: 00221 133 764.