

AJR Information

Volume LI No. 5
May 1996

£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss . . .

**Bayreuth-fixated
Bernard** p3

**Buchenwald Song
Competition** p5

**Szmul
Zygielbojm**

At 1pm on 12 May 1996, at the corner of Porchester Square and Porchester Road, London W2, Westminster Council will unveil a memorial plaque to Szmul Zygielbojm, who took his own life in London in May 1943, as a final protest against the world's indifference to the Nazi slaughter of the Jews.

Zygielbojm was smuggled out of Poland in 1940. In 1942 the Polish Government-in-Exile invited him to join them as a delegate of the Jewish Workers' Bund.

Having gathered detailed information about the fate of Polish Jewry, Zygielbojm lobbied government ministers, officials and the press, urging exceptional action. But politicians dithered and the media gave little credence to his claims. When the Warsaw ghetto was finally crushed, Zygielbojm made his last protest by committing suicide □

Reflections on the Flick donation to Oxford

What's in a name?

In the Second Reich Nietzsche's catchphrase *der Wille zur Macht* was almost part of the coinage of daily speech. This had less to do with the philosopher's (admittedly considerable) popularity than with the fact that the two colossi who in turn bestrode Imperial Germany – the coldly Machiavelian Bismarck and the megalomaniac Kaiser – were driven by the will to power.

And not only they: the industrial magnates of the Ruhr were, as the world learnt to its cost, similarly self-aggrandising. Mannesmann's quest for raw materials provoked the 1905 Moroccan Crisis – curtain raiser for the Great War – and in 1914 there was heavy symbolism in the use of the Krupps' 'family' gun Big Bertha to bombard Paris.

Yet another industrial giant ranking alongside Mannesmann and Krupps was the *Vereinigte Stahlwerke*, which Friedrich Flick headed from the late 1920s. Flick's money eased the Nazis' path to power, in return for which the SS were to provide him with an inexhaustible supply of slave labour in the war.

Postwar Friedrich Flick 'paid' for his heinous crimes with three years in jail and part-confiscation of his enormous fortune. Sufficient of it remained, however, to make him the singly wealthiest *Bundesbürger* in the economic miracle years, as well as to render his heirs rich beyond the dreams of avarice.

Despite the Emperor Vespasian's assertion *pecunia non olet* one of those heirs, grandson Dr Gert-Rudolph, obviously thought that Flick money stank in people's nostrils. To deodorise it he accepted Lord Weidenfeld's suggestion to use a fraction for the endowment of a chair at Oxford, tenable at Balliol College. The gowned mandarins of the ancient university, living up to their popular image as astronomically remote from the real world, saw nothing incongruous in linking the blood-encrusted Flick name to a Chair of European Thought. (The former Master of Balliol, US scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg, confessed himself 'unaware that the Flick name would upset Holocaust survivors').

Now, after a considerable brouhaha, the university has amended the designation to Dr Gert-Rudolph Flick Chair of European Thought.

In fact the ill-named Chair has demonstrated the *thoughtlessness* of all concerned. Academic spokes-

men have argued that the money of earlier benefactors to the University derived from the slave trade. This is a somewhat specious argument: even the horrors of the slave trade were dwarfed by the enormity of the Holocaust (compare the present number of Jews in the countries of the *Shoah* with that of Afro-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans!).

The dons' facile logic-chopping was further compounded by Oxford University and Balliol College smoothly passing the buck back and forth. And what is one to think of Dr Baruch Blumberg?

Admittedly Albert Einstein, his colleague twice over – both as a Jew and a scientist – occasionally forgot to put on socks, but is it conceivable that the Master of Balliol had forgotten the horrendous connotation of the name Flick?

Nor can it be said that Lord Weidenfeld's reputation – already tarnished by providing a character witness for Kurt Waldheim – has been enhanced by his role as broker in the whole fraught affair □

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held at 15 Cleve Road,
West Hampstead, London NW6 3RL
on SUNDAY 9 JUNE 1996 at 3pm

AGENDA

Annual Report 1995

Hon. Treasurer's Report

Discussion

Proposed change to Rules:

Rule 5.

Line 6 after "law" insert "and statute"

Line 6 after "Trust Funds" insert "and in addition the Trustees may acquire land by way of an inheritance of the Society from an estate or by a purchase on behalf of the Society and erect or alter offices or other buildings on such land and let such land and buildings or any part thereof as they shall think fit"

Election of Committee of Management

Followed by a talk given by George Clare entitled: 'Adolf's Grandchildren, Balliol and We'. A look at present-day attitudes to Germany and Austria. All questions for the Chair should be submitted to the Director at:

1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Frogna, London NW3 6AL
by 1 June 1996

Profile

Refugee kid

By coincidence in the week I interviewed Robin Hirsch, many newspapers carried reviews of the autobiography of Lady Rogers, wife of the co-founder of the SDP. Robin's own life story (see *Oedipus of Belsize Square*, April issue) resembles Lady Rodgers' as another variation on the Philip Larkin-inspired refrain, "They f... you up your refugee parents, they don't mean to but they do".

In Berlin, Robin's father had manufactured bakelite. In wartime London he had been an agent for a bookbinder; postwar he carried on seven years' litigation to recover money he had invested in a Dutch bank, and played the stock market. To Robin, growing up as a self-styled 'refugee kid' in the 1950s, the father was physically close – his office was a room in the family flat – and emotionally distant as well as implacably censorious.

Though the son did well at school the father remained, underwhelmed; for him only the very best would do. In retrospect the fiftyish Robin now thinks what motivated the paternal insistence on the highest standard was fear that he might turn into a drifter.

And though he got into Oxford and gained both a Fulbright award and a PhD (with a dissertation on the roots of theatre in ritual) in the end he did half justify that fear. In America he married young, divorced fairly quickly, became a touring actor – and when he eventually settled down, did so in Greenwich Village. Here he founded a theatre-café where jazz is performed, poetry read and plays – such as excerpts from his autobiographical *Last Dance at the Hotel Kempinski* – are staged.

Asked if he regretted passing up the opportunity of an academic career, he says "absolutely not. The back-stabbing among university staff makes that of politicians appear as child's play". He laughs and continues, "A professor friend of mine who watched me pour an espresso for a customer commented: The standard of discourse in your cafe is far higher than on my campus".

Satisfied that he had at last found his *métier*, Robin married again several years ago and is now the father of two young children. His work and family life make

him happy – but at the same time he is deeply troubled by the problems of race, crime and the economy currently besetting America.

□ RG

Musical feast

AJR/Self Aid annual concert

In the four years since the European Chamber Opera was formed, it has presented *Marriage of Figaro*, *La Cenerentola*, *La Traviata*, *Il Trovatore*, *Tosca*, *Magic Flute*, *Rigoletto*, *Così fan Tutte* and a newly commissioned work *Mind Over Matter* by Anthony Pitts. In addition to numerous operas and concerts in England, the company has performed throughout Europe and the Far East.

European Chamber Opera provides a platform for singers of exceptional talent who are already well advanced in their professional careers. The company offers singers roles which stretch them both artistically and vocally and, by so doing, has become a key proving ground outside the ambit of established major houses.

European Chamber Opera specialises in performing in stately homes, palaces, hotels and embassies, as well as in theatres. It has performed in Holland Park, Chatsworth House, the British Museum and Fishmongers Hall. Dependent on the capacity and character of the venue, the company presents either a chamber version of the opera – with piano or chamber orchestra accompaniment – or a full-size production with full orchestra and chorus.

In 1996 the company adds three operas to its repertoire, *Carmen* and *Don Giovanni* – part of the Holland Park Opera Season – and *Don Pasquale*. The singers particularly enjoy giving concerts of opera and operetta which feature well known and loved pieces from the popular repertoire □

AJR/Self Aid present the European Chamber Opera in a Gala Concert of Opera and Operetta on Sunday 19th May at 2.45pm at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on the South Bank. Tickets at all prices are available from the AJR. Tel: 0171 431 6161.

Bamberg remembers

From our point of view, the year 1995 will surely go down as the most memorable of the decade. The two principal initiatives to achieve a dignified

remembrance of our destroyed community have come to fruition at the same time: 50 years after the war the names of the Bamberg Jewish victims of the Holocaust are at last remembered on the six Memorial Panels in the *Tahara* house at the cemetery (a place accessible to the public), and a striking and moving reminder of our beautiful synagogue has been completed.

The fact that both memorials were dedicated on 9 November is of special significance.

Furthermore, a start was made with the extended permanent exhibition *Juden in Bamberg*, which I have been preparing for some two years. A small part was shown on 9 November in a large room at the *Tahara* house.

The most gratifying part of the days around the 9 November was the presence of 23 Jewish former Bambergers, including spouses and descendants.

The year also saw the incorporation of a charity, the *Verein zur Förderung der jüdischen Geschichte und Kultur in Bamberg e.V.* It has attracted about 50 members in Bamberg so far.

At the dedication of the Memorial on 9 November the Bavarian Minister of Justice, said *Einen Schlusstrich dürfen wir niemals ziehen* – a timely reminder to those who would like to. He also admitted, probably for the first time in public, that the German legal profession itself was guilty during the Nazi era, an admission remarkable enough to elicit comment in a number of newspapers the following day.

□ Herbert Loebel, OBE

AUSTRIAN PENSIONS AND COMPENSATION

Hannah Lessing-Askapa, General Secretary of the Austrian 'Nationalfonds', to which many of our members who came to this country as refugees from Nazi persecution have applied for belated compensation, will visit this country in May and invites AJR members to a meeting on Tuesday 7 May at 7.30pm under the aegis of the Anglo-Austrian Society. This will give her the chance to explain how the fund is administered, and provide an opportunity to address any questions put to her. Please inform the Anglo-Austrian Society on 0171 222 0366 if you would like to attend the meeting and confirm the venue □

Bayreuth-fixated Bernard

While he was still in short pants Bernard Levin informs us (*The Times*, 15 March) he already haunted the top gallery of the Albert Hall. As is well known, this passion for music has stayed with Levin all his life. Not only does it still regularly take him to concert halls and opera houses, it also informs much of what he writes.

Fired by the selfsame passion he recently berated Elizabeth Schwarzkopf's biographer for dragging up unsavoury details of her career in the Third Reich.

Now, it is relatively easy to defend the honour of a diva who only belonged to the brownshirt small fry – but what can Levin do with Richard Wagner, the malign genius it would not be inappropriate to describe as an *Ur-Nazi*?

The question of how an unmitigated blackguard like Wagner can have written sublime music preoccupies Levin a great deal. In fact, it preoccupies him to the point where he is liable to lose his grip on the facts of the case. I quote: "Some people claim they can hear antisemitism in Wagner's music. That is nonsense. No, Beckmesser is not an antisemite, and if you heard *The Mastersingers* for the first time, without any background, you would never think of antisemitism."

What an amazing non-sequitur! Far from anyone claiming that Beckmesser, the villain of *The Mastersingers of Nuremberg*, is an antisemite, he has been conclusively proven to be the projection of an antisemitic mind. The crabbed unmusical pedant Beckmesser was beyond any shadow of doubt the composer's vicious caricature of the influential half-Jewish music critic Eduard Hanslick, who was pro-Brahms and anti-Wagner. Wagner gives Beckmesser all the negative traits – lack of creativity and true feeling, a sterile copycat mind – he ascribed to the Jews in his 1859 diatribe *Das Judentum in der Musik*.

Levin is, of course, right when he asserts that no first-time listener could discern antisemitism in the score of *The Mastersingers*. But, as creator of the concept of the *Gesamtkunstwerk* (the total work of art), Wagner also wrote the text of the opera, which, while not explicitly antisemitic, is shot through with xenophobia; in the Third Act aria *Verachtet mir die Meister nicht* Hans Sachs hymns

the praise of German-ness and excoriates alien '*welschen Tand*'.

So much for Levin's uncertain grasp of the facts. What about his grasp of logic? I quote:

"First, Hitler was a devoted Wagnerian. Second, Hitler murdered the Jews. It therefore follows that I, being a devoted Wagnerian, am also a murderer of Jews. So are most of the leading conductors, who are not only murderers, but Jewish murderers..."

Pathetic, isn't it?! However, lest anyone reading this example of Levin's demented logic-chopping gets unduly perturbed about his mental state and feels like summoning the men in white coats, I hasten to disabuse them; the eminent columnist ends his *Times* article with the reassuring prediction that though his music is eternal one day Wagner, the man, will be forgotten.

Distinguishing between the man and the work may sound eminently reasonable, but en route to that conclusion Levin resorts to a superficial comparison between two antisemitic geniuses – Wagner and Dostojevsky. This facile bracketing cannot be allowed to pass unchallenged. Unlike Dostojevsky, the composer while still alive institutionalised a posthumous cult of himself by establishing the Bayreuth Festival, at which first Cosima and then Winifred Wagner served as high priestesses. (The cult even had its own publication *Die Bayreuther Blätter*, edited by von Wolzogen).

Bayreuth duly became a centre of pilgrimage attracting all manner of devotees ranging from the naive Wagner worshipper Anton Bruckner to the malign racist Houston Stewart Chamberlain. Any comparison between Dostojevsky and Wagner finally became meaningless in 1923 when, in receiving Hitler at Bayreuth with due pomp and circumstance, Winifred Wagner bestowed her late father-in-law's imprimatur upon the future Fuehrer

□ Richard Grunberger

Refugee humour

Täuschendes London

London Bridge ist kein Kartenspiel,
Oxford Circus ist kein Vergnügungs-
etablissement,
Scotland Yard ist kein Längenmass,
Marble Arch ist kein Körperteil,
Archway ist keine Krankheit
und 'eljen' ist kein Hochruf, sondern
ein Schimpfwort

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ALL LEGAL WORK UNDERTAKEN

Reviews

Valjean in Vichy days

Claude Lelouche *LES MISÉRABLES*.
On selected release.

Victor Hugo merits the title 'the French Dickens'. Both writers had sympathy for underdogs, a penchant for sentimentality and tremendous fecundity of invention.

Les Misérables – with its swarming cast of society's victims, set-piece tear jerkers and prolix drama – is vintage Victor Hugo. A clunking Victorian page-turner, it has spawned several film adaptations as well as a hit musical.

Claude Lelouche's film is not just another cinematic version of the classic story, but an ambitious attempt to place it in a twentieth-century setting. Here Valjean doesn't display his prison-honed physical strength by lifting a half-collapsed cart that threatens to crush a man, but, as an ex-boxer turned removal man, performs a Samson-like feat: he stops a grand piano from careering down the staircase of a Nazi-requisitioned Parisian palace. Instead of befriending little Cosette cast adrift by her dirt-poor mother, he secretes the daughter of fugitive Jews in a convent – and instead of being hounded by a sadistic policeman, he almost falls victim to a Fascist *milicien* turned *Suret * official in postwar France.

Where Lelouche does some violence to the original is in straining for a parallel between 20th century Jews and Hugo's Parisian *lumpenproletariat*. Hugo's barricade builders went down to defeat, whereas the film's Jewish lawyer protagonist prefers flight to resistance. *Maître Ziman*, nonetheless, wins the audience's heart by his display of tenacious endurance and optimism. Alas, he also engages the affections of the farmer's wife sheltering him – with dire consequences for her marriage.

Ziman also happens to have the best line in the film. Asked about the roots of Jew hatred he says: "Antisemitism is like an impotent husband who puts the blame on his wife".

Elsewhere Lelouche's three-hour epic falls somewhat below his level of insightful wit. The film contains visually memorable scenes – an attempted jail-break up a vertiginous slime-covered well shaft, a line of black-clad Jewish fugitives advancing across white snow towards im-

agined freedom – but the contrived happy ending had me leave the cinema feeling rather deflated. Yet, whatever one's emotional response, the director deserves credit for telling the French public some home truths about their conduct fifty years ago.

□ RG

The sting in the honey

Jonathan A Romain, *TILL FAITH US DO PART*,
Fount Paperbacks (Harper/Collins) 1996

This book, based on extensive research into mixed marriage, bears the subtitle *Couples who fall in love across the religious divide*. Rabbi Romain's case histories take in Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs and even Buddhists. While this gives him a panoramic overview of the problem it also introduces a certain blurring of categories.

The hallmark of Jewish 'difference' is not simply a matter of religion. A Protestant Englishman and his Catholic English wife are, except for their religious orientation, products of the same culture and share a national identity. The same cannot be confidently asserted about a Jewish-Christian mixed marriage, for even if the Jewish partner has deep roots in this country, he/she may still feel a strong emotional pull towards Israel.

This qualification apart, *Till Faith Us Do Part* is an instructive read – with the additional merit of including nuggets of humour. (One Protestant wife contrasts the *weekly* phone call to her own mother with her Jewish husband's *daily* calls to his; the young son of a Hindu-Christian couple says: "I prefer Jesus to Krishna because I get more presents on his birthday").

Of course, for us Jews intermarriage is no joking matter. The author quotes the case of Edwina Currie MP, whose orthodox father sat *shivah* when she married out (a fate, incidentally, shared by Queenie Leavis, well-matched wife of the famously quarrelsome Cambridge don).

Lately certain hellfire-preaching rabbis have gone to the lengths of denouncing intermarriage as a form of genocide. Taking a less absolutist view Rabbi Romain approvingly quotes his colleague Alexander Schindler's dictum "We live in an open society and intermarriage is the sting which comes to us in the honey of our freedom".

Can the community draw that sting?

The author sidesteps that question – and who is to blame him? Widespread Jewish 'out-marriage' is an inescapable fact of life. To anyone desperately upset by this I venture to offer the following – admittedly inadequate – consolation: had we not lost some co-religionists to intermarriage in the past, mankind could not have gloried in the genius of Montaigne, Marcel Proust, Wittgenstein, Niels Bohr, Pavlova or Hans von Marées. Let no-one say we Jews aren't generous!

□ RG

AJR/Self-Aid Concert
Opera and Operetta
Queen Elizabeth Hall
Sunday 19th May at 2.45

PROGRAMME

Barber of Seville: Largo al factotum,
Dunque io son

Marriage of Figaro: Non piu andrai

Carmen: Toreador's Song, Seguidilla

Rigoletto: Questa o quella

Gianni Schicchi: O mio babbino caro

Pearlfishers: Au fond du temple saint

Lakme: Viens Mallika - Sous le d me epais

La Boh me: Che gelida manina, Mi chiamano Mimi, O soave fanciulla

Fledermaus: O weh ist mir, Chacun a son go t, Czardas

Tales of Hoffman: Kleinzack, Scintille diamant, Barcarolle

Merry Widow: Maxims, Love unspoken, Vilja Lied

Das Land des L chelns: Dein ist mein ganzes Herz

Paganini: Gern hab' ich die Frau'n gek sst

Austrian pensions update

Members applying to the DSS for a review of their Austrian pensions may receive a form from them. We have been informed by the DSS that you do not need to complete this form in detail. It is only necessary to fill in Part 2 Question 2, which concerns your present nationality.

However, if you have ever been insured as an employed or self-employed person in any country other than the United Kingdom or Austria, you may choose to complete the relevant sections □

COMPETITION

Adjudicator's report

In response to Mr Marmorek's letter, in our February issue, 22 brave people have taken up the challenge of translating the Buchenwald Camp song by Beda Loehner and Herman Leopoldi.

All the entries were of a high standard and my task was consequently hard.

I was looking for a good translation that could hold its own in English and that had not sacrificed rhythm or forced

the rhymes; but above all I was searching for the spirit of the poem, carried through into English.

I am not myself a German speaker, but I consulted a friend who is fluent and it has been a very moving experience. Such deep feelings went into these translations, such personal memories and in some cases, loss of loved ones!

The results are as follows:

1st prize (£100)	Bea Green
2nd prize (£50)	Ian Stirling
Joint 3rd (£25 each)	Laura Delafour and Beatrice Nagel.

□ Jill Bamber

LAGERLIEDAUS BUCHENWALD

Wenn der Tag erwacht
Eh die Sonne lacht
Die Kolonnen ziehn
Zu des Tages Mühn
Hinein in den graueden Morgen.

Und der Wald ist schwarz
Und der Himmel rot
Und wir tragen im Brotsack
Ein Stückchen Brot
Und im Herzen, im Herzen die Sorgen.

Refrain:

O Buchenwald, ich kann Dich nicht vergessen
Weil Du mein Schicksal bist!
Wer Dich verliesse, der kann es erst ermessen,
Wie wundervoll die Freiheit ist.
O Buchenwald, wir jammern nicht und klagen,
Und was auch unsere Zukunft sei,
Wir wollen trotzdem ja zum Leben sagen,
Denn einmal kommt der Tag, da sind wir frei!

Und das Blut ist heiss
Und das Mädal fern,
Und der Wind singt leis,
Und ich hab sie so gern
Wenn treu nur, wenn treu nur sie bliebe!

Und die Steine sind hart,
Aber fest unser Tritt,
Und wir tragen die Picken
Und Spaten mit
Und im Herzen, im Herzen die Liebe!

Refrain.

Und die Nacht ist kurz
Und der Tag so lang,
Und es klingt ein Lied
Das die Heimat sang,
Wir lassen den Mut uns nicht rauben!

Halte Schritt, Kamerad,
Und verlier nicht den Mut,
Denn wir tragen
Den willen zum Leben im Blut
Und im Herzen, im Herzen den Glauben!

THE SONG OF BUCHENWALD

At break of day
Ere the sun holds sway
We line up to trail
To the day's travail
In columns, through mist of the morrow.

And the forest is black
And the sky is red
Our bag is light
There's but one piece of bread
But our hearts are heavy with sorrow.

Refrain

Ah, Buchenwald, you're in my mind forever
For fate has brought me there!
If one could leave, one would at last endeavour
To relish freedom, freedom from fear.
Ah, Buchenwald, we do not wail or complain,
Whatever our future be
We will say yes to life in spite of pain.
The day will surely come when we'll be free.

My girl's in my mind
But she's far away.
There's a rustle of wind,
She's my love, night and day.
Oh, will her heart still be burning?
And the stones are hard
But sure our pace
Carrying pickaxe and spade
Firmly in place,
But my heart, in my heart there is yearning!

Refrain

And the night is short
And the day so long
And from our past
Floats the sound of a song
They cannot rob us of courage or part
Us, so keep up my friend,
Don't give in to these pains,
For we carry
The will to live in our veins,
Our faith forever in our heart.

□ Bea Green

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Letters to the Editor



AUSTRIAN DEATH MARCH

Sir - Shortly after the war I visited Windischgarsden, a village on the trunk road from Styria to Linz. A villager I had known for years told me that one day in 1944 Nazi officials ordered all windows overlooking the trunk road to be shuttered; any face appearing at the window would be shot at. When the column arrived, they always broke rank when they saw a reachable window box, grabbed all the flowers and swallowed them.

Another acquaintance from the nearby village Spital am Pyhrn told me that the head of that human column was stationed for one night at the monastery. During the night they broke into the larder and ate absolutely everything, including raw unwashed potatoes. Nothing edible was left.
Byron Road R.J. Jaray
Harrow

FIGURES LEAPING FROM A VASE

Sir - In the march issue RG quotes a British Museum lecturer as saying 'the scoffer Thersites killed by Achilles'. This does not accord with my recollection of Homer's Iliad.

I also remember this stanza from a German poem (whose author's name escapes me)

*Ohne Wahl verteilt die Gaben
Ohne Billigkeit das Glück
Denn Patroklos liegt begraben
Und Thersites kehrt zurück*

Broadwood Drive Martin Anson
Glasgow

DISCREET CHARM OF THE SCHMOOSEOISIE

Sir - The phenomenon of adopting and adapting Yiddish words is nothing new; one only has to consult the Oxford English dictionary to confirm the truth of this assertion.

However, these instances of absorption produce some strange and often hilarious results; usually due to ignorance and failure to appreciate the true significance of newly incorporated terms.

I recently read in a 'quality' newspaper that some current celebrity had been "...schmoozing his friends..."; a most curious distortion. Schmoozing is of course an intransitive verb, and the writer, in his innocence, had turned it into a transitive one.

By the way, Shalom Asch, when asked to justify his statement that Yiddish was the best language in the world, replied "Man versteht jedes Wort..."

Looking forward to many more issues of *AJR Information*, I remain.

Sheen Park C P Carter
Richmond, Surrey

ROLE-LESS ROYCE

Sir - May I continue the Leo Reuss story by telling you about his appearance as the Prosecutor in Arnold Zweig's play *Sendung Semaël* in 1937 in Vienna at the Yiddish Theatre Reklam.

The play had been adapted by my father Abisz Meisels. All the Jewish parts were spoken in Yiddish, whereas the Austrians and Hungarians spoke German. The South American Yiddish actress, Jenny Lovitch, had cut her hair to play the boy, and she and Leo Reuss made a formidable team which was praised by the press.

Middle Lane Ruth Schneider (Mrs)
London N8

Sir - Thank you for your most enlightening and fascinating piece on 'Lionel Royce'. But you left out the final ironic turn of the screw. The parts he was given to play in Hollywood were, almost invariably, Gestapo types!

The Queen's College Siegbert Praver
Oxford

LAPSUS LINGUAE

Sir - I wonder how many other readers noticed the printing error in Martin Anson's letter (March) stating that - not surprisingly - "... interment (sic!) came as a shock...."

Circus Road Ilse Wolff
London NW8

TRANSPLANT THAT DIDN'T TAKE

Sir - I, too, found the review of *Schalom, meine Heimat* (January issue) disturbing. To join a kibbutz ignorant of its demands and to expect all and sundry to conform to German middle-class standards was bound to be unsettling.

Hundreds of thousands of Jews left behind in Germany were not so fortunate as to be able to criticize their lands of refuge and, had they escaped, would not, in the light of their experience, have elevated Germany into a model to be emulated.

From 1939 onwards the arrogance of Germans knew no bounds. Hitler was right: they were superior, and '*Recht ist, was dem deutschen Volke nützt*' explained and excused everything. Anti-Nazism is an entirely postwar phenomenon, the very few exceptions just prove that rule. In short, they were beastly, and we on the wrong side of the Channel had the "deutsch" part of "deutsche Jüdin" or "jüdische Deutsche" (Letters, March issue) literally knocked out of our system. You will have to take my word, the word of an ex-Berliner and Auschwitz survivor for that; there are few others.

Before AJR members of prewar vintage get too hooked on their "heritage" they ought to stop and consider that in so doing they tar themselves with a very unsavoury brush.

Martlesham Heath Frank Bright
Ipswich, Suffolk

FOLLOW MY LIEDER

Sir - One wonders whether Elisabeth Schwarzkopf's marriage to Walter Legge, who was Jewish, was an attempt to cover up her Nazi past.

Two other items on the same topic may be of interest:

- Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, in a recent radio interview, admitted that he had served in the Wehrmacht during the war.
- Soon after the war, Otto Klemperer met Richard Strauss by chance in Switzerland. Klemperer asked Strauss why he had stayed on in Nazi Germany, Strauss replied: "*Ich hätte sonst mein Einkommen verloren.*"

Does anyone really believe that Richard Strauss, a world-famous composer and conductor, would have been unable to find a job outside Nazi Germany? (Klemperer himself was, of course, Jewish.)

Norman Court John Levy
Nether Street, London N3

Election of Committee of Management

The following members will be proposed for election or re-election to the Committee at the AGM on Sunday 9 June, 1996.

- *Mr A.C. Kaufman, Chairman
 *Mr W.D. Rothenberg, Vice-Chairman & Treasurer
 Mrs E.S. Angel, Secretary
 *Mrs M. Brook, Trustee
 Mr P. Dannenberg
 Mr C.W. Dunston
 *Mr J.H. Dunston, Trustee
 Mr M. Durst, Trustee
 Mrs J. Field
 Mrs J. Kessler
 Mrs S. Landau
 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 Friday 17 May 1996

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - MAY 1996

- Tues 7 Origins & Development of the Wiener Library: Ben Barkow, Wiener Library, 6.30pm, £2
 Tues 7 The Isosceles Trio: recital with piano, violin & cello, JACS, 2pm
 Tues 7 Marc Chagall: Lecture by Monica Bohm-Duchen, Sternberg Centre, 8.15pm. Exhibition of drawings by, and photographs of the artist. Sternberg Centre 8 May to 16 June.
 Tues 7 Hannah Lessing-Askapa, *Austrian Nationalfonds*, Anglo-Austrian Society, 7.30pm. Phone 0171 222 0366 for information.
 Sun 12 Association of Jewish Ex-Berliners. Musical afternoon, 2.15pm. Contact Judy Field 0181 452 9681
 Sun 12 Dannie & Joan Abse: Evening of Poetry, Prose & Humour. Sternberg Centre, £3.50, 8pm

- Mon 13 Annual General Meeting, Club 43, 8pm
 Tues 14 David Jacobs: A journalistic approach to pro-active propaganda. JACS, 2pm
 Thurs 16 Experiences of refugees settling in Britain: South London AJR. South London Liberal Synagogue, 2pm
 Mon 20 Frau Isa von der Schulenburg (Lugano): (In German). Widerspruch und Zivilcourage im Dritten Reich. Möglichkeit und Grenzen des Widerstandes. Club 43, 8pm
 Tues 21 Nicole David: 'The Hidden Children', experiences as a child hidden by a Belgian family. JACS, 2pm
 Thurs 23 Ralph Blumenau: German Flags and German History. University of Sussex, 5pm
 Tues 28 Nick Fris: Hungarian Jews after the War. JACS, 2pm
 Thurs 30 Berlin 1936: Hitler's Olympiad on Film. Wiener Library, 6.30pm, £3 incl. refreshments.

JUNE

- Tues 4 Martha Tausz: Cuba, her latest adventure. Talk with slides. JACS, 2pm
 Tues 4 P. Yogi Mayer: Hitler's Games, personal recollections. Wiener Library, 6.30pm, £3 incl. refreshments.
 Tues 11 Lord Weidenfeld: Growing up in Pre-Anschluss Vienna. University of Sussex, 5pm
 Sun 30 Holocaust Museum for Britain: Conference at Birkbeck College, details Wiener Library

ORGANISATION CONTACTS

Club 1943, meets at Belsize Square Synagogue. Hans Seelig 01442 254 360
 JACS at Belsize Square Synagogue, NW3 4HX. Tel: 0171 794 3949
 Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1. 0171 636 7247
 Jewish Museum/Sternberg Centre for Judaism, 80 East End Road, Finchley, NW3 2SY. Tel: 0181 346 2288
 University of Sussex Centre for German-Jewish Studies. Diana Franklin 0181 455 4785 or 01273 678 495
 AJEB (Association of Jewish Ex-Berliners). Peter Sinclair 0181 882 1638

Making a Will?

Please remember the AJR

Though we cannot take our worldly possessions with us, we can see that whatever is left behind goes where it will be appreciated, do some good and is needed.

Many former refugees have found their association with the AJR a rewarding one. This is an opportunity to support the AJR Charitable Trust.

Your solicitor will be able to help, or you can consult with our welfare rights adviser
 Mrs Agi Alexander on 0171 431 6161 or the social workers at the Day Centre.

If you have already made a Will it is quite easy to add a Codicil.

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



BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

51 BELSIZE SQUARE, NW3

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

Further details can be obtained from our synagogue secretary

Telephone 0171-794 3949

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

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

Space donated by Pafra Limited

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

Our communal hall is available for cultural and social functions.

Tel: 0171-794 3949

Annual Report 1995

Membership

The number of our members has remained fairly constant, with 134 deaths and 140 new members, who, in many cases, have joined the Association in order to get information, advice and help on German and Austrian pensions.

Analysis of our current membership has shown that 80% are aged over 70 and nearly 40% are over 80 years young. 67% of members originate from Germany and 22% from Austria.

The Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

The Day Centre continued to welcome refugee members, who enjoy the stimulus of meeting their friends, making new friends and participating in the wide range of activities which are available.

Members always look forward to the twice yearly trips to Bournemouth, organized and led by Sylvia Matus and Renee Lee, which provide holidays for some people who would not, or could not, go on their own. Outings too, are popular. Petworth was visited in September 1995 and one of the most unusual outings was to Tyringham Health Farm, which resulted in several members making bookings there and then.

As usual, the second Seder Night and the Tea Dance in November were well attended, while Open Day again raised over £1,000 for the Day Centre.

Following generous donations from a member, as well as assistance from the Claims Conference, we constructed a sickbay to care for anyone becoming unwell. This room also provides privacy for interviews at the regular social and welfare rights sessions.

Transport was arranged for 50 people a week, by a combination of volunteers, taxis and minicabs.

Attendance for the year was 12,000, but dropped 10% over the year, as members died or became too frail to continue to come.

Catering

One of the big attractions for visitors to the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre is the quality of the meals. Susie Kaufman, with Head Chef Jeff Heywood and their team, produced 24,000 kosher meals during the year, both for consumption on the premises and as Take Away and Meals on Wheels. Our Health and Safety consultant complimented the AJR on the strict attention to hygiene and cleanliness.

Volunteers

In 1995, Laura Howe, our Volunteers' Co-ordinator, recruited 22 new volunteers; 8 became helpers at the Day Centre, 4 undertook to drive people to or from the Day Centre, and 10 joined our team of home visitors.

83 volunteers helped with a wide range of activities at the Day Centre. Without them it could not function. Our 56 voluntary visitors

continued their devoted 'befriending' of our members, usually those who are frail and mainly housebound. Some shop or collect pensions but all give that much needed listening ear. We have visitors all over London, one in Tunbridge Wells, and one in Hove, Sussex. Our six office helpers continued to provide most valuable assistance.

There is intense competition these days among voluntary agencies to recruit volunteers so that recruitment becomes increasingly difficult. We are fortunate that those we have are so dedicated.

Sheltered Accommodation

Seven out of the eight sheltered flats above the Day Centre at Cleve Road were occupied at the end of the year. Most of the tenants made good use of the various Day Centre amenities.

Applications for sheltered flats at Cleve Road, as well as those at Otto Schiff House and Eleanor Rathbone House, which are managed by the Otto Schiff Housing Association, continued to be handled by Katia Gould.

Social Services

The Social Services team worked at full stretch as members got older and required more assistance. Frequently cases involve negotiation and liaison with doctors, hospitals, social workers and residential homes.

The department obtained a better understanding of the needs of the refugee community following Agi Alexander's frequent meetings with groups such as the Refugee Liaison Committee, Shalvata and World Jewish Relief.

Staff attended various training courses to update their knowledge and to learn new techniques.

Advice on welfare rights and benefits is still being given twice a week, one morning at the Day Centre and one morning at Hampstead Gate. We have made successful applications for Attendance Allowance for many more of our members. Because of the increase in age-related disabilities the need for hospital visits by our social workers has increased and we have received many more requests for carers, which we cannot at present satisfy.

Pensions

More changes have been taking place regarding foreign pensions and grants and we have made every effort to keep our members informed of such changes through articles in AJR Information. We have been kept particularly busy with members' claims to the Austrian Nationalfonds. Facilities were made available for our members to come to the AJR office for help with completing application forms, and for those members who were housebound, home visits were arranged.

A petition was sent to the Petitions-

ausschuss of the German Bundestag, signed jointly by the AJR, the Association of Jewish ex-Berliners, Reunion of Kindertransport and the 45 Aid Society.

Self Aid

Self Aid continues to provide financial assistance for 70 members in need. Monthly grants are made, generally to people on Income Support where we are allowed to pay £10 per week, without endangering the benefits. Grants were also made to people who did not qualify for Income Support.

Again, the bulk of the funding came from the AJR Charitable Trust, while the B'nai B'rith, Leo Baeck (London) Trust Fund continued to support 20 of our clients.

The concert in May 1995 by the Schidloff Quartet, who donated their services, raised £11,000 for Self Aid.

AJR Information

We are constantly trying to raise the standard of *AJR Information*, as evidenced by the contributions of Professors Peter Pulzer and Edward Timms.

In 1995, one feature the Editor, Richard Grunberger, takes particular pride in - Letters to the Editor - was more often than not extended to five, or even six columns; this fact and the tone of the letters convinces us that the readership feels involved in, and happy with, the publication.

During the last year we have also broadened our focus with a series of theatre and cinema reviews, as well as cartoons. A new Listings section brings together all the events in NW London that might be of interest to our readers. We express our gratitude to readers and contributors - and last but not least to the volunteer proof readers, without whose help we simply could not function.

AJR outside NW London

Both the South London group, co-ordinated by Ken Ambrose, and the Midlands group, co-ordinated by Edgar Glaser, had a programme of successful meetings - the comment by one member was that these groups were long overdue. At the end of the year Ernest David spoke to a meeting of 50 people, convened by Werner Lachs, in Manchester to launch a new group there.

Administration

Some more cost savings were identified and implemented, while new computer equipment and software have improved the timeliness and content of management reports.

Various measures were taken to improve security at both Hampstead Gate and Cleve Road, where windows were shatter-proofed. Video entry control cameras were installed in Cleve Road.

Staff & Volunteers

An organisation like ours depends on the people working in it and we are lucky with ours. Both staff and volunteers continued to work with enthusiasm and dedication, which is greatly appreciated by the Officers, Management Committee and membership of the AJR.

The Management Committee

The Committee met five times during the year, providing valuable input to policy decisions as well as constructive feedback from the membership. See page 7, column 1 for election of the Committee.

□ Ernest David, Director

THE YEAR IN RETROSPECT AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

This annual report covers the many different activities and services which AJR provides for its members. It may appear a repetition of much that has been reported in previous years, as a summary does not describe the subtle changes which take place to meet the changing needs of our people. Our improved relationships with other Jewish charities and the Board of Deputies have enabled us to take joint action in dealing with governments when appropriate.

As our people are getting older, the need for individual support increases. It is now apparent that the present activities of our Social Services, our Day Centre and our Homes have to be extended to cover the requirements of our members to ensure a satisfying quality of life as long as possible.

During the year, your Chairman, members of the Executive and Trustees of the AJR Charitable Trust, who are involved in the management of the Otto Schiff Housing Association (OSHA), have taken steps to ensure the continued independence of our Homes. Your Chairman took on the task, as Acting Chairman of OSHA, to appoint a new director and find a successor to the previous Chairman Mr Werner Mattes, who retired after many years of service. A new management team is now in place under the Director Tony Shepherd and the Chairman Mr Alan Blacher. Together with the Management Committee of OSHA, they have taken on the brief to continue providing up-to-date facilities in all the homes and achieve standards of excellence in the care of their residents. The AJR Charitable Trust continues to provide substantial financial support both for the improvement of facilities and the cost of caring for those in our community with limited resources. By close association of the Social Services of AJR with the work of OSHA, we are planning to provide additional services to our members.

1995 has been a year of much progress behind the scenes. It was only possible through the efforts and the full support given by our Director Ernest David and his staff, the members of the Executive and AJR Trustees and our many volunteers. As I shall reach the age limit I shall not stand for re-election, and I wish the new Chairman a satisfying and successful term of office.

□ Max M. Kochmann, Chairman

Finance Report

AJR: Self-supporting for the year.

AJR CHARITABLE TRUST: Exceptional year.
PAUL BALINT AJR CENTRE: Disappointing reduction in numbers.

As we reported last year, our financial structure is now on a stable basis. We are much better able to understand where our costs fall. This enables us to direct our resources to the best possible effect. The smooth running of our financial control falls mainly on the Director, Ernest David, assisted as previously by Gordon Greenfield.

The outstanding feature of the year has been the very high level of legacies which we received during the year. This sadly represents the death of a number of our long-standing members.

AJR

There has been a further fall in membership fees and subscriptions, but we have maintained the level of our donations and had a small increase in the level of our legacies. Even with the full burden of our accommodation costs occurring in this year we have been able to limit our overall expenses to almost the same figure as in 1994. The outstanding saving has been in the printing and dispatch costs of AJR Information. Again this follows the trend which started last year.

Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31st December 1995

	1995	1994
Income		
Membership/Donations and Legacies	156,525	131,368
Grant from Self Aid	5,000	4,191
	<u>161,525</u>	<u>135,559</u>
Less		
Overhead expenses	26,567	19,361
Salary costs	65,637	62,249
AJR Information	22,688	27,218
Administration/Depreciation	11,568	15,515
	<u>126,460</u>	<u>124,343</u>
Surplus	<u>35,065</u>	<u>11,216</u>

Summary of Balance Sheet at 31st December 1995

	1995	1994
Fixed assets		
(less depreciation)	22,717	24,654
Current assets	72,246	36,854
Less: Current liabilities	(12,936)	(16,046)
	<u>82,027</u>	<u>45,462</u>
Represented by:		
General fund	36,798	25,582
Net surplus (deficit) for year	(35,065)	(11,216)
Staff retirement reserve	10,164	8,664
	<u>82,027</u>	<u>45,462</u>

□ David Rothenberg, Hon. Treasurer

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

Sadly there has been a serious reduction in the numbers taking advantage of the facilities of the Day Centre. We have not been able to reduce our costs; unfortunately

there has been a substantial increase in repair costs during the year. The deficit was reduced owing to exceptional donations received during the year from some of our members who have taken advantage of its facilities.

Summary figures for the year ended 31st December 1995

	1995	1994
Income:		
Takings - Day Centre and Meals on Wheels	78,403	77,440
Donations received	33,341	17,843
	<u>111,744</u>	<u>95,283</u>
Less outgoings:		
Premises expenditure (net)	33,740	17,574
Salaries	74,292	61,661
Catering costs	152,336	151,562
Sundry expenses	15,174	22,031
	<u>275,542</u>	<u>252,828</u>
Deficit Funded from Charitable Trust	<u>(163,798)</u>	<u>(157,545)</u>

Self Aid of Refugees

There was no material change in the figures for Self Aid which continued to give direct financial support to those with the most pressing needs. We continued to enjoy contributions from the B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck (London) Lodge. We value their help enormously.

AJR Charitable Trust

The AJR Charitable Trust provides the financial support for the welfare work of the AJR: It bears the entire costs of funding the Day Centre and has over the years contributed substantially to the Otto Schiff Housing Association. Because of the exceptional financial problems which the Otto Schiff Housing Association had in 1994, it will be remembered that the contribution which would normally be made in 1995, was paid in advance in 1994.

The level of legacies received was exceptionally high during the year, which has enabled us to look forward to the work which we shall have to do to help not only the Otto Schiff Housing Association, but others of our community where the burden has been thrown on to us following the Care in the Community Programme.

Summary Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31st December 1995

	1995	1994
Income:		
Covenants/donations	39,989	35,617
Investment income (including portfolio gains)	400,702	261,521
Sheltered housing	21,154	18,024
	<u>461,845</u>	<u>315,162</u>
Legacies	<u>647,651</u>	<u>398,126</u>
	<u>1,109,496</u>	<u>713,288</u>
Less outgoings:		
Day Centre	163,798	157,545
Self Aid	28,000	34,641
Otto Schiff Housing Association*	33,966	300,000
Other organisations	21,100	1,700
Administration/Depreciation	235,116	242,279
	<u>481,980</u>	<u>736,165</u>

*1995 grant paid in advance in 1994

The AJR at Work

In harmony

Françoise Geller and Kara Wilson, with their fine soprano voices, have been singing together professionally for more than two years. Their repertoire is truly international: songs in French, German, Hebrew and Japanese present no problems, and their audiences are very often international too.

Françoise, who is French-Israeli, is no stranger to the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre at Cleve Road and had the pleasure of singing both at the inauguration concert ten years ago and at their recent celebrations. Over the years she has sung with



Kara Wilson (left) and Françoise Geller enthusiastically singing another international song from their large repertoire at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre.

different partners while running a thriving teaching practice in north London.

Kara, an actress who hails from Scotland and lives in Hampstead, came to Françoise as a pupil five years ago and Françoise promised that she would go far. (This prediction came true recently when they sang together in Chigwell in East London!)

With their charm, enthusiasm and musical harmony, and Margaret Eaves completing the trio at the piano, it is abundantly clear that they love performing; the audiences at Cleve Road always enjoy their programmes and are most appreciative □

An invitation to the Annual General Meeting

This year, for the first time in the Association's history, our AGM will take place on a Sunday afternoon (9 June at 3pm). We are introducing this change to make it easier for members to attend; tea will be served after the meeting.

The guest speaker will be George Clare, best-selling author of *Last Waltz in Vienna*, which was translated into six languages and turned into a BBC television documentary. George Clare's second book, *Berlin Days*, recounted his experiences in the Intelligence Section of the British Occupation forces, Berlin. It was also in Berlin that Clare met his subsequent employer, the publisher Axel Springer, whose Chief Representative he became □

A modern museum

Carol Seigel, Assistant Curator of the Jewish Museum in Finchley, demolished old-fashioned concepts of museums as being venerated temples in her address to a well-attended meeting of South London AJR.

In today's museums, glass cases were largely done away with to be replaced by exhibitions which usually told a story, were often mobile, and were of interest to young and old alike. The Jewish Museum's practical collaboration with schools and universities reinforced a strong educational element in its presentations which, in turn, was deepened by the research carried out on the archive material it collected.

Carol introduced two student volunteers, from The Netherlands and Germany, who gave a first-hand account of school groups' enthusiasm when visiting the museum and the satisfaction which was derived from analysing archival material. The discussion which followed revealed keen interest in the museum to which it is hoped South London AJR will organise a visit later in the year.

SLAJR's next meeting, a further opportunity to learn about the fascinating lives of our members, will be on Thursday 16th May at 2pm, once again at the South London Liberal Synagogue, Prentis Road, Streatham. Accept our apologies if there were any difficulties in obtaining entry last time; please press the bell marked 'Montefiore Hall'. For further information telephone Ken Ambrose on 0181 852 0262.

□ Ken Ambrose

Manchester plans 'Beth Shalom' visit

A visit is being organised by Manchester AJR to the recently established Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre near Nottingham for Sunday 2nd June at a cost of £11 per person. A coach will be leaving central pick-up points in the morning. Please contact Werner Lachs on 0161 773 4091 as soon as possible to secure a place □

Another AJR satellite group

If you live in Ilford or the surrounding area and are interested in participating in a new AJR group, please contact Lily Allen on 0181 554 0443 for details □

AJR 'Drop in' Advice Centre at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

15 Cleve Road, London NW6 3RL
between 10am and 12 noon on the following dates:

Thursday	2 May
Tuesday	7 May
Thursday	16 May
Monday	20 May
Tuesday	28 May

and every Thursday from
10am to 12 noon at:

**AJR, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a
Frognaal, London NW3 6AL**

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

Message from the Director

Recently, after the three bomb blasts in March, we visited Israel. Some people seemed surprised we did not change our plans and cancel our visit. Yet, we have so many relatives and friends who live there, and so many relatives of friends, so how could we, living in the comparative safety of England, not go.

We arrived in a country carrying on its life as usual. Shops, theatres, and restaurants seemed full, although it was harder to get a taxi as some people switched from bus to taxi. However, on talking with our younger relatives, we immediately became aware of a change in mood, not so much because of fear of terrorist bombs, but because of the realisation of what the bombs might mean.

There had been a feeling of optimism that perhaps peace and a normalisation of relations with Arab neighbours was just around the corner, while now it became apparent that even if a majority supported peace, it was possible, like in Ireland, for a small number of fanatics to derail the peace process. And then the doubts began to appear. Do the majority of the Palestinian Arabs really want peace? Reports were published of speeches made by Arafat to Arab audiences, and not for Western consumption, in which he referred to peace treaties made by the Arabs, when they were weak, which were then torn up, when they became strong.

There is a fear that perhaps Shimon Peres will give too much away on trust, without the adequate security guarantees that Yitzhak Rabin would have demanded. The opinion polls which only a little while ago showed Peres in a commanding lead for the May elections, now show him running neck and neck with his Likud opponent. Seldom has an election been more important, and that is why Hamas are working to influence the results. They seek confrontation and are trying to goad the Israeli voter into voting for a confrontational government, and while it is clear that the majority of Israelis do not want confrontation, they do want long term security. This is why President Clinton's visit, in which he spoke so movingly to over 1000 school-children was so important to show that Israel does not stand alone.

We too, must do everything within our power to show our relatives, friends and immigrants from Central Europe, that they do not stand alone.

□ Ernest David

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 1996

- Wednesday 1 MAYPOLE WITH IAN & CAROL – Ian Bradford (Tenor) accompanied by Carol Algranati (Piano)
- Thursday 2 SONGS FOR EVERYONE – Shirley Gurevitz accompanied by Sylvia Cohen (Piano)
- Sunday 5 DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT
- Monday 6 CLOSED – BANK HOLIDAY
- Tuesday 7 SONGS THAT LEAVE THEIR MARK – Mark Rosen (Tenor) accompanied by Daphne Lewis (Piano)
- Wednesday 8 MAY SERENADE – Anneke Freeland (Mezzo) accompanied by Jeremy Cooke (Piano)
- Thursday 9 SHOWTIME AT THE AJR – Amanda Palmer (Soprano) accompanied by Andrew Wills (Piano)
- Sunday 12 SONGS & MUSIC FROM AROUND THE WORLD – Katinka Seiner accompanied by Daphne Lewis (Piano) with Guest Artist Laszlo Easton (Violin)
- Monday 13 A MUSICAL MEDLEY FOR PIANO & VOICE – Melanie Mehta (Soprano) accompanied by Martin Sharpe (Piano)
- Tuesday 14 THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF JEWISH MUSIC – Illustrated Talk by Barry Weinberg
- Wednesday 15 TWO IN HARMONY – Jules Ruben (Piano) with Natalie Sinclair (Soprano)

- Thursday 16 MAY – MAY – BEAUTIFUL MAY – Louise Bevan (Violin) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano)
- Sunday 19 DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT
- Monday 20 CLASSICAL DELIGHT – Viktoria Baranyini accompanied by Khin Yee Lo (Piano)
- Tuesday 21 THE SINGING DUO – Jack & Rita Davis
- Wednesday 22 MUSIC IN MAY – Claire Taylor (Mezzo) accompanied by Sylvia Trench (Piano)
- Thursday 23 THE GEOFFREY STRUM & HELEN BLAKE DUO
- Sunday 26 DAY CENTRE OPEN – No Entertainment
- Monday 27 CLOSED – BANK HOLIDAY
- Tuesday 28 MUSICAL MOMENTS – Lynn Barry accompanied by Simon Walters (Piano)
- Wednesday 29 MORE MUSIC IN MAY – Rona Israel (soprano) accompanied by Marek Dabrowski (Piano)
- Thursday 30 HERE IS MUSIC YOU WILL REMEMBER – Anthony Hawgood (Tenor) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano)
- JUNE
- Sunday 2 DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT
- Monday 3 MUSIC FOR FOUR HANDS & A SONG – Sheila Games & Daphne Lewis
- Tuesday 4 LOVE'S OLD SWEET SONG – John Cunningham (Baritone) with Piano Accompaniment
- Wednesday 5 THE JOYS OF MUSIC – Sarah Sweeting (Soprano) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano)
- Thursday 6 THE JACK DAVIDOFF TRIO – Cello – Violin & Piano

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthday

Kochmann. Max Kochmann celebrates his 75th Birthday on 17th May with the good wishes of the Trustees, Members of the Management Committee, AJR members and staff.

Death

Bright. Erna Bright, widow of Dr Rudi Bright, passed away peacefully on 16th March in her 91st year. She will be sadly missed by her daughter Marianne, son-in-law, grandchildren and greatgrandchildren.

CLASSIFIED

Companion/Carers

Mature companion/carer required to live in full time. Elderly lady, non-orthodox, in West Hampstead. Light cooking, shopping, etc. Box 1285. Carer or Granny Sitter required for Finchley N3. Live out or in. References required. 0171 431 2500.

Companion available. Sensitive, caring woman, varied interests, driver, offers companionship few hours a week. Terms by arrangement. Tel: 0171 482 2382.

Miscellaneous

The London Leo Baeck Institute wishes to reacquire copies of Year Books XXX (1985) and XXXIII (1988). Please contact: Ulla B. Weinberg, Leo Baeck Institute, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1N 2BH, 0171-580 3493.

Cellist wanted for playing classical music - Colindale area. Contact Mrs T. Fry, 97 Colindeep Lane, NW9 6DJ. Tel: 0181 205 7690.

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

We invite you to our
OPEN DAY

on

Sunday 16 June 1996
at 2.30pm

CLARA NEHAB HOUSE

13-19 Leaside Crescent,
Temple Fortune, NW11
(off Bridge Lane)
Entrance £3

(children under 12 free)

Refreshments will be provided
STALLS RAFFLE

Group outing to
YORK
7th-11th May

Sightseeing · Tour guides
Theatre evening
Castle Howard visit
Accommodation with
breakfast & dinner
£200 per person
Few seats available
Tel: Irene White
0181 203 2733

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1A FROGNAL
LONDON NW3

Tel: 0171-431 6161

HAPPY PAINTINGS

A Jubilee Exhibition

(Her 10th at Burgh House,
New End Square, Hampstead)

will be held by

Lily Freeman

from 9-22 May

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Art Notes

A retrospective exhibition of Eve Arnold has been arranged from 9 May to 18 August at the *Barbican Centre* which covers the life's work of one of the century's most influential and humane photographers. Over 200 photographs are on display.

The *Whitechapel Art Gallery* will be showing from 5 May onwards paintings by *Renato Guttuso* (1912-87). Renato Guttuso is one of the key figures in 20th Century Italian Art, and this is his first ever show in a British public gallery, and demonstrates the continuing significance of his attempts to make art for the people. It contains 60 paintings, plus related drawings, and focuses on the three most creative periods of the artist's life.

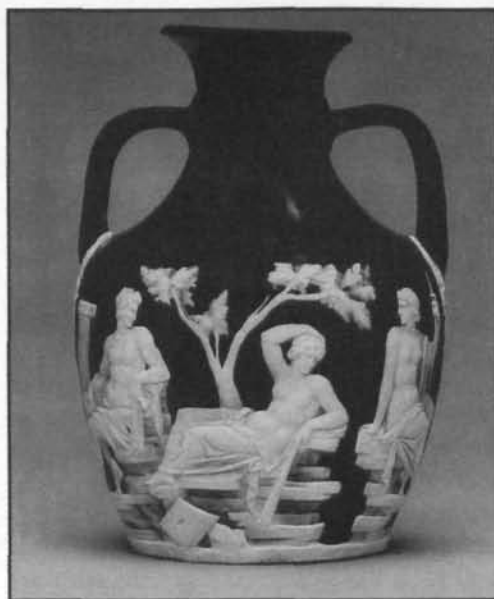
The Masterpieces from the *Doria Pamphilj Gallery, Rome* at the *National Gallery* until 19 May should not be missed.

At the *National Gallery's Sainsbury Wing* Degas: *Beyond Impressionism* will be shown (22 May-26 August). It will bring together around ninety of his finest paintings, drawings, pastels and sculptures to represent the spectacular achievements of his later career. Works by Degas have been assembled from all over the world.

Paintings and installations by *Marlene Rolfe* about *Ilse Gostynski/Rolfe* can be seen until the end of October 1996, at the *Mahn-Gedenkstätte Ravensbruck, Strasse der Nationen, Fürstenberg, Germany*. KZ. Ravensbruck is on the lake opposite the small town of Fürstenberg, 1½ hours due north of Berlin.

Marlborough Fine Art will be showing as first *London Exhibition Daniel Enkaoua: Paintings 1992-1996*, (9 May-14 June). Born in France 1962, Enkaoua left France to enrol at the *Avni Arts Centre in Tel-Aviv*. His main influences are *Balthus* for his handling of atmosphere and *Arikha* for his technique.

Gustave Caillebotte 1848-1894, The Unknown Impressionist, will be at the *Royal Academy*, until 23 June. Caillebotte remains one of the least well known of the Impressionist artists, yet his personal contribution to the achievements of Impressionism as a movement was, in many



The Portland Vase, Roman first century BCE, cobalt-blue blown glass with opaque white decoration of a mythical subject.

ways decisive. Approximately 50 paintings are on show.

At the *British Museum* you can see *Vases and Volcanoes*, sculpture, bronzes, gold jewellery, carved gemstones and painted Greek vases from the collection of *Sir William Hamilton* (1730-1803), better known as the husband of Nelson's mistress, *Emma*. Hamilton was in his time a renowned antiquary, connoisseur and natural historian.

SBs Column

Reinhold Schünzel, an underrated film maker, versatile author, producer and director of UFA films rose to prominence in the early thirties when he was responsible for the most successful comedies of the German cinema. Some of them – *Viktor und Viktoria*, *Amphytrion*, *Die englische Heirat* – became classics but Schünzel's career was cut short by his emigration to the United States. In Hollywood he briefly ranked as an equal to *Lubitsch* and *Billy Wilder*, both of whom had arrived before him. A new 'film portrait' of Schünzel was recently presented in Munich wherein his work received full appreciation and his qualities as an actor were compared to *Kortner*, *Conrad Veidt* and *Peter Lorre*. *Hans Christoph Blumenberg*, producer of the film portrait, upbraided audiences for ignoring Schünzel's considerable contribution to cinema and regretted the fact that within the history of film-making Schünzel's name appears to have been almost forgotten.

Michael Salaman 1911-1987, a retrospective exhibition comprising over 50 paintings and drawings from all stages of his career will be held at the *Ben Uri Art Gallery* until 26 May. A student at the *Slade and Ruskin Schools*, Salaman taught at *Chelsea School of Art* and at *Camberwell*. Most of his paintings are set in the suburban environment, but there will also be a number of landscapes on display.

In mid May, the *Belgrave Gallery* will be showing *Stella Steyn* (1907-1987). Dublin-born, she became interested in art under the tutelage of *Albert Reimann* during a visit to Berlin. On her return to Dublin she enrolled as a student at the *Metropolitan School of Art*. In 1926 she made her first visit to Paris which changed her whole development as an artist. *Stella Steyn* travelled throughout France and had various exhibitions in France, England and Ireland. In 1930 she had an exhibition at *St George's gallery* in London, after which she enrolled at the *Bauhaus* in Dessau for a year, studying teachers like *Wassily Kandinsky*, *Laszlo Moholy-Nagy* and *Paul Klee*. She lived and painted in England for the rest of her life.

Our old friend *Lily Freeman* will have an exhibition of her work *Happy Paintings*, at *Burgh House, Hampstead* from 9-22 May □

Soprano Leonie Rysanek who began her career in 1949 as *Agathe* in *Freischütz*, became a brilliant Wagner singer – *Senta*, *Sieglinde*, *Elsa* – but had a particular penchant for *Richard Strauss* parts. She appeared in Vienna, Munich, New York, San Francisco and Bayreuth; now, at the age of nearly 70, she is leaving the stage and gave farewell performances as *Klythemnestra* in Hamburg and Berlin.

Obituary. *Josef Meinrad* has died in Vienna, aged 83. A most original, *echt* Austrian actor, he belonged to the *Burg* ensemble from 1947 to his retirement some years ago. Dubbed the 'second *Girardi*', he excelled in *Raimund* and *Nestroy* parts, but also took leading rôles in *Hofmannsthal* and *Schnitzler*. He was most successful in a *Covent Garden* *Frosch* production of *Fledermaus* several years ago. As 'best actor performing in the German tongue' he was awarded the *Ifflandring*. Theatre and TV managements have not, so far, been able to find a replacement for a person of such ubiquitous charm, generosity to colleagues and modesty in private life □

Cooking with Gretel Beer



Eggs with chive sauce

An excellent light supper dish, but also very good as a first course. Count two eggs per person for the former, one egg if used as a starter. It looks very good arranged on a large platter, but make a slight indentation when masking the eggs with the sauce so that you know where to find the eggs – otherwise you are apt to break the yolks when serving. Alternatively, arrange the eggs in individual dishes.

4 poached eggs
1 heaped tablespoon butter
1 flat tablespoon flour
¼ pint (140ml) milk
salt and white pepper
mace
¼ pint (140ml) double cream
about 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
2 heaped tablespoons chopped chives

Drain the poached eggs well and gently pat them dry with a paper towel. Melt the butter in a saucepan, stir in the flour and blend well. Do not allow the mixture to brown. Gradually stir in the milk and cook to a smooth paste. Season with salt, white pepper and a flick of mace (it is important to use white pepper, otherwise it will look like scattered cigarette ash). Set to cool and stir from time to time. Set the poached eggs on a serving dish or in individual dishes. Whisk the cream until stiff and fold into the cold sauce, together with the Worcestershire sauce and the chopped chives. Mask the eggs with the sauce and chill well before serving. Dark rye bread and butter is particularly good with this □

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★ **Jews who stayed in Germany during the Thirties** who could highlight both consistencies and inconsistencies in Nazi policy against German Jewry.

★ **Kristallnacht.** First-hand witnesses of that night's acts of violence.

The producers are fully aware of the survivors' difficulties when talking about their experiences, but hope they may feel committed to documenting this important period for a worldwide television audience. Please contact: Detlef Siebert, BBC Documentaries, Room 5435, White City, 201 Wood Lane, London W12 7TS. Tel: 0181 752 6887. Fax: 0181 752 6336.

SEARCH NOTICES

Koppel, hailing from Krefeld. Please contact Gordon Sachs, 15 Hillway, London NW9 7LS. Tel: 0181 205 4028.

Konigsberg orphanage. Max Ziemann wishes to contact people who were in the Jewish orphanage in Konigsberg, Ostpreussen. Please phone on 0181 205 0028.

Edith Neumann, born 27.3.1928 in Vienna, left Bergen Belsen DP Camp in 1948 for England. Lived with her uncle Joseph Spira at 2 Corporation Flats, Woodridge, Guildford, Surrey. Alice Fink (Redlich), who was with the Jewish Relief Unit in Belsen, wishes to contact her friend. Please write to Alice Fink, 6439 North Rockwell Street, Chicago, IL 60645-5319, USA.

Ena Selby (now Mrs Jacobs) is seeking two refugee sisters, named **Lieselotte (Lisl) and Ditta** (surname unknown), from Austria who arrived in the UK before or during World War II aged 11 and 13 years. Her mother, Mrs Lily Selby, gave the sisters a temporary home at 3 Kenneth Crescent, Willesden Green, London NW2. Please write to Ena Jacobs, 2275 West 25th Street, #199 San Pedro, California 90732.

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Austria decorates Esther Simpson

AJR members will be familiar with the work done by Miss Esther Simpson, secretary of the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning, in helping German and Central European academics escape from Hitler and obtain university posts over here. During the war, with the Society's offices evacuated to Cambridge, she ran a sort of welfare service for her charges ("a family of some 600") which included considerable help for internees and their families. Ray Cooper's book *Refugee Scholars* 1992, part-financed by the AJR Charitable Trust, comprised her memories.

In January the Austrian Ambassador in London, Dr Georg Hennig, invested her with the Cross of Merit 1st Class *Pro Artibus et Litteris* decoration normally awarded to very senior academics. Miss Simpson referred to the six years from 1927 when she worked in Vienna for the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, and suggested that the work she did after 1933 had been made easier by her having made so many friends in Vienna at that time. (She did not say, but everybody knew, that most of the latter, had been Jewish.) This latest award – she received a similar one from the French government in 1949, and an OBE in 1956 – is perhaps also in recognition of the fact that, despite her official retirement in 1978 (aged 75), she has never really retired; she continues to maintain a wide range of contacts and to gather data. Until relatively recently she continued to make music; throughout her career she played chamber music of almost professional standard, a particularly suitable leisure occupation when she worked in Vienna from 1927 to 1933, and was the only non-professional violinist accepted as a pupil by Max Rostal.

□ Francis Steiner

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For the first time in the UK, Samson Munn and Dirk Kuhl will be speaking about their meetings, the importance and difficulty of dialogue with 'the other side', and answering questions from the audience. Extracts from the BBC documentary will also be shown.

Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7, 2 June 1996 6-8pm. £7 per ticket including refreshments (£5 concessions). Please write and/or telephone stating the number of tickets required to: Second Generation Trust (make cheques payable to this) PO Box 2863, London NW3 5BQ Tel: 0171624 5542 Fax: 0171 328 8532.

In January 1997, Second Generation Trust will be holding a large-scale conference in Berlin for descendants of Holocaust survivors and descendants of perpetrators and bystanders. Further details are available by contacting the above.

The Trust is supported by Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre, the German Embassy, the Goethe Institute and the Wiener Library □

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One Man's War

Part 9 – Close call

A very elderly foreman showed us what to do, but he frequently went for a drink and then he had to go for a pee, so we didn't exactly kill ourselves working. But he said something significant when he had a sober spell: "I always knew it, and I always said it – Hitler means war."

Along the road were little small holdings and there was a large heap of last season's rotting potatoes. If one cut the soft, foul part of the potato off and sliced the remainder, one could actually munch it. It did not taste very nice but in spite of the food from the kitchen, the body still craved for something which was lacking. After all, we had not seen any fat, sugar or vitamins for many months.

After about a fortnight, the order came in the middle of the day: down tools – everybody goes back to Wolfsberg without delay. The Germans must have realised that they made a mistake. For one thing quite a few of us spoke the language so well that they could have taught at a local school. For another, the Swiss border was not really all that far away.

In Wolfsberg, with all working parties being recalled, we met old friends again. Once again we boarded cattle trucks, were given a tiny tin of black pudding and a loaf of bread shared between four, and advised: "Don't eat it all right away, you never know when there will be any

more."

But I didn't eat my ration, I could not, I was not hungry any more. I instinctively knew I would never eat it. I had to get rid of it, so I gave it to a Sgt Lobel from Karlsbad, whom I knew from summer-camp in Czechoslovakia.

I don't remember much, but it must have been a very long journey. I must have slept a lot, either the truck was not very crowded or my comrades made room for me. At a stop, Popper the medic (he failed his studies) came and took my pulse. I felt totally at peace. During a lucid moment I tried to think of what was going on. I remembered that I had given my food away, I did not mind that – I was not hungry any more. But didn't that signify that I had lost my animal instinct for self-preservation? Nonetheless, I was totally calm and fell asleep again.

Then it is pitch dark, I hear shouting; "All out – all out." I am standing on a parade-ground, the sun is rising over my head – everything starts to swim in front of my eyes. And then I wake up in bed between two white sheets.

I had not slept in a bed for God knows how long, never mind about white sheets. The bed stood in a ward crammed together with about thirty others. Their occupants were all English, Welsh, Scottish – with me the only one of a different kind. They were all very nice to me. They thought that the orderlies who carried me in must have made a mistake, and were sure that I had 'kicked the bucket'.

(to be continued)

□ H P Weiner

WITH THANKS

We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for the legacies received in 1995 by the AJR and the AJR Charitable Trust from the estates of the following:

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