

Don't miss . . .

**Caught three times in crossfire**  
Richard Grunberger  
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## Rotten heart of Europe

**H**aider, 'Hitler's grandson', seems unstoppable in the latter's birthplace. Austria, the centre of Europe, threatens to turn into the epicentre of an anti-EU 'quake. Too late now to castigate her negligent de-Nazification, or her opportunistic 'statesmen' from Kreisky to Waldheim. Two things are urgently required: in Vienna the ÖVP must remain deaf to siren calls for a *bürgerliche* coalition, and at Strasbourg Tory Eurosceptic MEPs must on no account make common cause with Haider's Euro-wreckers □

## Reflections on the lesson of history

# Can good come out of evil?

**T**he Great War was a holocaust that cut a huge swathe through the population of Europe and damaged the very fabric of civilisation. For all that, a certain amount of good – admittedly incommensurate with the suffering entailed – did come out of it: the League of Nations, votes for women, independence for a dozen countries, and so forth.

Can it be said that any good came out of the Jewish holocaust? It used to be argued that the creation of the State of Israel was an equally incommensurate, beneficial by-product of the Shoah. Today, alas, we realise that this transformation of Jews from objects to subjects of history carried with it a taint from the past: having been largely forsaken by the world in our darkest hour we – or some of us – are inclined to act in disregard of even sympathetic world opinion.

And, resisting the ever-present temptation of Jewish paranoia, we must acknowledge that the climate of opinion has, at least in important countries like the US, changed for the better. Whereas in the 1930s the Republicans were isolationist xenophobes, in the 1990s the same Party prevented Pat Buchanan, peddler of America-First antisemitism, from entering the presidential race.

In the thirties, likewise, a key minister like Hore-Belisha in England, or the French Premier Leon Blum, could be brought low by antisemitic smear campaigns; today – *pace* Michael Howard's hero status in Tory ranks – such manoeuvring is unthinkable. Even in a country as recently westernised as Austria, where politicians from Lueger to Waldheim rode to, or kept, power on a wave of Judeophobia, the arch-xenophobe Haider has steered clear of outright antisemitism (see p5).

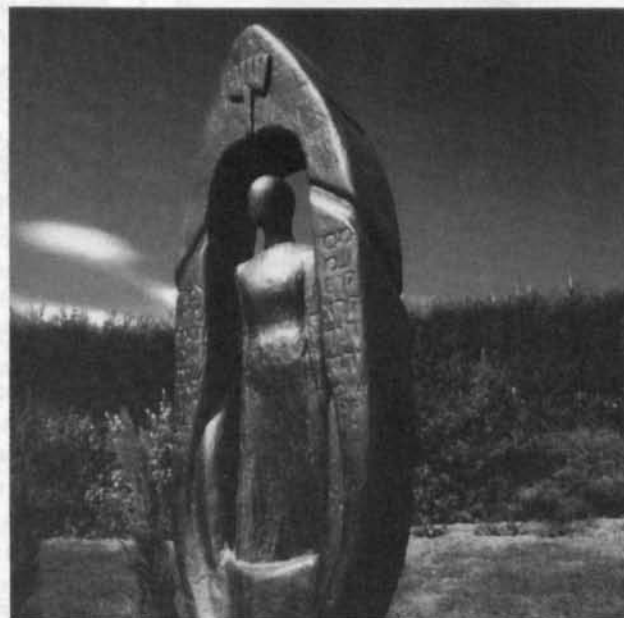
Further East, alas, populist demagogues feel they need not be so circumspect. In Russia self-destructive loudmouth Zhirinovskiy has apparently handed on the antisemitic baton to the up-and-coming General Alexander Lebed.

Another would-be Slav strongman is President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia. Projecting himself as executor of the grandiose ambitions of Hitler's

wartime puppet, Ante Pavelitch, Tudjman blurs his predecessor's genocidal record by trivialising events at Jasenovac concentration camp (aka 'the Croat Auschwitz').

A final thought: Adorno's dictum "After Auschwitz there can be no more poems" has not deterred novelists or playwrights from tackling that theme. This is no bad thing if their work sensitizes public opinion to contemporary human rights violations. However, let them beware of bland extrapolation from the Shoah to the present. A London theatre is currently staging *Nuremberg* and *Srebrenica* on alternate evenings. Though well-intentioned, this juxtaposition misses the key point that unlike the various parties to the Bosnian conflict, in the Holocaust, Jews were victims *only*.

We have to tread a fine line between the Scylla of allowing the Shoah to be evoked indiscriminately to point up contemporary horrors and the Charybdis of thinking that since the world was indifferent to our plight *then*, we can afford indifference to its opinion *now* □



Memorial to the victims of the Holocaust by sculptress Naomi Blake, unveiled at Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre by Dr Elisabeth Maxwell.

## Double Profile

New leadership team  
at Otto Schiff (part 2)

**T**im Inkson, recently appointed General Manager of Otto Schiff Housing Association, is a law graduate and qualified social worker with a wide experience. His direct involvement with the elderly began in 1985, first as deputy then as the head of a retirement home. By 1989 Tim was heading a hospital-based social work team faced with imminent radical changes to be brought by *Care in the Community* legislation. Two years later he was an inspector of residential accommodation for half of Hampshire, leading a dozen-strong team monitoring standards in 450 homes across the county.

Changes in the world of residential care have meant that the Association has, perforce, had to adapt and respond. As Otto Schiff's General Manager, Tim takes care of the day-to-day running of all the Association's homes and sheltered housing (involving regular trouble-shooting), makes sure that budgets are kept to and



Tim Inkson, General Manager

maintains the high standards of care.

Recognising that refugee residents require more understanding and sensitivity than others, Tim was pleasantly surprised by the number and commitment of the staff of the physio, occupational therapy and social work teams. He is convinced that a well motivated, skilled and valued staff make for the best residential service; house committees and volunteers add a

considerable bonus. Tim also expressed appreciation of the young foreign volunteers, often from Germany, who come to help □

**E**sther Meyerson, a key member of the new team, has been a senior administrator of OSHA for the past eight years. Esther was born and went to school in South Africa to where her mother had emigrated from Germany in 1938. Esther enrolled at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and completed her studies in England before returning to Israel to teach English in the northern border town of Kyriat Shemona for two years. The next six hectic years were spent as personal assistant to the chief of



Esther Meyerson, Administrator

Israel's largest industrial company.

In 1996 she fulfilled a long-term ambition to live in London, working within the German-Jewish refugee community. As a result of a meeting with the then director of the CBF Residential Care and Housing Association, she immediately took up the position of Head of Administration.

Esther and her team co-operate closely with each head of home, being responsible for personnel, buildings' maintenance, catering, purchasing – anything other than direct resident care. This has not prevented her from making many friends among both residents and volunteers; she regards working with colleagues dedicated to the caring professions as a particular pleasure. Having worked for four directors, she very much favours the policy of open discussion and is clearly proud to be part of a highly professional and caring team. □ Ronald Channing

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## Caught three times in crossfire

Polish Jewry – now a near-extinct species – was once a teeming womb from which many of today's communities – in America, Western Europe, South Africa and Australia – are largely descended. Jewish settlement in Poland-Lithuania dates back to the 14th century. At the end of the Middle Ages Jews enjoyed greater economic freedom and a larger measure of self-government in that country than anywhere else in Christian Europe.

This 'golden age' came to an abrupt end in the mid 17th century, when this literate and commerce-minded minority – useful, but vulnerable, intermediaries between Polish absentee landlords and Ukrainian peasants – fell victim to the devastating Chmelnitzki pogroms.

When, 150 years later, Tsarist Russia appropriated the bulk of Poland in the Partitions, the Jews once again became whipping boys – caught between Russifiers and Orthodox proselytisers on the one side and Catholic Polish patriots on the other.

As nationalist and denominational strife intensified, Adam Miczkiewicz's (the 'Polish Shakespeare's') vision of a Commonwealth embracing Poles, Lithuanians, Byelo-Russians and Jews, faded more and more from the patriots' horizon. (No wonder Dr Zamenhof, a Polish Jew working for the Russian censors in Warsaw, invented the 'world language' Esperanto).

1918 saw the resurrection of an independent Poland with a three-million-strong, precariously positioned, Jewish minority. After intermittent outrages, an antisemitic boycott in the thirties received support from the Primate of the Catholic Church (whose statue still stands outside Warsaw Cathedral).

In the 1940s the Nazis, for a variety of reasons, concentrated their industrialised genocide operations in occupied Poland. Ninety per cent of all Jews were wiped out in the bloodiest three-sided conflict the country had ever seen. Germans and Poles remained enemies throughout – but this did not prevent Polish Home Army units from carrying out 'freelance' murder of Jews.

Of the 400,000 Jews who fled to Russia in 1939 roughly half survived wartime privations. Together with other returnees – from Nazi camps and hiding – they

might theoretically have formed a quarter-of-a-million-strong community.

But it was not to be. The 1946 Kielce pogrom, as well as sporadic murders by anti-Communist partisans, impelled most returnees to proceed to Palestine or the West, leaving about 35,000 elderly (or pro-Communist) Jews – one per cent of their prewar number – in the country.

Even that pathetic figure was further whittled down. Following the Six-Day War, when most Soviet Bloc countries broke off diplomatic relations with Israel, Jewbaiters in the Communist establishment (headed by ex-Kielce police chief General Moczar) instigated an 'anti-Zionist' purge which drove a further 20,000 Jews out of the country. The most prominent of the latter was Ida Kaminska, though as a public relations ploy Warsaw's Yiddish theatre continued to bear her name.

The next decade saw the rise of the Solidarity movement and the spread of 'flying universities', one of which was Jewishly focused. In the late 1980s as Communism crumbled, the US-based Lauder Foundation financed the establishment of kindergartens and schools to revivify the now 10,000-strong moderately resurgent community.

Within the last five years Poland resumed diplomatic relations with Israel. President Walensa went there on a state visit, and the Polish Pope appealed to his countrymen to overcome their 'prejudices'. Yet in 1995 Walensa's ex-chaplain, Father Jankowski, gave vent to anti-Jewish sentiments (which he was subsequently pressured into disavowing). By contrast in the same year a new Polish cabinet included Foreign Minister Bartoszewski, whom Yad Vashem has styled 'Righteous among the Nations' because of his wartime conduct. In a rather innovative gesture Bartoszewski appointed one Henryk Sliwinski 'Ambassador to the Diaspora'. This means, that, though present-day Poland has hardly more Jewish inhabitants than a single ward in the Borough of Redbridge, she is seeking links to the various communities originally sprung from the 'teeming womb of our people'.

□ Richard Grunberger

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## Reviews

## Warts-and-all portrait

Hella Pick, *SIMON WIESENTHAL: A Life in Search of Justice*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20, 1996.

There is no dearth of books about Wiesenthal, but none as clear, well written, searching and balanced as Hella Pick's warts-and-all portrait of the great Nazi hunter. And great he is, even if he attracts controversies from which he occasionally fails to emerge as a knight in shining armour.

Born in Galicia in 1908, he was living in Lvov when the Nazi hordes swept over the area. In the course of his odyssey through 13 concentration/extermination camps, he twice escaped death by the skin of his teeth.

Is it surprising that even a non-religious man should come to feel that he was chosen for a great task? That task, for more than 50 years, was to bring the killers and torturers to justice, and to show the world the tragedy that befell the Jewish people.

In the course of this monumental task he bitterly quarrelled with Jewish organisations and individuals. He first waged his campaign from a poky office in Linz and then from a slightly better one in Vienna. Constantly threatened – and even reviled by those he felt should be his grateful friends – he carried on into his eighties. (Now the work is continued by the Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles).

The great joy of his life was the survival of his wife Cyla among Polish resisters in Warsaw. Their only child, Paulinka, lives in Israel.

As a personality Pick's Wiesenthal comes over as generous and humorous, but vain. Craving recognition, he was inordinately proud of receiving the Grand Cross of Poland and several Austrian distinctions, but to his intense chagrin failed to attain the Nobel Peace Prize.

An adroit media manipulator, he fought out his battles in public. One such, described as epic by Pick, was his bitter struggle with the Austrian Chancellor Kreisky, an assimilationist Jew willing to employ extreme right-wingers, even ex-Nazis, in his government. Curiously, Wiesenthal got on better with the Ger-

mans; to this day Chancellor Kohl is a personal friend.

The other great fight was over Kurt Waldheim, who, concealing his past, had become UN Secretary-General and President of Austria. The World Jewish Congress wanted him branded as a war criminal. Wiesenthal would not go as far, merely dubbing Waldheim a liar and a cheat. Historically speaking the matter remains unresolved, and the enmity between Wiesenthal and the WJC persists.

Still greater controversy surrounds the Eichmann case. Here the quarrel is between Mossad, whose agents actually captured the mass murderer, and Wiesenthal who claims to have been the first to trace him to Argentina. Isser Harel, ex-Mossad chief, regards Wiesenthal with bitter hatred and damns the latter's book, *I Hunted Eichmann*, as full of falsehoods. The fact remains, concludes Hella Pick, that practically all the other interested parties sought Eichmann in the Middle East.

At the end of her fascinating, thrilling book she avows that Simon Wiesenthal is a "man more of historic beauty than ugly warts".

□ John Rossall

## The Last of the Few

Anne Betten & Miryam Du-nour *WIR SIND DIE LETZTEN. FRAGT UNS AUS (We are the last ones. Ask us)*, Bleicher Verlag, 1995.

This is an astonishingly readable collection of accounts by the last of a generation who escaped or survived the Holocaust and managed to reach Palestine/Israel. The book is in German throughout, but shot through with Hebraisms. An excellent glossary assists any puzzled reader.

Some amazing viewpoints are expressed: one German-born Israeli proudly declares himself a Prussian, while another prefers Nietzsche to the Talmud.

These then are the *Jeckes*, a term apparently derived from the Ivrit expression *Yebudi kshe kavana*, slow-thinking Jew. Having lived in Palestine from 1936 to 1938, I often heard the nickname applied to myself and fellow Youth Aliyah members. It did not please us; however, those of us able to mimic the Polish-Jewish pronunciation of Hebrew had an easier time of it. Needless to say, most of the *Jeckes* never lost their homely accent.

Over and over again, the story is told of a firmly German upbringing in mostly middle-class families. As one octogenarian puts it: "My father felt himself to be German and so did I – we were German citizens of Jewish faith, or as Tucholsky put it '*Deutsche Staatsjuden bürgerlichen Glaubens*' "(German State Jews of bourgeois persuasion).

Altogether, jocularly is not absent from the book (even though its essence is, of course, tragic).

For instance, one *Jecke*, asked if he wasn't ashamed to have lived in the country for so long without learning the language replies: 'It is far easier to be ashamed than to speak Hebrew'. Another anecdote has a German Jew walking along the beach and hearing cries of *Hazilu, Hazilu* (Help, Help) to which he responds: 'Instead of learning Hebrew, you should have learned to swim'.

The ideological spectrum of this, the fifth Aliyah, ranged from the extreme Left to the extreme Right. The *Betar* was literally a Fascist Youth movement, while the *Hashomer* toyed with Trotsky. An ex-member of the *Betar* confesses that he and other young Jews trained with the Ger-

man army, always marching several paces behind the last formation. I personally remember occasional clashes in thirties' Palestine between blue-bloused Socialist youth and khaki-clad Fascists.

The book is divided into five sections, each of which deals with elements in the lives of the immigrants, from their youth in central Europe to maturity and old age in Israel. Many of the camp survivors could not speak of their experiences for years. Even now, they can often only do so with difficulty. A wide-ranging literature dealing with the *Shoah* has familiarised those of us who were fortunate enough to escape, with the horrors.

(Even so, there are reminiscences here which astonished me, not least the report of one person whose life was saved by Dr Mengele).

Each of the interviewees has strong views on what constitutes the right attitude to *ha-aretz*. One conclusion emerges: those who went into the kibbutzim and other farming settlements did the greatest service to their new country, irrespective of whether they served Moses or Marx.

□ JR

## What do you do?

Paul Oppenheimer, FROM BELSEN TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE, Witness Collection, Beth Shalom, £8

This easily assimilated testimony of a Holocaust survivor reveals how the norms of civilised life were cumulatively removed from the Jews in Germany and Holland, ending in the denial of their existence as human beings.

Paul Oppenheimer was born in Berlin in 1928 into a respectable Jewish (though non-religious) middle-class home; brother 'Ruzzi' was born three years later. In 1936 both brothers accompanied their mother to stay with an uncle in England where their sister Eve was born. The British nationality this gave her was to prove of incalculable value as it would confer on all members of her immediate family a degree of protection.

Later that year the family were reunited in Amsterdam. When the Wehrmacht invaded Holland on 10th May 1940, Nazi persecution of the Jews followed the pattern set in Germany. Deportations from Amsterdam were begun in July 1942. With frightening clarity Paul writes, "Block by block, the Jews were being rounded up and sent to Westerbork transit camp and from there to Auschwitz,

Sobibor, Bergen-Belsen and Theresienstadt." There was no way of escape.

Despite having documentary evidence of Eve's British citizenship, on 20th June 1943 the Oppenheimers were given 30 minutes to pack and taken to Westerbork in cattle wagons. The following year they were transported to Bergen-Belsen, where, fortunately for them, the family were put into an *Austauschlager* (Exchange Camp), available to exchange for German POWs in Britain.

Food was minimal – though Ruzzi proved adept at scavenging extra scraps – conditions were harsh, sanitation atrocious and a typhus epidemic, spread by lice, led to many deaths. Paul's mother and father succumbed to hunger, exhaustion and disease aged just 43, while their children had the extra strength needed to survive.

After liberation the brothers first returned to Holland, then joined their 'British' sister and uncle in England. Paul eventually settled in Birmingham, married, had a family and became a leading automobile engineer. In 1990 the MBE was conferred on him by the Queen at Buckingham Palace. "Congratulations. What do you do?" she enquired. Momentarily he was tempted to recount his whole story!

□ Ronald Channing

## Haider's court Jew

Vienna-born Peter Sichrovski grew up in a family of left-wing postwar Jewish returnees. It was inevitably a 'nuclear' family; whenever he asked why other boys had grandparents and he didn't, his mother would burst into tears.

He studied pharmacology and his first book dealt with scams in the drugs industry. Switching *genres* he reached a much wider readership with studies of the offspring respectively of Jewish survivors ('Strangers in their own country') and of Nazi leaders ('Born guilty'). As a playwright he tackled related themes before turning to journalism. For some time he worked as Asia correspondent for *Der Standard*, Austria's lone liberal daily. More recently he collaborated with Ignaz Bubis, leader of the German-Jewish community, on the latter's biography.

They parted acrimoniously. In fact, the four-times-married Sichrovski's frequent change of tack establishes him as a maverick. Last month he put himself beyond the pale: to the intense horror of Jewish returnees and Austrian liberals alike he

accepted Haider's offer of an FPÖ seat in the European Parliament.

Two questions arise: Firstly, what could the leader of the ill-named Freedom Party offer the renegade, apart from the quite lavish salary – plus perks – of a Euro MP? Could it be that by some perverse quirk of his psyche Sichrovski thought that closeness to Jörg Haider – dubbed 'Hitler's grandson' – would compensate him for the loss of his own grandparents?

Secondly, what motivated Haider's Machiavellian ploy? His obvious calculation was this: having always insisted that he was not antisemitic – merely anti-foreign – he can now produce a Jewish 'fig leaf' to cover the nakedness of his party's racism. (Maybe also he got so bored with the boorish Philistinism of his entourage that he craved the company of an intellectual). How the FPÖ membership will take to their Jewish recruit is a moot point, but on the analogy of Hitler making the Nazi Party swallow his 1939 Pact with Stalin, *Führer* Haider should not have undue difficulties with his Party faithful.

□ RG

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## Letters to the Editor

### COCA-COLONISED ISRAEL

Sir - Under Labour, Jewish education was removed from the curriculum in state schools, the religiously observant were suspected of subversive activities, Mr Rabin relegated Eretz Israel to 'real estate' and, after his death, the wearing of kippot became synonymous with plotting against the government.

Personal attack of the kind you are conducting against the Prime Minister, is the weapon of those who lack factual argument. In case you claim that it was all meant to be humorous, let me tell you that it is the kind of 'humour' more accurately described as sarcasm. Actually, Mr Netanyahu does not speak with an American accent and, according to Israeli press reports, his wife and sons did not travel at public expense.

Furthermore, the British obsession with 'liaisons' which smacks of Victorian hypocrisy is not shared by Israelis: after all, King David was no angel himself.

To update your vocabulary: it was the de-Zionisation of the Jewish State that Mr Peres and his intellectual gurus were aiming at, not de-Judaisation as you put it in your last line.

Wembley Park  
Middx

R Willers

### THE BULLET-SCARRED BALLOT

Sir - It goes without saying that we in the Diaspora must feel an unshakable brotherhood with the people of Israel. However, in the light of the present situation, E S Schwab's sentiments seem singularly ill-timed. In my opinion a show of magnanimity after Israel's heroic victories in war, may well have brought about a climate of less bloodletting, if not even a federated Middle East. Giving back land to the conquered, however hard fought over, has many examples in history, often with the result of greatly improved relations. The election of a declared hardliner, further expansion of Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories and the opening of that controversial tunnel, were bound to lead to bloodshed.

We survivors of the Holocaust must lend our voices to the slender minority of voters, in favour of the conference table.

Sutton Coldfield

Werner Abraham

### NO RIGHT TO FORGIVE

Sir - I wish to express my almost total disagreement with Rabbi William Wolff's thought for the High Holy Days.

Having lost most of my family I certainly do not consider that I have even the right to forgive Germany for their deaths.

I fail to understand how the learned rabbi can expect even the slightest degree of magnanimity from those who lost so much. Even our children and grandchildren are affected by it all.

Cheadle Hulme  
Cheshire

Mrs E Gillatt

Sir - May I point out that under Adenauer no camp survivor living in the former Eastern Bloc benefited.

Under Herr Kohl the regulations on pensions and compensation for slave labour are even more restrictive. Those who did not hold German citizenship are excluded.

Yet all victims of Nazi persecution, be they prewar refugees or camp inmates have this in common: we all are Jews. Then why did the good rabbi exclude our experience at the hands of postwar Germans in his homily?

Next month will be the 52nd anniversary of my first night in Auschwitz. I saw the chimneys and asked myself: "Which of these flames is my mother?" It would be as immoral to forget as to forgive. You can count me out.

Ipswich  
Suffolk

Frank Bright

### JEWISH GREAT WAR DEAD

Sir - As the Jewish fallen were already dead all the Germans could do to them from 1933 was to erase their memory by obliterating their names from war memorials.

I have never been back, but have mem-

bers who made visits found that such names have been reinstated? That would be a sign that at least some Jewish dead had been re-allocated their place in German history from which they had been dismissed by Nazi ideology as if they had never made the supreme sacrifice.

Martlesham Heath  
Ipswich

Frank Bright

### AUSTRIAN COMPENSATION

Sir - I was very interested to read the correspondence between Ernest David and H Fischer regarding Austrian Compensation payments.

As I am one of the younger applicants, born 1929, and my surname starts with a 'W' - which probably means I will not receive payment till 1998 - I would like to make the suggestion that if the Austrian Government wanted to behave decently in fulfilling their obligation they should pay interest to those of us that have to wait.

Potters Bar  
Herts

Ralf Wachtel

### HEINE IN ENGLISH

Sir - Your readers might be interested in my translation of the lovely Heine poem on page 6 of the August issue.

Fortune is a flighty whore  
Who lingers for a short while only  
She gently strokes your brow before  
A hasty kiss, then leaves you lonely.  
Misfortune, on the other hand,  
Presses you warmly to her heart  
She's come to stay, you understand  
Sits by your bed and won't depart!

Harman Drive  
London NW2

Lili Hart

### THERSITES, PART 2

Sir - I am very sorry to have given offence to Victor Simons but the mining industry was destroyed by Mrs Thatcher, not by Mr Scargill. Those who lose wars are frequently and unfairly blamed for their outcomes, but in addition to compare Scargill, whom even his worst enemies did not accuse of a sex scandal, to Paris is a little off the mark. And if Mr Simons could tell me how one can prevent the powerful from arrogating to themselves the spoils won by the lowly except by taking power away from them, I would be interested. I have always believed that this is what Trade Unions

were originally created for, i.e. to balance the power of the rich with the power of the many.

Finally, I did not expect that Scargill should be remembered with affection now, but in 3000 years. I am prepared to wait, as Thersites had to wait.

Guildford  
Surrey

Professor Lewis Elton

## THANKYOU AJR

Sir - I should like to say a very belated "Thank-you" for your help when I approached the AJR with an enquiry. I was helping a relation of mine with her application for a 'Kindererziehungs'-Pension from Germany, and she was having difficulties in proving her status as a 'persecutee' of the Nazis. Her father had perished in Auschwitz, where he had been taken from Italy, and we were trying to find some documentation about this. You advised me to contact the Wiener Library, which eventually found an Italian Memorial Book in which my relative's father is mentioned. This must at least have convinced the German pensions authority, for my cousin has recently received a pension back-payment and will receive a regular pension in the future.

Southcote Lane  
Reading

F Lustig

## TO MY FRIENDS

As predicted it took longer until I did feel well and stronger, hence do forgive this long delay to thank all who helped me on the way. Every word and every thought made me do what I've been taught to forget all previous pain and get back on my feet again. My verbal thanks I like to repeat that basket of flowers was a treat, it gave so much pleasure, not only to me but was a delight for all to see.

Basildon  
Essex

Hilde Kochmann

## SOUTH GERMAN COMMUNITIES

Sir - I am writing a doctoral dissertation on the aspects of the history of the former Jewish communities in the southern part of Baden, in the Upper Rhine region and in the region of Lake Constance. My thesis will start with the year 1862, when the Jews of Baden received full rights as

citizens. It will end with the year 1940, when the Jewish population was deported to Gurs, France and the communities were destroyed.

Since I am writing a study which is focused on local incidents, I depend very much on the view of those people who were witnesses of what occurred. Would you perhaps be willing to help me locate former inhabitants of Baden, especially ones born in the described region? Might you happen to know people who came to England from the towns of Gallingen, Sulzburg, Kippenhelm, Eichstelten, Randegg? If so, perhaps you would be so kind as to mention my project to them, and to give them my address: Ulrich Badmann, Tauroggener Str. 16, Seltenschlag, D-10589 Berlin, Germany.

I know that for individuals who suffered the persecutions of the Nazis it can be quite difficult to discuss their past. In asking you to assist me in contacting former refugees from Germany, I would like to emphasise that I do not wish to harm any individual or to interfere negatively in the daily lives of possible interviewees (even by asking for a contact).

Ulrich Badmann

## BOUQUET

Sir - In reply to G Cohn's letter (Sept. issue) we can assure him that his view of Richard Grunberger's contribution is not shared by the vast majority of readers. On the contrary, issues of AJR Information are eagerly looked forward to.

The editor is a historian whose books have been widely acclaimed. Long may he carry on with his work!

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Albert and Josie Dutch

## EXPLAINING THE INEXPLICABLE

Sir - Can I offer yet another translation for 'Ruhe ist die erste Bürgerpflicht'? 'Acquiescence is the first duty of the citizen' would seem to me to be more apposite in representing the values of both the Mittelstand and the haute bourgeoisie of both the latter Wilhelmine Reich, and the Weimar republic. Indeed, it might also be appropriate to the Goldhagen/Clare debate, as far as I can judge from your August issue.

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# The AJR at Work

## Day Centre open day

**H**ighlight of the year for all the members, volunteers and staff of the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre in West Hampstead is their annual Open Day. All manner of foods, clothes, jewellery, toys, craft goods and housewares, collected by the members for most of the previous twelve months, is sold from stalls to add to the funds needed to run the centre.

Above all, the day is an opportunity for

the centre to show off to visitors, as well as providing an enjoyable social gathering. While all the stalls were well stocked with bargains and looking their best to attract buyers, the continental cake stall was among the first to sell out – hardly surprising as all the delicious cakes were baked by members.

While the sun shone and people enjoyed chatting in the garden, the day was made complete with tea served with sandwiches and patisserie prepared by the Centre's own in-house catering department.

□ RDC



Max Abraham, left, a volunteer at the Day Centre, and William Wood, a supporter, check over the bargains on the linen and craft stall while Esther Blumstein and Joan Kupler, right, entice them with some fine embroidery.

## South London AJR

**A**t the September meeting of South London AJR, Michael Hamburger spoke about the life and poetry of Paul Celan and outlined the difficulties he faced when translating Celan's works from German into English.

Born in Bukovina in 1920, though his parents died in the concentration camps, Celan escaped to a Romanian labour camp. Later he studied literature, but the personal tragedy and events of the Holo-

caust continued to be the predominant influence on his poetry until his untimely death at the age of 49.

The group also heard from counsellor Jean Taylor who teaches nurses and carers how to reach people who had lost the habit of communicating with the outside world, by encouraging them to reminisce.

The next meeting of SLAJR, on Thursday 21st November, will celebrate the group's second anniversary.

□ Ruth Leggett

## NEW AJR LUNCHEON CLUB

**A** group of AJR members is planning the launch of the AJR Luncheon Club which will meet on the third Wednesday in every month at the Day Centre in West Hampstead.

Following a delicious buffet lunch, prepared by the AJR's head chef, members will enjoy a stimulating address from a well-known personality, as well as the opportunity to challenge and discuss his or her views. This is part of the expansion in AJR activities which makes greater use of the Centre's excellent facilities.

The Club's inaugural luncheon is to be held on 15th January 1997, commencing with drinks at midday and lunch at the regular time of 12.30pm. The speaker, Carole Seigel, who is Assistant Curator of the highly regarded Jewish Museum in London, will talk on 'Museum's, Today and Tomorrow'. This is to be followed on 12th February with a talk given by journalist Leon Pilpel on the topical and controversial subject of 'The Press and Privacy'. The third in the series, on 19th March, will feature Katherine Klinger talking about her experiences and thoughts as a member of 'The Second Generation'.

As accommodation is limited, should you and your friends wish to participate in one or more of these luncheons, to reserve a place at a charge of £7, please contact either Sylvia, Renée or Susie at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, 15 Cleve Road, NW6 3RL, Tel: 0171 328 0208 □

### 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:

<b>Monday</b>	<b>4 November</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12 November</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>20 November</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>28 November</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>2 December</b>

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**AJR, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a  
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*No appointment is necessary, but please bring  
along all relevant documents, such as Benefit  
Books, letters, bills, etc.*

## Message from the Director

**E**ldorado? A pot of gold at the end of the rainbow? Untold riches? Perhaps, but don't hold your breath. One thing is clear. Persistence has paid off, to have got as far as we are today. Congratulations to those who have persistently maintained that various funds belonging to victims of the Holocaust and their rightful heirs, are still in existence and unclaimed.

It is important to distinguish between three different funds. First are the proceeds of the sale of unclaimed items from the Mauerbach Collection in Vienna. Ownership of the collection of 8,000 paintings and other valuables, stolen by the Nazis from Austrian Jews, has been vested in the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde, and the distribution of the proceeds will be made under the supervision of the Claims Conference and other bodies.

Then there are the funds in Swiss banks representing deposits made by Jews in the late 1930s, who were subsequently murdered. A procedure for making claims has been established, but since most potential claimants have no proof or even knowledge of the deposits, it would seem fairer to make available a list of names of depositors, whose heirs could then set out to prove their relationship. However, there will remain a residue of unclaimed funds, which should be distributed to victims of the Holocaust and their heirs.

The third category of funds, the so-called Nazi gold, which in fact consists of gold and other securities, represents the proceeds of thefts by the German state and by individual Nazis from Jews and from the treasuries of occupied countries. While this may be the largest fund, it is also the one whose origins will be the most difficult to trace and the subject of a post-war agreement between the Allied and the Swiss Governments for sharing out German assets held in Switzerland. Governments must be reminded that not only did the Germans murder six million Jews, but they also stole and expropriated vast amounts of property, for example the iniquitous fine of £100 million levied on the German Jewish Community after Kristallnacht 1938.

The wartime German assets held in Swiss and other banks undoubtedly include assets stolen from Jews. Such assets should also be distributed to victims of the Holocaust and their heirs. The AJR is making a claim on behalf of its

*continued on page 12*

## PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

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Open Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am - 6.30pm,  
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Sunday 2 pm - 6.30pm.

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

*Afternoon entertainment -*

### NOVEMBER 1996

- |           |    |   |
|-----------|----|---|
| Sunday    | 3  | DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT  |
| Monday    | 4  | GERMAN & ENGLISH OPERETTA - Emma Gane (Soprano) accompanied by David East (Piano)   |
| Tuesday   | 5  | ACT I - SCENE 11 - Sharon Burnett (Soprano) Juwon Ogungbe (Bass) accompanied by Margaret Eaves (Piano)                      |
| Wednesday | 6  | A MOVEABLE FEAST - Melanie Reid (Soprano) accompanied by Rianka Bouwmeester (Piano)   |
| Thursday  | 7  | BE ALERT TO CRIME - Talk & Video Presentation on Crime Prevention - Given by Stephen Hoare of West Hampstead Police Station |
| Sunday    | 10 | OLD TIME MUSIC HALL - Anita Elias   |
| Monday    | 11 | DUO KINNOR ENTERTAIN WITH POT POURRI OF MUSIC - Madeleine Whitelaw (Piano) & David Richmond (Violin)                        |
| Tuesday   | 12 | ON WINGS OF SONG - Antonia Kendall (Soprano) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth  |
| Wednesday | 13 | MY SONG OF LOVE - Katinka Seiner accompanied by Peter Gellhorn (Piano) with Guest Artist Laszlo Easton (Violin)             |
| Thursday  | 14 | THE SILVER TONES - Jean Aarons - Carolyn Killen - Estelle Sharabany accompanied by Betty Wash (Piano)                       |
| Sunday    | 17 | DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT  |

- |           |    |   |
|-----------|----|---|
| Monday    | 18 | THE SUNSHINE SINGERS  |
| Tuesday   | 19 | CONCERT - CABARET - Primrose Powell accompanied by Andrew Wells (Piano)   |
| Wednesday | 20 | THE ST. VINCENT SINGERS accompanied by Margaret Eaves (Piano)   |
| Thursday  | 21 | SONGS FOR WINTER - Christopher Butterworth (Baritone) accompanied by Angus Cunningham (Piano)                               |
| Sunday    | 22 | DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT  |
| Monday    | 25 | BE ALERT TO CRIME - Talk & Video Presentation on Crime Prevention - Given by Stephen Hoare of West Hampstead Police Station |
| Tuesday   | 26 | WINTER TIME - Deborah Fink (Soprano) accompanied by Dominique Saunders (Piano)  |
| Wednesday | 27 | OFFERINGS FROM AUTEAROA - Shelley Alexander (Soprano) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano)                             |
| Thursday  | 28 | ROMANTIC SONGS & ARIAS - Lesa Engelbrecht & Asa Junior (Soprano) with self accompaniment                                    |

### DECEMBER

- |           |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|
| Sunday    | 1 | DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT  |
| Monday    | 2 | THREE IS COMPANY - WINTER CABARET - Françoise Geller - Kara Wilson Griffin accompanied by Margaret Eaves (Piano)            |
| Tuesday   | 3 | BE ALERT TO CRIME - Talk & Video Presentation on Crime Prevention - Given by Stephen Hoare of West Hampstead Police Station |
| Wednesday | 4 | MUSICAL DELIGHTS BY THE TWO 'Ms' - Monika Stach (Soprano) accompanied by Marek Dabrowski (Piano)                            |

## FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Deaths

**Kennard.** Bobby Kennard died peacefully on 6th September. Mourned by his devoted wife Marie-Louise, his relations and his many friends.

**Raven.** Paul Raven (formerly Rabinovicz), born 17th January 1907, died 22nd August 1996 in Bavaria, widower of Anne Marie (Kampe). Ex Private 220 Company and 165 Company Pioneer Corps. He will be sadly missed by his daughter Kathleen and grandchildren Barbara and Michael.

**Brook.** The AJR regrets to announce the death of Madeleine Brook, Management Committee Member, Concert Brochure Chairman and dear friend, and extends its condolences to her family.

### Condolences

Friends and relatives of the late Ilse Charlotte Jacoby may write to her son Daniel Jacoby at Weir Sound, Lock Avenue, Maidenhead, SL6 8JW.

### CLASSIFIED

#### Concerts

Mozart Concert at Burgh House, Hampstead, Sunday 17th November at 2.30pm. Davey Quartet and Jane Plessner (clarinet). 'Hunt' and 'Hoffmeister' Quartets and Clarinet Quintet. For £5 tickets phone 0171 435 5199.

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Alice Schwab

# Art Notes

**R**ubies and Rebels. Jewish Women in Visual Culture continues at the Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, until the 10 November.

At the *Imperial War Museum* until the 26 January 1997 there will be a major exhibition to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Paul Nash. It centres on his work for the RAF and the Ministry of Information during the Second World War.

The *Tate Gallery Liverpool* has an exhibition of *Home and Away, Internationalism and British Art 1900-1990*. It includes works by Walter Sickert, Jacob Epstein and Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, all of whom demonstrate the cosmopolitan nature of art at the turn of the century. Sickert, having seen the work of Degas, Matisse and Bonnard, created a distinctly British form of impressionism. Epstein, New York-born, of Polish-Jewish parents, studied in Paris before settling in London. A collector of African art, he made a great impact on British sculpture, but was always held to be outside the establishment, his work being publicly reviled for its 'barbarity'. The French sculptor Gaudier-Brzeska also lived in London where he became associated with the Vorticists.

At the *National Gallery (Sainsbury Wing)* *Making and Meaning, Rubens Landscapes* will be on show until the 19 January 1997.

The *Royal Academy* will be showing a retrospective exhibition of *Giacometti* – the most comprehensive survey of his



Autumn landscape with a view of Het Steen in the early morning, Peter Paul Rubens, probably 1636.

work for thirty years – until 1 January 1997.

The *British Museum* has a loan exhibition showing new discoveries from the early dynasties 'Mysteries of Ancient China' until 5 January 1997. It brings to a Western audience some of the most spectacular archaeological finds of the last two decades.

*Camden Arts Centre* is exhibiting *Barnett Newman Prints, Gallery 1, 20 September – 10 November*. It presents the prints of one of the most significant American artists of this century □

## SB's Column

**P**laywright and Politician. Vaclav Havel had a varied career in the theatre where he started as a lighting assistant. He had his first success with the play *Garden Fete* which, premièred in Prague, reached the Berlin Schillertheater in 1964. A political dissident, Havel continued writing, but because of censorship had to wait a long time before receiving general recognition in his home country. Now, President of the Czech Republic, Havel is celebrating his 60th birthday.

**Munich.** Erich Kästner (1899-1974), was a well-known author before, and again, some 20 years after, the war, having been lost to an 'in-between-generation' as his works were banned by the Nazis. A cabaret evening *Ragout fin du siècle*, consisting of his poetry and song lyrics, revived memories of the gifted satiric writer. The performance, arranged for the Munich stage by the veteran Residenztheater actor Erich Hallhuber was an unqualified success.

*Plagiat*, a play by Erika Mann, missing since her death, has been rediscovered. Publishers Rowohlt describe it as a comedy set among theatre folk in Thirties Berlin.

**Birthday.** German composer Hans Werner Henze had his 70th birthday. His best known opera, *The Prince of Homburg*, completed in 1958, was first presented to British audiences when the Hamburg Opera visited London in 1962. The ENO honoured the composer by reviving the opera this year.

**Obituaries.** The musical world recently lost two prominent conductors. Rafael Kubelik, Czech-born composer and conductor, who died aged 82, was musical director at Covent Garden from 1955-1958. Sergio Celibidache, who died at the

age of 84, was conductor of both the Berlin and Munich Philharmonic orchestras, and composer of several symphonies. Soprano Ljuba Welitsch, who has died aged 83, was noted for her vocal brilliance and powerful dramatic stage presence. A sensational *Salome* at Covent Garden in 1947, she also sang *Aida* and *Tosca* in London during her comparatively short singing career □

## Mauerbach Auction

**A**n AJR member received the following reply (in English translation) to an inquiry about the proceeds of the above from the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde, Vienna:

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter we have to tell you once more that there is no possibility of private individuals receiving a share of the proceeds of the Mauerbach Auction.

The exclusion of private individuals is based on contractual and legal limitations imposed by the Austrian Republic. The whole of the proceeds will be lodged in a foundation to be administered by the Federation of Austrian Jewish Communities in co-operation with international Jewish organisations and to be used exclusively for the benefit of victims of National Socialism.

Even though you are one of these victims – having had to flee Austria losing everything – and regardless of the fact that you are suffering from poor health and financial hardship, we are unfortunately not in a position to make any direct payment to you. Only the *Nationalfonds* of the Austrian Republic has this authority. If, contrary to expectations, a possibility should arise in the future of giving support to individual victims of Nazism we shall, of course, advise you.

I would like to reiterate that this decision is not solely within the Jewish Community's competence; nor does it signify a denial of the urgent need for financial support in your current situation.

□ Hofrat Paul Grosz, Präsident  
ISRAELITISCHE KULTUSGEMEINDEWIEN

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CONTEMPORARY PAINTING  
AND SCULPTURE

continued from page 9

members, to the British Government, who have been in contact with the Swiss Government.

Provided we do not let the issue slip, we may eventually receive some restitution, but it will not happen overnight.

□ Ernest David

## New old relations

Dr Hubert Locke of Washington State University addressed the question of *The Shoah and Jewish-Christian Relations* in a lecture given at the first anniversary of the Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre. Dr Locke, a theologian and political scientist, is concerned with the implications of the Holocaust on both the Christian world and society in general.

According to Dr Locke, "Jewish-Christian relations have been marked by an optimism that is unwarranted in the 20th century." It is insufficient to believe that antisemitism is due to ignorance and can be overcome by enlightenment and tolerance.

Implementation of the Holocaust was begun in the autumn of 1939 and not in 1933. Given that the fate of nations depends on society's moral commitment, the virtually absent voice of the churches during these intervening six years could have made a significant difference. The vacillation of the churches, which occupied themselves with internal affairs during a crisis, held tragic consequences.

Dr Locke argued that stopping the slaughter of European Jewry was never a major policy consideration for the Allies. The English-speaking world was a bystander to the events of the Holocaust taking place on European soil.

Historically, Christianity had, by cutting itself off from its Jewish roots, contributed to the animus against the Jewish people. The churches must never be silent or tardy in speaking for the oppressed – including those outside the fold.

Dr Locke called for the "reassessment by Christians of their relationship with Judaism and Jews." What was needed was a firm resolve by the churches to join with Jewry "to stamp out antisemitism" and to revivify their indestructible relationship.

□ Ronald Channing

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS – OCTOBER 1996

- Mon 4 Journey to Ancient Russia: Ernst Flesch. Club '43, 8pm
- Tue 5 The Kindertransporte: Bertha Leverton, Sussex University, 5pm
- Mon 11 Joseph Beuys' Ecological Art: Martin Brady, Club '43, 8pm
- Tue 12 Emil Nolde & the Concept of 'Degenerate Art': Felicity Lunn of Whitechapel Art Gallery, Sussex University, 5pm
- Tue 12 Songs from the Shows: Lena and Leslie, JACS, 2pm
- Thur 14 Lunchtime Recital: Jenny Stern, piano. Sternberg Centre, 1.15pm, £1.50
- Sun 17 Lost World of European Jewry Remembered & Renewed: 'Vanished Voices' oratorio celebrating pre-war German-Jewish culture with Cantors Malovany, Bigeleisen, Haschel and choirs, Rabbi Rodney Mariner, narrator. Bnai Brith Music Festival. Barbican Concert Hall, 7.30pm. Booking with AJR at £15 (coach £5). Festival details: 0181 909 2445.
- Sun 17 AJEB, Any Questions & AGM: Association of Jewish ex-Berliners at Canon Hall Community Centre, Stanmore, 2.15pm, £2.50 incl. tea. Judy Field 0181 452 9681, Peter Sinclair 0181 882 1638
- Tue 19 Literary Duo: Rolf Weinberg and Irene White read from their books. JACS, 2pm
- Tue 19 Art of Jakob Steinhart: Dorothea Kaufmann, Sussex University, 5pm
- Thur 21 Hava Nashira: Viennese artists perform Yiddish folk songs; Bloch, Bruch and Mendelssohn played on violin & piano. St. Giles, Cripplegate, 7.30. BB Music Festival & AJR. Booking with AJR at £5.50 (coach £5)
- Thur 21 Prof. Edward Timms: Sussex University Centre for German-Jewish Studies, South London AJR, Prentis Road Synagogue, SW16, 2pm

- Sun 24 Melody and Song from Vienna: Special AJR afternoon at BB Music Festival, Purcell Room, South Bank Centre. 12.30
- David Hirsch: Austro-Jewish comedian. 2.30 Sephardic Romances: music of Spanish Jews. Combined ticket booked with AJR, £20 (£25 with coach).
- Mon 25 Prof. Stephen Frowen: The Economics of German Reunification, Club '43, 8pm
- Tue 26 Elizabeth Gibson, Conservative Parliamentary candidate for Hampstead, talks about her party's policies.
- Tue 26 Early Years of Nazism & Persecution of the Jews: KF Sheridan, Sussex University, 5pm
- Thur 28 Lunchtime Recital: Nathaniel Vallois, violin, & Fiona Dalzell, Piano. Sternberg Centre, 1.15pm, £1.50
- Ongoing: Yiddish Theatre in London until 10th November. Jewish Museum, Camden Town, Sun-Thurs, 10am-4pm, £3
- December
- Mon 2 Finland: G Holm, Club '43, 8pm
- Tue 3 June Jacobs, President of International Council of Jewish Women, 'A view of Jewish Life Today', JACS
- Tue 3 Reminiscences of the 1930s: Walter & Rushi Ledermann, Sussex University, 5pm

## ORGANISATION CONTACTS

Bnai Brith Jewish Music Festival, 0181 909 2445

JACS at Belsize Square Synagogue, NW3 4HX. Tel: 0171 794 3949

Club '43, at Belsize Square Synagogue. Hans Seelig 01442 254 360

Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1. 0171 636 7247

University of Sussex Centre for German-Jewish Studies. Diana Franklin 0181 455 4785 or 01273 678 495

Sternberg Centre for Judaism, 80 East End Road, Finchley, NW3 2SY. Tel: 0181 346 2288

Jewish Museum, either Sternberg Centre (as above) or at: 129/131 Albert Street, Camden Town, NW1 7NB. Tel: 0171 284 1997

## I looked over Jordan, and what did I see?

Extracts from Martha Blend's travel diary

**A**t Medabar, on the floor of an Orthodox church, archaeologists have discovered a map of the world in mosaic. The map, a relic of the civilisation of the Nabateans (an Arab race who occupied this area around 300 BC) shows Israel, Jordan, Syria and Egypt. It is remarkably accurate, save that the direction of the Nile is distorted due to lack of space.

Next we were taken to Mount Nebo (*nebi* is the Arab word for 'prophet' cognate with the Hebrew *navi*). According to local mythology this is the spot where Moses found water by striking a rock. On the site is a Catholic church built round some ancient ruined pillars. Inside on the walls and floor are pre-Christian mosaics of animals and hunting-scenes. Outside on the hilltop is a lofty representation in ironwork of Moses' snake on a rod. It affords a panoramic view of the Jordan valley and in another direction one can just make out the waters of the Dead Sea; truly a place where several faiths meet.

The following day came the coach trip to Petra, the "rose-red city as old as time". I had been told that the entrance to it was narrow and that part of the journey would be done on horseback. I had visions of myself on a bucking horse picking its way along a perilous ledge with a sheer drop on either side. Only bravado made me persist in going on the trip. However, the reality was quite different: the path is level, and it is perfectly easy to negotiate on foot the half-mile to the entrance. I did choose to try the horse, and was rewarded with a ride that jolted my spine with each step the animal took. There was little danger, as it was led on a rope by a boy who was clearly used to the job, but its pace changed unpredictably from a slow to a faster trot, and it had a habit of tossing its head up and down, which made me hold on to the saddle-grip even tighter. After 10 minutes I arrived, shaken but otherwise unhurt.

The Nabatean city of Petra owed its prosperity to its position on the spice route from India. It resisted Roman invasion until they cut off its water supply. An earthquake then finished what the Romans had started. What remains today is a Roman road and some amazing rock carvings. The most spectacular is known



Petra, Jordan's 'rose-red city as old as time'.

as the treasury. As we approached it through a narrow passage between towering rock formations, our guide ordered us to look down on the ground till told to look up!

We did as we were asked and when we looked up we saw a facade of breathtaking beauty. It has splendid Grecian-style pillars and pediments carved out of the rose-coloured rock. Less spectacular carvings belong to burial chambers of important citizens.

In the open squares in front of the buildings are stalls manned by local Arabs in traditional dress and on the sand, camels squat waiting for tourists. An old man rides by on a much-too-heavily laden donkey, and children pester you to buy their postcards.

On the last day we visited the Citadel of Amman with its Roman amphitheatre and remains of temples. The modern city is built of the same golden stone as Jerusalem, and the Arabs' sense of style is evident from the elegance of a piece of ironwork or the shape of a window. Pictures of King Hussein are displayed in most public places. Many of the men in the street wear the keffiyeh – white for the old, red and white for the young, and black and white à la Arafat for the rest, or so our guide explained. The women have a mysterious, shrouded appearance – only faces and hands are allowed to show in public – and from the tall tower of the mosque the muezzin makes his musical call to prayer. An alien culture, but at the moment, in Jordan, a not unfriendly one □

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**Many former refugees  
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This is an opportunity to support  
the AJR Charitable Trust.**

## Cooking with Gretel Beer



**H**elmut Osterreicher is Chef at Vienna's famous Steirereck restaurant (2 Michelin stars and 4 Chef's hats!). His book "Geheimnisse aus Küche und Keller" has just been published – in fact I managed to get a pre-publication copy on a recent visit to Vienna. It is a great book – not at all difficult to follow – and full of useful and seasonal hints. Here is one of his special puddings:

### Kardamon-Mandel-Auflauf in grüner Apfelsuppe

(Cardamom-Almond pudding with green apple 'soup')

For the apple soup:

5 Granny Smith apples  
80g sugar  
pinch of tartaric acid  
¼ litre freshly pressed applejuice  
small piece of cinnamon

For the pudding:

50g butter  
20g icing sugar  
3 eggwhites  
3 egg yolks  
100g white chocolate  
30g almonds  
20g granulated sugar  
1 tablespoon cardamom  
60g raisins soaked in rum  
a little butter and granulated sugar for the pudding basins

To make the apple sauce, bring apple juice to the boil, together with sugar and tartaric acid. Peel four of the apples and grate into the liquid, simmer gently for 5 minutes. Leave to cool and then chill for about 10 hours in the fridge. Puree in a mixer or sieve.

Grind the almonds and then toast in the oven. Cream butter with icing sugar, beat in the egg yolks. Allow the chocolate to soften then stir into the mixture, together with the almonds, the freshly ground cardamom and the soaked raisins.

Whisk eggwhites until stiff, then whisk in the granulated sugar. Fold into the creamed mixture. Butter four small pudding basins and dust with granulated sugar. Stand pudding basins in a roasting tin with hot water to come up half way to the basins and bake at 180°C for about 35 minutes.

Divide the apple 'soup' between four deep soup plates. Cut the fifth apple into thin strips and sprinkle over the 'soup'. Place the puddings in the centre and serve at once □

## Homme extraordinaire

Dr Peter Hallgarten has been appointed *Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite* for his services to French wines.

After 38 years with the House of Hallgarten, established by his father Fritz in 1933, and 50 years after his first visit to France with his father to select pre-war reserves of Bordeaux and Burgundy, he is retiring.

In the 1960s Peter Hallgarten pioneered a renaissance in the fortunes of Rhône wines, Châteauneuf-du-Pape in particular. He will remain a consultant to the family firm, as well as the Golan Heights Winery in Israel □

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## SEARCH NOTICES

**Family Jacoby.** The family Jac(k)oby(i) are being sought by Hannelore Göttling-Jacoby who is seeking information about her ancestors. The family originated from Linnich, Jülich, Müntz and Boslar, and the family Salm, who lived in Frimmersdorf, Bedburg, Elsdorf and Schwanenberg in the 19th century. Please contact at Heinrich-Hertz-Str. 37, D22085 Hamburg, Germany.

**Lisa (Elizabeth) Spott,** daughter of Benno and Rosa Spott (née Epstein) of Berlin, kindertransportee, now some 70 years of age, is being desperately sought by her only surviving cousin, Mrs Levine, living in America. During WWII Lisa lived in Liverpool with Mr and Mrs Harris and Mrs Sarah Green, and was last heard from in 1949. Contact Mitchell H Levine, 4626

Cathann Street, Torrance, California 90503, USA. Tel: 310 540 8400.

**Mac Davis,** formerly Max Dreifuss, born 3rd October 1913 in Buchau, SW Germany. Information is required for a research project on the history of the Jewish communities in SW Germany. Could Mr Davis, his relatives, friends or acquaintances please contact Michael Wheeler (Otto Weil), 22 Aylmer Court, Aylmer Road, London N2 0BU. Tel: 0181 340 3820.

**Erika Hamburger,** (grand-daughter of Siegfried Zöllner) is being sought by a nephew of her grandfather. Please contact Box 1289 if anyone knows her whereabouts.

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## Obituary

## Grete Salinger

**G**rete Salinger, née Ettlinger, who has died at the age of 101, devoted her long life to the welfare of others. She was born in Frankfurt where her father was a distinguished surgeon and headed the Jewish community.

In 1917 she married iron foundry owner Erich Salinger and they made their home in Berlin. With the Nazis assuming power in 1933 Erich lost his position as a magistrate and by 1938 his factories as well.

The couple and their parents left Germany in August 1938 to stay with Grete's sister and brother-in-law in Amsterdam. While Grete and Erich moved on to England where he had business connections, the family left in

Holland perished in Auschwitz.

During the war Grete Salinger began collecting for National Savings and her exceptional success led to an invitation to Buckingham Palace where she spoke to the Queen – now the Queen Mother. The Queen was momentarily dismayed at finding a German taking tea at the palace in wartime and enquired why she had been invited. Grete told of her success in collecting funds for the war effort and related the sad fate of her family. The Queen, realising that Grete was a refugee, apologised for questioning her. "On the contrary, Your Majesty," Grete replied, "this is my kaddish, the prayer we Jews have for the dead – that I could tell their fate to my Queen."

Though Erich died in 1959, Grete continued her work for several Jewish home charities and the Hebrew University, and for many years was a regular attender at AJR's annual concerts.

□ RDC

## Fall from grace

When Adam delved and Eve span  
There was no hate of man for man,  
Childlike in their indiscipline  
Folk had no knowledge, knew not sin

But growing wayward by degree  
They plucked the apple from the tree  
Conceived of death-inducing doubt  
And were from Paradise cast out

And since that primal fall from grace  
In darkness dwells the human race,  
The gift of innocence denied,  
Mired in lust and fratricide

For two millennia they have heard  
The message of the flesh made word....  
Despite the doubters making mock  
Shepherds gave guidance to their flock

Kept priestly vigil, starved at Lent  
And all earthly delights forewent  
For prayer, till one attracted fame  
By nature pious, Twelfth by name

During his tenure of the throne  
A mountain chain of skull and bone  
Rose skyward till the sun grew dim -  
The dying heard no word from him

And now a later pontiff's flock  
Are pained to hear outsiders mock  
Appeals to priests to conquer lust....  
Meanwhile bleached bones crumble to dust

□ Richard Grunberger

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## The 43 Group

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## 50 YEARS AGO

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ORT are the initial letters of three Russian words which stand for Organisation for Reconstruction and Training.

The Berlin ORT Engineering School was transferred to Great Britain on the eve of the war. Most of the 100 students who came over finished their training and were eventually absorbed into the war industry, and the school closed down.

At the end of the war British ORT opened a new training school in South Kensington, London. Most of the boys and girls are refugees from war-stricken areas in Europe, the majority having been in concentration camps. Training at the London ORT School is free of charge.

Theoretical and practical instruction is given in four departments: General and Blacksmithing; Mechanical Engineering; Electrical Installation; and Woodwork. The period of training is two years.

In addition to subjects allied to the technical training (mathematics, physics, chemistry and workshop practice), tuition is given in hygiene, general subjects and English.

Short-term courses are organised in welding, centre lathe turning, and so on, particularly suitable for older men and women. The London ORT School has a Dressmaking class □

AJR Information, November 1946

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## NEWSROUND

**Hidden gold report**

The Swiss Government's offer of £40 million to the Allies at the end of World War II was a small percentage of the total amount, according to the British Government's recent investigations. The report also confirmed that the Nazis deposited money, gold, valuables and paintings worth millions of pounds in Swiss banks.

**Picture post**

The German Post Office is to publish new stamps in 1997 marking the 150th anniversary of the death of Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy and the 200th birthday of Heinrich Heine.

**Hitler's royalties**

British royalties from *Mein Kampf* are paid to the German Refugee Council in London and go towards helping Jewish refugees, reports the *Jewish Chronicle*. A few thousand pounds have been received annually since 1976.

**Infiltrated Red Cross?**

Claims that the Red Cross was infiltrated by Nazi agents during the war, who engaged in espionage and dealt in looted property and money, have been made by the World Jewish Congress. The ICRC has initiated an investigation.

**Swiss investigation**

Switzerland's parliament has voted to initiate a comprehensive study of financial dealings with Nazi Germany and the fate of Jewish wealth deposited before, during and after World War II. A commission of experts will be empowered to bypass Swiss bank secrecy rules to examine dormant accounts and other assets.

**Gone to Israel**

The so-called Jewish autonomous republic of Birobidjan, established by the Soviets in 1934, will soon be bereft of Jews. As late as 1989 the region had a Jewish population of 9,000, but most were among the first to take the opportunity to emigrate to Israel.

**Internet propaganda**

In a report on the use of the Internet by racists, Holocaust deniers and other neo-Nazi groups, the Institute of Jewish Policy Research proposed that Internet service providers be made legally responsible for all material published on their networks.

□ RDC

**One Man's War****Part 15****Workshift**

On our way out from the coalmine we noticed a group of about 500 prisoners in their striped pyjamas standing in dead silence, body to body, with not an inch to spare between them, in a perfect rectangular square formation. It was an awesome sight, seeing human bodies compacted in such a way. They were an underground workshift, waiting to enter showers after work. Those on the outside ranks must have been very brave, because they were liable to be kicked or beaten. They stood in close formation for warmth, and to uphold those who could not stand on their own any more. One of them, quite clearly mentally deranged by now, stood on the very corner outpost of this group, tore his cap from his head and made a deep bow to every person who passed by.

I was, by then, well known in the county as Herr Harhoff's English tractor driver. One day delivering something to a neighbouring farm, I was invited in for a drink by the farmer. I expected some deal about chocolate or coffee – but I was wrong. He merely wanted to pour his heart out which he didn't dare do to any of his neighbours.

He said that I may or may not be aware of the German propaganda machine which daily warned of the horrors in store

for the population should the Bolshevik-Mongolian hordes ever arrive on German soil. Then he led me to his patio door and pointed to the view outside. "This was once our 150 year-old orchard," he said. As far as my eyes could see, I saw nothing but three-foot high tree stumps. "They are here," said the farmer, "they are already here, the Russian savages. Only they are in German SS uniform. They were too lazy to bend down, so they cut the trees standing up at the height of their waists, for firewood. They are heavily armed, riding little ponies, barefoot and take orders from nobody but Heinrich Himmler in Berlin. I went to the Burgo-master, the council, the police – nobody wanted to know." (About a million Russian deserters under General Vlasov were fighting in SS divisions in Germany).

In late autumn I was taken by Gestapo agents to Ratibor police station for interrogation. After some time it dawned on me what they were after: my connection with a German soldier on guard detail. This Alfred R. was a Sudeten German with a German father and Czech mother, who in turn had taken a Czech wife. Unhappy at his forcible conscription into the Wehrmacht, Alfred had been even more disgruntled when posted to the Eastern Front. He had deliberately let drop defeatist remarks which had earned him a spell in military prison and subsequent guard duty with POWs.

(To be continued)

□ H P Weiner

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