

Don't miss ...

Swiss claims p2

Still fighting
fascism

Ronald Channing p5

Robert Neumann's
centenary

Richard Dove p12

None-too-bright
Albright

Richard Grunberger p13

Inept comparison

Letting off steam about Labour's spin doctor, an irate *Daily Telegraph* reader dubs Peter Mandelson a 'reincarnated Goebbels' (Letters 11 August). This facile comparison trivialises the wholly grisly Nazi phenomenon. Goebbels had a Satanic gift for addling the brains of 75 million Germans, to the extent that they kept fighting – and murdering Jews – for fully two and half years after Stalingrad.

Comparing Mandelson to Goebbels is not a million miles away from calling a 'squeegie pirate' Genghis Khan □

Is 'Laughing Third' Reich an apt description of Nazi Germany?

Proverbial truths

The Romans may not have been original – their debt to the Greeks is well known – but the Latin language produced turns of phrase pithy enough to echo down the millennia. *Festina lente* ('make haste slowly', aka *Eile mit Weile*) is one such imperishable phrase, *divide et impera* (divide and rule) another. An association of ideas links *divide et impera* to the more recondite *tertius gaudens*, or 'laughing third'. The aptness of that pithy phrase is exemplified in the German proverb *Wenn sich zwei streiten, freut sich der Dritte*, which translates as 'when two have a quarrel the third one rejoices'. (NB For all that *divide et impera* and *tertius gaudens* are linked, they aren't synonymous. To divide and rule requires purposeful activity; a 'laughing third' gains windfall benefits from the quarrel of others).

It is one of the semantic ironies of history that Nazi Germany could justifiably have been described as the 'Laughing Third' Reich. Nazism started in the aftermath of the Bavarian 'Soviet' Republic by playing on bourgeois fears of Bolshevism, while simultaneously exploiting the alienation of 'the little man' from bourgeois-capitalist Weimar democracy. Another factor in the Nazis' rise to power was their 'laughing third' stance on religion. Hitler's penchant for teutonic paganism overcame age-old Catholic-Protestant divisiveness; at the same time he parried charges of outright atheism with claims to be 'doing the work of the Lord' – '*indem ich mich der Juden erwehre verrichte ich das Werk des Herrn*' – and by peppering his speeches with pseudospiritual terms like providence.

Once established, Nazi Germany was the 'laughing third' beneficiary of a decade-old East v West power play, with London and Paris abhorring revolutionary Russia, and Moscow targeting Anglo-French imperialism as enemy number one. In the mid-thirties the 'collective security' aspirations of West and East modified this picture somewhat, but by 1938/39 the similarly self-deluded Chamberlain and Stalin passed the winning 'laughing third' card to Hitler yet again.

Hence the Second World War. This ended, of

course, in the total defeat of Germany which had, nonetheless, suffered fewer human losses than Russia and less economic damage than Britain.

Postwar large numbers of Nazi murderers and exploiters of slave labour benefited fortuitously from the bitter power struggle that immediately broke out between East and West. As though this weren't bad enough, even the much tinier arena of Jewish Nazi hunting replayed the theme of the 'laughing third' with sickening effect. A recent BBC feature on Simon Wiesenthal demonstrated how infighting between Mossad and Wiesenthal, and between the latter and the World Jewish Congress, enabled several Nazi criminals – including megamonsters like Dr Mengele – to evade capture. Truly, when it comes to the 'laughing third', we have nothing to laugh about □

Open Letter to Hofrat Paul Grosz President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Austria

Dear Hofrat Grosz,

As I have telephoned you, faxed you and written to you, without receiving a reply, I am now writing you an open letter.

It will soon be a year since the Mauerbach Auction and we still do not know what will be distributed by whom and to whom.

Surely these are not such difficult questions to answer, especially as there was plenty of time to deliberate before the auction took place.

Why should people who are not getting any younger, have to wait so long?

Please give us some information.

Yours sincerely

Ernest David, Director

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES

P.S. It would also be helpful to know whether there will be a memorial to Austria's Jews and if so, what, where and when?

Profile

A gift of tongues

Beate Siegel was born into comfortable circumstances in 1920s Munich. In the very year of her birth Lion Feuchtwanger's hot-off-the-press novel *Success* depicted Bavaria as a seed-bed of rightwing extremism and political assassination. Although bourgeois comforts – the Siegels had a house on the Walchensee – shielded Beate from the full impact of unfolding events, she suffered a minor trauma soon after the Nazi accession to power. Her lawyer father Michael had gone to Munich police headquarters to lodge a complaint on behalf of an aggrieved Jewish store owner – whereupon he was paraded through the streets bearing the placard *Ich bin ein Jude. Ich werde mich nie mehr über die Nazis beschweren.* (I am a Jew. I shall never again complain about the Nazis). The photo of this humiliating ordeal was flashed round the world.

Though the situation deteriorated steadily thereafter, it was a feature of Nazi policy in the mid-thirties to alternate outrages against the Jews with periods of deceptive calm. This explains why Michael Siegel, who had escaped to



Bea Green

Luxembourg after Kristallnacht, actually returned to Munich and his family thereafter. He made strenuous efforts to get Beate to England – where she arrived in June '39 – while he and his wife remained marooned in Germany. But fortune smiled on them: a student from Lima who came to the house for German conversation turned out to have an uncle in the Peruvian Government, and the latter sent them visas. The Siegels left wartime Germany, crossed (still peaceful) Russia by the Trans-Siberian Railway and sailed for South America.

In Lima Michael had to do a series of less than satisfying jobs before finding his

niche as rabbi to a German-descended congregation.

Bea had meanwhile had a fairly promising start to her life in England. She found well-connected foster parents, had good schooling (despite disruptions caused by evacuation) and obtained a university degree in French and German. Her career then took a brief downturn in the form of an unsuitable marriage. After its collapse she went to Lima for a two-year stay with her parents. Eventually returning to England, she obtained an unusual job sub-titling French and Spanish films (*Rififi*, *Viridiana* etc) – work she found interesting, but lonelier than her previous language teaching.

In 1957 she married again – this time for keeps – and became Bea Green. The marriage produced three sons best described as 'high fliers'. As the family grew up Bea involved herself more and more in voluntary work, becoming a JP in 1975. Her range of hobbies meanwhile extended from carpentry to choral singing.

Bea has not allowed her widowhood in the early nineties to cramp her style. Readers of this journal may remember her as the prizewinning translator of Boda Lehner's *Buchenwald Lied*, while members of the Reunion of Kindertransports know and appreciate her as co-editor of the ROK Bulletin □

SWISS CLAIMS

The Swiss Bankers Association has broken its self-imposed (and self-protecting) ordinance of banking secrecy to publish a first and long-awaited list of dormant accounts which date back to World War II, in *The Times*, *Financial Times*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Jewish Chronicle* of 24th and 25 July 1997. Copies of the lists are available from the AJR office upon request.

Immediately after the war, needy refugees with legitimate claims to their own Swiss bank accounts, or to accounts of members of their families who perished in the Holocaust, were refused access to their funds for supposed lack of documentation or other proofs. The current investigation into the number and ownership of accounts is headed by former chairman of the US Federal Reserve, Paul Volcker, whose committee is to produce a further list of some 20,000 Swiss-named account holders in October.

The published list of 1,785 accounts, which is claimed to encompass "all known World War II-era dormant accounts of non-Swiss individuals," in all probability represents the tip of an iceberg of never-to-be-tested claims, yet may open the way for a number of claimants to receive what is rightly theirs – after an unbelievable interlude of half a century.

Anyone who considers that they may have a rightful claim on any of these accounts, or has information that would assist in locating a rightful owner, is initially invited to request an information kit. This can be obtained from The Board of Deputies of British Jews who have agreed to act as the central agency in the UK for processing claims, though not for evaluating claims. Please write (do not telephone) to:

*The Director General,
Board of Deputies,
Commonwealth House,
1-19 New Oxford Street,
London WC1A 1NF.*

The Jewish Refugees Committee of

World Jewish Relief (formerly CBF) wishes it to be known that their archives in London retain the personal records of Holocaust survivors and refugees who came to, or through, the United Kingdom from the Continent of Europe from 1933 onwards. World Jewish Relief will be pleased to offer help in tracing relatives if this is required. However, such help can only be provided if applications, with all relevant details, are made in writing only to:

*The Jewish Refugees Committee,
WJR,
Drayton House,
30 Gordon Street,
London WC1H 0AN.*

(Neither telephone enquiries nor personal callers can be accommodated by WJR).

Queries are also being dealt with directly by the *Swiss Bankers Association* on freephone number: 0800 731 0451. In addition, *The Holocaust Education Trust* has set up a helpline on 0171 222 5115.

□ RDC

War's aftermath in academe

Time was when Oxford lived up to its poetic image of 'city of dreaming spires'. No more. Last year controversy over the university's acceptance of tainted money for the Flick Chair of European Thought wafted noisome odours of undigested history through the groves of academe. (This fracas had been triggered by Michael Pinto-Duschinsky's exposé of Flick's slave labour practices in *The Times*).

Somewhat earlier at Stanford University, USA, Jewish faculty members blocked the professional appointment of Norman Davies, a British authority on Polish history. They objected to Davies' statement (in print) that under Nazi occupation 'the Poles could no more help the Jews than the Jews could help them'. Davies seems to be a serial offender. In his recently published best-selling *History of Europe* he insensitively juxtaposes an item on the notorious *Polizeibataillon* massacres with one on Jewish secret police officers in Communist Poland.

Documents about the genocidal operations of members of the self-same *Polizeibataillon* form the basis of Daniel Goldhagen's thesis that the Germans

were, collectively, 'Hitler's willing executioners'. Thanks to the massive sales of this book overnight media star Goldhagen is spoken of (even in *The Times*) as a fitting occupant of a projected Chair of Holocaust Studies at Harvard. The university, probably balking at Goldhagen's 'Germanophobia', has, however, declined to appoint him - whereupon Ken Lippert, a wealthy New York politician and the would-be endower of the chair, has withdrawn his offer.

In Britain, meanwhile, Professor Eric Hobsbawm's essay collection *On History* features a denial of Zionist aspirations worthy to stand alongside Karl Kraus' century-old anti-Herzl diatribe *Eine Krone in Zion* (A crown in Zion). Hobsbawm opines that the State of Israel has no greater longterm viability than the Crusader Kingdoms of the Middle Ages.

This ought to make reassuring reading for Hobsbawm's co-religionists (or their descendants) who lacked his extraordinary good fortune in obtaining a British visa when Hitler took over their country.

Another contentious book newly out of academe is William Rubinstein's *The Myth of Rescue: Why the Democracies could not have saved more Jews from the Nazis* (Routledge) - which we shall review in a future issue.

□ Richard Grunberger

Controversy-ridden Kultusgemeinde

Post-Holocaust Jewry has led a uniquely troubled existence in prosperous Austria. The host population not only continued to evince antisemitism at street level, but elected Judeophobe politicians - Waldheim, Haider - to leading positions in government and parliament. What compounds this sad state of affairs is the fact that the reconstituted community has itself long been a hotbed of internal wrangling, as well as - occasionally - of scandal.

When, in 1970, Simon Wiesenthal castigated the Socialist Chancellor (and disaffiliated Jew) Kreisky for taking ex-Nazis into his Cabinet, the gravity of his charge was somewhat undermined by the allegation that he, Wiesenthal, had links with the Catholic People's Party, the

Socialists' rivals for power.

More recently Wiesenthal and Jewish Welcome Service director Leon Zelman have clashed publicly, and acrimoniously, over the issue of the Holocaust Memorial that was to have been erected on the Judenplatz.

Now the monthly journal *Wiener* has compiled and published a list of allegations against the IKG (Israelitische Kultusgemeinde) which makes the heart sink. Community officials and employees are accused of sleaze on a massive scale, and - worse still - of illtreating, as well as stealing from, frail residents of the Maimonides Old Age Home. In response the IKG obtained a court order banning the distribution of the journal. It also issued a statement charging *Wiener* with antisemitic incitement, as well as with rehashing accusations that first saw light of day in the pages of the Vienna-based Jewish rightwing publications *Tikkum* and *Herut*.

□ RG

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Reviews

The fruitless search

Waltraud Strickhausen *DIE ERZÄHLERIN HILDE SPIEL*, Peter Lang, New York, 1996.

Hilde Spiel came from that stratum of Vienna's Jewish bourgeoisie which combined strong assimilationist tendencies – both parents were Catholic converts – with an avid appetite for culture. Despite straitened postwar circumstances she received private language and music lessons, enjoyed Alpine holidays and attended university. But this semi-idyllic existence was undercut by the emergence of Austro-Fascism in the mid-thirties, causing Hilde to come to England even before the Anschluss.

She had already published two novels, as well as occasional journalism, in Vienna, and endeavoured to do the same over here. The problem was that for a long time she remained undecided whether to use German or English as her medium.

When the *New Statesman* published an English essay of hers in 1944 she (mistakenly) thought she had arrived as an English writer. At the time anglicisation was almost *de rigueur* among German-speaking refugee authors like Robert Neumann, Arthur Koestler and Peter de Mendelssohn (Hilde's first husband).

With the coming of peace her personal language problem was compounded by the question of whether to stay put or return to Austria (for whose Salzkammergut lakes she had a particular yearning).

Journalistic assignments in Allied-occupied Berlin and Vienna afforded a breathing space in the late '40s. The fifties were spent in what she dubbed 'the green tomb of Wimbledon' and in the early sixties she finally cut the Gordian knot and resettled in Vienna (where she was to die in 1990).

Throughout all these years she had engaged with literature at its intersection with politics. A long term activist in PEN (the international writers' association) she was disappointed not to be elected its president. In Austria she first fell foul of her powerful fellow-*Remigrant*, Friedrich Torberg, for opposing his Cold War-inspired boycott of Brecht's plays, and then attracted hate mail (including death threats) from the Far Right over her refusal to attend the Salzburg Festival under the patronage of President Waldheim.

Finally – and most importantly – what of Hilde Spiel's literary *oeuvre*?

A case could be made out for saying that both in fiction and non-fiction, she kept obsessively returning to the theme of Austrian-Jewish cultural symbiosis. In *Lisas Zimmer* (aka *The Darkened Room*) the impossibility of that symbiosis is already an accomplished fact. The novel is set in late forties New York and most of its characters are Central Europeans suspended in an oxygen-starved limbo between a past lost beyond recall and a future they cannot make their own.

The Fruits of Prosperity depicts 1870s Vienna. This was a time and place of economic and multicultural growth when all sorts of possibilities seemed to open up – and yet the tale ends on a note of tragically unfulfilled potential.

Going back another 70 years we arrive at the time-frame for Hilde Spiel's greatest work of non-fiction, *Fanny von Arnstein oder Die Emanzipation*. This placed the career of the greatest hostess of 1800s Vienna, whose *salon* brought diplomats and officers into unprecedented contact with writers and artists, within the wider context of Jewish Emancipation in the German-speaking lands.

It is Hilde Spiel's view – and who would gainsay her? – that the Napoleon years, when farsighted Germans realised the need to 'make over' their country, presented a never-to-be-repeated opportunity for achieving German-Jewish symbiosis.

Even then, of course, the antisemitic Hep-Hep riots followed the Stein-Hardenberg Reforms within seven short years – and the imbalance between liberal progress and reactionary backlash grew ever wider as emancipation progressed. One cannot help feeling that Hilde Spiel, who had hesitated for so long before 'going home', finally reached the sad conclusion that there was no such place as a German-Jewish home.

□ Richard Grunberger

Keeping faith with the past

Lotte Kramer, *Selected and New Poems 1980-1997*, Rockingham Press, 1997, £6.95.

The front cover of this fine anthology by Mainz-born Lotte Kramer bears a picture of a Jewish wedding in Mainz, 1690. Lotte keeps faith with the past and those who

perished in the Holocaust, whilst also writing poetry which celebrates life.

Ice-break, which has her skating on the frozen Rhine as a small girl, 'near her Father's hand', is crafted with the sharpness and glitter of ice, and all the more moving because of its economy. She explores the influence of her two languages in *Bi-lingual*: German, with its certainties, English with its soft vowels and hesitations. The two tongues feed into her voice like the tributaries of a river.

Using metaphors from the countryside and the Fenlands, she sharpens our perception. *Into Dusk* is a fine example.

'...slow-lizard skins of water/ where deliberate swans/ slide by in their kingship'. *Faces* is a poem about visiting Rheims:

'...a crust of lights in caves of stone/ the angel's island face/ his crystal smile on a staircase of saints'.

In the poem sequence *Meanings* she engages with her own death.

'Lately, death has been with me all the time/ Not as a threat or morbid aftermath/ But like a distant relative my mother/ Talked about...who/ Captures every shadow that I throw'.

'*The Shoemaker's Wife*' has the cobbler's sons insist that he put a 'No Jews' sign on his shop front; in consequence, his weeping wife delivers the mended shoes to a Jewish family by night. Persecution is made real for the reader. I will end with a quote from the poem *The Tablecloth* (made by Lotte's grandmother on a village loom):

'Now, when I touch/ This fragile web/ I grieve not for its breach/ But for the broken peace/ The rootlessness, our dread'.

Through the simple devices of this utterly trustworthy poet the reader, too, can touch this web and bear to think about the Holocaust.

□ Jill Bamber

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Still fighting fascism

Jewish Museum's permanent Holocaust exhibition

Leon Greenman was born in Whitechapel in 1910 and he and his Dutch wife Else settled in Holland in 1935. He worked as an antiquarian book seller, and in 1940 their son Barney was born. Unable to prove their British citizenship, the Greenmans were first confined in occupied Holland's Westerbork transit camp, then deported to Auschwitz.

The long-awaited documents confirming the Greenmans' British nationality arrived on the very day, in January 1943, that they were sent to Auschwitz. There his wife and child were led to the gas chambers on arrival, yet Leon was selected for labour and continued to live with the hope of their survival against all odds.

Leon was liberated in Buchenwald by General Patton's Third Army on 11th April 1945 and, after rehabilitation, returned to England that November.

In 1962, with National Front leader Colin Jordan spouting the familiar fascist calumnies against the Jews in Trafalgar Square, Leon set his painful memories down on paper. He then went further and committed the rest of his life to the fight against fascism, which made his Ilford flat a frequent target of violent attacks. For the last 30 years he has visited schools and colleges, both in this country and Holland, on his anti-fascist mission. Courageously, since 1986 he has even taken groups to Auschwitz, a place of everlasting trauma.

The Jewish Museum in Finchley used Leon's account, backed by photographs,

documents and mementoes, to mount a permanent Holocaust exhibition – presently the only one of its kind in the London area. This is used extensively by school groups engaged in National Curriculum studies. (The Museum also provides travelling versions).



Leon, Else and Barney Greenman in Rotterdam, 1941.

Nearly every Sunday Leon makes the two-hour journey from Ilford to Finchley and from 11am to 4.30pm answers personally – and passionately – questions posed by visitors to the exhibition. This is an unrepeatable experience for us who were fortunate enough to have benefited from Britain's protection during World War II.

□ Ronald Channing

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REGULAR VISITS TO LONDON

Misplaced trust

AJR member Erna Klein knows that her late father opened an account in a Swiss bank because, at the age of 15, she was sent to Switzerland for her own safety to train as a children's nurse. Her father paid for the course out of the account, but no trace of it has been revealed, even in the Swiss banks' new list.

"I always thought that Switzerland was a country where everybody was fair and helpful," Erna told Liverpool's Channel ONE TV. "Now I feel that it is very difficult to trust anyone." □
(See Swiss Claims p2)

ALLIANZ TELEPHONE HELPLINE

The Allianz Life Insurance Co. has installed a worldwide, 24-hour telephone helpline to enable Holocaust victims or their heirs to contact the company directly to discuss and pursue claims believed still to remain outstanding. The company has undertaken to settle bona fide claims without unnecessary bureaucracy or impossible requests for documentary verification. (See AJR Information June 1997) □

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Letters to the Editor

VARIETIES OF ANTISEMITISM

Sir – The U-turn of Kaiser Wilhelm II, and of many other German politicians, from philo- to antisemitism was caused by the stance of the American Jews during WWI. The Jewish lobby was partly responsible for getting America into the war on the Allied side. From a Jewish point of view, this led, via the Balfour declaration, to the re-establishment of a Jewish homeland some 30 years later. The Zionist leaders of that time, C Weizmann and N Sokolow, did not think that the Turks, members of the Central Powers and occupiers of Palestine, would ever voluntarily relinquish this possession.

Viewing this action by the American Jews from the German side, it looked like a most ungrateful and contemptible betrayal. How could the Jews support pogrom-ridden Russia in preference to benevolent Germany and Austria? These countries had sheltered and sustained the Jews when they were driven out of inhospitable Russia.

The American entrance into the war caused the defeat of the Central Powers, and the consequential misery. It is not surprising that many Germans blamed the Jews for all their ills and followed Hitler.

Oxsted, Surrey

AW Freud

Sir – Your front page comment (July issue) on the new Gustav Mahler Saal implies that Austria has done too little to commemorate its Jews. On a recent visit to Austria, I found the following:

In Vienna, the Freud Museum, the Jewish Museum and the Stadttempel are now all established points on the tourist circuit. There is a small Sigmund Freud Park near where he lived. A plaque on the Franz-Josefs-Kai commemorates the Gestapo HQ. Near the Stadttempel is a plaque in memory of Theodor Herzl and another plaque *Zum Andenken der Freundschaft und Verbundenheit zwischen Wien und Jerusalem*. (One may laugh, but that is what it says).

Hohenems, Vorarlberg, has a Jewish museum, which this summer shows an exhibition about locally born cantor and composer Salomon Sulzer.

The 50-Schilling bank note bears

Freud's portrait, and the Austrian Post Office has, over the years, issued stamps honouring Freud, Stefan Zweig and others.

I think one should give credit to the Austrians for at least trying!

Nether Street

John Levy

London N3

MAY DAY CALL BY XENOPHOBS

Sir – I regret Mr Frankel's abusive letter, while agreeing with him that editorials in *AJR Information* should not be political. However, the European issue is not a political but a moral one: whether we want a close integration of the nations to assure a peaceful and prosperous future for Europe, or whether we wish insularity and chauvinism to prevail. The expressions 'independence' and 'sovereignty' are banded about in an ill informed and ignorant way by part of the media and some politicians who deliberately mislead the public, making frightening and totally untrue statements about federalism. The pro-Europeans are truer patriots than the Eurosceptics.

Nobody objects to the fact that Michael Portillo and Michael Howard are only first-generation British. Sigmund Freud recognised a long time ago that converts, whether to a religion or a country, become its most fanatical supporters. In spite of their tenuous English roots Messrs Portillo and Howard are fanatical little Englanders.

My advice to Mr Frankel is not to listen so much to the one-track minded Mrs Gorman, but to dig deeper into history.

Sneath Avenue

Eric Conrad

London NW11

Sir – Peter Frankel's highly politicised and subjective observations (eg on Gorman and Portillo) in the August issue undermine his own arrogant and absurd insistence that the newsletter should keep out of politics: "arrogant", because by his own admission, he formed his view on the contents of the first and only issue of *AJR Information* which he had ever come across; "absurd", because no intelligent journal for inquiring and open-

minded readers, let alone a Jewish journal, can remain aseptically non-political and neutral towards current issues.

John Daltrop

CRIMES OF THE WEHRMACHT

Sir – The Editor (June issue) mistranslates the title of the exhibition, which is actually *The Wehrmacht's War of Annihilation*.

I had the opportunity to visit the exhibition in Frankfurt. It removes every last trace of whitewash with its documentary evidence, including orders to officers, and photographs from soldiers' diaries and official sources.

The rule of terror and murder could not have proceeded without the involvement of not only most of the ordinary people of Germany, but also of other European countries.

I hope this exhibition will be made available in the UK. The working through of what two world wars have done to the human psyche cannot be left to the Germans.

Fortune Green Road

Ruth Barnett

London NW6

TALES FROM BENZ

Sir – I can confirm that German companies producing war materials made requests for slave labour.

In October 1944 the manager of a firm of manufacturers of aluminium aircraft propellers in Friedland, in the North Sudeten (originally from Hamburg), came into our hut in Auschwitz and personally selected most of us new arrivals from Theresienstadt. So much for non-SS personnel not knowing what went on.

We then worked for the first two weeks side by side with Czech and French workers to 'learn the ropes'. The difference between them and us was that they were paid while we were slave labour.

Ipswich

Frank Bright

Suffolk

GOLAN BROUHAHA

Sir – Until 1923 the Golan was included in the OETA (Occupied Enemy Territories Administration) South – the British administered territory from the end of the First World War.

In 1923 it was presented by Britain to France for inclusion in French-controlled Syria as part compensation payment for the transfer of the Mosul area, with its valuable oil resources, confirming Frank

Bright's assertion (July letters) that "no boundaries are sacrosanct. Those of the Middle East are nothing but the figment of French and British imperialist imagination".

Poole, Dorset

Sidney Sugarman

Sir - George S. Abendstern (April issue) made several false assertions. The Golan Heights cover not 13,000 but only 1,176 square kilometres.

He claims they are part of Syria. In fact, the Golan was annexed illegally by Syria in 1923, in contravention of an international agreement which prohibited the transfer of any part of Palestine to a foreign power.

He claims that the Golan's Druze population has faced "continuous repression" at the hand of Israel. In fact, they hold Israeli citizenship and, although exempt from military service, have chosen to serve in Israel's armed forces.

Ilford

Philip Skalla

Essex

SEARCH NOTICES WORK

Sir - In response to my letter to you concerning mutual help in tracing relatives missing in Russia I was fortunate to hear from a cousin of whose existence I had not previously been aware. Your June Search Notices concerning AI Khaesh of St. Petersburg searching for his British relatives impelled me to try to help. A telephone call to the Board of Deputies, a couple of letters to addresses they gave me, and some more phone calls led straight to two of Mr Khaesh's relatives.

Thanks to E-mail, the Russian and British branches of the Shevelev family are already back in contact after over sixty years!

Thank you *AJR Information*.

Wellmeadow Road

Karl Peter Mayer

Hither Green

Missing in Russia Organisation

GRAND MOTHER TONGUE

Sir - As a Litvak by naturalisation I protest against your blithe assumption that the Polish variety of spoken Yiddish is the only one of which that language is capable! In 'Litisch' (Litvak Yiddish) *Much Ado about Nothing* would be "A gresser Tummel fon gornit" rather than your quote "A sach gevult fun gurnisht". As you repeatedly refer to the Arts, here are two suggestions: *Jossale Gässale* for José Carreras and *Vajishewdicker Shabbes* for Plácido Domingo. Finally, to

show the flexibility of Yiddish here is a *soupeçon* of French. *As ich bin descendiert/ den es-calier/ bin ich getoumbiert/ und hob sich cassiert/ a jambe!*

Aberdare Gardens

Ezra Jurman

London NW6

Sir - *AJR Information* is always a pleasure to read with its blend of information, comment and entertainment.

'Grand mother tongue' evoked many memories.

Novaragasse was close to the home of my maternal grandparents whom I visited routinely once a week. As a child, I was mystified by my grandparents' embarrassment whenever I casually happened to mention this rather unremarkable thoroughfare; one day, much later, my father informed me that the Novaragasse was the habitual haunt of Ladies of the Night. To make matters worse, these were rather second-class, far removed from their luxury-trade sisters in the elegant environment of the Kärntnerstrasse.

Sheen Park

CP Carter

Richmond

TYROLEAN DEMOCRATS

Sir - The Innsbruck memorial (photo, August issue) makes me recall Dr Adolf Hörhager, whom the Nazis murdered because he had tried to organise resistance against the Anschluss. After the murder of this devout Catholic (whose youthful refusal of a duel had cost him his commission in the *Kaiserjäger* Regiment) his wife committed suicide, and his son Theo Hörhager fled - via the Stella Matutina monastery on the Swiss-Tyrolean border - to England.

He joined the British Army, became a sergeant and, incidentally a close friend of mine. Some time after the war homesickness drove him back to Innsbruck, where he was, however, looked upon - at least by some - as a traitor. Having lost touch with him I'd be grateful for any further news of Theo Hörhager (or his family).

Holders Hill Drive

Eric Walters-Kohn

London NW4

ANTI-BRICKBAT BOUQUET

Sir - May I state how much I, my family and friends, enjoy your editorship - so frequently attacked - of *AJR Information*.

Canfield Gardens

Eldad Neumark

London NW6

LEADING FROM THE KEYBOARD



Virtuoso piano soloist Melvyn Tan will lead the New Mozart Ensemble from the keyboard at *AJR's Concert on Sunday 21st September, 3pm at the Queen Elizabeth Hall*. In addition to a Haydn symphony and two Mozart piano concertos, Tan will be bringing 'An Airmail Letter from Mozart', a recent composition by Jonathan Dove.

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Geoffrey Perry - 19th November

The AJR at Work

CITIZENS ADVISED

Jo Kessler OBE, JP a member of AJR's Management Committee, spoke to the AJR Luncheon Club on the variety of problems solved by the Citizens Advice Bureau, her 'passion' for the last 25 years. She defined the CAB's task as, "making available advice which is explained clearly about local and government services in easily understandable language", or even more succinctly as, "a lot of filling in forms".

Though the CAB was founded in 1935, it was not until World War II that it really got going, with branches in all parts of the country answering the myriad queries such as how bombed-out families could cope without their lost documents or anywhere to live.

After having her four children, Jo began her CAB career as a volunteer in Camden before adopting the work as her profession and moving successively to offices in Kilburn, Brent, Cricklewood and Willesden. Among the problems she dealt with were consumer rights, ethnic minorities, compensation claims, domestic emergencies and naturalisation. Economic recession had added enormous debt problems and nowadays it was common for CAB offices to have long queues.

As an immigrant herself (Jo came to



Jo Kessler making a point about the Citizens' Advice Bureau to the AJR Luncheon Club's members.

England from Vienna in 1938 at the age of nine) she particularly empathised with other immigrant groups, remembering how her parents had to cope with the problems of an unknown country.

Anne Marks, who took the chair, said that after the summer break the Luncheon Club would be meeting on 17th September and thereafter on every third Wednesday in the month □

SOUTH LONDON AJR Revisiting birthplaces

Four members recounted widely varying experiences on their return to the places of their birth. Returning as a soldier in the British Army, one speaker momentarily forgot his former German name! Another, affronted by the hotel's TV porn, was told "that is what the gentlemen require." One member found Berlin's Jewish community very different from the one she had left so many years previously, while someone who took his 'Aryan' mother back to Leipzig experienced the trauma of meeting her family - all of whom were still strong Nazi sympathisers!

Walter Woyda, who organised and chaired the meeting, is South London's programme planner and has been described as the 'right hand' of chairman Ken Ambrose □

SLAJR'S next meeting, on Thursday 18 September at Prentis Road Synagogue from 2-4pm, will receive a progress report from the Imperial War Museum on its new permanent exhibition on the Holocaust.

NORTHERN GROUP Wartime interpreter

Louis Rudnic gained his fluency in four European languages while spending his early years in Russia, Poland and Germany prior to emigrating to Britain. He gave the members of AJR's Northern group a fascinating insight into the time he spent as an interpreter in the British Army.

He joined up as a volunteer at the beginning of the war and saw active service in several theatres. Eventually Louis' linguistic abilities came to the attention of his superiors and were used in the interrogation of prisoners. In the

immediate postwar period he acted as an interpreter to Britain's top brass and was present at meetings with Churchill, Truman, Stalin and Zhukov, as well as attending the Potsdam Conference.

□ WL

Facing bereavement

The deep personal problems brought by bereavement were discussed at a Forum for AJR volunteers by June Kossoff and Joy Caplin, counsellors from the National Charity for Bereaved People, CRUSE. The evening's discussion covered the place and importance of Jewish mourning rituals, typical stages of grief, anger and guilt, and outlined the support services provided by CRUSE during the year following loss.

□ Debbie Picker, Volunteers Co-ordinator

Madeleine Brook

BRIDGE EVENING

Wednesday 26th November 1997

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Tuesday	16 September
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Tuesday	7 October

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bring along all relevant documents, such as
Benefit Books, letters, bills, etc.

It occurs to me...

Samuel Pepys, in his diaries written in the middle of the seventeenth century, wrote that "the Irish troubles seem to have been with us for ever". In that context the Israel-Arab conflict is very young. Will it last as long as the Irish problem? Who can tell and who can speculate whether either problem is ever likely to be solved.

It is only too easy for men of ill will to disrupt a process of inching towards peace by people who are prepared to give it a go, but who are cautious about the good intentions of the other side.

In any case, history shows that conflicts based on disputes over land, claimed by both sides, laced with a cocktail of religious bigotry, are the most difficult to resolve.

This year marks the centenary of Herzl's First Zionist Congress. I am sure he never envisaged the birth pains involved in creating the State of Israel, nor that *fifty years* after its establishment, there would still be constant bloodshed.

While one may not agree with the policies and tactics of the Israeli government, or perhaps be very confident in the wisdom shown by its politicians, yet it is the democratically elected government and both Israel and the Diaspora must live with its actions until the Israeli public decides to change it.

We in the *galut* have reason to be thankful for the existence of Israel. We have all gained in stature and confidence as a result of it being there. Even American Jews, who more than any others are integrated in the great American melting pot, recognise this, in providing financial and moral support to Israel. Luckily too, the American government recognises the importance of Israel as a strategic ally and the only true democracy in a volatile area. This is not always true of the European Union, eager to participate in the peace process, but with little to offer, since some of its members are always keen to lecture Israel on her misdeeds.

Our duty is clear. Our community is shrinking, and in a number of years may come close to achieving Hitler's objective of a Europe which is *judenrein*. If we are interested in the survival of Judaism we must support Israel's right to exist and flourish within secure borders.

□ Ernest David

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Afternoon entertainment -

SEPTEMBER 1997

- | | | |
|-----------|----|---|
| Monday | 1 | THE MUSIC MAKERS
- Elizabeth Winton &
Ray Parfrey (Piano) |
| Tuesday | 2 | THE ORFORD DUO
- Julie Partridge
(Soprano) accompanied
by Elspeth Wilks (Piano) |
| Wednesday | 3 | MY SONG OF LOVE
- Katinka Seiner
accompanied by Leslie
Barnes (Piano) with
Guest Artist Laszlo
Easton (Violin) |
| Thursday | 4 | THE GEOFFREY
STRUM & HELEN
BLAKE DUO |
| Sunday | 7 | DAY CENTRE OPEN -
NO ENTERTAINMENT |
| Monday | 8 | SHOWTIME AT THE
AJR - Amanda Palmer |
| Tuesday | 9 | LIGHT PIANO &
CELLO MUSIC -
Armand d'Anjour
(Cello) accompanied by
Isobel Koprowski |
| Wednesday | 10 | SEPTEMBER
SERENADE - Anneke
Freeland accompanied
by Geoffrey Whitworth
(Piano) |
| Thursday | 11 | A MEDLEY OF
CLASSICAL SONGS -
Madge Duncan-
Sutherland (Mezzo)
accompanied by
Stephen Baron (Piano) |
| Sunday | 14 | SHOW-STOPPER -
Nikki van der Zyl
accompanied by
Daphne Lewis (Piano) |
| Monday | 15 | THE ELISHA DUO -
Sharon Ellis (Soprano)
accompanied by
Elizabeth Elliott (Harp) |
| Tuesday | 16 | SONGS FOR AN
AUTUMN DAY |

- | | | |
|----------------|----|---|
| | | Morag Atchison
(Soprano) & Diane
Moore accompanied by
Jane Winston (Piano) |
| Wednesday | 17 | DAY CENTRE OPEN
- LUNCHEON CLUB |
| Thursday | 18 | AUTUMN-TIME IN
VIENNA - Elizabeth
Ward (Soprano)
accompanied by Phillip
Mountford (Piano) |
| Sunday | 21 | DAY CENTRE OPEN -
NO ENTERTAINMENT |
| Monday | 22 | AUTUMN MUSICAL
MAGIC - Pamela
Colirin (Soprano)
accompanied by
Daphne Lewis (Piano) |
| Tuesday | 23 | FOUR STRINGS PLUS
PIANO AT ROSH
HASHANAH - Lucy
White & Juliet Davey |
| Wednesday | 24 | A PRE-ROSH
HASHANAH
CONCERT - Sheila
Games & Cantor
Michael Rothstein |
| Thursday | 25 | A PIANO TRIO -
Bridgete Hurst -
Myrtle Bruce-Mitford -
Timothy Barratt (Piano) |
| Sunday | 28 | DAY CENTRE OPEN -
NO ENTERTAINMENT |
| Monday | 29 | GREETINGS FOR
ROSH HASHANAH -
Robert Brody
accompanied by
Geoffrey Whitworth
(Piano) |
| Tuesday | 30 | SONGS FOR ROSH
HASHANAH - Two
Voices & A Piano -
Eddy Simmons &
Helen Blake |
| OCTOBER | | |
| Wednesday | 1 | CLOSED AFTER
LUNCH - EREV
ROSH HASHANAH |
| Thursday | 2 | CLOSED - ROSH
HASHANAH |
| Sunday | 5 | DAY CENTRE OPEN -
NO ENTERTAINMENT |

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deaths

Noack. Dora Noack (ex Berlin, Kecskemét, Auschwitz, BergenBelsen, Duderstadt, Terezin, Tel Aviv) died June 20th 1997 in Frankfurt, aged 98. Internment at Golders Green, sharing a grave with my father Gustav, her second husband. Lutz Noack.

Ney. Arthur Ney died on July 5th. Born Stuttgart 1902. Loving husband of the late Lotte; special father and father-in-law of Marjorie and David Harris, Angela and Yaki Goldenberg, Grampy to Caroline, Matthew and Inbar, and brother to Lisbet. Director and Co-founder of Londex Ltd.

Rockwell. Curt Eric Rockwell died peacefully aged 94 years, on Tuesday 15th July. Greatly loved husband of the late Lore, and father of the late Percy, and beloved father of Ruth, grandfather of Jennifer, Michael, Joanna, Erica and Becky, and great-grandfather of Joshua. A wise guiding influence over the entire family, and the last of his generation, he will be sadly missed by us all.

Dukes. Gertrude (Trudie) Dukes. Passed away July 1, 1997, in her 90th year. We cannot express our grief on losing our mummy and mama. Much loved and respected for her kind advice and understanding, never a cross word. Her love will remain with us forever. May she rest in peace. Her everloving daughter Vivian, son-in-law Joe, grandsons Jeffrey and David.

Gort. Lore Gort, widow of Hans Gort, died 16th July 1997. She is very much missed by all her family and friends.

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Art Notes

The bicentenary of the birth of the great Japanese master of the coloured woodcut *Hiroshige* (1797-1858) is celebrated with an exhibition of over 140 works at the Royal Academy until September 28. Hiroshige delighted in depicting with simplicity and subtlety the landscapes of his native land in mist, rain, moonlight and snow. His gentle, good-humoured images of daily life in Edo (now Tokyo) give a vivid picture of Japanese society in the 19th century. His most famous series of prints, the *Fifty-three Stations of the Tokaido Road* are enchanting interpretations. Not to be missed.

From the same part of the world, the *Arts of Korea*, at the British Museum, presents an overview of Korean art and archaeology ranging from the Neolithic period to the 19th century. Although profoundly influenced by Chinese culture, this did not prevent Korean artists and craftsmen from making their own distinctive contribution to art, among which the ceramics are quite outstanding. The magnificently ornamented royal gold crown dating from the 5th-6th centuries CE is one of the highlights of the exhibition.

Henry Tate's Gift marks the centenary of the foundation of the Tate Gallery. On display until October 19 are works from



Samson and Delilah, Rubens (1577-1640) at the National Gallery.

the sixty-five British paintings and sculptures which formed Sir Henry Tate's original gift to the nation.

Among the paintings are two of the most popular works in the Tate, JE Millais' *Ophelia* and JW Waterhouse's *The Lady of Shalott*. The exhibition admirably reflects Victorian taste.

The National Gallery's exhibition *Sleep* is the fourth in the *Themes and Variations* series in the Sunley Room, bringing together paintings of different periods and styles from the Gallery's collection in order to examine a particular subject in art. An opportunity is offered to take a fresh look at familiar images and to make new comparisons. Until September 14.

□ Barry Fealdman

SB is on holiday; his next contribution will appear in the October issue.

Arts complex immortalizes refugee

Left Bank of the Seine sounds glamorous – South Bank of the Thames doesn't. Admittedly, the *rive gauche* abuts the *quartier latin* and the Boul'Mich but the South Bank boasts, cheek by jowl, the National Theatre, the Festival Hall, MOMI and the NFI (collectively known as SBC, South Bank Centre).

Despite this cluster of prestigious arts-related buildings, the complex has an image problem. An SBC spokesperson said that the centre's present name confused more people than it satisfied. She added, "We are proud to take Mr

Hamlyn's name; he has done such a great deal to make the arts accessible".

Berlin-born Paul Hamlyn, publisher brother of the poet Paul Hamburger, has indeed been an outstandingly munificent philanthropist. (It was he who made Covent Garden available to impecunious operagoers for one week annually). Now he is giving the South Bank Complex the £17 million needed to secure a much larger infusion of cash from the Arts Council and the National Heritage Fund.

But since no good deed shall go unpunished, critics, including the local MP, Kate Hoey, have criticised the centre's readiness to give up its name for cash. Whatever one's views on that, let's be glad that the donor anglicised his surname years ago. A Hamburger Centre

would have even greater image problems than the SBC. For one it would have revived the BSE scare – and for another it would have promoted the building of a McDonald Centre on the North Bank (and Prime Minister Blair hardly wants to be reminded of his turncoat predecessor).

□ RG

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Robert Neumann's centenary

When the Austrian writer Robert Neumann came to London in 1933, he hoped to rescue a literary career which had been de-railed by events in Germany. At that time, he spoke little English; six years later he began his first novel in the language, going on to achieve wide recognition as an 'English' author.

Neumann came to London with a lucrative literary commission to write a biography of the financier and arms manufacturer, Sir Basil Zaharoff. However, when he submitted the finished manuscript, the polemical tone so alarmed his publishers that they threatened to sue him for failing to supply a publishable text. The subsequent legal action, ending only with Zaharoff's death in 1936, left Neumann economically stranded, forcing him to resort to writing what he himself later called a potboiler.

Adapt to English

The Queen's Doctor, an historical novel recounting the career of a reforming doctor at the court of Denmark, was written at the suggestion of Stefan Zweig – also in exile in London. First published in German in 1935 in Amsterdam, the novel appeared the following year in English with Victor Gollancz. Neumann was increasingly aware of his economic dependence on the English-speaking market – and thus on the mediation of the translator. 'The fate of the book is of very great importance to me', he told the translator Edwin Muir, asking him 'to adapt certain passages to English requirements rather than simply translate them'. When Muir finally delivered his manuscript, Gollancz congratulated him on a brilliantly readable translation, but despite this, the book achieved only modest sales.

Neumann's next novel, *A Woman Screamed*, marked a further small step in his metamorphosis into an English writer; though also written in German, it was first published in English. In a letter to Edwin Muir which far transcends the normal exchange between author and translator, Neumann stressed the artistic and material problems of the exiled writer, concluding: *Schon unter normalen Umständen ist die Tätigkeit eines Übersetzers nicht eine, die in dem meist so kleinen Übersetzungshonorar ihr wirk-*

liches Äquivalent findet. Unter den besonderen Umständen ist übersetzen erst recht nicht nur eine literarische Aufgabe, sondern eine moralische, eine Frage des Verantwortungsgefühls und des Gemeinschaftssinns.

Neumann was also increasingly aware of his Jewish heritage. During 1937-38 he wrote the novel *An den Wassern von Babylon*, in which ten characters, representing various aspects of the Jewish diaspora, come together as passengers on a bus seeking entry into Palestine. Neumann's Swiss publisher rejected the book, considering its theme too sensitive for publication at that time. The novel appeared in English in 1939, being widely (and warmly) reviewed in both Britain and America. It did not appear in German until 1945, and then only in a limited edition of 500 copies, published in Britain. By that time Neumann had successfully reinvented himself as an English writer.

Shortly after the outbreak of war, he began writing his first novel in English, *Scene in Passing*, parts of which, he recorded, were 'written, destroyed and lost in British internment camps'. (He was interned at Huyton and later on the Isle of Man). Neumann later portrayed himself as a writer who enjoyed experimentation, and his decision to write in English as just one more experiment: 'a new beginning with a self-invented idiom, a second linguistic virginity'. The truth is of course more complex. In a foreword to the novel, he stated that he had felt it 'a matter of dignity' to drop his native language in favour of English, a phrase hinting at the psychological pressures prevailing in wartime Britain: like other exiles, Neumann was acutely aware that German had become the language of the enemy.

Adopted language

Scene in Passing is a short novel recounting the arrival of Mr Tibbs and his family in an unnamed village, as refugees from an unnamed war. In retrospect, Neumann was apt to disparage his own linguistic achievement, observing that the book 'was written in a language which non-English speakers consider to be English. In reality it was an attempt to write English with German means of expression – stiff, struggling with every metaphor, groping for every word'. In fact, when the novel appeared in 1942, it was precisely Neumann's use of his adopted language which interested and impressed the critics. Philip Toynbee called his achievement 'heroic, linguistically on a

par with Conrad's', while the novelist Frank Swinnerton praised 'a mastery of words which should shock English writers into emulation'.

Despite sympathetic reviews, *Scene in Passing* sold few copies, but it none the less enabled Neumann to transform his fortunes in London. In 1943 he was invited to edit the series Hutchinson International Authors; at the same time, Hutchinson's took an option on his next five books, giving him an advance on the first, which, he recalled, 'was precisely ten times as much as my solid and conservative publisher Dent had given me. In all the years of exile, I had not earned as much as I got here for a single, as yet unwritten, book'. This book, completed in January 1944 and published later that year, was *The Inquest*. Consistent with its title, the novel takes the form of an investigation into the life and death of the refugee Bibiana Santis, whose fate exemplifies the hopes and failures of the Left during the 1930's, and is ultimately a paradigm of exile itself.

Best seller

Critical acclaim for *The Inquest* was followed by commercial success for *Children of Vienna* (1946), a novel which went from a modest first printing to become an international best seller. Its spectacular progress confirmed Neumann's metamorphosis into an English-language author whose work was translated into twenty-five different languages. In fact, in one of the oddities of post-war cultural relations, he was reintroduced to the German reading public in the 1950's through the translations of the very novels he had written in English.

On the sudden death of his wife in 1958 Neumann left England to live in Switzerland, relinquishing his British persona (though not his British passport), and reverting once more to writing in his native language. Speaking German in his private life, he had little occasion to use English: 'und man kann eine fremde Sprache nur schreiben, wenn man in ihr lebt'.

Since his death in 1975, Neumann's literary star has suffered an almost total eclipse. In Britain his name is forgotten, his work long out of print. In Germany he is remembered only as the brilliant parodist of the 1920's: of four titles currently in print, two are reprints of the parodies which first made him famous. In 1997, the centenary of his birth, it is surely time to re-read and re-evaluate this once-famous author. □ Richard Dove

None-too-bright Albright

As the first-ever female US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright has been dubbed the most powerful woman in the world – and she may well be that. Power is often equated with knowledge – the divine attributes are omnipotence and omniscience, and the Germans say *Wissen ist Macht* – but the equation doesn't seem to apply here.

Mrs Albright claims that until fairly recently she had no knowledge of her Jewish descent. Born in 1937 to a Czech career diplomat and his wife, she had spent the war in England and subsequently returned to Prague. The Communist takeover in 1948 had driven

the family to the States, where she eventually switched to Episcopalianism from the Catholic faith of her youth.

She had apparently only become aware of her Jewish ancestry when *Washington Post* journalists produced documentary evidence that many of her close family members, including three grandparents, had perished at Auschwitz. How this could not have dawned on her as an obviously intelligent 10-year-old Prague schoolgirl, when she was probably unique in having no relatives beyond her parents remains a mystery.

One cannot help suspecting a desire not to know inculcated in the daughter by the father. Jan Korbel came from an assimilated family and had converted to Rome in pursuit of a career in the diplomatic service. After his arrival in the

United States in 1948 he made quite a name for himself with a book exposing the horrors of Communism in Czechoslovakia (where Stalinist purges claimed proportionately more victims than elsewhere in the Eastern Bloc).

The sting of this story is in the tail. Jan Korbel dedicated the book to the memory of his parents – thereby creating the impression that they too had been victims of Stalin (and not Hitler). In time-honoured Czech tradition he had airbrushed the Jewish factor out of the family photographs.

□ Richard Grunberger

SEARCH NOTICES

Trude Schwarz and Merli Engler (maiden names), who moved to London in 1939, are being sought by their Viennese schoolfriend **Hedy Luftig**, now Lawrence. Please write with any information to 186 Bellamy Road North, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada M1J 2L5.

Christian refugee aid organisations or groups. Mrs C R Kotzin, researching British-Christian responses to Jewish 1930s refugees for a PhD thesis at Southampton University, would like to hear from anyone arriving as a refugee from 1933 to 1939 with experience of such Christian organisations: 9 Mercury Gardens, Southampton SO31 4NZ.

Dr Georg Quabbe (1887-1950), lawyer in Breslau 1915-1945, helped Jewish friends to emigrate, moved to Frankfurt after the War where, as State Attorney, he was involved in 'euthanasia' cases of Eichberg and Hadamar. Biographer Dr Werner von Rosenstiel requests information from Breslau survivors or their children. Please write c/o Karin Steinmann, Karlsruhestr. 110, 69126 Heidelberg, 06221/302252.

Ira Rischowski. Interested in contacting family or friends of the late Mrs Ira Rischowski of Lymington Road, London NW6, in connection with materials believed to have been given by her to the Leo Baeck Institute in New York. These include letters written in the 1830s by **Ernestine Salomonsohn**, wife of Rabbi

Gedalja Salomonsohn of **Hohensalza** in Germany (now **Inowracław** in Poland) to her father-in-law Salomon Abramson Gedalja '**Rabbi Scachno**'. Please contact Mark King, descendant of the family Schachnow-Salamonsohn, at 80 Charlotte Street, London W1A 1AQ. Tel. 0171 462 7505. E-mail <mark-king@saatchi.co.uk>

Classmates of Ilse Beck (Brünnlbäd) who attended the Hauptschule Währingerstr., Wien 9. from 1934-38. Especially **Ruth Rosenthal** and **Anny Zimmer** last heard of in Belgium in 1939, both presumed to have escaped to USA with their parents. Any information appreciated. Please write to: I Avetoom (Beck), 6 Kingfisher Drive, Exeter, Devon EX4 4SN.

Ursula Risenberg, Paul Eisenmayer, Rudi Siegelbaum, Herbert Steiner. Last spoken to in Dovercourt 4th January 1939. Any information please to fellow Kindertransportee Gisela Spanglet, 69 Macclesfield Road, Buxton, Derbys. SK17 9AG

Refugees in Switzerland during World World II. Researcher for book and TV documentary wishes to speak to internees in camps such as Campo di Lavoro (near Locarno), Schauenburg (near Basel), Basscourt, Champéry or Diettisberg, and others living in Switzerland during the war. Please contact Simon Reeve, 'Vision', 20 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0AY. Tel/ Fax: 0171 323 9757.



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Neither the gates of Palestine nor the doors of the camps on the Continent have been opened. Again we have to cast blame upon a world which has been so vociferous in condemning the Nazi crimes, but has not done anything to free their 'liberated' victims.

This disrespect for human liberties on the part of nations who fought for their restoration has caused deep frustration and procrastination, not only among the hundreds of thousands on the highroads and in the camps on the Continent, but among the Jewish population of Palestine which has been eagerly awaiting to receive them. What a sad spectacle has been presented to the world by the treatment of the refugees on the boat 'Exodus 1947' □

AJR Information, September 1947

Cooking with Gretel Beer



Lamb Ragout

Don't skimp on the herbs – they bring out all the flavour!

- 1-1¼ lb (500 – 600g) lean lamb
- 1 crushed bayleaf
- 1 teaspoon chopped marjoram
- ½ teaspoon finely crushed rosemary
- ¼ teaspoon finely crushed thyme
- ¼ teaspoon curry powder
- pinch freshly ground black pepper
- 1 large onion

Madeleine Brook Bridge Evening

The first Madeleine Brook Bridge Evening, which took place earlier this year, proved very popular and a fitting memorial to a lovely lady who would have enjoyed the evening as much as the participants did. The delicious supper and smooth organisation were a credit to all those who worked so hard.

Due to the event's success, the organisers have arranged another Madeleine Brook Bridge Evening to be held on Wednesday 26th November 1997 at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, 15 Cleve Road, London NW6 3RL, Supper at 6.30 and Bridge at 7.30. Tickets at £15 to be purchased in advance from Sylvia, Renée or Susie, Tel: 0171 328 0208 □

What's cooking

Claudia Roden, whose BBC Television series injected some Mediterranean spice into British food, traces the development of Jewish cooking over the centuries in her latest offering, *The Book of Jewish Food*. She relates the history of both Ashkenazi and Sephardi communities over the centuries to the changes in their cuisine, publishing 800 recipes embellished with stories and reminiscences garnished in 15

- 1 clove garlic
- 1 bayleaf
- ¼ lb (110g) carrots, grated
- ¼ lb (110g) celeriac, grated
- 2-3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon flour
- a little good meat stock
- dash of red wine, salt

Dice the meat, sprinkle with herbs, curry powder and pepper. Cover and leave in a cool place overnight. Peel and chop the onion. Crush the garlic. Heat the oil and add onion and garlic. Simmer until softened, then brown lightly. Add the meat, bayleaf and the grated carrots and celeriac. Brown everything together for about 20 minutes without adding any liquid, then sprinkle with the flour and stir. Moisten with stock, adding a little at a time and simmer for another 15 – 20 minutes. Take out the meat and keep hot. Sieve the residue remaining in the pan into another saucepan, add a dash of red wine and adjust seasoning if necessary. Cook gently to thicken and pour over the meat □

years' international travel as a food writer.

Claudia Roden is speaking about her new book at the Sternberg Centre on Sunday 21st September at 8pm □

A POEM FOR DARCY (KOKOS)BUSSEL If Music be the Love of Food

Lines penned on the occasion of the goodbye to Covent Garden

Listening to the mellifluous voice of Ezio Pinza
Was a joy comparable to consuming Linzer
Torte (for the recipe, see *Lied ohne Worte*)

The falsetto tones of Roberto Alagna
Have the creamy consistency of Lasagne Verde (as whipped up in Mahler's song *Von der Erde*)

Observing the footwork of Anthony Dowell
Is like evermore feasting on young Guinea fowl
And sounds from the throat of boyo Bryn Terfel
Recall the delights of a rich dish of *ferfel*
Till 'Ninety-nine's, *La Bohème* (by Puccini stroke Murger)
We are pledged to steer clear of beef cheese and kingburger

□ Richard Grunberger

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Ruth Anderman – 85

Five years ago when the *Jubilarin* turned eighty, we wrote 'AJR is what it is thanks to the devoted, and frequently unsung efforts of many voluntary workers'. It could be said of Ruth Anderman that she was not only one such voluntary worker, but that her personal example inspired many others to 'go and do likewise'. Until encroaching age forced her to scale down her involvement she was a frequent visitor to our members in the Homes, chair of the Eleanor Rathbone House Committee and member of the Executive. Most importantly she had founded and, for twenty years, run the AJR's Meals on Wheels service!

We wish her many more years' enjoyment of her close-knit family life and her manifold hobbies □

Thank-you-Britain lecture

The AJR-initiated Thank-offering to Britain funds, alongside a research fellowship, a series of British Academy lectures. Last year's lecturer was Lord Dahrendorf, who made *Prosperity, Civility and Liberty: Can We Square the Circle?* his topic.

The lecture, dealing with such highly relevant issues as the conflict between wealth creation and social cohesion, and between Western liberal and Asian 'tiger' economies – is available in printed form both in the *Proceedings of the British Academy* Volume 90, and Lord Dahrendorf's collection of essays entitled *After 1989* □

Wiener Library Lectures & Seminars

Reinterpreting the Holocaust

special lecture by

Prof Yehuda Bauer (Yad Vashem)

Thurs 11th September

Wiener Library at 6.30pm

Women in Exile from Nazi Germany

half-day seminar

Sunday 28th September

Birkbeck College, London

For further details please contact the Administrative Secretary

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – SEPTEMBER 1997

- Tue 2 **Converting to Judaism:** talk by Rabbi Mariner. JACS, 2pm
- Mon 8 **Richard Wagner:** Dr FW Rosner leads discussion of great-grandson Gottfried's critical biography. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 9 **Debate on current affairs:** express your view. JACS, 2pm
- Thur 11 **Reinterpreting the Holocaust:** Prof Yehuda Bauer (*Yad Vashem*). Wiener Library, 6.30pm
- Sun 14 **Life & Times of Miriam Moses:** Aumie Shapiro, Director of Springboard Trust. Jewish Museum, Finchley, 3.30pm, £3
- Mon 15 **Rescue of Czech Torah Scrolls:** Mrs P Bernard. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 16 **Cantor Marshall Stone** sings favourite international songs. JACS, 2pm
- Thur 18 **Lunchtime Recital:** Michael Linsey, piano, plays Schubert & Brahms. Sternberg Centre, 1.15pm, £2
- Thur 18 **Imperial War Museum's Holocaust Project:** South London AJR, Prentis Road Synagogue, Streatham SW16, 2pm

- Sun 21 **AJR Concert – Melvyn Tan & New Mozart Ensemble:** Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, 3pm. Bookings via AJR office
- Sun 21 **Book of Jewish Food:** Claudia Roden launches her new book. Sternberg Centre, 8pm, £4
- Mon 22 **From Weimar to Exile:** Dr Thomas Otte on political commentator Leopold Schwarzschild. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 23 **New Challenges for Jewish Care:** Campaign Director Paul Sommerfield. JACS, 2pm
- Sun 28 **Women in Exile from Nazi Germany:** seminar at Birkbeck College, London. Details from Wiener Library
- Mon 29 **Dr Carol Diethe (Middx. Univ.):** Elisabeth Foerster-Nietzsche, a case of Ressentiment? Club 43, 8pm

ORGANISATION CONTACTS

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

Sternberg Centre for Judaism, 80 East End Road, Finchley, N3 2SY. Tel: 0181 346 2288

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NEWSROUND

Berlin rethink

Chancellor Helmut Kohl has vetoed the controversial design of a memorial to the 6 million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and called for a new design competition. It was to consist of a football-pitch-sized gravestone in concrete, inscribed with the martyrs' names, to be sited adjacent to the Brandenburg Gate.

East Europeans' priority

At its first meeting, the board of the Swiss banks' special fund for Holocaust victims decided to give immediate aid of £7.5 million to those living in former Communist East European countries. The fund already has £115 million to disburse.

Shredded alibi

Union Bank of Switzerland has admitted that documents saved from destruction by bank guard Christoph Meili may well have related to German property sold by Jews under the Nazis, reports *The Guardian*. UBS maintains they were not records of Holocaust victims' accounts.

Priebke sentenced

An Italian military court sentenced 83-year-old former SS captain Erich Priebke to five years imprisonment for his part in the massacre of 335 civilian hostages in Nazi-occupied Rome, though he is likely to serve only a further six months. A first trial, which had also found him guilty, ordered his immediate release, but the verdict was rescinded by Italy's Supreme Court.

Vatican complicity?

Declassified US Government papers suggest Vatican complicity in retaining gold plundered from Serbs and Jews in the Balkans to support Croatia's fascist Ustasha government in exile. The Vatican has issued a denial.

Britain accused

Israel's Knesset parliamentary committee investigating the return of Jewish property heard evidence that the British Government had expropriated the savings of European Jews deposited in Britain before the war. During the war they were classified as nationals of enemy states. Attempts to reclaim accounts were often frustrated by unsympathetic bureaucrats.

□ RDC

Hong Kong – a Jewish footnote to history

The warmth and goodwill evinced by the citizens of Hong Kong on the departure of its last British Governor, Mr Chris Patten, is paralleled in Anglo-Jewish history of a century ago. It is recorded in the Dictionary of National Biography that when Sir Matthew Nathan relinquished the same high office after a three-year stint as Governor of the Territory in 1903, his outstanding administration was highly commended both by the British Government and the Hong Kong populace.

The main thoroughfare of Kowloon, part of Hong Kong's mainland territory annexed by Britain in 1860, is named Nathan Road after Sir Matthew and in tribute to his endeavours. He was principally responsible for the development of this once derelict swampy area into a thriving avenue whose stretch to the harbour is now flanked on either side with many splendid shops, offices and hotels.

Sir Matthew (1862-1939) was an outstanding soldier and civil servant. He was born in Paddington, the second son of Jonah Nathan whose ancestors, quill pen manufacturers, came from Dessau in Germany to London round about 1790. He joined the Royal Engineers and saw active service in the Sudan, being promoted to Captain. In 1895 he was appointed secretary to the Colonial Defence Committee under Joseph Chamberlain who was much struck by his ability, and in 1899 he was sent to Sierra Leone to administer the government of the then colony. A year later he was made Governor of the Gold Coast (now Ghana) and after three years of energetic reform, which were hailed as 'both

prudent and popular' was transferred to Hong Kong. He subsequently left for Natal where he became the last Governor before the Federation of the four colonies in the Union of South Africa.

On his return to England he was appointed Secretary to the General Post Office and in 1911 became chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue. He took up a fifth Governorship in 1920 – in Queensland, Australia, later being elected Chancellor of Queensland University.

At the age of 62 he returned to England, taking up residence in Somerset, where he served as County Sheriff and Alderman. The Jewish community had always been dear to his heart, and despite his arduous public duties, he found time to fill several important posts. He was for many years a member of the New West End Synagogue, Bayswater, which he represented on the Council of the United Synagogue. He died, unmarried, in 1939.

□ Lionel Simmonds

UFO-borne aliens

Of late there have again been heated discussions in the media about UFOs, Unidentified Flying Objects. Some people are convinced of the existence of intelligent life in outer space. I am one of them. I can confirm from my own experience that aliens did indeed land in this country and the USA some time ago and that they converse in a language of their own. Because of their extra-sensory perception they can conduct three conversations simultaneously across a crowded room; they talk by not only using their voice, but also by rapidly flapping their hands, which may well assist them in take-off.

It's the flying saucer bit which is pure fiction.

□ Frank Bright

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