

AJR *Information*

Volume LIV No. 4
April 1999

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A look at everchanging British perceptions of Germany

Fog in the Channel

Don't miss...

Splendour of the grass?
Richard Grunberger p3

Stent's remembrance
Ronald Stent p13

Secret Jew and avowed Zionist
Ronald Channing p16

Far-from-unique
Monica

It was somehow fitting that Monica Lewinsky's UK visit coincided with *Purim* – a festival commemorating another beautiful Jewess who caught the eye of a powerful ruler (with, of course, infinitely more significant results). The phenomenon of beautiful daughters of Israel captivating men of power – Judith and Holofernes, Berenice and Titus, Madame Lupescu and King Carol of Romania – continues apace □

Way back in 1870 a drastic shift in Britain's outlook on Europe occurred within a few months. At the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War anti-French sentiment was near-unanimous. Louis Napoleon appeared as yet another French ruler – like Napoleon Bonaparte and Louis XIV – hellbent on disturbing the peace of Europe.

However, by the war's end the British view of Germany – hitherto perceived as a land of poets and (*pace* Palmerston) “damn professors” – had irrevocably altered. The German threat was seen as greatly eclipsing that posed by France. The country was no longer typified by Grimm's fairy tales, but Bismarck's talk of “blood and iron”. Within a generation Kaiser Wilhelm dubbed England “perfidious Albion” and the British army “contemptibly small”.

Both utterances exemplify the mentality that led to the Great War. In its aftermath British opinion was divided on how to treat the ex-enemy. Conservatives were strongly “anti-Hun”, while the Left sympathised with the problems of the Weimar Republic. By the mid-Thirties the position had become reversed; now the Right pursued appeasement, and the Left were anti-Nazi.

Another split occurred after 1945. While the man in the street gagged over photographs of Belsen and accounts of war crimes, the Establishment gave prosecuting the Cold War priority over persecuting Nazi criminals. Accordingly willing executioners of Hitler's plan for world conquest – Manstein, Rundstedt – were rehabilitated, while Rommel, who had carried Zyklon B canisters in the baggage of the Afrika Korps, and had built the Westwall with slave labour, was hyped as a chivalrous soldier in a British film. (Forty years on things are different: a London magazine editor has just been

sacked for glamorising Rommel).

All in all awareness of the Holocaust has deepened over the decades. More crucially, though, European integration has replaced the Cold War at the top of the political agenda. Europhobes profess to see Brussels as the rubberstamp for a German Fourth Reich – a misconception on a par with the *Sun* dubbing Finanzminister Lafontaine a *Gauleiter*.

Little Englanders who paint Hitler moustaches on Chancellor Schroeder's upper lip are self-deluded King Canutes. Alas, they have their counterparts in the Bundesrepublik.

In the same widely reported speech in which Kulturminister Michael Naumann complained of the British fixation on the Second World War, he also appealed to Germans to knock Rommel, Rundstedt and von Paulus – willing executioners of Hitler's orders one and all – off their pedestals. In a conditioned reflex worthy of Pavlov's dogs, the leader of the Afrika Korps Veterans' Association thereupon called Naumann an unpatriotic scoundrel (Bismarck's hoary old epithet for Social Democrats).

The resort to *Gauleiter* expletives on this side of the Channel, and to superannuated smears on the other, is to be equally deplored. Those who bandy such loaded phrases about are stuck in the past and pose a threat to our common future □



Exodus from Egypt, as depicted in Rudolf von Ems' *Weltchronik*

Profile

The bridge-builder

When *Out of the Third Reich*, the book about refugee historians, (see March issue) appeared last year I assumed its editor, Peter Alter, to be Jewish. The only Alter I had previously heard of was the leader of the Polish-Yiddish Bund who fell victim to Stalin.

Imagine my surprise when Peter Alter turned out to be a Lutheran German. Born in 1940, he had a father who served, and was wounded, in the Wehrmacht. Peter grew up in Cologne in the postwar period, when schools were still segregated along religious lines (something he was to experience again as a postgraduate researcher in Ireland.)

At grammar school he had a history teacher who was – rather incongruously – both indolent and inspirational. Indolence made him read out entire chunks of Alan Bullock's *Hitler, a Study in Tyranny* (in German translation) to the class instead of teaching them more labour-intensively. This gave 17-year old Peter his



Prof Peter Alter

first intimation of the Nazi horrors.

The inspirational side of the teacher's personality influenced him to choose History as his subject at university.

Having made that choice, he never looked back in a career that followed a steady upward trajectory. He took a first degree, then went on to a doctorate and a *habilitation* (entitlement to teach at

university). After some years lecturing at Cologne, he came to London as deputy to Wolfgang Mommsen, director of the German Historical Institute in Bloomsbury.

It was also in London that, at the age of thirty-six, he encountered his first real live Jews. Inevitably they were drawn from academe: Charlotte Jolles of Birkbeck College, Dr Paucker of the Leo Baeck Institute and Prof. Francis Carsten.

During the last quarter of a century he has lectured and researched both in this country and Germany, where he is professor at Duisburg. His interest in Jewish matters found expression in a contribution to Werner Mosse's massive *Second Chance* (Siebeck 1999), and in his own editorship of the above-mentioned *Out of the Third Reich* (I B Tauris 1998).

Readers may have noticed that Professor Alter's *curriculum vitae* has been singularly free of the traumas that have shaped the lives of most of my previous hundred-odd profilees – but then he is not only my first German, but a German who, *pace* Helmut Kohl, was vouchsafed *die Gnade einer späten Geburt*, the benison of a late birth.

RG □

Illustrious Jewbaiters

Six immortals famous for their contributions to the arts were selected for castigation by Richard Grunberger, Editor of *AJR Information*, in his talk 'Great Antisemites', given for Club 43. While their antisemitism was ancillary to their creative activity, it nevertheless informed their attitudes to Jews and Judaism.

It may come as a shock, said Richard Grunberger, to find Voltaire, pioneer of the Enlightenment, among them. Voltaire characterised Jews as usurious, leprous and fanatical. Together with Catholicism, Judaism was guilty of religious dogmatism and irrelevant to the latter half of the 18th century.

Dostoevsky argued that if the Jews were a majority in Russia, they would treat the Christian minority far more vindictively than the latter were treating them. He hated Disraeli for conniving at Turkish atrocities in Bulgaria and for thwarting Russia's designs on Constantinople. In *The Brothers Karamazov* he

failed to refute the Passover blood libel; in *The Possessed* he made a Jew one of the satanic characters who plans a notorious assassination.

Wagner regarded Germans as having a 'special gift' for creating soul-stirring works of art, talents denied the Jews whose compositions lacked profundity. Similarly, his belief in the purity of German as a non-bastardised language led him to write his own libretti and despise Yiddish. Paradoxically, throughout his career, Wagner was in close professional contact with Jews and often depended on them. Richard Grunberger called him "a monster of selfishness".

TS Eliot regarded Jews as agents of decay and revealed the depth of his antisemitism in his poems: "The rats are underneath the pile, the Jew is underneath the lot". Because of his fixation with the Middle Ages, when Jews were excluded from civil society, he saw free-thinking Jews as a danger to the Christian faith. Strindberg was immensely impressed by the Danish-Jewish critic George Brandes, but hated other Jews because they fell immeasurably below his standard.

Ferdinand Celine, a gifted French writer from an antisemitic family, suffered a head wound in World War I. His resulting paranoia led him to believe that Jews controlled most of the world's centres of power, from the Vatican to the House of Lords! His genocidal *Bagatelle for a Massacre* was written in 1937. When the German armies retreated they took the collaborator Celine with them; he kept out of sight in Denmark – thereby avoiding the firing squad – before returning to France in the late 1950s.

Though not one of the six can be said to have practised direct violence against Jews, they nevertheless contributed significantly to a climate of opinion which favoured exclusion and allowed their admirers to justify violence and genocide. □ RDC

*The AJR wishes all
its members
a Happy Pesach*

Splendour of the grass?

From A (for Afghanistan) to Z (for Zaire) the world is a puzzling place. Afghanistan became a republic in 1973, its moderate leadership was wiped out five years later and the Soviets moved in soon after. Throughout the eighties the West helped militant Muslims fight the Red army. Today the country is free of Russians but subjected to inhumanly harsh Taliban rule.

Discuss which is worse: Five-pointed Star or Crescent?

In 1960 the Belgian Congo became a sovereign state after 80 years of harsh colonial exploitation. Since then Zaire has been racked by endemic tribal conflict, civil war, corruption and impoverishment. Its system of government has been fittingly described as kleptocracy.

Discuss which is worse: European colonialism or African independence?

At the forthcoming Oscar ceremony Elia Kazan, of *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Splendour In The Grass* fame, is to be honoured for a lifetime's achievement in Motion Pictures. This award was passionately denounced by a surviving victim of the McCarthy purge, the screen-writer Abraham Polonsky. Polonsky appreciates Kazan the artist, but abhors Kazan the man because in 1952 he informed on his colleagues and gave fellow-travellers' names to the authorities. Kazan justified his action by stating that, having been a fellow-traveller himself, he now perceived US Communists as conspirators against their own country; the national interest required that they be indentified and rendered harmless.

Senator McCarthy's purge cut a swathe through Hollywood. While Charlie Chaplin, Jules Dassin, Carl Foreman, Edward Dmytryk and Sam Wanamaker went into exile, Larry Parks and Paul Robeson had their careers terminated. Meanwhile, Kazan flourished, making his masterpiece *On The Waterfront* in 1954. In the same year the McCarthyite bubble burst and the Red-baiting Senator descended into well-deserved obscurity.

McCarthyism brought to the surface an undercurrent of hysteria in American public life first glimpsed during the prosecution of the anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti in the 1920s. But was it all only hysteria or did Kazan's self-justification in 1952 have a basis in fact? The English novelist E M Forster once wrote that if he had to choose between betraying his friends or his country he hoped he'd have

the courage to do the latter. Kazan manifestly disagreed with Forster and has been shunned by Liberal opinion ever since.

But was he simply a careerist? Is it not possible that he saw US Communists as Soviet agents? After all, that description fitted the atom spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, David Greenglass and Harry Gold. Ever more proof has emerged over the years that foreign Communist parties owed overriding loyalty to the Kremlin. The British *Daily Worker*, for instance, really did receive 'Moscow gold'.

Concerning Elia Kazan I would suggest that, on the analogy of the questions thrown up by the Afghan and Zairean problems (see above), a rush to judgment should be resisted. RG □

A unique resource

Dr Anthony Grenville, the son of Viennese refugees and a regular contributor to this journal, is the first academic to have undertaken systematic, scholarly research using *AJR Information* as the basis for a planned social history of the community of Central European Jewish refugees from Hitler who settled in Britain. He is revealing his preliminary conclusions at a special lecture to be given on Sunday 9th May.

AJR Information proved a mine of information about refugee activities, achievements, problems, attitudes and aspirations. Dr Grenville studied the reception received by German-speaking emigrés in Britain, the process by which they became integrated into British society and the barriers they encountered. He has analysed their attitudes to alternative countries of settlement (Palestine/Israel and the USA) and to their countries of origin – which led them to opt to stay here – as well as their relations with established Anglo-Jewry. He attempts to explain the development of a distinctive 'Continental' culture deriving largely from the German language and culture which, as members in the main of the educated and assimilated Jewish middle class, they preserved in modified form in their adopted homeland □

Dr Grenville's lecture, 'The Formation of a Refugee Community Identity: *AJR Information 1946-1950*', will take place on Sunday 9th May at 3pm, at the Gustav Tuck Theatre, UCL. The lecture is jointly sponsored by the AJR and the Wiener Library with whom reservations can be made, Tel: 0171 636 7247.

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Reviews

Piggyback ride on the Bard

John Madden, *SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE*.

On general release

Shakespeare in Love rides into tinseltown caparisoned in Oscar nominations. The adulators cite the movie's intermingling of the poetic and the farcical, Tudor decor and 'post-modern' gags ("I had that Christopher Marlowe in my boat last week"), swashbuckling and amorous enchantment.

I beg to differ. Plagiarism could be accounted a form of flattery, but for long stretches Tom Stoppard's screenplay cadges a piggy-back ride on the verbal splendours of *Romeo and Juliet*. At other times it befuddles the cinemagoer with convoluted intrigues spun by competing actor-managers and their conniving backers.

But for all that strolling players are depicted as a disreputable bunch, they undergo a collective catharsis on hearing of Marlowe's death. Alas, I am not a Marlovian. I see him as a murky, dangerous character, the circumstances of whose early death remain shrouded in obscurity. His plays, while lit by intermittent flashes of poetic inspiration are largely blood curdling epics bereft of Shakespeare's humanity or Ben Jonson's humour. In fact, Marlowe's *Jew of Malta* was a sixteenth century predecessor of *Der Stürmer*.

Another playwright with a walk-on role in the film is John Webster, of whom it was said, in a classic phrase, that he was much obsessed with death. John Madden, by contrast is much obsessed with sex. Sex in this film comes in two water-tight compartments. When it involves the quasi-starcrossed lovers it is reverentially treated; otherwise it is played strictly for laughs, with assorted bawds flung rudely out of bed when important – ie theatrical – business needs transacting.

On the other hand there is no denying the quality of the film's decor, costumes and general period feel. The standard of acting is also high – with the (rather important) exception of Josef Fiennes who plays the lead. Fiennes is good to look at – he could have stepped out of an El Greco canvas – but has a very narrow range of expressions: he mainly smoulders. He also is an excellent runner,

which skill he repeatedly demonstrates throughout the film. Fiennes' four-minute mile prompts the thought that an alternative title for this film could have been *The Randiness of the Long Distance Runner*.

□ Richard Grunberger

Au revoir, mes enfants

Sebastian Faulks, *CHARLOTTE GRAY*, Hutchinson, 1998, £16.99.

This is the third book of a trilogy in which a Briton comes to grips with the tragedy of France. The second book, *Birdsong*, created a stir. In it French provincial life and the First World War were seamlessly woven together. Charlotte inhabits World War II, and this and her private life do not mix as easily.

She is a well-brought-up, intelligent Scots girl, daughter of a psychiatrist and a happy housewife. Though on easy terms with her mother, she is unhappy with her father. He seems cold and offputting. Yet she feels that in the distant past – she is now in her mid-twenties – he came too near her. We know the syndrome; it is more 'fashionable' now.

Hitler's war sweeps all this aside. Charlotte is a patriot. Using social contact she gets into one of the groups directed by Churchill to set Nazi Europe on fire. They train her for the task in the typically English slap-dash, ingenious as well as inadequate, manner.

Parallel with the fate of Charlotte runs that of Peter Gregory, by 1942 one of the few surviving Battle of Britain Spitfire pilots. He, too, is a psychologically damaged character who believes in his invulnerability.

They meet as they train, and fall into happy/unhappy love. In the fullness of very short time Charlotte is parachuted, with dark-dyed hair and French wartime clothes, plenty of francs, forged papers and well-honed, near-perfect French speech, into Vichy France. Peter is shot down over France and nobody on the British side knows whether he has survived. Charlotte defies orders to return home, involves herself with a French resistance group and goes in search of Peter. She believes that he will live so long as she is in France.

Curiously, life under the Vichy regime is relatively easy even for the rather ineffective saboteurs. Laval and Pétain want to buy German goodwill and hand over

refugees and native French Jews. At this point Charlotte becomes involved in the doomed attempt at saving two Jewish boys. They are hidden by a French family, some of whom are quite antisemitic in an old-fashioned sort of way except when it comes to children.

Despite his awareness of some great faults in the French character, author Faulks' deep love of that country, its culture and particularly its literature shine through. In the midst of peril Charlotte wrestles with her understanding of Proust.

At this point I come back to my remark about an unevenness in the novel. But this does not detract from the powerful, page-turning interest it maintains.

John Rossall □

Present times

THE JEWISH YEARBOOK 1999, Ed: Stephen W Massil, Valentine Mitchell in association with the *Jewish Chronicle*, £26.

As in previous years, the latest edition of the Jewish Yearbook collates and categorises a myriad of information relevant to the Jewish community and the Jewish communal institutions which serve it. Among these are the many representative charitable, cultural and educational organisations, synagogues, cemeteries, provincial communities and an extremely useful section on foreign communities.

A number of organisations which may be of particular interest to AJR members are featured: Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre, the Imperial War Museum Holocaust Exhibition, the Institute of Contemporary History and Wiener Library and Chai-Lifeline for cancer patients, their families and friends. The section on 'Jewish Press, Radio and Information Services', which aptly begins with *AJR Information*, includes *Jewish Spectrum Radio*, though unfortunately with presenters, address and telephone numbers now well out of date. Refugee organisations include the AJR Charitable Trust to which the parent body, the Association of Jewish Refugees, is inexplicably appended in brackets.

The 1999 Yearbook prefaces its reference sections with essays on Anglo-Jewish landmarks, responsibility for our cultural heritage, an update on Dead Sea Scrolls scholarship and an evocative *In Memoriam* to Chaim Bermant contributed by his wife Judy.

Within the bounds of economy and space, may I suggest that the publishers invite fresh nominations for entry in the 'Who's Who' section, in accord with the revamped honours system. When more of the community's actual movers and shakers are added, this key listing could prove the indispensable attraction of the new millennium's first edition. Likewise, it would be more helpful to classify the Otto Schiff Housing Association under a generic heading together with other housing associations. A list of residential care and nursing homes would also be useful.

No individual working in the community can possibly function effectively without an up-to-date copy of the Yearbook on his or her desk. The ageing red-covered edition, circa 1990, which I inherited from my predecessor, I shall now joyfully discard into that historical context to which it has so long belonged.

□ Ronald Channing

Second sex in the Third Reich

Alison Owings,
FRAUEN – GERMAN WOMEN RECALL THE THIRD REICH, Penguin Books, £9.95.

"What was it like for you?" Was the question Alison Owings, an American journalist, posed to German women who lived through the Nazi period. She found her subjects, all now elderly, surprisingly eager to talk.

They stressed the idealism of the early years under Hitler, who restored national pride and provided work. They described the *Bund deutscher Mädel* as though it was a troop of jolly Brownies. Most had kept to the prescribed role of *Kinder, Kirche, Küche*. One proudly showed the author her medal for producing a large brood of Aryan children. Certainly in remote parts of the country where no Jew lived it would have been possible for a time to warm oneself at this fire without paying too much attention to the smuts that disfigured it – and most of them did just that.

There were, however, a few exceptions who had contacts with Jews. The rest include an unredeemed Nazi whose distortions could have come from the mouth of Goebbels. Another was drafted on to a searchlight unit, but is coy about

how many aircraft her outfit shot down. Perhaps the most interesting is a former guard at an outpost of Buchenwald. She maintains that she was conscripted for this job and had respect for, and friendly conversations with, the Hungarian Jewesses she was ordered to guard. She omits to mention that the prisoners in her charge were forced to handle dangerous explosives.

A prominent feature of the testimonies is the "we suffered too" syndrome. The women recount air raids, destruction of homes, loss of menfolk on the Eastern front, and rape by the advancing Russian soldiers.

Alison Owings has researched her subject well and is alert to the inconsistencies and rationalisations of her interviewees, for whom she nevertheless feels some compassion. She deduces that repression of shaming memories allowed the women to get on with their lives.

Most of the women failed their Jewish neighbours through ignorance, self-interest and fear. Many of the accounts are defensive and inconsistent, their fleeting expressions of guilt undercut by a repetition of the stereotype that Jews are "different" from ordinary folk and prone to cheating. We must be grateful to Ms Owings for a fascinating glimpse into a scene we couldn't possibly have shared.

□ Martha Blend

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Letters to the Editor

GOMBRICH'S BLOTTING PAPER II

Sir – When I started the Thank-You-Britain Fund in 1963, I wrote to many prominent refugees asking for contributions. Prof. Gombrich was the only one to reply that the idea of the Fund was misconceived and that the refugees had already done quite enough to repay their hosts.

If, in Jonathan Miller's unforgettable phrase, you are merely *Jewish* rather than a full-blooded Jew, then your debt is *lightish*.

Ashford
Kent

Victor Ross

A PERVERTED SYMBOL

Sir – It may be of interest that the swastika was also believed to be a symbol of good luck in our own times as recently as the First World War. The *Reichsbund juedischer Frontsoldaten* published a book in 1924 by one Felix A Theilhaber entitled *Juedische Fliieger im Weltkrieg* (Jewish Airmen in the World War). It includes a photograph of a German aeroplane with a swastika painted on the side. The pilot was a Jew named Fritz Beckhardt. The author quotes a comment from a book called *Voelker, Rassen, Sprachen* (Nations, Races, Languages) by Luschan: "...that the modern Germans as successors to the Germanic tribes have an exclusive right to the swastika, is a naïve and childish aberration..." Sadly it did not remain one.

London SE3

Ken Ambrose

ANTI-HITLER CONSPIRATORS

Sir – In recent correspondence about anti-Hitler conspirators who were turned anti-Nazi by their revulsion against antisemitism, one man seems to have been forgotten, a survivor who tells us in his memoirs that this was his reason for turning against the regime, Colonel Axel von dem Bussche.

He was another officer who failed to kill Hitler, despite an elaborate plan which involved sacrificing his own life. He realised the nature of the regime he was serving when he commanded a regi-

ment on the Eastern front and saw what the *Einsatzgruppen* were doing to the Jewish population.

Deddington
Oxon

Francis Steiner

LOVING SHAKESPEARE

Sir – When recently in Washington I saw the film *Shakespeare in Love* and much enjoyed it, I had no idea that behind Gwyneth Paltrow stands a Jewish grandparent and so it aroused no musings in me about the bard and the Jews. But I do remember that aeons ago, when our older daughter was asked to play Shylock at a school production, my wife objected and the headmistress of the Haberdashers School just did not understand it and tried to convince her that Shakespeare's portrayal was of a poor man to be pitied.

London W5

Ronald Stent

OMISSION

Sir – In her article "Galician genocide", dealing with a recent lecture by Robin O'Neil in the Wiener Library, on the Belzec extermination camp, Sue Monsell most regrettably did not mention the quite outstanding work done by Michael Tregenza, culminating in his massive MS "Belzec, the forgotten Death Camp", which will be published in the near future.

London NW11

Gerald Fleming

WAGNER IN JERUSALEM

Sir – In the January issue Miss Jane Edwards writes about Wagner, and in this context also mentions Liszt and R Strauss. Permit me to clarify a few points:

Liszt's book on Hungary's Gypsies and their Music appeared in a revised edition in November 1881. When the idea of a fresh edition had been proposed to Liszt he was only too happy to leave the proof-reading to his trusted friend Carolyne von Wittgenstein. When the book with the chapter on Jews appeared it created a storm of protest in Budapest. We now know that Carolyne had in fact rewritten this chapter which was solely

her work and contained her opinions and not Liszt's who had never been antisemitic. On the contrary, he numbered among his pupils many Jews whom he taught free of charge, as he always did.

As to Richard Strauss, a new biography makes it quite clear that he, too, was no antisemite. After all he collaborated with Hugo von Hofmannsthal and, after 1933, with Stefan Zweig.

Bexleyheath
Kent

F Kingsley

READER BECOMES WRITER

Sir – Having subscribed to *AJR Information* for many years, I have particularly enjoyed reading the Letters to the Editor. Is it not about time that I sent a letter I thought. After all, it is good for the ego to see one's name in print. Yes, but what shall I write about? I really can't find any interesting topic. How does Frank Bright manage to think of all those things that he writes about?

I know. If I state how much I enjoy the various articles (as well as Letters to the Editor), this is sure to get published under the heading of Bouquet. Perhaps if I mention that I don't always agree with the editorial, that might also appear under the heading Brickbat. I've got it. If I say that I have at least 200 back issues and will read every one of them now that I have retired, that surely should earn me a mention. Eat your heart out Frank, I am sure this will be the star letter of the month.

Southend-on-Sea

Otto Deutsch

TOO MITTELEUROPEAN

Sir – I find the magazine contents of some interest most of the time, although one could think that the only people involved are of Austro/German origins, as probably 99% of the subject matter relates to people from those countries.

Wythenshawe
Manchester

Jan Podlaski

READERSHIP PROFILE

Sir – I enjoy *AJR Information* – even if I sometimes wish you would remember that many of your readers have been assimilated for generations – my family since the 1850's – but I wouldn't subscribe to *AJR Information* if I didn't consider myself a Jew.

London NW8

Prof W Elkan

THE ALMOND DOME

Sir – Due undoubtedly to a fit of unconscious anti-gastronomism, you omit to mention (February issue) the possibility that pilgrims will visit Greenwich to pay homage to the “Mandeltorte”.

Aberdare Gardens
London NW6

Ezra Jurmann

THE GURU THAT FAILED

Sir – Reviewing Arthur Koestler's *Thieves in the Night* (shortly after it came out) I said that Koestler has succeeded where others had failed to put our youthful Zionist feelings and longings into words and images. In the intervening time I have not changed my mind. I am equally sure that *Darkness at Noon* weaned a whole politically aware generation away from flirting with Red assimilation. Koestler's fascinating autobiography *Arrow in the Blue* represents a unique record of that period in our youth.

Did Koestler chase women and did he rape? I am not sure that, at this stage, I much care. His merits and achievements in bringing clarity and understanding to the political process far outweigh any alleged sexual misdeeds.

Southgate
London N14

David Jedwab

Sir – May I add a dissenting voice to Martin Hasseck's favourable review of David Cesarani's biography of Arthur Koestler.

For my taste, this biographer is too diligent in pursuing his own agenda. Totally lacking in empathy, his perspective is much too narrow to encompass his chosen subject.

He does not live up to what the first paragraph of the introduction promises: “One cannot fail to stand in awe of his (Koestler's) corpus of work, or the intellectual energy and sheer effort that went into it. Yet today he is not as well known as he should be and the time has surely come for a re-evaluation of this remarkable man and his extraordinary career.”

The “re-evaluation” that follows is certainly not calculated to redress Koestler's eclipse. The style of this demolition exercise is pedestrian, the spirit is mean and the methods employed are downright malicious.

London N1

M Clare

Letters may be edited to reach publication.

THE WIENER LIBRARY Memorial Plaques

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Wiener Library in London. As part of our commemoration it has been decided to issue a limited number of 50 memorial plaques for mounting in the Reading Room and Memorial Hall. Users of the Library have often remarked that the existing plaques are among the most moving features of the Wiener Library.

We hope that you will wish to join us in commemorating those who perished in the Holocaust as well as those members of the refugee community who have given so much to Britain. Each plaque will be accompanied by a certificate, one copy of which will be preserved permanently at the Library.

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- a circular plaque (130mm diameter) mounted in a more prominent position at £1,000.

For more information please contact Ben Barkow, Deputy Director, at:
4, Devonshire Street, London W1N 2BH Tel: 0171 636 7247

Future of care for the elderly

Chief Executive of the Otto Schiff Housing Association, Tony Shepherd, explains to AJR Information the potential benefits for anyone who will need nursing and residential care in the future if the recommendations of the Royal Commission's report on the Long Term Care of the Elderly are implemented.

The main recommendations, namely that personal care should be free at the point of delivery (wherever that care is provided) and that measures should be taken to provide a more client-centred approach with a single point of contact, were warmly welcomed by Tony Shepherd. Should the Commission's recommendations be adopted, he believes, needs assessment should then be undertaken by social workers and nurses working together to ensure an optimum ‘care package’.

An enormous amount of time and money is currently being wasted in determining whether a client needs health care or social care. Primarily, this is a financial exercise to establish who should pay, rather than an assessment of what would be best for the client.

With an extension of the direct payment scheme to people over 65, clients would have more choice in purchasing

their own care. Those living in nursing homes would no longer be denied NHS nursing care which is currently available only to people living in residential care homes.

While welcoming the report, Tony Shepherd recognises that just as today's funding fails to meet the needs of older people requiring care, the Treasury's constraints on future public expenditure could mean that the Royal Commission's recommendations might never be fully implemented □

Tony Shepherd is National Chair of the Royal College of Nursing Independent Sector Forum.

50 YEARS AGO

LORD PAKENHAM'S PRAISE

Since its inception, the AJR advocated the idea that immigrants were not a burden, but an asset to a country.

It is gratifying for Jews from Central Europe that Lord Pakenham, a former Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in charge of German affairs, paid special tribute to the achievements of Central European Jews from whose experiences the country has benefited.

He mentioned in particular the important part played by refugee scientists in the development of atomic energy, radar and penicillin, as well as the fact that the manufacturing skills of refugees and the techniques introduced by them had given employment to a large number of British people □

AJR Information, April 1949

AJR Reports

LUNCHEON CLUB

Revealing writing

Graphologist Andrea Lyttleton told a very full house of Luncheon Club members that graphology, the study of handwriting to analyse the writer's character, was first practised in Germany.

She came to graphology from a background in calligraphy and counselling, was awarded her advanced graphology diploma in 1993 and now teaches the subject. Her main area of expertise is in recruitment where she provides clients with confidential profiles as an aid to other selection procedures. Used responsibly, Andrea believes, graphology could be of great benefit in today's employment minefield.

Andrea demonstrated a number of writing styles to which she applied her analytical techniques – honesty, shyness and open-mindedness were some of the characteristics she claimed to identify. From samples, members were asked to guess whose handwriting was that of Margaret Thatcher, John Major and Tony Blair, not to mention Sigmund Freud and other well-known people. Audience

participation proved very popular and her talk was much enjoyed. □ AM

Befrienders needed

Volunteers are needed urgently to befriend AJR members living in Walthamstow, Wimbledon and in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire. If you live in or near any one of these areas, and have a couple of hours to spare once a fortnight, do please consider lending a much valued helping hand to an elderly former refugee.

AJR has a number of disabled members living alone who are rather isolated. Having few or no family members, increasingly with the passage of time they are unable to continue leading independent lives. Befrienders and members enjoy one another's company, stimulate their minds and may make short trips together.

Amanda Clark, AJR's Volunteers Services Co-ordinator, will be pleased to discuss any way that you could be of help. Do call her at Head Office on 0171 431 6161. □ AC

A shared cultural heritage

The Association of Children of Jewish Refugees originated in 1985 when Lilly Allen's advertisement in *AJR Information* invited a response from people sharing a common continental background. It produced 20 replies, and within a year from the initial meeting the ACJR was launched with a hundred members, a number which has subsequently been maintained.

The ACJR's main events include a second-night Seder, a barbecue, a charity event and AGM, in addition to a monthly programme offering both the light-hearted and more serious. Some activities focus on our shared background – films, plays, talks, discussion groups, etc – while others are gatherings of friends to visit an art exhibition, enjoy a concert or a walk in the country.

It is not uncommon for members to feel that they do not fit easily into a mainstream Anglo-Jewish environment, though the difference – as children of 'foreign' parents who survived discrimination and persecution in Nazi Europe – is difficult to define. Speaking personally, the ACJR provided me with my first Jewish community and a number of close friends.

Nevertheless, ACJR's discussion groups reveal huge differences in attitudes to Germany, mid and east-European culture, and in religious observance and belief. It is to be expected that our parents' histories have been a strong influence on our lives; the ACJR allows us to share thoughts and feelings with others who seem to understand. □ CS

For further information please contact Caroline Salinger, ACJR Chairperson, on 0181 579 9906, or Paul Sinclair on 01723 364 842.

East Midlands AJR inauguration

All AJR members within the Nottingham, Leicester, Derby and Lincoln region, and other interested parties, are invited to participate in the inaugural meeting of an East Midlands group which is to be held on **Sunday 25th April**, from 3pm to 5pm, at Nottingham Progressive Synagogue, Lloyd Street, Sherwood, Nottingham.

Following a warm welcome with a *kaffee klatsch* afternoon tea, the AJR's Outreach Worker, Myrna Glass, will discuss the merits and benefits brought to the members of such a group, of which there are now several in different parts of the country. Everyone will have the opportunity to express their views as to how best to run a local AJR group, the main aim of which is to provide people who share a similar European background with the opportunity to enjoy each other's company in an informal environment.

Please call Bob Norton on 01159 212 494 if you would like further information □

Pinner AJR

At our last meeting, Fay Granat illustrated with brilliant photos her arduous trek through Sinai's magnificent scenery, Bedouin and camels in train, in aid of the One-to-One charity for disadvantaged families in Israel. Far from mobile phones and all mod cons, she clambered over boulders in hot sunshine and slept under a canopy of stars on cold nights.

AJR Chief Executive Michael Radbil and Outreach Worker Myrna Glass joined us to say a sad farewell to Sheryl Smookler, so instrumental in starting our group (with Vera Gelman), creatively publicising its programme and making it the success it has become. □ Walter Weg

Pinner Group's next meeting, on 15th April at 2pm, is at Pinner Synagogue. Enjoy good company, an excellent tea and card and board games.

Michael Radbil to visit Cardiff

AJR Chief Executive, Michael Radbil, will be addressing an open meeting on Wednesday 26th May at 2.15pm, at Cardiff United Synagogue, Brandreth Road. He will be speaking about the work of the AJR, including the provision of social services, a day centre, counselling and advisory services, outreach groups and a monthly magazine.

Further information can be obtained from Sam Phillips, whose telephone number is 01222 753 044 □



AJR

invites you to the



Madeleine Brook Bridge Evening

on Wednesday 9th June 1999
at the Day Centre

15 Cleve Road, London NW6 3RL

Supper 6.30pm – 7.30pm
Rubber Bridge 7.30pm – 10.30pm

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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:

Wednesday	14 April
Tuesday	20 April
Wednesday	28 April
Thursday	6 May

and every Thursday from
10am to 12 noon at:

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

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

... Viewpoint ...

Duty freeze

Since time immemorial, or at least since non-military travel recommenced after World War II, voyagers temporarily quitting England's shores did so safe in the knowledge that this egress conferred upon them the right and distinction of purchasing a measure of alcohol, several packets of cigarettes and – should there be a wife or secretary deserving of especial appreciation – perfume, all at 'duty-free' prices far below those pertaining in shops within the bounds of the mother country. In their wisdom, governments have continued to waive the imposition of excise and purchase taxes thus making 'luxury' goods available at bargain prices.

The concessions, first given to sailors who needed brandy and tobacco to fortify themselves, were extended to passengers on ships in international waters and adopted by packet boats plying across the English Channel. The Chicago Convention of 1947 transferred these concessions to aeroplanes and gave birth to a multi-billion pound industry which became an adjunct to airlines and airports the world over.

Faced with the abandonment of the whole duty-free edifice next June 30th, to serve the admirable aim of creating

an undistorted common market in goods and services throughout the EU, the whole plastic-bag-clutching tribe has advanced, clinking its bottles and wielding its fags (ably backed by Europe's £4 billion duty-free lobby) to frighten the life out of the British Government,

'Off with their heads', I say, as quickly as possible. The custom is indefensible: substantial revenue is lost to the exchequer, monopoly profits are made by port and airport concessionaires, while bus and train operators compete without this privilege. Does anyone really prefer to fly on a plane stacked with highly combustible alcohol in small containers adding considerable danger and totally unnecessary weight?

None of this impedes the roaring trade being done in duty-paid alcohol and tobacco where vanfuls return from daily runs across the Channel with quantities 'for personal use and consumption', flouting the regulations with impunity, making fools of us as well as the Customs and Excise, and fortunes for criminal lawbreakers. This loophole should be plugged immediately, whatever misguided EU regulations appear to permit.

□ *Ronald Channing*

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15 Cleve Road, West Hampstead, NW6
Mon. & Weds. 9.30am-3.30pm. Tues. 9.30am-5.30pm. Thurs. 9.30am-6.30pm. Suns. 2pm-6.30pm
Call Sylvia Matus – 0171 328 0208

Afternoon entertainment programme –

APRIL/MAY 1999

Thur 1	CLOSED – PESACH
Sun 4	CLOSED – EASTER SUNDAY
Mon 5	CLOSED – EASTER MONDAY
Tue 6	Jack Davidoff entertains
Wed 7	CLOSED – PESACH
Thur 8	CLOSED – PESACH
Sun 11	Nikki van der Zyl accompanied by Barry Weinberg, piano
Mon 12	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Tue 13	Ann Kenton-Barker & Basil Taylor (baritone) accompanied by Margaret Gibbs, piano
Wed 14	Geoffrey Strum & Helen Blake
Thur 15	Suzanna Marks, soprano, accompanied by Janet Beale, piano & accordion
Sun 18	GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ – Quiz Master – Lily Rudolph
Mon 19	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Tue 20	Katinka Seiner & Laszlo Easton

	accompanied by Peter Gellhorn, piano
Wed 21	LUNCHEON CLUB
Thur 22	Alison Wheeler, soprano, accompanied by Angus Cunningham, piano
Sun 25	DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon 26	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Tue 27	Melanie Mehta, soprano, accompanied by Jean Brown
Wed 28	Guyathrie Peiris accompanied by William Patrick, piano
Thur 29	Ronnie Goldberg on guitar
Sun 2	DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon 3	CLOSED – MAY BANK HOLIDAY
Tue 4	Paul & Sinikka Coleman
Wed 5	Alla Kravchuk, soprano, accompanied by Brian Evans MBE, piano

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deaths

Dornhard. Mimi Dornhard, née Isner, born in Nuremberg, passed away peacefully on 1 March 1999 aged 88. She was much loved and will be deeply missed by her husband and daughter.

Hirst. Eva Hirst, née Cohn, died peacefully at home on 22 February aged 77 after illness borne with great fortitude. Mourned by her brother Gerald, sister and brother-in-law, Hanna and Peter, nieces Debbie and Helen and family.

Laser. Henry Laser died following a short illness on 23 February 1999. He will be sadly missed by his wife, children, grandchildren and many friends.

Samson. Tamara Samson left us peacefully on 14 January 1999 in London. We buried her on 15 January 1999 in Haifa, Israel. Ilan, Smadar, Ophir Samson, Danya, Denis, Daniel and Nathalie, Michael, Eliane Glaser.

IN MEMORIAM

Weiss. Karl Weiss, died March 1982, and Tommy Weiss, who left us suddenly March 1956, not quite 11 years old. *"Es ist bestimmt in Gottes Rat, dass man vom Liebsten das man hat, muss scheiden, ja scheiden."* Lisl.

3-4 March 1943, **Marvin and Lotte Reichenback** and the other 281 Dresden Jews deported from Hellerberg camp and murdered in Auschwitz that night.

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Day Centre

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Societies

Beacon Reunion June 17. For information contact Erica Preat, 12 Marlborough Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 1AA. 01983 562747.

Association of Jewish Ex-Berliners. Please contact Peter Sinclair 0181 882 1638 for information □

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Correction

We apologise for stating that the late Dr Otto Haas died aged 100 - instead of 90 - in the March issue.

Lily Freeman invites all her friends to the opening of her exhibition **'HAPPY PAINTINGS'** at Hampstead Museum, Burgh House, New End Square, NW3 on **Thursday 6 May 6.30-8.30pm**
Exhibition continuing **7-23 May Wed-Sun inclusive 12-5pm**

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AJR GROUP CONTACTS

Leeds HSFA:	Heinz Skyte 0113 268 5739
West Midlands (Birmingham):	Edgar Glaser 0121 777 6537
North (Manchester):	Werner Lachs 0161 773 4091
East Midlands (Nottingham):	Bob Norton 01159 212 494
Pinner (HA Postal District):	Vera Gellman 0181 866 4833
S. London:	Ken Ambrose 0181 852 0262
Surrey:	Ernest Simon 01737 643 900
Wessex (Bournemouth):	Ralph Dale 01202 762 270

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Art Notes



Pier Francesco Mola (1612-1666). *Landscape with Couple Hunting Birds*. British Museum.

At the Royal Academy until June 27 is the first major exhibition in this country of the work of **Wassily Kandinsky** (1866-1944), one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. He came to art late, at the age of 30, having first practised as a lawyer and an economist. His early paintings were brilliantly coloured evocations of his Russian background, particularly Russian peasant art. Increasingly, however, he turned to non-representational compositions incorporating elaborate geometrical elements, especially after his appointment as professor at the Bauhaus in 1921. The exhibition, which focuses on his works on paper, includes over 100 watercolours and drawings as well as some outstanding woodcuts and lithographs.

The Tate Gallery is hosting the first retrospective exhibition for over 40 years of the work of the American artist **Jackson Pollock**. Born in 1912, he developed his innovative way of painting in the 1940s, dribbling paint over the canvas, weaving skeins of line in conjunction with blobs and spatters of colour and the occasional handprint, creating rich, complex images. His paintings heralded the emergence of the movement known as Abstract Expressionism which swept throughout the art world. The exhibition

includes many of Pollock's most famous large-scale paintings, such as "Mural 1943" and "Number 32, 1950". His premature death in a car crash in 1956 made him into a legendary figure whose influence on succeeding generations of artists has been immense. Until June 6.

Roman Baroque Drawings at the British Museum shows the development of the Baroque style which dominated the city from the beginning of the 1620s until the close of the century. On view are some 150 drawings by all the major artists of the period, such as Bernini and Domenichino. Also at the Museum is a fascinating exhibition devoted to the history of the homes the Museum has occupied for nearly 250 years. Until April 18. **Modern Britain (1927-1939)** at the Design Museum until July 18, focuses on the Thirties Modern Movement, with works by Francis Bacon, Paul Nash, Barbara Hepworth and other well-known artists □

SB's Column

The New Covent Garden Opera has apparently overcome its most pressing problems and has published opera and ballet programmes for the 1999/2000 season; productions of operas like *Meistersinger* and *Rosenkavalier* in which star guests Placido Domingo, Roberto Alagna and Angela Georghiu are scheduled.

Munich. It was a pleasant surprise to find Sari Barabas, the Hungarian soprano, in the cast of a *Gypsy Princess* performance at the Gärtnerplatz theatre. Well known and respected as a guest artist in London, she had left the stage in 1985 but is now enjoying a comeback. In a TV interview she declared herself happy to resume her career at the age of 82.

Vienna. As part of the city's spring festival several 'Music for Survival' concerts will take place during April and May. The works to be performed, such as Viktor Ullman's Second Symphony, originated in Theresienstadt concentration camp. They are to serve as a reminder of the dark days when unforgettable compositions were created under terrifying circumstances.

Birthdays. German actor Karl Schönböck, elegant interpreter of innumerable *bon vivant* film rôles, celebrated his 90th birthday.

Lisa Della Casa, the Swiss-born soprano,

who specialised in Mozart and Richard Strauss parts and won widespread praise as Arabella, is 80 years old.

An addendum. Further to the obituary of Hanne Norbert-Miller (February issue): she did not only perform cabaret at the 'Laterndl', but was a stage actress in her own right. She is well remembered for her appearances at the Swiss Cottage Embassy Theatre in the fifties when she was a beautiful and sonorous-voiced 'Iphigenie' well able to compete with any other German-speaking actress of the day □

YOM HASHOAH

an evening of remembrance
Monday 12th April 1999
8pm*-10pm - Pinner Synagogue

Guest speakers:

**Janina Fischler-Martinho,
Rudy Kennedy, Freddie Knoller,
Bertha Leverton, Janek Weber**

*Mincha, followed by Ma'ariv, begins at 7.40pm

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HOUSE DOCTOR

Giving up smoking

Many patients react to the suggestion that they should give up smoking with, "I have smoked for years and stopping now won't make any difference". In fact, stopping smoking when one is older is probably of more benefit than giving it up at an earlier age.

There is conclusive evidence that cigarette smoke severely affects both respiratory and cardiovascular function at all ages. But as the body grows older, both these areas tend to deteriorate so the affect of smoking on the lungs, heart and blood vessels is exacerbated.

Another not uncommon problem of aging is a reduction in blood flow to the arteries serving the legs, which may be painful, especially when taking exercise. Nicotine in cigarette smoke worsens the situation by further constricting the blood vessels and reducing blood flow to the legs. It also puts extra strain on the heart

and adds to the chances of developing angina. Smoking also increases susceptibility to chest infections which may destroy part of the lungs.

Most of the benefits of stopping smoking can be noticed within weeks, though any improvement in the functioning of the lungs may take longer to come into effect.

While there are no easy ways to give up smoking, reducing the number of cigarettes smoked each day is much better than doing nothing. A number of devices containing nicotine may well help those addicted to it, but are of no use to those for whom smoking is a ritual or who have developed the habit of putting something in their mouths.

The fact that someone may have been smoking for years makes the habit more difficult to stop, but it is certainly worthwhile trying as many of the benefits will quickly become apparent.

□ Dr Max Bayer

Regretfully, personal correspondence cannot be entered into

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - APRIL 1999

- 12-14 **Progress & Emancipation in the Age of Metternich:** Sussex University conference. Contact Andrea Hammel 01273 877 178
- Mon 12 **Yom Hashoah, an Evening of Remembrance:** Pinner & Northwood Synagogue, 1 Cecil Park, 8pm
- Mon 12 **The Dancing Years, Ivor Novello & his times:** H Leyrer, Club 43, 8pm
- Wed 14 **Monet and the Jewish Connection:** illustrated lecture by Estelle Lovatt, Sternberg Centre, 8pm, £3.50
- Sun 18 **Annual Commemoration of the Shoah:** Pheonix Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2. Board of Deputies, 11.30am
- Mon 19 **Reflections on Isaiah Berlin:** Ralph Blumenau, Club 43, 8pm
- Wed 21 **'The Yiddish Queen Lear':** play by Julia Pascal, Southwark Playhouse, SE1, 7.30pm, £10 (Wiener Library)

- Sun 25 **Oliver Cromwell & the Re-admission of Jews to England:** Edgar Samuel, Jewish Museum, Camden Town, 2.30pm, £4
- Mon 26 **Peter de Mendelssohn's Novels in Exile:** Nicole Brunnhuber, Club 43, 8pm
- Thur 29 **Women in the Holocaust:** Prof Lenore J Weitzman, USA. Wiener Library, 6.30pm, £3

ORGANISATION CONTACTS

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/ Jewish Museum, Finchley, 80 East End Road, N3 2SY. Tel: 0181 346 2288/ 349 1143

Jewish Museum, Camden Town, 129/131 Albert Street, NW1 7NB. Tel: 0171 284 1997, and at Sternberg Centre

Board of Deputies, Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1NF. Tel: 0171 543 5400

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Stent's remembrance of times past

Berlin 1929 – 1935

Die Kameraden' had been founded in Breslau in 1916 by Jewish members of the increasingly antisemitic *Wandervogel* movement. Steeped in the 'simple life', 'back-to-nature' traditions of German romanticism, we sang their German folksongs and *Landsknechtlieder*. We sat around campfires, with guitars, fiddles and mouth organs accompanying lusty voices; reciting Rilke, wearing ridiculously short pants and dedicated to turning the world of our parents upside down.

I had joined the *Kameraden* at fifteen, an eager beaver and rebel with a cause. I thoroughly enjoyed their lifestyle and their ideas. We had our discussions and our differences and took them all very seriously. Some of us were religiously anchored, others were wholly secular; some, but not many, looked towards Zion. For the majority, the *deutsch* element in the German-Jewish symbiosis was the dominant one.

In 1932 with the political situation deteriorating, we split threefold. On the 'left' were the Zionists, who I think became the *Werkleute*. The bulk in the middle changed their name; those on the 'right', including myself, said good-bye and formed the *Jugendschaft Schwarzes Fähnlein* (Black Pennant Youth Group). This very self-conscious name shows how we thought of ourselves in the best of medieval *Treu-Deutsch* traditions. Some 25 percent of the *Kameraden* joined us.

I also became involved in another politicised movement on the fringe of Jewish society, the *Vortrupp* (vanguard). Founded in February 1933, according to Hans Joachim Schöps, its creator, it never attracted more than a hundred disciples, but *his* ambitions were boundless. Schöps, or Jochen to us, a historian and considerable religious philosopher, propagated ideas. That briefly had a profound impact on me.

Because the Weimar Republic had become a social and cultural cauldron with a breakdown of law and order, street fights, disillusionment and intellectual cynicism, I had a yen for order and discipline which attracted me to Schöps' unorthodox ideas. At the core of his propositions was the claim that there existed a strong affinity between the best

conservative traditions, as expressed by the 19th Century Prussian political scientist, Friedrich Julius Stahl, himself a baptised Jew, and biblical Judaism, as articulated by Martin Buber. 'Prussia' meant for Schöps discipline, enlightened authoritarianism, elitism and service to the community. Man was there to serve the state and not the other way round. 'Prussia' in that sense was the only concept to confront Bolshevism, Fascism and 'mob democracy.'

Early in 1932 I wrote an essay for my forthcoming school-leaving *Abitur* on the subject: The Individual and the State, as analysed in Kleist's *Prinz van Homburg*. My German literature teacher, a typical rightwing German nationalist, thought I had laid too much stress on service to the state and given too few rights to the individual. All the same, I got top marks.

At that stage I had ingested some of Spengler's morose ideas, but had not ever read any Locke, Tom Paine or J S Mill. Nor had I ever heard, I think, of the nineteenth-century English Utilitarians and their belief that the main purpose of government was to create the conditions for the greatest happiness for the greatest number. If I had, such a wishy-washy concept would have shocked me.

In Schöps' 1930 book entitled "*Bereit für Deutschland*" (Ready for Germany), with the subtitle "*Der Patriotismus Deutscher Juden und der Nationalsozialismus*" he advocated the sacking of the existing German-Jewish leadership, reared on the out-of-date ideas of 'National-Liberal' politicians, like Lasker or Bamberger, and their replacement by the younger generation, imbued with *bündischer, soldatischer Kraft*. They would exclude Zionists and Ostjuden, who did not consider themselves Germans anyhow. He did not state whom he had in mind as *Führer* of rejuvenated German Jewry, but the implication was obvious.

I left Germany in 1935. It did not take very long to cleanse myself of my youthful follies. A few attendances at debates in the House of Commons and regular Sunday morning visits to Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park soon set me on the right path.

I saw Schöps once more in 1937, when he briefly visited my wife and me in London. He left Germany after *Kristallnacht* for Sweden. I had one last letter from him in late 1939 which stated in a matter of fact tone that he could be contacted again after the war at his old Berlin address, with the same telephone

number. He did indeed return to Berlin, but I never found out whether I could have got hold of him again on his old number. I just did not want to contact him again.

He became a distinguished and honoured professor at Erlangen University. His son became a well-known historian in due course. From 1963 onwards, he republished a number of his old pamphlets and articles. Unbelievably in one of them he proudly asserts that he still cherishes exactly the same ideas about Conservatism, Prussianism and Judaism as he held when he was twenty years old! □

to be continued

Recalling Jewish life in Leipzig

The Leipzig Museum of Urban History, together with the Ephraim Carlebach Foundation, is gathering documents, photographs, ritual objects, advertisements, books from Jewish publishing houses, and other memorabilia, to establish a collection illustrating the vibrant Jewish life which existed there.

In 1933 Leipzig's was the sixth-largest Jewish community in Germany and Jews contributed significantly to the economic, cultural and social development of the city and beyond. Sadly, their achievements have largely become forgotten, even unknown to members of younger generations.

To preserve and display those remaining proofs of Jewish life in Leipzig, the museum's director especially welcomes the help of former Jewish citizens in acquiring documents and artifacts that demonstrate the contribution made by its Jewish citizens to the city's history for the benefit of future generations □

Please contact Dr Volker Rodekamp (director) or Dr Andrea Lorz at the Stadtgeschichtliches Museum, Altes Rathaus, Markt 1, D-04109 Leipzig, Germany. Tel: 0341/96 51 30 Fax: 0341/96 51 352.

Holocaust archive

The Hungarian Government intends to convert the former synagogue building on Budapest's Rumbach Street into a Holocaust archive and cultural centre. Plans to use it to house a national museum were opposed by the Jewish community.

'Thank You Britain' fund

In 1965 AJR launched a "Thank You Britain" appeal and, with the funds collected, a fellowship was endowed which is administered by the British Academy. The aim of the fellowship is to provide resources for young scholars to undertake research into human studies, widely interpreted in their bearing upon the wellbeing of the inhabitants of the UK – subjects such as sociology, economics, geography, history with a contemporary angle and international relations.

At biennial intervals an eminent member of the British Academy gives a "Thank You Britain" lecture, to which members of the AJR are invited.

For the academic year 1997/8 the Fellowship award was given to Dr Ronald Martin to complete research on the evolving geographical incidence of unemployment across Britain. A considerable amount of research had been carried out dealing with unemployment in Britain from 1970 onwards on an aggregate national level, but too little was known about regional variations. Better knowledge in this area could be of considerable relevance in the design and implementation of labour market policies intended to help the unemployed. For this purpose, data concerning rates of changes in unemployment for regions, travel to work areas and local authority districts over various periods from mid-1960 onwards were collected. The analysis of this data did indeed bring to light a considerable number of important facts.

As in other Western European countries relative unemployment between regions on the whole remained fixed until the beginning of the 1990s. However, during the 1980s unemployment disparities increased further between the North and the South. This was likely to have been due to de-industrialisation in the Northern regions, which was reversed in the early 1990s, i.e. the service based recession of the early 1990s impacted much more on the South-Eastern labour market than on the Northern areas.

Non-employment since the early 1980s has changed substantially due to the dramatic increase in the number of adult members of the labour force registered as sick – 0.5 million in the early 1980s to more than 1.5 million in the early 1990s. The official unemployment statistics therefore increasingly underestimate the

true extent of joblessness.

Overall the research has shown that a geographical perspective is essential for a full understanding of Britain's changing job market – there is no such thing as a national labour market, but rather many local markets. Further, labour market processes operate differently and differentially from area to area, so that labour market policies – such as the Workfare Scheme – need to take locally varying conditions and mechanisms explicitly into account.

As a result of this research, Dr Martin has been asked to undertake further investigations into unemployment problems.

□ Edward Levy

Twentieth century warfare

Having conducted an exhaustive analysis of British, American and Australian soldiers fighting in both world wars and in the Vietnam war, historian and Fraenkel prizewinner Joanna Bourke questioned preconceived notions of soldiers' reactions on the battlefield, especially of those engaged in 'face-to-face' killing, during a lecture given at the Wiener Library.

According to Dr Bourke, most soldiers "coped well" with battlefield conflict in World War I, but as many as 25-30% were rendered militarily useless by trauma and psychiatric disorders, though it remained virtually impossible to quantify warfare's emotional strain. At the time it was widely believed that psychological breakdown was a form of cowardice, though escape into a personal, mythical world was one way in which to cope with being "trapped in a living death, a landscape of horror".

Crude stereotypes of those who would or would not make good soldiers, supported by a theoretical pseudo-science of combativeness used in selection procedures by recruiters, endured well into World War II. However, training régimes in World War II aimed to strengthen an individual's identification with a group in order to enhance his effective combativeness.

In practice, surprisingly few soldiers were called upon to undertake face-to-face combat with the enemy, even in World War I. Dr Bourke pointed out that "Neither the individual nor the group counted for much in the face of modern

electronic weaponry". In a need to personalise their enemy, combatants often gave them a face or a name. Ironically, the only occasion when Dr Bourke identified ideology (Nazi) as a significant motivating factor was on the entry of Allied soldiers into the concentration camps. □ RDC

'An Intimate History of Killing', by Joanna Bourke, is published by Granta Books at £25.

SEARCH NOTICES

Jewish ex-servicemen/women with the British Army in Germany after 1945 are invited to share their experiences with a German historian for an oral history project. Please write to Dr Ulrich Baumann, Thaurroggen Str. 16, 10589 Berlin, Germany.

Inge Ehrlinger (née Roettgen) of Shipley, Yorks, **Gisela Nurse** (née Roettgen) of Gloucester, and **Ursula Roettgen** (married name unknown) of Christchurch, Bournemouth, are being sought by first cousin Hal Leeser, 1128 McClain Dr., Vineland N.J. 08360, USA.

Goldington Road School, Bedford (now Castle Lower School celebrating its centenary) wishes to contact former refugee pupils who may have lived in Highbury House where a Miss Curtis was matron. Please contact Rosalind Birtwistle Tel: 01234 261 775 Fax: 01234 326 666.

Heinz Koblitz, b. Neustaedel 1918, Kreis Freystadt in Lower Silesia. Parents had kitchen furniture factory; left for England 1938. Also **Fritz Koblitz**, b. 2.8.21, interned in Australia 1940, possibly joined Australian Armed Forces, later perhaps lived in Tilbury, Essex. Please contact GBC Liebich, 9 Meadowcroft, St Albans, Herts AL1 1UD. Tel: 01727 852 420. Fax: 01727 762 910.

Koch. Son and daughter of ornithologist and broadcaster, the late Ludwig Koch who died in 1974, being sought by a writer and broadcaster. Son played bassoon with the London Philharmonic; daughter, Erica Marks, was a photographer specialising in portraits of London's Diplomatic Corps. Please contact Corinna Schnabel, Kaulbachstrasse 48, 60596 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Obituary

Rudi Graupner

Rudolf Graupner, who has died aged 92, was one of the last in the line of eminent German/British refugee lawyers who had a substantial impact on the development of international jurisprudence in the UK after the war.

After studying at the Universities of Munich, Heidelberg and Berlin, he qualified as a lawyer in 1933, but was never allowed to practise. He arrived in Britain after Kristallnacht and by 1941 had obtained a law degree at the LSE. After qualifying as a solicitor, he eventually arrived at the firm of Buckeridge and Braune where he practised with his brother-in-law (in both senses of the word). When the firm merged with Pritchard Englefield and Tobin in 1977, he remained as a partner (and latterly as a consultant) working until just a few months before his death.

Rudi specialised in Anglo-German legal problems which he pursued with intellectual vigour and great tenacity. He was personally responsible for many landmark cases, often persuading a reluctant German litigant to take action – for example, he obtained the first English judgement in a foreign currency decades before the word 'euro' had become fashionable.

The German Embassy appointed Rudi their lawyer, and on two occasions he was honoured by the German Government, as well as receiving a doctorate from the University of Würzburg – having left his original thesis on a Berlin bus! Rudi remained a somewhat absent-minded professor. When the Bishopsgate bomb hit the office he telephoned one of his partners to make sure that the apple core in his waste paper basket was not thrown away – he had left his false teeth in it!

Rudi thoroughly enjoyed the practice of law and was always surrounded by female trainees with whom *Kaffee* and *Kuchen* in the afternoon was obligatory. His main out-of-office interests were art and antiques – he was often to be seen at Sothebys – and family life. He was devoted to his wife Ruth, to whom he was married for nearly 59 years, their daughter Frances (who had no choice but to follow him into the law), his son-in-law Stephen and his two grandsons.

□ Andrew Kaufman

Werner Treuherz

Berlin-born Werner Treuherz, who has died at the age of ninety-two, was closely involved in helping Jewish refugees in Manchester.

He entered the family leather business in the 1920s while simultaneously studying at university. In 1934 the firm's London agent visited Berlin and, appalled at the treatment of the Jews, persuaded the company to start a tannery in England. He obtained permission from the British Government and helped to locate a site at Littleborough in Lancashire.

Werner was chosen to go to England to start the enterprise. Just one step ahead of the Nazis, he arrived in Littleborough in 1936 and set about equipping the factory. Other members of the family followed. During the war the factory produced 60% of the upper leather used for boots worn by the armed forces; this helped him to avoid internment.

Soon after his arrival he joined the Manchester Jewish Refugees Committee, which was working to bring people out of Germany. After the war the needs of the refugee community changed and the Morris Feinmann Home was founded to care for elderly refugees. Werner began a long association with the home which, partly through his influence, was later opened to serve the whole Jewish community.

Werner represented the Manchester Congregation of British Jews on the Board of Deputies and the Manchester Council of Christians and Jews. A man of quiet charm, learning and gentle wit, he will be much missed. He leaves a widow, Irmgard, also a former refugee, and four sons. □ JBT

Fred Parkinson

Viennese-born Fred Parkinson has died, aged 76. As Fred Kessler, when I first knew him in the army, he was the fastest Bren gun stripper, the speediest distance runner and a leading light in the platoon's general knowledge quizzes. Moreover, impressive books by his bedside caught the Captain's eye, and before long Fred was marked out as officer material.

It all happened 50 years ago, while we were training in Bury St Edmunds. Forty years on I stumbled upon him at University College London, as Dr Parkinson, Senior Lecturer in the Sociology of International Law. To get there many hurdles had been overcome. He arrived here at

16 in 1939 only to be interned and in 1940 re-interned preparatory to being sent to Australia on the Dunera. Upon his return in 1942, Fred finally became an infantryman in the Suffolks and served all over Europe. Back in civvies by late 1947 his career really took off.

At the London University Faculty of Laws, Fred – with his sombrero – was for years a popular figure around the campus. Nor did his achievements end there. He was Managing Editor of the Yearbook of World Affairs, author of various books and articles, Hon. Research Fellow of the Institute of Latin American Studies and undertook worldwide lecture tours. In addition he, was chair of the Dunera Association. We shall miss him a lot.

□ Ken Saunders



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NEWSROUND

Far right's election success

Austria's far right 'Freedom Party' gained more than 42% of the vote in Carinthia's elections. Its populist leader Jorge Haider campaigned against immigrants and played on fears of the European Union's expansion into central and eastern Europe.

Camp commander on trial

Former commander of the Jasenovac concentration camp in Croatia, Dinko Sakic, who was extradited from Argentina, is standing trial in Zagreb. Under Croatia's wartime pro-Nazi Ustashe régime, some 600,000 Serbs, Jews and gypsies were brutally murdered.

Switon charged

Polish nationalist and antisemite 68-year-old Kazimierz Switon, instigator of the campaign to plant hundreds of crosses at Auschwitz, has been charged with incitement to racial hatred, reports the *Jewish Chronicle*. Switon distributed pamphlets calling on Poles to wage war against a 'Jewish-Communist masonic' conspiracy.

Victims' names

Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Authority plans to complete the computerisation of Holocaust victims' names by the year's end to compile a definitive list. Details of their families, cities and villages, and of their ultimate fate are also included.

Soldiers' arrest

Two soldiers serving in the British Army, and at least three other people, have been arrested in an investigation into the activities of the extreme right-wing group Combat 18. Searches have been carried out at several addresses in an attempt to counter racism and any possible association with terrorist groups.

Gideon Rafael

Berlin-born Gideon Rafael, formerly Ruffer, has died aged 85. Rafael worked with British intelligence in Syria, organised illegal immigration into Palestine, was a founder of Israel's Foreign Ministry, its UN representative, and was Ambassador to the UK 1973-77.

Gratuitous insult

Hungary's intended compensation payments for the loss of parents, brothers and sisters in the Holocaust (maximum £85) are a derisory fraction of those for the heirs of victims of Communist rule. Representatives of Hungary's Jewish community have protested. □ RDC

Secret Jew and avowed Zionist

Any man who had direct involvement in establishing the forerunner of Israel's Defence Forces, drafted the Balfour Declaration, was in charge of Britain's Mandate in Palestine from 1925 to 1929, worked continually for the creation of a Jewish state, and railed against the denial of a place of refuge for "hapless refugees from Hitler's torture chambers" in Palestine, is worthy of the gratitude of the Jewish people and Israel's highest honours.

Yet the individual who performed these deeds, Leopold Amery, is painted as a comparatively minor figure on history's twentieth-century canvas, being recalled



Leopold Amery

principally for his catalytic intervention in the Commons debate on 7th May 1940 which brought down Chamberlain's Government and propelled Churchill into Downing Street.

Leopold Amery was seen as an archetypal Englishman: born in the Imperial India of 1873, Harrow and Oxford educated, an influential politician and Cabinet Minister. His younger son Julian later served in both the Macmillan and Heath governments. Yet, according to Prof William Rubinstein, writing in the February edition of *History Today*, there is incontrovertible evidence that Amery had a Hungarian-Jewish mother and was therefore halachically a Jew, though from his schooldays onward he determined to conceal this for a lifetime and beyond.

His mother, born Elizabeth Johanna Saphir, says Rubinstein, was a member of "a distinguished family of assimilated Hungarian Jews who had converted to Protestantism and were remarkable for their intellectual abilities". Elizabeth divorced her adulterous husband in 1885 and, having gained custody of their three children, strove to provide them with a superior education.

In contrast to many who concealed their Jewish ancestry by adopting the role of Jew-hater, Leopold Amery consistently supported the Zionist cause and befriended its leading protagonists. (Paradoxically, Amery's elder son John was pro-Hitler and shot as a traitor).

As Secretary for the Dominions in Baldwin's Government from 1925 to 1929, Amery was in charge of the Palestine Mandate at a time when the infrastructure and institutions of the future state were being built. He remained out of office until invited to join Churchill's wartime coalition as Secretary of State for India.

Prof Rubinstein reveals that Amery's diaries "contained occasional moving references to Nazi genocide". In June 1944, for example, Chaim Weizmann turned to Amery for advice when faced



Lloyd George with Amery, 1918

with Germany's obscene offer to barter the lives of a million Hungarian Jews for massive supplies of war materiel.

In 1950 Amery was probably the first establishment Brit to visit the newly-recognised State of Israel and, while he supported Jewish and Zionist causes up to his death in 1955, his maternal bond with the Jewish faith remained hidden.

□ Ronald Channing